Bank ready with US$ 553 million for tsunami relief in India

The World Bank will make available up to US$ 553 million in assistance for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of tsunami-affected areas in India, where government estimates say some 10,749 people died, another 5,640 are still missing, 6,913 were injured and close to 650,000 have been displaced.

The Bank – in conjunction with the government of India (GOI) and other multilateral partners including the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the UNDP – conducted a needs’ assessment in early February to evaluate the level of assistance needed for reconstruction. The team submitted a summary of its assessment to the government of India on February 18 and will be submitting the draft assessment report in early March.
Following the need’s assessment, the Bank, ADB and UNDP will discuss financing shares and arrangements with the government. The government has stated that it hopes disbursements can begin before the end of March 2005.

The tsunami generated enormous human suffering and considerable localized loss of assets in both the public and household sectors, and widespread loss of livelihoods, especially from fishing, in the affected areas of India. It is clear that, in addition to repair of infrastructure, priority needs will be for housing; for restoration of assets to generate livelihoods, notably for fishermen but also for farmers; and for coastal protection investments and disaster preparedness.

Immediately following the tsunami, the GOI had announced that it was not seeking any outside help with immediate relief. It mobilized major resources for urgent relief in the affected areas in India (particularly Tamil Nadu and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands), and also provided support to Sri Lanka, the Maldives, Indonesia and Thailand.

On January 10, the government wrote to the World Bank and to ADB asking for support for rebuilding infrastructure, both public and private, for the rehabilitation of livelihoods of those affected, and in developing disaster prevention and management systems for the future in the four affected mainland territories (Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Pondicherry). An identical request was addressed to the UN (under the coordination of UNDP) on January 12, 2005. A joint World Bank, ADB, and UNDP needs assessment team visited the affected districts from February 1 to 16, meeting state and district officials, private sector and NGO volunteers, and most importantly, affected families themselves.

Overall, it appears that GOI has been highly effective in immediate relief and recovery, including disposal of bodies, disinfection, vaccination, provision of food, water, and emergency shelter, and sanitation and clearing of debris. There has been major support from Indian NGOs, and significant funding has been raised from the public, especially through an appeal launched by the Prime Minister. UN agencies on the ground, notably UNICEF, and locally represented international NGOs have also helped with relief efforts.

In India, the Bank will follow the three principles that have guided Bank support for tsunami recovery efforts in other countries. First, the governments of the affected countries must have the central role and ownership of the recovery efforts. Second, communities should be involved in assessing their needs and designing recovery programs, linked to long-term strategies for growth and poverty reduction. It is important that reconstruction be undertaken in ways that help to break the cycle of poverty in these communities. Third, the international community must act in coordination, both in the relief and the recovery phases, to ensure efficient use of donor resources, and work with the governments of affected countries to set clear goals and monitor and evaluate progress.
The tsunami disaster in the Indian Ocean was one of the worst natural disasters in modern times. Well over 200,000 people died and more than 1.5 million people lost their homes and often their livelihoods. As in most disasters, it was the poor that were most affected.

Losses are estimated to total more than US$7 billion. Private assets, including housing and business equipment, account for the largest share of the losses.

In a first phase of support, the Bank has already committed in the coming months to provide financing, essentially through IDA, on the order of US$246 million for Indonesia, US$14 million for Maldives, and US$150 million for Sri Lanka, drawing on IDA13.

The Bank moved quickly to (a) provide assistance on the ground in affected countries for expedited recovery planning; (b) mobilize its financial support; and (c) help coordinate rehabilitation and recovery support, when asked to do so by the authorities in the affected countries.

The Bank was able to use its comparative advantage – in-house expertise on recovery and reconstruction, knowledge of the overall economies of these countries, sectoral knowledge from operations and analytic work, procurement and financial management skills, and experience with donor coordination and reconstruction financing – in assisting countries in formulating their recovery plans.

A portal on the Bank’s tsunami related reconstruction effort is available at www.worldbank.org/tsunami.

For other online resources connected with the tsunami, see page 21.

Below:
Hundreds of displaced people are now living in temporary shelters like these.
‘We need to get back into the water and start living again’

The World Bank Staff Association in India set up a collection for the tsunami-affected and used it to fund the construction of temporary houses for 40 families in Nagapattinam district of Tamil Nadu. A report from Patsy D’Cruz on what staff representatives saw when they visited the devastated area.

We left Chennai for Nagapattinam district, approximately 340 kms from Chennai, in the early hours of the morning on Pongal Day – which is the local harvest festival. We first visited Chinangudi village, which had a total of 570 families, of which 270 were affected by the tsunami, with 43 people being killed. Selvaraj, the panchayat president described what happened: “Water rose very high and dropped down on us and collected all that it could and receded back into the sea. In half an hour, three huge waves completely submerged all that was in this village.”

The sea had come inland almost a kilometer and it was almost six days before people could return to the village. Thatched houses along the beach were destroyed, a few brick houses were filled with sand and salt, the few fishing nets and boats that remained were destroyed beyond use.

