

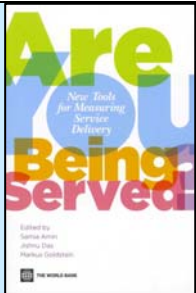
Assessing National Achievement Levels in Education: Effective assessment of the performance of educational systems is a key component in developing policies to optimize the development

of human capital around the world. The five books in the National Assessments of Educational Achievement series introduce key concepts in national assessments of student achievement levels, from policy issues to address when designing and carrying out assessment through test development, sampling, data cleaning, statistics, report writing, and the use of results to improve educational quality. *Assessing National Achievement Levels in Education* describes the purposes and features of national assessments, as well as issues in designing, implementing, analyzing, and reporting.



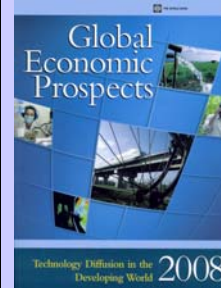
Social Exclusion and Mobility in Brazil: Brazil is a country of sharp disparities. The gap between the richest and the poorest citizens is one of the largest in the world. Inequality in Brazil is well-known, but its low mobility

is not. Until now, few studies have sought to investigate how forms of social exclusion constrain socioeconomic mobility. Why do particular groups remain excluded and trapped in poverty for generations? What do Brazilians themselves think about income inequality and social mobility? This study explores these issues, provides a set of options to redress them, and promotes a national dialogue for action. Corporate Author: World Bank



Are You Being Served?: This publication presents tools and techniques for measuring service delivery in health and education and people's experiences from the field in deploying these methods. It begins by providing an introduction to the different methodological tools available for evaluating the performance of the health and education sectors. Country specific experiences are then explored to highlight lessons on the challenges, advantages and disadvantages of using different techniques to measure quality in a variety of different contexts and of using the resulting data to affect change.

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Global Economic Prospects 2008:

Technology Diffusion in the Developing World examines the state of technology in developing countries and the pace with which it has advanced since the early 1990s. This year's *Global Economic Prospects* comes on the heels of an extended period of strong growth and a 15 year period of strong performance in much of the developing world, which has contributed to substantial declines in global poverty. While high oil prices and heightened market volatility may signal a coming pause in this process, over the longer term continued technological progress should continue to push back poverty.

Improving the Business Environment in



Latvia: This book tracks the process through which the Foreign Investment Advisory Service (FIAS) of the World Bank Group advised the government of Latvia from 1998 to 2004 on ways to improve

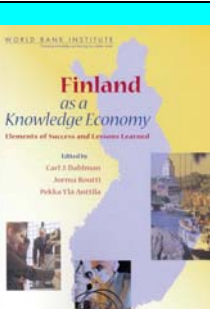
the business environment, achieve higher rates of economic growth, and thereby alleviate poverty.

Improving Municipal Solid Waste Management in India:

Solid Waste Management (SWM) is a matter of great concern in the urban areas of developing countries.

The municipal authorities

who are responsible for managing municipal solid waste are unable to discharge their obligations effectively because they lack the in-house capacity to handle the complexities of the process. The book covers very lucidly the present scenario of SWM in urban areas, the system deficiencies that exist, and the steps that need to be taken to correct SWM practices in compliance with Municipal Solid Waste (Management and Handling) Rules 2000 ratified by the Government of India.



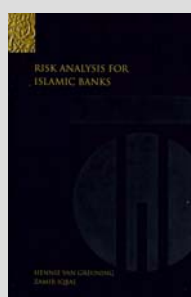
Finland as a Knowledge Economy: Knowledge is fueling economic growth and social development in every region of the world. New ideas and innovation are spreading faster than ever. This book showcases the Finnish experience in

the 1990s as an example of how knowledge can become the driving force in economic transformation and growth.



The Investment Climate in Brazil, India and South Africa: A strong investment climate is a platform for economic success. By creating opportunities and setting incentives for firms to

invest and productively employ inputs, the investment climate is critical to economic growth and prosperity. Analyzing and comparing the investment climate of Brazil, India, and South Africa, three of today's largest emerging economies, this book presents policy makers with the scope of investment climate reforms in these countries. Inter- and intra-country benchmarking can be a starting point for dialogue between the government and private sector on reform priorities and help to encourage the sharing of best practices.



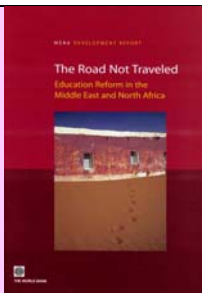
Risk Analysis for Islamic Banks: Islamic finance is emerging as a rapidly growing part of the financial sector in the Islamic world and is not restricted to Islamic countries, but is spreading wherever there is a sizable

Muslim community. This publication provides a comprehensive overview of topics related to the assessment, analysis, and management of various types of risks in the field of Islamic banking. It is an attempt to provide a high-level framework (aimed at non-specialist executives) attuned to the current realities of changing economies and Islamic financial markets. This approach emphasizes the accountability of key players in the corporate governance process in relation to the management of different dimensions of Islamic financial risk.



IFC 2007 Annual Report: In FY 2007, IFC delivered strong, measurable development impact and continued to grow its private sector development activities, especially in the poorest

countries. This year's report represents a significant innovation: for the first time, it brings together all reporting into one unified story—development effectiveness, sustainability, donor activities, and financial results. It also covers the year's new business as well as the performance and development results of our portfolio.



The Road not Traveled: Reform in the Middle East and North Africa evaluates the impact of past education investment in the region and proposes a new approach to education reforms. The

book shows that the region has invested heavily in education and has been able to make remarkable progress. Most eligible children -boys and girls-are now enrolled at different levels of instruction. Fertility and infant mortality rates, as well as life expectancy, have all improved. However, the contribution of past investments in education to economic growth, poverty reduction, and income distribution were modest.

Legal Aspects of HIV/AIDS: This is an invaluable resource for lawyers, policy makers, and other practitioners with an interest in countries' responses to HIV/AIDS.

Legal Aspects of HIV/AIDS: A Guide for Policy and Law Reform covers 65 wide-ranging topics in a concise, accessible format, explaining how laws and regulations can either underpin or undermine public health programs and responsible personal behavior. For each topic, the *Guide* summarizes the key legal or policy issues, provides relevant "practice examples" (citing actual laws and regulations), and offers a selective list of references that may be consulted for more information.

