



INSIGHT



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Mission Statement: "Partnership Committed to Fighting Poverty through Human, Social and Economic Development"

HIGHLIGHTS OF MAJOR COUNTRY UPDATES

World Bank Supports Nigeria's Efforts to Combat Avian Flu.

March 29 2006- The Board of Directors of the World Bank approved an International Development Association (IDA) credit of US\$50 million to support Nigeria's efforts to minimize the threat posed by the avian flu virus to humans and to the poultry industry, and prepare the necessary control measures to respond to a possible influenza pandemic. The *Avian Influenza Control and Human Pandemic Preparedness and Response project* falls under the Global Program for Avian Influenza (GPAI) approved by the Bank's Board of Directors in January 2006. It aims to prevent the further spread of the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) to other parts of Nigeria not yet infected by the virus. The GPAI is designed to provide emergency financing to participating countries to contain outbreaks of avian flu through early detection and rapid response measures. Some project activities will include technical and financial support to farmers and veterinary and health services, to help them tackle the virus at its animal source and reduce opportunities for transmission to humans. Experience shows that early detection and rapid response are critical to containing the virus and preventing its spread in the environment, thus minimizing the threats posed by the disease to humans.

"The proposed project will help put in place the institutional capacity to mitigate massive poultry losses due to avian flu and to minimize its impact on the agricultural economy, and the rural poor by providing compensation for poultry lost to the virus," said **Simeon Ehui** the **Task Team Leader** of the project. The **Avian Influenza Control and Human Pandemic Preparedness and Response** project will focus on three main components:

- **Animal Health component**—will support national prevention and control strategies to cover the country's needs over the short, medium and long term, based on detailed assessments of the avian flu epidemiological status, the capacity of national veterinary services to cope with HPAI epidemic and the vulnerability of the poultry industry to new emerging infectious diseases.

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Students from Abuja University visit the Country Office.

March 09 2006- The HOD and Students of the department of Business Administration of the University of Abuja paid a courtesy call on the Country Director- Hafez Ghanem. The students were desirous of forging closer linkage/ties with the World Bank to learn more about Bank's operations in Nigeria, and in higher education in particular. The visit culminated in the acceptance by Hafez to become the first patron of the Abuja university chapter of the Nigerian Universities Association of Management & Business Students [NUAMBS]. Mr. Hafez expressed his appreciation to the students for making him patron of the Business Students Association, and pledged to do his best.



Pix: Country Director (centre) with Students

Nassarawa State University Students also came calling...

March 10 2006- Fifty one (51) students from the Economics department of Nassarawa State University also visited the World Bank country office. They were briefed on activities of the Bank in Nigeria by the Country Director- Hafez Ghanem. Brief presentations were also made by Greg Nzekwu, Tunde Adekola and Sam Eremie. Obadiah Tohomdet and Charles Onyekatu presented some World Bank publications to the visiting students and asked them to use this to start off a mini-library within their department. At the end of the visit, the students said they were better educated on the Bank, as opposed to what they had been taught by their teachers.

World Bank Donates Computers to Non-Governmental Organizations.

February 15 2006- The World Bank country office donated 21 Laptops, 26 Desktops, 41 Monitors, 37 docking stations and 38 external speakers + accessories to 32 NGOs and Educational institutions. For more information about Computer donations contact: Peter Ijeh [PIjeh@worldbank.org]



Pix: David Ogboko (centre) hands over Computers to Recipient.

Staff update:

- ❑ **Re-assignment:** *Comfort Olatunji*- ACS, proceeds on a 4-month Development Assignment at HQ.
- ❑ **Marriages:** *Charles Onyekatu*- Public Information Assistant- finally quits bachelorhood on 25 February.
- ❑ **Resignation:** *Ben Ajadi*- Facilities Assistant- leaves for a job in Ghana.
- ❑ **Appointments:** *Gloria Kwembe* and *Mary Zachius-Shittu* join the ACS team. *Margaret Asoka* joins WBI team.
- ❑ **Birthdays:** *Anne Fisher*- Feb 12, *Jane Tola-Sijuade*- Feb 28, *David Omorodion*- Feb 29, *Justin Runji*- Mar 04, *Abigail Ipinlaiye*- Mar 08, *Hafez Ghanem*- Mar 12, *Jubril Bakare*- Mar 24, *Esther Walabai* and *Victoria Kwakwa*- Mar 28.
- ❑ **New Baby:** *Kemi Akinsola*- PM Receptionist- had a baby girl on Feb 12.