The World Bank Staff Association is sponsoring the construction of 40 temporary houses for fishermen here. The houses are 15 ft. by 10 ft. rectangular rooms made of corrugated coal-tar sheets placed on bamboo poles. Each row of housing contains 10 of these huts that share common walls and a common roof. It was impressive to see that all work done in the village is with the collaboration of the gram panchayat; it is the panchayat that is making the final allotment of the temporary shelters.

We also saw how, some two weeks after the disaster, the government machinery had begun to fall in place. Project Officers had been assigned by the District Collector to look after five or six villages each. Each affected family was being provided 60 kgs of rice, pulses, vegetables, and Rs. 4,000 in cash. Families of those deceased were given Rs.1 lakh per deceased member. Drinking water was being provided from newly-dug borewells.

In village Taalampettai, Mr Shaktivel, who is overseeing the relief work on behalf of the government, says they have enough food stocks to feed the villagers for the next two months. “Material has been pouring in and many a time people have more than what is required,” he says. The villagers, however, had one regret – they were being supplied vegetables plenty, they were not getting any fish, their staple food. More than a fortnight after the tsunami, no fishermen had yet ventured into the sea.

Our last stop was the village of Poompuhar which had witnessed maximum destruction. Over 200 lives were lost here, including many children; most died because they were unable to flee the waves across the thorny bushes that marked the village’s perimeter and were washed back into the sea. About 450 families lost everything they possessed. Debris of thatched houses, utensils, and clothes lay strewn all over. Boats and catamarans carried far into the mainland lay broken and beyond repair. Government machinery seemed to have worked slowest here. Debris had still not been cleared and swamps remained. People stood in long lines for kerosene and food.

These are people who each day live on the edge of life. Their existence is dependant on the very sea which destroyed all they had. “We are not scared of the water. It is our livelihood, and we know no other trade,” says Rajendran, the gram panchayat president in Poompuhar. They have heard that the government will be providing boats and nets and eagerly await that day.
A group of nine Executive and Alternate Executive Directors (EDs) and one member of the Corporate Secretariat of the World Bank came on a five-day visit to India over end-January and early-February.

The visiting group represents 56 out of the Bank’s 184 member countries. The visit is part of a regular program where EDs visit a number of countries each year to review Bank programs and policies and results on the ground. The EDs and Alternative EDs are not part of the Bank’s management. They play a dual role as officers of the Bank, and representatives of the governments in their constituencies on the World Bank’s 24 member Board of Directors. All World Bank loans and credits must get approval from the Board of Directors.

During their visit, the EDs called on the Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh. They also met the Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Mr T R Baalu, as well as senior officials from the Planning Commission and the ministries of Finance, Power and Water Resources. They also attended briefings by key policy-makers in India on matters related to poverty reduction, including education, health, rural development, infrastructure, private sector development, improving public service delivery and the investment climate.

Mr Chander Mohan Vasudev, Executive Director from India, who also represents Bangladesh, Bhutan and Sri Lanka in addition to his own country, India on the World Bank’s Board of Directors, was the host of the delegation visiting India.

The visiting group included Mr Sid Ahmed Dib from Algeria, Mr Ad Melkert from Netherlands, Mr Tom Scholar from United Kingdom, Mr Chander Mohan Vasudev from India, Mr Pietro Veglio from Switzerland, Mr Jorge Familiar Calderon from Mexico, Mr Terrence O’Brien from Australia, Mr Toshio Oya from Japan, and Mr Anthony Requin from France.

The group also visited development projects in Delhi, Rajasthan and Mumbai to better acquaint themselves with the situation on the ground. In the Capital, the EDs visited a municipality-run primary school and an Alternate School/Learning Center where they appraised interventions to increase access to and improve the quality of primary education. The Learning Center/Alternative School are community-based initiatives to provide access in a non-formal mode to children in areas where there is no formal school. The EDs said were struck by the number of women teachers in the schools, and were impressed by the quality of education being imparted.
The World Bank is stepping up its assistance to Orissa, one of the poorest states of India. In keeping with the intention expressed in the Country Strategy for India for 2005-08, to try and build a productive development relationship with the four states where poverty is increasingly concentrated – Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa and Uttar Pradesh – the Bank is enhancing its financial and technical assistance to Orissa, home to 5 percent of India’s poor.

Despite its rich endowment of mineral wealth, forests, lakes, rivers and a long coastline, Orissa remains among the poorest of India’s major states. The state, 85 percent of whose population lives in rural areas, is characterized by relatively high incidence of subsistence production, traditional land tenure patterns and pronounced social and regional differences. Among the poorest people in the Orissa are the Scheduled Tribes, who constitute 22 percent of its total population (compared to 8 percent in India) and comprise 40 percent of the poor in the state.

The development challenge before the government of Orissa thus involves correcting the prevalent low rates of economic growth and the high degree of inequality, while ensuring the effective delivery of basic services, especially to tribal forest-dwellers in poorly-connected regions. Over the longer term, improving the effectiveness of public investments and service delivery in elementary education, basic health and social protection are necessary conditions for rapid poverty-reducing growth.

