



World Bank Update

PARLIAMENTARY NEWSLETTER

September 2011



Dagmar Woehrl, Chair of German Parliamentary Development Committee, on a World Bank project visit in Indonesia.

PARLIAMENTARY ENGAGEMENT AT COUNTRY LEVEL

Please find after a selection of activities undertaken by country offices over the last month.

Indonesia, in August - During a parliamentary trip to Indonesia in August, members of the German parliamentary Committee for Economic Cooperation and Development (AwZ) had the opportunity to visit a World Bank supported project. The PNPM Generasi project is a community empowerment program, in which trained facilitators assist villagers in improving basic health and education services. The parliamentarians visited a health clinic in one of the districts and had the chance to speak with the East Kalimantan province governor, the District Chief, facilitators and villagers. MPs appreciated the project's goal of extending basic health coverage in rural areas of the country. The World Bank External Affairs in Berlin and the Indonesian Country Office helped facilitate the project visit. For more information please contact rvenghaus@worldbank.org



Launch of the PNoWB Ghana chapter in Accra chaired by Hon. Kwabena Appiah Pinkrah



attended the launch. The new chapter is chaired by Hon. Kwabena Appiah Pinkrah, Member of Parliament. For more information please contact Kfosu@worldbank.org

(*) PNoWB chapters facilitate regular interaction between local parliamentarians and staff in World Bank country offices, including consultations on Country Assistance Strategies, Public Expenditure Reviews, and World Bank policies and individual projects. In developing countries, this level of engagement -- as well as the Parliamentarians in the Field program -- has helped strengthen country ownership and involvement in the poverty-reduction process. For more information see <http://www.pnowb.org/chapters>

Washington, on July 12 - The European Parliament (EP)'s Secretary General Klaus Welle met with World Bank Managing Director Sri Mulyani Indrawati on July 12 during Mr. Welles's mission to Washington. Issues discussed included the growing powers of the European Parliament, especially with regard to EU trade and investment actions, and EP actions aimed at bolstering EU development policy with adequate funds. MD Indrawati highlighted various ongoing WB projects in the field of energy, pointing to the potential of enhanced cooperation with the EU in this field. This was acknowledged by Mr. Welle, as fitting in with the EP's aim of strengthening transatlantic cooperation on substantive sectoral issues. Mr. Welle also stated that the EP's Liaison Office in Washington would be strengthening its cooperation with the World Bank in the coming months.

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Accra, Ghana, on July 14 - The Ghana Chapter* of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank/IMF was launched at a brief ceremony held at the Premises of the World Bank in Accra on 14th July, 2011, under the theme "Aid Effectiveness and Utilization of Donor Resources: The role of Parliamentarians". A total of twelve of the founding members of the Ghana Chapter of the Network



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Washington, in July - The regular series of briefings for Members of Congress and staff continues to be a key tool for educating and driving messages in the U.S. Congress. In July, the Bank North America team (EXTNA) worked with the Caucus for U.S. Congressional World Bank Dialogue to host a food security briefing on Capitol Hill. Caucus co-chair, Congresswoman Betty McCollum opened the session before introducing Chris Delgado, Program Manager for the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP). The later spoke about factors that led to the food crisis, the impact on developing countries and the Bank's role in addressing the global food crisis. EXTNA also worked with the Congressional Sudan Caucus to organize a briefing for congressional staff about the Bank's work in post-independence South Sudan. Ian Brannon, the Acting Country Director for Sudan and South Sudan, spoke about the challenges facing South Sudan and the role the Bank is playing to help this new nation. For more information please contact msteedel@worldbank.org

Mauritania, on June 23 - A World Bank mission chaired by the WB Country Representative Mr. Moctar Thiam, gave a presentation on the subject of democratic and economic governance at a Workshop organized at the National Assembly of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania (RIM) by the National Coalition for the fight against corruption (a grouping of representatives from Maurita-

nia's Civil Society supported by the World Bank). The presentation was followed by a rich and lively debate showcasing the progress of Mauritania's nascent democracy in a country still plagued by fragile socio-political structures. Parliamentarians have encouraged the World Bank to pursue such forms of engagement and to support them through capacity building programs which would enable them to effectively exercise their oversight role, including through technical assistance activities and other means. It is worth noting that since 2007, Mau-



