



# WORLD BANK BANGLADESH NEWSLETTER

October - December 2009

## Ellen Goldstein joins as Country Director for Bangladesh

Ms. Ellen Goldstein joined as the new Country Director for Bangladesh from November 2009. Ms. Goldstein will guide development of the World Bank's strategy to support Bangladesh, in alignment with country priorities and in the context of the changing global circumstances. *" I am honored and excited to be coming to Bangladesh at a critical time in the country's development. Working together with Government and the people of Bangladesh, I look forward to contributing to growth and poverty reduction in coming years"* said Ms. Goldstein.

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## Efficient Delivery of Rural Infrastructure

Improving operational performance will help Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) deliver quality infrastructure to people, says the Operational Risk Assessment (ORA) report of LGED .The World Bank supported LGED to conduct the ORA. A workshop was held to discuss the report. The speakers noted LGED's excellent reputation for professionalism. The ORA Implementation Plan presents realistic solutions to minimize operational shortcomings facing LGED, and highlights ways to monitor the activities of the LGED and LGD to ensure lasting compliance. It focuses on nine aspects,: internal organization; information and communication technology; quality control; engineering design and costing; maintenance and asset management; road safety; land use and resettlement; financial management, and procurement.

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## Developing accounting and auditing profession in Bangladesh

With a population of 150 million, Bangladesh has only 750 Chartered Accountants; far too few to meet the needs of the growing economy. The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB) signed a memorandum of understanding with its counterpart the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW) to jointly work to develop the accounting and auditing professions in Bangladesh. Under the MoU, ICAB and ICAEW will continue to work for developing the new ICAB qualification, which will be based on full implementation of the changes made with the assistance from the ICAEW. The Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Commerce, along with the World Bank facilitated the MOU Signing.

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## Research & Analysis

### World Development Report 2010: Climate Smart World Within Reach

If developed countries act now, a 'climate-smart' world is feasible, and the costs for getting there will be high but still manageable, says the World Bank's World Development Report 2010: Development and Climate Change. The report is an urgent call for action, both for developing and high-income countries.

It explores how public policy can change to better help people cope with new or worsened risks, how land and water management must adapt to better protect a threatened natural environment while feeding an expanding and more prosperous population, and how energy systems will need to be transformed.

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[Access the Report](#)

## **2009 Bangladesh Economic Update – Resilience of a Nation**

Bangladesh is to be commended for weathering the negative effects of the global economic crisis so far. However, a close watch is required as lower exports and remittances growth, and slow investment rates could affect growth, said the World Bank's 2009 Bangladesh Economic Update. Launched at a media workshop on October 22, 2009, the Economic Update discussed the state of economy, provided insight into the changing economic environment and examined the impact of the global financial crisis on the state of poverty in Bangladesh. The report called for rebalancing of the policy focus towards structural areas such as economic governance, market oriented vocational skills and quality secondary and tertiary education.

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[Download the Economic Update](#)

## **20 years of HIV in Bangladesh: Experiences and Way Forward**

Despite Bangladesh's vulnerability to HIV, an early action in launching community based interventions for high risk populations over the past two decades has kept HIV rates low, said a joint report of the World Bank and UNAIDS, titled "20 years of HIV in Bangladesh: Experiences and Way Forward". HIV prevalence in Bangladesh remains below 0.1% in the general population. The report takes stock of the experience with HIV in Bangladesh in the last two decades and highlights areas for urgent attention.

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## **Project News**

### **Clean Air and Sustainable Environment (CASE) Project launched**

It is estimated that if the exposure to urban air pollution were reduced by 20% to 80%, it would save 2000 to 3,500 lives annually and help avoid 80 to 230 million cases of disease. A first of its kind, the innovative project Clean Air and Sustainable Environment (CASE) seeks to address air pollution in Dhaka, by integrating environment and transport under one common umbrella. CASE, launched on October 5, 2009, aims to improve air quality in Dhaka city by addressing two main air polluting sectors: the brick manufacturing sector and the transport sector. The World Bank is providing US\$62.20 million interest-free credit for the 5 year project.

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