As the government of Orissa sets in motion its process of cross-cutting policy reform, the Bank has been at the ready with financial and technical assistance across many sectors. It has passed on the first in a series of adjustment loans/credits to support Orissa’s core fiscal, governance and structural reforms; it has helped pilot a farmer-led irrigation management scheme; it has facilitated an intensive interface between the state government and the NGO sector, which were deadlocked over environment and social issues; it is preparing a state-level Investment Climate Survey; and is planning new investments for infrastructure (especially state roads) and livelihood development.

Three Bank-financed investment projects have been recently completed or are soon to be completed: in the power, health and water resources sectors. Trust fund grants are being used to support pilot interventions in tourism and community-
based development initiatives. The Bank and Department for International Development (DFID) of UK, are together also supporting multi-state or national level programs covering Orissa, including the District Primary Education Program.

The first of a series of adjustment loans/credits, proposed to support Orissa's core fiscal, governance and structural reforms during 2004-09, was passed on to the state in December 2004. If the state's reform program proceeds as planned, the Bank could make up to four adjustment operations till 2009, each one larger than the former, and all aimed at supporting the medium-term program for the socio-economic development of Orissa. The expected benefits include more rapid and broad-based economic growth, improved fiscal performance, enhanced quality of governance and service delivery, leading to rapid poverty reduction.

The government of Orissa has, of late, had differences with some of the more prominent NGOs working in the state over issues related to the exploiting of mineral resources, the environment and involuntary resettlement. To help initiate a dialogues on these issues, the Bank facilitated a colloquium held in Puri on January 21. This concluded with an agreement between the state government and the voluntary sector to set up a task-force comprising government and non-government representatives which would help develop a framework for partnership, information sharing, and conflict resolution between government and civil society, as well as look into some substantive development issues.

**Development Dialogue**

**Knowledge-sharing activities of the Public Information Center**

**SEMINAR**

*World Bank & Its Knowledge Resources*

21 January 2005 - Pune

As part of its centenary year activities, The Servants of India Society’s Dhananjayarao Gadgil Library of the Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics (GIPE), Pune, collaborated with the WB Public Information Center (PIC) to organize a seminar on ‘The World Bank and its Knowledge Resources’.

Speaking on ‘Recent World Bank Research on India: Answers and Questions’, Mr Stephen Howes, the Bank’s Lead Economist in India, highlighted interesting research findings from the Bank’s work on the 10 most-raised issues about India:
Has poverty fallen in India? How does it fare vis a vis China?
How serious are infrastructure bottlenecks in India relative to other countries? How do they vary across India’s states?
Does free power benefit poor farmers?
How (une)qual are educational opportunities faced by Indian children?
Are public servants overpaid in India?

The presentation sparked a lively discussion with participants who comprised academics, researchers, NGO representatives, and librarians. The Director of GIPE, Prof A K Sinha chaired the session and, in his remarks, touched on poverty, productivity, and employment/unemployment issues. Regarding education, he remarked that had India concentrated on primary education rather than on higher education, after Independence, the masses might not have been left behind.

Welcoming guests seated in the historic, 100-year-old library hall, Ms Asha Gadre said that the seminar at GIPE would “provide a platform to bring together the World Bank, local NGOs, individual researchers in various fields and the Institute, to initiate a meaningful interaction”.

The second half of the program included a presentation on the NDO PIC and a live demonstration of the World Bank’s online knowledge resources. A display of recent World Bank books and reports was mounted against a backdrop of a set of posters on the World Bank.

A similar knowledge sharing event about the Bank’s web resources was organised in Mumbai as part of the International Conference on Information Management over 21-25 February.
WORKSHOPS

State Fiscal Reforms in India
February 2005

The World Bank report, *State Fiscal Reforms in India: Progress and Prospects*, launched in November 2004 in New Delhi was subsequently discussed in a series of seven workshops around India, including in Chennai, Kolkata, Patna, Hyderabad, Bangalore and Bhubaneswar.

In most states, government representatives participated in the workshop and provided not just their feedback on the Report, but also their own views on fiscal reforms. “This series of seminars dispelled the negative impressions that surrounded the whole issue of reforms. There are clearly some reforms that are in the ‘too hard’ category, and there are definitely risks, but, overall, the states remain – and, in fact, are increasingly – committed to putting their fiscal house in order,” commented one of the Report’s authors and Senior Economist Mr V Ravishankar.

To help communicate the findings of the Report, the authors boiled down its messages and recommendations to a list of 13. (“See box”) “We found a lot of consensus around this list of 13, but that doesn’t mean that all of them have been, or will be, adopted. But there is a broad consensus on what needs to be done,” says Mr Ravishankar.

According to the World Bank’s Lead Economist for India, Mr Stephen Howes: “Taking our Report to the states is an increasingly important for us, for two reasons – first, India is of such a continental size. If you were launching a report in Europe, you couldn’t only discuss it in Brussels. And, second, so many of the reforms we are looking at are in the domain of the states. The more debate there is at the state level, the better the prospects for sustainable reforms.”


**13 Key Messages**

**Expenditure**
1. A policy of hiring restraint (zero net hiring) and real wage restraint can deliver significant fiscal gains.
2. Growth in the pension bill can be contained by parametric and structural reforms.
3. There are no sure paths to subsidy reduction, but better subsidy management and more commercial discipline in subsidy-receiving sectors are critical.
4. The quality of spending can and must be improved.