Bank team at GAC workshop in Mauritania

ritania, with the support of the World Bank, has developed a National Strategy for the fight against corruption, and six months ago its Council of Ministers approved implementation of the related action plan. For more information, please contact tramtoolah@worldbank.org

Jamaica, on June 21 - The Bank hosted two workshops for Parliamentarians: *Strengthening the Capacity of the Parliament*; and *Expectation of the Citizens from the Parliament*. The workshops aimed at supporting the preparation of a comprehensive needs assessment report of the Parliament in Jamaica for the development of a strategy for capacity development of the Parliament and to

strengthen its oversight capacity to implement a new Fiscal Responsibility Act. The workshops provided the Parliamentarians with an opportunity to learn from international best practices in parliamentary oversight within a Fiscal Responsibility Framework. The workshops were highly successful in facilitating a dialogue amongst the Parliamentarians on approaches that would strengthen the capacity of Parliament in carrying out more effectively and efficiently its legislative and oversight functions. For more information please contact gvalentini@worldbank.org

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES FOR THE PARLIAMENTARIANS

September 6-10 - Commonwealth Youth Parliament, London, UK.

The World Bank Institute (WBI), in partnership with the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) - UK, has organized the Commonwealth Youth Parliament conference to empower and explore youth parliamentary groups' capacity to better engage Members of Parliament in their constitutional role. A special session is focusing on empowering youth parliamentary groups to become champions for actions on climate change in their respective countries. For more information please contact mbensky@worldbank.org

September 12 - Deadline for accreditation to the Annual Meetings

MPs interested in attending the World Bank and International Monetary Fund Annual Meetings in



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Washington D.C (September 23-25) may still request accreditation through the Civil Society online registration procedure before September 12, 2011. More information at <http://www.imf.org/external/AM/2011/index.htm>

WORLD BANK NEWS PROGRAMS AND FACILITIES

Appointments-Former PNoWB members

September 20 - Workshop for Parliamentarians in Washington

This one-day workshop is designed to afford parliamentarians the opportunity to discuss firsthand with senior officials from the World Bank and IMF current issues related to the global economy, international finance, and development. The themes of the Parliamentary Workshop have been defined in consultation with the Parliamentary Network (PNoWB), the World Bank's and IMF's partner in organizing this event. For more information, please contact mtixeront@worldbank.org

Ongoing to September 30 - Phase II Consultations on the P4R Financing Instrument

The World Bank has kicked off the second round of consultations on its proposed "Program-For-Results" Financing Instrument. The new draft policy paper has benefited from comments and inputs received during the first phase of global public consultations on the concept note, held from March 1 – June 30, 2011 in 39 countries worldwide and with a broad range of stakeholders. This second phase will conclude on September 30, 2011. To participate please visit www.worldbank.org/programforresults

Former Chair of the Global Legislators Organisation (GLOBE International)/Japan and Vice Chair of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank (PNoWB)/Japan, **Mr. Takeshi Maeda**, was appointed as Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation on September 2, 2011. GLOBE serves as a global issues platform for legislators and multi-stakeholders from developed and developing countries on environmental and sustainable development issues. Former Dutch cabinet Minister for Development Cooperation and former Chair of the PNoWB Board, **Mr. Bert Koenders**, has been appointed as the UN Special Representative and Head of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) on August 2, 2011.