Principal Officers:

World Bank President
Mr. Paul Wolfowitz
Vice President for Africa
Mr. Gobind Nankani
Country Director for Nigeria
Mr. Hafez Ghanem

MAJOR COUNTRY UPDATES.... continued

Small Grants Program Presents Cheques to Successful CSOs

27 March 2006- The World Bank Country Director handed over cheques to successful applicants to the small grants program. The SGP is an annual program that aims to complement the activities of Civil Society Organizations by providing seed money to start up programs, scale up present activities, or provide training/capacity building for development initiatives. This year's grant seeks to complement the youth employment and skills development efforts already undertaken by supporting CSO activities targeted at empowering youths in income generating activities. A total of 10 benefiting CSOs went home with US \$3,400 each. For more information about the Small Grants Program, kindly contact Dr. Chudi Okafor [COkafor@worldbank.org].



Pix: Country Director with Reps from beneficiary CSOs.

World Bank seeks working partnerships with CSOs.

28 March 2006- The Country Office played host to 22 representatives of several Civil Society Organizations in an effort to forge closer ties and to provide a platform for exchange of information and dialogue between the World Bank and Civil Society in Nigeria. The forum also served to dispel some apprehension within CSOs on the role of the Bank in Nigeria as well as to inform CSOs about the Bank's position on major global issues and issues specific to the Nigeria context. Participants agreed to have monthly meetings with the Bank on topical issues.



Pix: World Bank/CSO Dialogue

LEEMP Restructures for Better Performance.

The LEEMP project was approved by the board of the World Bank in July 2003, and became effective on April 30, 2004. The broad objective of the project is to assist beneficiary communities to take charge of their development agenda and to also strengthen the institutional framework at the Federal, State and particularly local government level to support environmentally sustainable and socially inclusive development. A restructuring mission in Oct/Nov 2005 and a policy level stakeholder meeting in Jan 2006 identified and agreed on series of activities necessary to improve project performance. It is expected that the restructured LEEMP project should show some improved performance by May 2006—especially in terms of increased disbursement, increase in number of micro-projects executed, increase in number of activities and improved processes at all levels of operation. Presently, disbursement of project funds is close to 18%, up from less than 10% as at last year. For more information about the LEEMP, contact: Dr. Foluso Okunmadewa [fokunmadewa@worldbank.org]

Avian Flu Continued.....

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• **Human Health component**— will support the implementation of HPAI prevention, preparedness, response and containment activities in the human health sector as contained in the **Avian Influenza Regional Program**. Initial support will focus on prevention and reporting of human cases through the protection of farm workers and others who are in direct contact with sick birds, social mobilization and raising public awareness and strengthening of the surveillance and laboratory capacity in the affected states.

• **Social Mobilization and Strategic Communication component**—is designed to promote public awareness, participation and improved coordination in the execution of emergency contingency plans as outlined under the National Avian Influenza Plan. In building higher levels of public awareness about the risks, the project will help identify lines of communication, social beliefs, practices and perceptions which affect behavior and stakeholder habits.

This project is in line with the Avian Influenza Agriculture and Health Strategies developed by the Government of Nigeria and supports the public veterinary and health resp

onse strategies in line with the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), the World Health Organization (WHO), the Bank, and other bilateral agencies. The credit is provided on standard International Development Association (IDA) terms, with a commitment fee of 0.35 percent, a service charge of 0.75 percent over a 40 year period of maturity which includes a 10-year grace period.

'FADAMA' Workshop kicks off in Abuja.

A two-week long workshop designed to improve the skills of Fadama II communications specialists kicked off on 27 March at Valencia hotel, Abuja. The workshop was organized for the 12 participating Fadama States to explore participatory rural communication techniques. Speaking at the opening ceremony, the National Project Coordinator- Dr. A. Oredipe said the workshop was a collaborative effort between the World Bank and the National Fadama Office. He charged them to take advantage of the workshop.



Pix: Fadama II Communications Officers and Workshop Facilitators.

PIC News:

The Public Information Centre is freely accessible to the public.

Opening Hours: 10:00am till 4:00pm daily, except weekends and public holidays

Resources:

- Internet-connected Computers.
- CD-ROMs, Video tapes.
- Books, Journals, Reference materials, Development data, etc.
- Seating area for meetings/dialogues.

Location:

The Public Information Centre is located on the ground floor of the World Bank Country Office.

Contact:

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