**Revenue**
5. VAT introduction should be voluntary, and on the basis of floor rates.
6. The tax base of the states should be increased by service taxation and enhancement of the professions tax limit.
7. Tax administration reforms are more important than tax policy reforms, though they have received less attention.

**Transfers: Loans & grants**
8. States should be given more borrowing flexibility within firmly established global caps.
9. Reforms to the grant system should aim to make it both more progressive and more performance-oriented.
10. In a fiscally stressed system, an increase in the Government of India tax/GDP ratio is critical, especially for the poorer states.

**Institutions**
11. A central agency should be given the mandate to collate and improve state-level fiscal data.
12. The ‘plan’/’non-plan’ distinction should be abolished.
13. Adoption of fiscal responsibility legislation by all states, and its monitoring by the Government of India and external agencies, will provide important institutional backing for state-level fiscal reforms.
The World Bank organized a two-day knowledge-sharing workshop intended to draw lessons and identify critical issues in land acquisition (LA) and resettlement and rehabilitation (R&R) of displaced persons in transport sector projects, and to identify opportunities for moving towards a more programmatic approach.

The workshop thus started a process to:

i. develop sectoral R&R policy;
ii. evolve uniform approaches to R&R including standardization of methodology for compensation and assistance;
iii. assess systemic issues related to land and procedures and processes for land acquisition;
iv. assess institutional capacity; and
v. improve project processes to enable delivery of project benefits with efficiency and equity.

The workshop brought together almost 60 participants, including project staff of various transport sector projects, senior management of National Highways Authority of India as well as state Public Works Departments, Central and state Government policymakers, officials from the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), NGOs, social
scientists, legal experts and staff from the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank.

The government officials and a few NGOs presented project case studies (mainly from Bank-supported projects) on LA and R&R which were followed by discussions. The MoRD made a presentation on National R&R Policy 2004. Lessons from East Asia and on the Asian Development Bank’s approach to managing road projects were presented. Break-out sessions were organized to arrive at specific short-term and long-term action points for scaling-up investment in the sector.

WORKSHOP
Gender and Economics
1 February 2005 • Delhi

The workshop provided for a dialogue between sociologists and economists on the role of women in the economy. The keynote presentation was made by Prof Sonalde Desai, Professor of Sociology in the University of Maryland and focused on an overview of research and policy issues in South Asia. This was followed by a presentation by the Bank's Lead Economist, Mr Lant Pritchett on ‘An Economist’s View of Gender’. Ms Lucia Fort from the Poverty Reduction and Economic Management group summarized how World Bank approached the challenges of gender in its operational work.

VISIT
Young Civil Servants of the Netherlands' Ministry of Finance
24-29 January 2005 • Delhi

A 35-member committee of Young Civil Servants from the Netherlands’ Ministry of Finance visited the Bank's New Delhi office in late January. They were in India as part of an annual research project to examine a promising economy of the future.

WORKSHOP
Client Connection
February 2005 • Delhi

In a bid to simplify business processes related to loan administration and procurement, the World Bank allows government officials connected with Bank-assisted projects to access information related to all their loans, credits, grants, and trust funds through a secure, password-protected website. In the second round of workshops relating to this process, known as Client Connection, more than 60 people associated with 25 different Bank-supported projects were trained over the month of February.

Among the people who participated in the workshop were staff from various Central and state entities and implementing agencies, including those from the Office of Controller of Aid Accounts and Audit. Under Client Connection, staff in project implementing agencies are able to view financial information related to their projects, as well as submit procurement documents to the Bank for review online. In addition, the Client Connection features a wealth of country-specific data on each country’s homepage. Governments no longer have to look in several places on the Bank’s external website to find country-specific research, statistical data and news. It is now all in one central location.

VIDEO-CONFERENCE
Trade in Agriculture
21 February 2005

A global video-conference on 'Trade in Agriculture', organized by World Bank Europe office, was attended by members of Parliament from various countries including India, Kenya, South Africa, Japan. The participants from India were Mr Robert Kharshiing, Member of the Rajya Sabha and Mr Santosh Bagrodia, MP and Deputy Chairperson of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank (PNOWB).
The Indian economy is in the 90th percentile of growth globally, with only 10 percent of world economies growing at a faster rate, but because it started from a low base, it will be 34 years before it can reach the GDP level of the US of the 1950s, said the World Bank’s Lead Economist, Mr Lant Hayward Pritchett, while giving the keynote address at a National Symposium on ‘Growth and Competitiveness of India in the 1990s’ at Loyola College in Chennai on 10 February.

However, said Mr Pritchett, India should aim at a steady economic growth rather than an accelerated pace if it wanted to avoid a “stall” in India’s growth path. Citing the examples of Brazil, Japan and the Philippines, he said that these economies had “episodes” of very rapid growth but then suddenly went from boom to bust. “While India is relatively free of some of the major causes of stall around the world, it does have real risks,” he said.

