



World Bank President, Robert B. Zoelick during his visit to Cambodia in August 2007

PART I: INTRODUCING THE WORLD BANK GROUP

Working for a World Free of Poverty

President - Robert B. Zoelick

The World Bank works to reduce poverty worldwide. It does this by promoting growth to create employment opportunities and by working to empower poor people to take advantage of these opportunities. It supports governments of member countries in their efforts to invest in schools and health centers, provide water and electricity, fight disease, and protect the environment.

In the East Asia and Pacific region, the World Bank's work focuses on improving the investment climate and revitalizing the business environment; empowering the poor and enhancing social stability; and addressing global priorities including environment, trade, and assisting countries to meet their goals for poverty reduction and improving education and health.

The World Bank is not a "bank" in the common sense; it is an international organization owned by its 184 member countries. The World Bank was established in 1944 by a conference of 44 governments in Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, USA, as the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. It now comprises five agencies that together constitute the World Bank Group:

- ◆ The International Development Association (IDA) plays a key role in supporting the Bank's

poverty reduction mission. Its assistance is focused on the poorest countries (where income per person is \$875 a year or less) to which it provides interest-free loans and grants. Countries generally have 35 to 40 years to repay the loans, with a 10-year grace period. The IDA depends on contributions from its wealthier member countries for most of its finance. Website: www.worldbank.org/ida

- ◆ The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) provides loans and development assistance to middle-income countries, where annual income per person is less than \$5,185. The IBRD offers these countries loans with better terms and longer repayment periods than they would be able to borrow from the private markets. The IBRD obtains most of its funds through the sale of bonds in international capital markets. Website: www.worldbank.org
- ◆ The International Finance Corporation (IFC) promotes growth in the developing world by financing private-sector investments and providing technical assistance and advice to governments and businesses. In partnership with pri-

vate investors, the IFC provides both loan and equity finance for business ventures in developing countries. Website: www.ifc.org

- ◆ The Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) encourages foreign direct investment in development countries by providing guarantees to foreign investors against loss caused by noncommercial risks. The MIGA also provides technical assistance to help developing countries promote investment opportunities and uses its legal services to smooth possible impediments to investment. Website: www.miga.org

- ◆ The International Center for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) provides facilities for settlement – by conciliation or arbitration – of investment disputes between foreign investors and their host countries. Website: www.worldbank.org/icsid

People sometimes confuse the World Bank with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) which was also founded at the Bretton Woods conference in 1944. Although the IMF's functions are complementary to those of the World Bank Group, it is completely separate. The World Bank provides assistance to developing countries, whereas the IMF works to stabilize the international monetary system and acts as a monitor of the world's currencies.

The World Bank is run like a cooperative, with its member countries as shareholders. The number of shares a country has is based roughly on the size of its economy. The United States is the largest single shareholder, with 16.41 percent of votes, followed by Japan (7.87 percent), Germany (4.49), Britain (4.31) and France (4.31). The Bank's president is elected for a five-year renewable term. The president chairs meetings of the Board of Directors and is responsible for overall management of the Bank. The current president is Robert Zoellick, who took office on July 2, 2007. Like all previous World Bank presidents, he is an American citizen.

The shareholders are represented by a Board of Governors. Generally, these are government ministers who meet once a year. The rest of the time they delegate specific duties to their Executive Directors, who work on-site at the Bank. Every member government of the World Bank Group is represented by an Executive Director. The United States, Japan, Germany, Britain and France each appoint an executive director, and another 19 directors represent all other member countries.

These 24 Executive Directors normally meet twice



World Bank Vice President of EAP region, Jim Adams, during his visit to Cambodia in February 2007

a week to oversee the Bank's business, including approving loans and guarantees, new policies, the administrative budget, country assistance strategies, and borrowing and financial decisions.

The World Bank employs approximately 10,000 people from 160 countries in its headquarters in Washington DC (USA) and around the world.

In Cambodia the World Bank has a Public Information Center at 70 Norodom Blvd, Phnom Penh. Its websites are <http://www.worldbank.org/kh> (in English) and <http://www.worldbank.org.kh/> (in Khmer). Contact: Sam Ouem Sophinith, e-mail: ssamoeun@worldbank.org

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Most of the world's nations committed themselves to working together to dramatically reduce poverty by half by the year 2015, when they signed the Millennium Declaration at a United Nations meeting in 2000. The World Bank uses the declarations' eight goals as targets to help set its priorities – they are its roadmap for development. These goals are:

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
2. Achieve universal primary education
3. Promote gender equality and empower women
4. Reduce child mortality
5. Improve maternal health
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases
7. Ensure environmental sustainability
8. Develop a global partnership for development

USEFUL CONTACTS

WHERE CAN I GO TO GET MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE WORLD BANK?

The World Bank's website www.worldbank.org has a great deal of information about the World Bank Group. It is a good starting point for getting information about the Bank.

WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION ON WORLD BANK PROJECTS?

The World Bank has a database on its projects in developing countries, which contains summary information on loans and technical assistance (<http://www.worldbank.org/projects/>).

WHERE CAN I GO TO GET MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE WORLD BANK ACTIVITIES IN EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC?

The World Bank's East Asia and the Pacific region website is a good place to start. From the main portal, you can access our country-specific websites. There is also a link to sign up for periodic updates by email on World Bank activities and research in the region or in a specific country. See the web page for details. (<http://www.worldbank.org/eap>)

ARE THERE ANY GRANTS I CAN APPLY FOR?

There are various grant/funding opportunities offered by the World Bank. Here are some examples.

InfoDev - Provides funding for the dissemination of information communications technology (ICT) and/or improving ICT use for social and economic development and poverty reduction, in partnership with international development organi-

zations, governments or private sector organizations (<http://www.infodev.org/>).