UNCAC Legal Library Launched

Launched on September 1, The UNCAC Legal Library is a comprehensive database of anti-corruption and asset recovery legislation and jurisprudence from over 175 States, systematized in accordance with the requirements of the Convention. The database is co-funded by the Stolen Asset Recovery (StAR) initiative, a joint program of the World Bank and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

More information at http://www1.worldbank.org/finance/star_site/

World Bank Commits more than \$500 million to Drought in Horn of Africa

The world is witnessing the worst drought in 60 years in East Africa, resulting in widespread hunger, deaths, and the loss of subsistence crops and livestock. The World Bank has moved swiftly to rally aid to these affected areas. From the Bank's fund for the poorest (IDA) and the donor-funded Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR), the Bank has made more than \$500 million financing available to serve for immediate relief from the current situation, but also for building long term drought resilience. More information at <http://go.worldbank.org/2AZE37PR50>

Open Development: World Bank Financials is now posted Online

As part of its Open Development initiative, the Bank has just launched a website making its financial information public. The goal of this website is to make data related to the Bank's financials available to everybody in a social, interactive, visually compelling, and readable format. The data covers portions of the Bank's investments, managed assets on behalf of several global funds, and its own financial statements. More information at <https://finances.worldbank.org/page/about>



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Launch of the Transparency in Trade Initiative

The African Development Bank (AfDB), the International Trade Centre (ITC), the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the World Bank, in cooperation with the UN Statistics Division (UNSD) launched on 18 July 2011 in Geneva the Transparency in Trade Initiative (TNT), a global program aiming to give more access to influential trade data. The TNT Initiative is a joint project aiming to eliminate the transparency gap resulting from the lack of access to data on country-specific trade policies. More information at <http://go.worldbank.org/LWLD7NFVC0>

Conflict Center Opens in Kenya

With the opening of the Bank's new Global Center for Conflict, Security, and Development on July 15, 2011 in Nairobi, Kenya, development experts will have a new way to reach out. The center serves as a global "hub" to connect those working in fragile and conflict situations across the globe and to provide access to the latest research and knowledge on what works in volatile environments. More information at <http://go.worldbank.org/PJYPU3Z200>

Year in Review: Bank Commits More Than \$57 Billion

World Bank Group support to developing countries came in at \$57.4 billion in FY 2011, still above pre-crisis levels, with total commit-

ments of \$189 billion since the financial crisis took hold in 2008. As developing countries emerged from the financial crisis in FY11 (July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011), the Bank Group provided an estimated 712 loans, grants, equity investments and guarantees to promote economic growth, fight poverty, and assist private enterprise. More information at <http://go.worldbank.org/SD9AQ3TJ90>

PUBLICATIONS

World Bank Country-Level Engagement on GAC



On August 31, the Independent Evaluation Group (IEG) released a report that assesses the World Bank's 2007 governance and anticorruption (GAC) strategy and implementation plan. The study focused on the relevance and effectiveness of the Bank's support for governance and anti-corruption but does not cover other key GAC initiatives, including the organizational restructuring of the Bank's Integrity Vice Presidency (INT) and recent reforms to strengthen the Bank's corporate investigations and sanctions regimes. The World Bank Group is currently preparing the second implementation phase of its GAC Strategy.

More information at <http://ieg.worldbankgroup.org/>

Doing Business in the East African Community 2011

The report, *Doing Business in the East African Community 2011*, draws on data from the annual global *Doing Business* study and takes a detailed look at business regulations in Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda. The report states that East Africa could benefit from sharing good practices in business regulation as measured by *Doing Business*. Launched by IFC and the World Bank in Arusha on August 17, the report states that if the best of East African regulations and procedures were implemented across the board, the business regulatory environment in East Africa, as measured by the report, would be comparable to that in Japan. More information at www.doingbusiness.org

Food Price Watch

Global food prices are at high levels and when combined with continued volatility, put the poorest people in the developing world at continued risk, according to the World Bank Group's *Food Price Watch* released on August 15, 2011. While the emergency in the Horn of Africa was triggered by prolonged droughts, especially in areas struggling with conflict and internal displacement such as Somalia, food prices that are near the record high levels seen in 2008 also contributed to the situation, the report said. More information at <http://go.worldbank.org/4ENISOR0Y0>