Listing India’s strengths, he pointed to its strong democratic roots and political continuity, elite education, open ideology, a large (both in terms of population and area) integrated market, adequate resources, and familiarity with the English language. The major pitfalls facing the country centre on the lack of fiscal means to meet infrastructure needs, and the possibility of some “lagging regions” that might slow the growth process, he said.

Pointing to an interesting dichotomy, Mr Pritchett said that while India is perhaps one of the most unequal places in terms of the gap in educational attainment – with world-class elite education but mass illiteracy – but, at the same time, it is one of the most equal countries in income/consumption terms. “While India has been socially stratified (access to the elite was limited by wealth, caste, ethnicity, parental wealth) but the dominance of the public sector kept a check on actual inequality,” he said.

Moreover, India today is undergoing a shift in which the economic changes are making the rewards to skills more unequal. This means that it might be heading for a scenario where it is both socially stratified and has high income inequalities.

“This is what we saw in South Africa and in Brazil more recently and can be very dangerous,” he said. “Dealing with it involves taking into account the difference between an ‘equity’ approach that emphasizes equality of opportunity and an ‘inequality’ approach that emphasizes equality of outcomes,” he added.

Mr Stephen Howes, the World Bank’s Lead Economist for India, delivered one of the keynote addresses at the Deutsche Bank’s ‘India Investors’ Conference’ in Mumbai. Titled ‘Miracles in Asia? East Asia and South Asia Compared’, his presentation examined economic performance in these two regions over the last 40 years.

Speaking to an audience that comprised over 100 investors from financial centers in the United States, the United Kingdom, Europe and Asia, Mr Howes noted that, while East Asia had left South Asia behind over this period, for the last twenty years South Asia had in fact been growing as fast as East Asia excluding China. The presentation highlighted government effectiveness as one of the key factors behind the differential growth performance in the two regions.
Recent Project Signings

Tamil Nadu Health Systems Project
5 January

The US$39.5 million loan was signed at the Ministry of Finance, with Dr Ranjit Bannerji, Joint Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, representing the Government of India and Mr P Ravi Kumar, Secretary, Urban Development Department, Government of Karnataka signing on behalf of the Government of Karnataka. Mr. Michael Carter, the Bank’s Country Director for India, signed on behalf of the World Bank.

The Project, for which the loan was approved by the World Bank’s Board on April 8, 2004, will support the Government of Karnataka’s efforts to enhance the efficiency, management, and delivery of water supply and sanitation to its urban residents. It supports the Government of Karnataka in launching its urban water sector reform process, and in demonstrating that continuous, efficient and sustainable water service provision can be achieved.

Karnataka Urban Water Sector Improvement Project
18 February

The US$110.83 million project was signed at the Ministry of Finance, with Dr Ranjit Bannerji, Joint Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, representing the Government of India and Mr Michael Carter, Country Director for India, representing the World Bank. Dr N Sundaradevan, Secretary Health, Government of Tamil Nadu, signed on behalf of the Government of Tamil Nadu.

The Tamil Nadu Health Systems Project aims to help the state of Tamil Nadu improve the effectiveness of its health system, both public and private.

Forthcoming Events

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<th>CONFERENCE</th>
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<td>South Asian Conference of Youth Organizations</td>
<td>Open House for Youth</td>
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<td>17-18 March 2005 • Delhi</td>
<td>21 March 2005 • World Bank New Delhi Office</td>
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The South Asian Conference of Youth Organizations is being organized by the Indian Committee of Youth Organizations with support from the World Bank. The main objectives of the proposed conference are to take further the commitment made by the World Bank during the Conference on Youth Development and Peace held in Sarajevo in 2004; to discuss issues and challenges facing young people today; and to develop a tool for sustainable dialogue between the World Bank and South Asian Youth Organizations. About 60 representatives of youth organizations from India and from South Asia are expected to participate.

This is planned as an initiative that will allow youth organizations to present who they are, what they do and how they can contribute to the development agenda.

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<td>Electronic Government Procurement</td>
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This conference aims to share knowledge from the lessons learned by governments that have successfully implemented electronic procurement.
This is a select listing of recent World Bank publications, working papers, operational documents and other information resources that are now available at the New Delhi Office Public Information Center. Policy Research Working Papers, Project Appraisal Documents, Project Information Documents and other reports can be downloaded in pdf format from ‘Documents and Reports’ at www.worldbank.org

New Additions to the Public Information Center


India Analytical & Advisory Work

Resuming Punjab’s Prosperity – Opportunities and Challenges Ahead

Punjab is India’s most prosperous state with the lowest poverty rate. It is ranked second only to Kerala in terms of overall level of human development among major Indian states. But at the same time, despite its impressive development record, Punjab is losing out to the more reforming Indian states in terms of attracting investment and creating employment.

According to this Bank report, Punjab’s state finances are under stress, its economy is growing slower than the national average, the quality of public service delivery is not commensurate with its per capita income and some of its human development indicators have started to languish or even deteriorate.

The report identifies six major challenges that are a key threat to the Punjab’s long-term prosperity:

i. Long-lasting impact of civil strife of the 1980s on investment, growth and state finances;
ii. Low productivity of Punjab’s civil service;
iii. A growing culture of subsidy and crowding out of public investment;
iv. High level of regulatory burden and the quality of infrastructure, which has not kept pace with the demand;
v. Corruption, including widespread evasion of taxes; and
vi. Weak implementation capacity of the government.