Post Conflict Fund - Supports planning, piloting, and analysis of reconstruction activities by funding governments and partner organizations. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other civil society institutions, governments, regional and international organizations in any country that is currently in conflict or is emerging from a recent conflict are eligible to apply for funding (<http://www.worldbank.org/conflict>).

Indigenous People Fund - Supports projects that address four critical areas: resources for sustainable development, indigenous rights, institutional strengthening and training, and culture and identity (<http://www.worldbank.org/indigenous>).

Social Funds - Finance small community-managed projects to help empower the poor and vulnerable populations in developing countries (<http://www.worldbank.org/socialfunds>)

Montreal Protocol - Helps developing countries meet the incremental costs of eliminating the production and consumption of ozone-depleting chemicals (<http://www.worldbank.org/montrealprotocol>).

Technical Assistance Trust Funds - Through this program, IFC conducts a broad range of technical assistance activities, from helping entrepreneurs develop project proposals to assisting with private-sector institution building (<http://www.ifc.org/about/contacts/support/ta/ta.html>).

Critical Ecosystem Partnership

Fund - Creates strategic alliances for a comprehensive, coordinated approach to conservation challenges, such as managing protected areas and coordinating biodiversity corridors; training; and cross-border planning, among others. Civil society organizations, community groups, private-sector partners in the biodiversity conservation field are eligible to apply for funding (<http://www.cepf.net/xp/cepf/>).

I'M AN INVESTOR. CAN THE WORLD BANK HELP ME SELECT GOOD COMPANIES AND PROJECTS TO INVEST IN?

There are various resources on the World Bank's website where you can explore opportunities for investors.

IPAnet - Operated by MIGA, this portal for international corporate investors provides information and analysis on the investment environment and business opportunities (<http://www.ipanet.net/>).

FDI Xchange - This free e-mail service provides profiles of new investment opportunities and business environment analysis from emerging markets worldwide (<http://www.fdiexchange.com/>).

Privatization Link - This service features profiles of enterprises slated for divestiture in emerging markets (www.privatizationlink.com).

Development Gateway Foreign Direct Investment Topic Page - MIGA, in cooperation with the Bank's Foreign Investment Advisory Service and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, moderates this page, which catalogs and disseminates the most recent information on foreign

direct investment, international business, and multinational enterprises (<http://www.developmentgateway.org/fdi>).

Private Equity and Investment Funds - IFC has helped to develop, structure, and implement a number of private equity funds to target various sectors. These specialized investment vehicles are designed to provide equity and quasi-equity financing to private enterprises that meet certain criteria (<http://www.ifc.org/about/contacts/sectors/funds/funds.html>).

Rapid Response Unit - Knowledge resources specializing in policy advice, investment climate, and privatization in developing countries (<http://rru.worldbank.org/>).

HOW MUCH DOES MY COUNTRY WIN IN PROCUREMENT CONTRACTS? HOW CAN I PARTICIPATE?

The procurement contracts awarded to individual countries can be seen on the Contract Awards Search page (<http://www.worldbank.org/projects>). Additional information on development programs and projects can be found on the Development Gateway's AiDa site (<http://www.developmentgateway.org/aiDa>).

The following websites contain information on invitations to bid or express interest for contracts under World Bank-financed projects:

Development Gateway (dgmarket) (<http://www.dgmarket.com/>).

United Nations Development Business (<http://www.devbusiness.com/>).

ARE THERE SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR JOBS AND SCHOLARSHIPS FOR MY COUNTRY?

Joint Japan/World Bank Graduate Scholarship Program (<http://www.worldbank.org/wbi/scholarships/>)

Robert S. McNamara Fellowships Program (<http://www.worldbank.org/wbi/scholarships/>)

World Bank Careers (<http://inweb28.worldbank.org/hrs/careers.nsf>)

WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION ON BANK RESOURCES FOR KIDS?

There are several sites with information tailored for a younger audience. Kids DevNews is a monthly news bulletin for children that covers various topics of interest in developing countries (<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/NEWS>). There is also information on the website for kids and schools to use (<http://www.worldbank.org/html/schools/>)

HOW CAN MY SCHOOL OR COMPANY ARRANGE A VISIT TO THE WORLD BANK?

The Speakers Bureau at the World Bank provides briefings for visiting groups on selected days throughout the year (<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/NEWS/>)

HOW CAN I FIND OUT WHAT THE BANK IS DOING WITH CIVIL SOCIETY?

The purpose of this website is to provide civil society organizations

with information, links, and materials on the World Bank's evolving relationship with civil society throughout the world <http://www.worldbank.org/civilsociety>

HOW CAN I FIND OUT WHAT THE BANK IS DOING WITH MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT?

The Bank, through the Vice Presidency for Europe, has supported the creation of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank to forge closer ties between the Bank and parliaments worldwide <http://www.pnowb.org>

WHERE DO I GO FOR INFORMATION ON BANK PUBLICATIONS AND DOCUMENTS?

The World Bank has a number of Public Information Centers in the region, where members of the public can request information and documents from the World Bank. These documents are made available to the public under the World Bank's public information disclosure policy (<http://www.worldbank.org/html/pic/cas/>).

World Bank publications are available on-line on our website and at various distributors worldwide (<http://www.worldbank.org/publications>).

Kingdom of Cambodia

Public Information Center
70 Norodom Blvd., Phnom Penh,
Cambodia Contact: Sam Ouem
Sophinith E-mail: ssamoeun@worldbank.org
Website: <http://www.worldbank.org/kh> and
(Khmer language site) <http://www.worldbank.org/kh/>