

1. Changing the Face of the Waters: : The Promise and Challenge of Sustainable Aquaculture



Increase growth, however, brings increased risk, and aquaculture now lies at a crossroads. One direction points toward the giant strides in productivity, industry concentration, and product diversification. Another direction points toward the dangers of environmental degradation and the marginalization of small fish farmers. Yet another direction invites aquaculture to champion the poor and provide vital environmental services to stressed aquatic environments.

Corporate Author: World Bank
Subjects: Agriculture and Rural Development

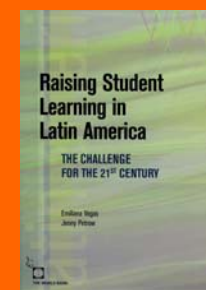
2. Doing Business 2008:

Regulations affecting 10 areas of everyday business are measured: starting a business, dealing with licenses, employing workers, registering property, getting credit, protecting investors, paying taxes, trading across borders, enforcing contracts, and closing a business. Doing Business 2008 updates all 10 sets of indicators, ranks countries on their overall ease of doing business, and analyzes reforms to business regulation - identifying which countries are improving their business environment the most and which ones slipped. The indicators are used to analyze economic outcomes and identify what reforms have worked, where and why. Doing Business 2008 focuses on how complex business regulations dampen investment, growth and job creation in all businesses, and especially opportunities for women entrepreneurs.



Corporate Author: World Bank
Subjects: Private Sector

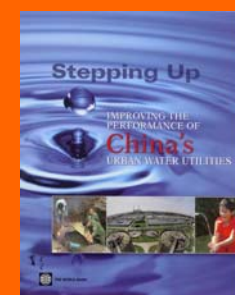
Raising Student Learning in Latin America:



In the effort to meet enrollment targets for compulsory education in Latin America, the drive to achieve universal coverage seems to have left education quality behind. In the face of meager student performance, understanding what and how students are learning have emerged as salient issues facing policy makers in a region that has already achieved considerable success in the area of access to basic education. As many countries in the region embark on a series of reforms addressing issues of quality and equity in basic education, shifting their focus away from educational expansion, information on the policies and programs that can contribute to achieving student learning will be vital. This book brings to light recent advances in our understanding of the policies and programs that affect student learning in order to provide policy makers in Latin America and other developing regions tools for effective education policy making.

Authors: Emilian Vegas, Jenny Petrow
Subjects: Education and Training

4. Stepping Up: Improving the Performance of China's Urban Water Utilities



As China transitions to a market economy, municipal utilities are evolving into commercially viable companies under government oversight. Great challenges confront the reform process for China's water utilities, including rapid urbanization and emerging inequality, coupled with severe water scarcity and degradation. Cities and their water utilities must provide services within a complex mosaic of policies and regulations provided by national and provincial governments. In China, as throughout the world, water is also a sensitive political issue. Governments are keen to provide good water service, but also attuned to the need to ensure that tariffs are socially acceptable. This report presents a strategic framework and set of recommendations for addressing these challenges and accelerating improvements in China's urban water utilities. Drawing upon the World Bank's experience in China, as well as the Bank's global knowledge, the report provides a comprehensive assessment of urban water services, including policy, regulatory, institutional, financial, and technical issues. The report will prove a valuable resource for policy makers, utility companies, and anyone interested in the development of the world's largest water market.

Corporate Author: World Bank
Subject: Social Development Communities and Human Settlement