Some of the state’s recent achievements on the reform front include abandoning the populist, but fiscally and environmentally unsustainable policy of free power and water; being the second Indian state, after Karnataka, to adopt a Fiscal Responsibility Act; passing the Punjab Infrastructure and Regulation Act 2002 to encourage greater public-private partnership in infrastructure; undertaking an ambitious agricultural diversification project; beginning the disinvestment of
The accelerated pace of globalization has stimulated dramatic changes in trade, finance, intellectual property, private investment, information and communications technology, health, environment, security and civil society. Addressing the challenges posed by globalization often requires collective action at the global level. The World Bank is an important participant in such programs and activities because its global reach, its ability to mobilize resources, and its multisectoral expertise position it well to deal with the challenges of globalization.

Addressing the Challenges of Globalization derives cross-cutting lessons for the Bank on program selectivity, design, implementation, governance, management, financing and evaluation. The book also identifies areas where further Bank action on its global-level strategy and programming is needed to improve the global program effectiveness.

Mobilizing Private Finance for Local Infrastructure in Europe and Central Asia: An Alternative Public Private Partnership Framework

By Michel Noel and Wladyslaw Jan Brzeski
Price: $ 15.00
English Paperback
86 pages
Published December 2004
ISBN: 0-8213-6055-8
SKU: 16055

In recent years, the countries of the Europe and Central Asia (ECA) region have experienced a marked decline in the interest of international private operators and investors in municipal infrastructure projects, in line with the trend experienced in other emerging markets.

The objective of this paper is to explore the possible innovative elements of a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) in an effort to rekindle the sagging private finance interest in municipal infrastructure in the ECA Region. The contemplated PPP model would involve government, municipalities, Local Infrastructure Investment Trusts, private equity funds and/or turnaround advisors, and International Financial Institutions.
that a one-size-fits-all approach is unlikely to work. There is need to adjust intellectual property norms to domestic needs, taking into account developing countries’ capacity to innovate, technological needs, and institutional capabilities.

### Customs Modernization Handbook

**Edited by Luc De Wulf, José B. Sokol**

**Price:** $45.00  
**English Paperback**  
**352 pages**  
**Published January 2005**  
**ISBN: 0-8213-5751-4**  
**SKU: 15751**

Trade integration contributes substantially to economic development and poverty alleviation. In recent years the trade regime has been much liberalized, but customs procedures are often still complex, costly and non-transparent. This situation leads to misallocation of resources.

**Customs Modernization Handbook** provides an overview of the key elements of a successful customs modernization strategy and draws lessons from a number of successful customs reforms as well as from customs reform projects that have been undertaken by the World Bank. It describes a number of key import procedures, that have proved particularly troublesome for customs administrations and traders, and provides practical guidelines to enhance their efficiency. The Handbook also reviews the appropriate legal framework for customs operations as well as strategies to combat corruption.

### Intellectual Property and Development: Lessons from Recent Economic Research

**Edited by Keith E. Maskus and Carsten Fink**

**Price:** $25.00  
**English Paperback**  
**360 pages**  
**Published January 2005**  
**ISBN: 0-8213-5772-7**  
**SKU: 15772**

International policies towards protecting intellectual property rights have seen profound changes over the past two decades. Rules on how to protect patents, copyright, trademarks and other forms of intellectual property have become a standard component of international trade agreements. Most significantly, during the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations (1986-94), members of what is today the World Trade Organization (WTO) concluded the Agreement on Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), which sets out minimum standards of protection that most of the world’s economies have to respect.

How will developing countries fare in this new international environment? This book brings together empirical research that assesses the effects of changing intellectual property regimes on various measures of economic and social performance – ranging from international trade, foreign investment and competition to innovation and access to new technologies.

Presenting an important development dimension to the protection of intellectual property, the book suggests...
The authors analyze how field teams, funded by bilateral donors, shaped technical and institutional change to fully reform management and how grain market reforms provided farmers stronger incentives and raised yields. The combination of changes inside and outside the scheme gradually shifted the balance of power and led to a stakeholder setup in which organized farmers replaced the agency.

The success of the reform process lies in the way Mali’s government came to commit to the irrigation reforms. The paper indicates how commitment by other governments may be achieved by using the same and other tools.

**Capital Markets and Non-bank Financial Institutions in Romania: Assessment of Key Issues and Recommendations for Development**

By Ramin Shojai and Michel Noel

Price: $ 10.00

English Paperback

108 pages

Published December 2004


SKU: 16015

This is part of the World Bank Working Paper series published to communicate the results of the Bank’s ongoing research and to stimulate public discussion.

With only three years remaining before it joins the European Union, Romania is working hard to improve its capital markets and non-bank financial institutions, which remain less developed than those in other accession countries. During 2003 and 2004, the Romanian authorities made significant efforts to draft, adopt, and enact new legislation to align Romania with EU financial directives. Despite these efforts, however, challenges remain in the area of supervisory capacity and the implementation of laws and regulations.

This study assesses key issues and recommendations for development, and reviews the specific changes which are necessary in four areas: structural reforms, market institutions, and infrastructure; accounting, transparency, and disclosure; market infrastructure; and credit enhancements.

**Improving Health, Nutrition and Population Outcomes in Sub-Saharan Africa: The Role of the World Bank**

By World Bank

Price: $ 20.00

English 270 pages

Published December 2004

ISBN: 0-8213-5963-0

SKU: 15963

This book takes an in-depth look at health, nutrition, and population challenges faced by sub-Saharan Africa, particularly how disease, malnutrition, and high fertility affect poverty reduction. The authors contend that the World Bank has a comparative advantage in contributing within four broad areas:

i. macroeconomics and health,

ii. multisectoral action for health,

iii. strengthening health systems, and

iv. financing service delivery. They also address the opportunities and challenges within these four areas and conclude with suggestions on how the Bank can better operate within the sector and work effectively with partners.
The Bank Group has been recognized twice recently by international organizations for the excellence of its work. For the fifth consecutive year, the Bank Group has been named as one of the world’s top 20 Most Admired Knowledge Enterprises. The award was made by Teleos, an independent knowledge management and intellectual capital research company. The Bank Group is the only non-private sector company to have made the list this year.

As well, the Bank Group, in conjunction with the World Health Organization, has won the prestigious Prince Michael International Road Safety Award. The awards are given each year to recognize outstanding contributions to improving road safety.

The prize for the Bank Group and WHO was given for producing the first World Report on Road Traffic Injury Prevention, a landmark study that details the scale of the road safety problems facing the world, particularly the developing countries.
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By Antonio Estache

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By Norman V. Loayza, Ana Maria Oviedo and Luis Serven

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For Youth:
The World Bank invites you to participate in an International Essay Competition by responding to the two following questions:

● What are the biggest obstacles you face in your daily life?

● What practical solutions would you propose to build a secure future for yourself and others?

Deadline for submission 15 April 2005
Prize: $5,000 for the winner!!! Several other cash prizes
For further details, go to http://www.essaycompetition.org/

Latest on the Web

A range of online tsunami-related information and knowledge-resources are available at various World Bank sites.

A portal on the tsunami and the Bank’s reconstruction effort is available at the World Bank’s website at www.worldbank.org/tsunami

This includes a detailed report on the Bank’s response to the disaster, available in PDF format http://siteresources.worldbank.org/COUNTRIES/Resources/tsunamireport-020205.doc

For Successful Enterprise

The World Challenge Competition, brought to you by Newsweek & BBC World, in association with Shell, is a competition aimed at finding individuals or groups from around the world who have shown enterprise and innovation at a grassroots level. We want to hear about the people whose projects are making a difference to communities. It could be you or someone you know.

The World Challenge is all about global involvement, casting a net for ideas from individuals or groups deserving recognition. We are looking for your nominations for innovative projects or ideas that are benefiting communities socially, environmentally or financially.

Deadline for submission April 4, 2005
Prize: The Winner will receive from Shell a US$20,000 grant to benefit their project. One representative of the project will be flown to London to receive the award.

For further details, go to http://www.theworldchallenge.co.uk/
developing countries; and losses due to natural disasters are 20 times greater (as a percent of GDP) in developing countries than in industrial countries.

Moreover, poorly planned development can turn a recurring natural phenomenon into a human and economic disaster. Allowing dense populations on a floodplain or permitting poor or unenforced building codes in earthquake zones is as likely as a natural event to cause casualties and losses. Similarly, allowing the degradation of natural resources increases the risk of disaster.

In this connection, the World Bank’s Hazard Management Unit aims to reduce human suffering and economic losses caused by natural and technological disasters. It does this by helping the World Bank provide a more strategic and rapid response to disasters, and promoting the integration of disaster prevention and mitigation efforts into the range of development activities. Details available at http://www.worldbank.org/hazards/

● World Conference on Disaster Reduction
Kobe, Japan; 18-22 January, 2005
Taking place less than one month after the Indian Ocean tsunami, the Conference had a very high profile and was attended by over 4,000 participants from 168 countries, international agencies, media organizations, and NGOs. The Conference reviewed 10 years of disaster reduction activities since the first World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction held in Yokohama in 1994. It also organized special sessions to discuss the establishment of a tsunami early warning system for the Indian Ocean.

The Conference had three major components:

i. Inter-governmental process
ii. Thematic sessions in five areas: Governance, institutional and policy frameworks for risk reduction; Risk identification, assessment, monitoring and early warning; Knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience; Reducing the underlying risk factors; Preparedness for effective response
iii. Public Forums
The World Bank was represented in each of the components and thematic clusters. President Wolfensohn provided a pre-taped message, which opened the first High Level Round Table on ‘Disaster Risk: The Next Development Challenge’. Other panelists in the Roundtable all gave consistent messages regarding the urgent need to mainstream disaster risk reduction into development activities.


For more information on the sessions, please refer to the WCDR website at http://www.unisdr.org/wcdr.

In addition to these activities, the World Bank collaborated with several of its partners to present a paper entitled, ‘Disaster Risk Management in a Changing Climate on behalf of the Vulnerability and Adaptation Resource Group (VARG). This can also be accessed online at the Bank’s Hazards Risk Management site.

The World Bank also participated in the Pro Vention Consortium launch of the second round of applied grants for disaster risk reduction. This program supports young people from developing countries who are interested in conducting disaster management-related research.

Details at http://www.proventionconsortium.org/

● Lessons from Natural Disasters from the Bank’s Operations Evaluation Department
The Operations Evaluation Department (OED) is an independent unit within the World Bank. It prepared this note following the earthquake and tsunami disaster of December 26, 2004, to gather salient findings and lessons from project evaluations conducted over the past decade. Natural disasters are also the subject of an ongoing thematic evaluation that will be published in 2006. The note is available in PDF format at http://www.worldbank.org/oed/disasters/lessons_from_disasters.pdf

● Sustaining Asian Microfinance (CGAP)
As the communities most affected by the recent devastating tsunami courageously begin to rebuild their lives, microfinance institutions (MFIs) can play a powerful part in the path to recovery. Since the immediate aftermath of the tragedy, MFIs have been tirelessly providing and coordinating emergency relief, and a few are beginning to help local communities reconstruct homes and return to economic activity.
CGAP, a consortium of 28 public and private development agencies (including the World Bank) working together to expand access to financial services for the poor in developing countries. CGAP has set out guidelines intended to help MFIs provide the appropriate range of emergency and longer-term assistance to their clients, while helping both MFIs and donors ensure that the ultimate mission of the MFI – to be a sustainable provider of financial services – is not compromised. Any MFI involved in tsunami reconstruction can get information about the challenges it is facing by contacting cgap@worldbank.org

CGAP guidelines are available at http://www.cgap.org/tsunami.html

**Fiscal Decentralization To Rural Governments In India**
By Roy Bahl, Praful Patel, Sudha Pillai, Geeta Sethi (1:02:00 minutes)

On December 7, 2004 the World Bank InfoShop hosted an event to launch the publication of the report Fiscal Decentralization to Rural Governments in India. This World Bank study presents a case for fiscal decentralization to local governments (panchayats) in India. The report argues that effective decentralization can strengthen panchayat-level governance and improve the performance and delivery of critical functions assigned to them. With a focus on rural India, this report uses case studies from Karnataka and Kerala to review panchayat finances and make recommendations for effective governance.

Watch a webcast of the seminar on this study. Participants include Praful Patel, the Bank’s Vice President for the South Asia Region, Geeta Sethi, Senior Economist for the South Asia Region and author of the study, Roy Bahl, Dean of the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies at Georgia State University and a collaborator on the report, Sudha Pillai, Secretary of Local Governments for the Government of India. Shanta Devarajan, Chief Economist for the Bank’s South Asia Region, moderated the session.

Other interesting B-Span topics include:

**Global Dialogue On Scaling Up Poverty Reduction**
By Saleh Afif, Frannie Léautier, Mohini Malhotra, Patricia Medrano, Mauricio Olivarria (1:51:00 minutes)

**Global Partners Forum For Orphans And Vulnerable Children Living In A World With HIV And AIDS**
(1:40:55 minutes)

**Empowered Participatory Governance**
By Robert Chase, Archon Fung (1:31:25 minutes)

**State-Building: Governance And World Order In The 21st Century With Francis Fukuyama**

By Adolfo Brizzi, Shubham Chaudhuri, Anwar Shah, Parmesh Shah (1:23:00 minutes)

In 1996, a coalition of left parties returned to power in the state of Kerala and immediately fulfilled one of its most important campaign pledges by launching the People’s Campaign for Decentralised Planning. All 1,214 local governments in Kerala – municipalities and the three tiers of rural local government, district, block and gram panchayats – were given new functions and powers of decision-making, and were granted discretionary budgeting authority over 35-40 percent of the state’s developmental expenditures.

The Campaign, however, attempted more than just a devolution of resources and functions. Local governments were not only charged with designing and implementing their own development plans, they were mandated to do so through an elaborate series of nested participatory exercises in which citizens were given a direct role in shaping policies and projects. By all accounts, the Campaign represents one of the boldest and most ambitious initiatives to build local institutions of democratic governance ever undertaken in India.

To what extent did the Campaign achieve its aims? This presentation summarizes the findings from a detailed empirical study of the Campaign’s impact. Using extensive survey data collected in 2002 from a sample of 72 randomly selected gram panchayats, the study traces the Campaign’s impact along multiple dimensions – from the development of infrastructure and delivery of public services to assistance for the poor, and democratic deepening.

The study, funded by the Ford Foundation, was a joint effort of the Center for Development Studies in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, and faculty at Columbia University in New York. The presentation is given by Shubham Chaudhuri, one of the principal investigators of the study, who has since moved to the World Bank.

**Building Democracy: The People’s Campaign For Decentralized Planning In Kerala, India**
By Adolfo Brizzi, Shubham Chaudhuri, Anwar Shah, Parmesh Shah (1:23:00 minutes)

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