



Researchers Alliance for Development

Annual Report

A Year in Review: June 2005 – June 2006

‘From Amsterdam to Tokyo’

This report summarizes key activities of the RAD network covering the period from June 2005 until June 2006.

I. About the RAD

The Researchers Alliance for Development (RAD) is an informal, action-oriented, multidisciplinary network of researchers and academics that provides a platform for dialogue and exchange of ideas on international development. The RAD currently comprises more than 500 representatives of academic institutions, research centers, as well as research units in NGOs, bilateral agencies, the private sector and trade unions from all over the world. Its main objective is twofold:

1. *Facilitating interaction between the academic community and the World Bank;*
2. *Mobilizing the academic and student community on development issues and curricula, facilitating mutual flow of knowledge.*

The activities of the RAD are coordinated by the **Steering Committee**:

- Annie Chikwanha, Afrobarometer/Institute for Democracy in South Africa, South Africa
- Refik Erzan, Bogazici University, Turkey
- Philippe Fargues, European University Institute, Italy
- Odd-Helge Fjeldstad, Chr. Michelsen Institute, Norway (**Chair**)

- James Howard, International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, Belgium
- Ewa Latoszek, Warsaw School of Economics, Poland
- Heba Nassar, Cairo University, Egypt
- Joyashree Roy, Jadavpur University, India
- Javier Santiso, OECD Development Center
- Diane L. Stone, Central European University, Hungary; Warwick University, United Kingdom

The RAD Secretariat is located at the World Bank Paris Office and is coordinated by the Development Policy Dialogue Team.

II. RAD activities 2005 – 2006

Objective 1: Facilitating interaction between the academic community and the World Bank.

1. ABCDE Conference

The Annual Bank Conference on Development Economics (ABCDE) is one of the best known series of conferences on development, and an opportunity for many of the world's finest development thinkers to present their ideas. Thanks to the support of the Japanese Ministry of Finance, the ABCDE will be held for the first time in Japan on May 29-30, 2006. The overall theme of the conference is “Rethinking Infrastructure for Development”. ABCDE Tokyo will address several major topics related to infrastructure and growth, climate change, energy efficiency, rural development, agriculture and the implications for regional cooperation.

The RAD has been actively participating in the organization of the ABCDE:

- Chair of the RAD Steering Committee, Odd-Helge Fjeldstad, has contributed to the final shape of the program through his work in the Advisory Committee of the ABCDE Tokyo;
- RAD members have organized 3 parallel sessions at ABCDE 2006: ‘Infrastructure and Governance’ (Odd-Helge Fjeldstad), ‘Transit Migration and

- the Economy of Transit Countries’ (Philippe Fargues) and ‘China and India Impact In Developing Countries: Africa, Asia And Latin America’ (Javier Santiso);
- RAD member, Joyashree Roy, Jadavpur University, India, will participate as chair in the plenary session on ‘Rural Infrastructure and Agricultural Development’.

2. Post-Budapest Process

As a follow-up of the seminar for researchers whose main area of study is the World Bank, held in Budapest in April 2005, initiated by RAD Steering Committee member Diane Stone, an independent publication has been compiled. It comprises articles written by 12 researchers addressing diverse themes and applying a different lens each to the analysis of the World Bank, representing various academic disciplines – from economics through sociology and environmental studies, to philosophy and ethics.

This volume of papers will be published by Routledge Publishing House in August 2006, with a preface by Ian Goldin, Vice President for External Affairs, Communications and United Nations Affairs, The World Bank.

The CSGR at Warwick University, United Kingdom, and the RAD jointly applied for and were awarded an ‘impacts and dissemination grant’ from the UK Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC). The grant will be used for the dissemination of the book and organization of a workshop during the World Bank – IMF Annual Meetings in Singapore in September 2006. The workshop, under the leadership of Diane Stone, will once again bring together researchers whose principal area of graduate study is the World Bank, together with staff from the World Bank and the IMF.

3. “Share University Papers on the World Bank”

University papers written about the World Bank by students and researchers do not always receive the exposure that they deserve, inside and outside the World Bank.

The “Share University Papers on the World Bank” project aims to give students the opportunity to share the papers they have prepared as part of their university curricula and which have a focus on development and on the actions of the World Bank. It also gives the possibility to read and discuss what other students around the world have written on the World Bank.

With this program, the World Bank seeks to:

- Learn from the conclusions of students about its actions in a specific field and/or country;
- Facilitate debate and knowledge exchange around these university papers;
- Disseminate students' findings and conclusions inside the World Bank.

The papers written by Bachelor, Master and PhD students will be posted on the website <http://www.worldbank.org/sup>, after a review process involving prominent academics from inside and outside the World Bank. Four members of the RAD have joined the review committee of the “Share University Papers on the World Bank” initiative. The project will be officially launched during ABCDE Tokyo.

4. RAD Chair's visit to World Bank Headquarters

The Chair of the RAD, Odd-Helge Fjeldstad, visited the World Bank Headquarters in Washington DC, on 16-18 November 2005, for a series of meetings with:

Vinay K. Bhargava, Director, Operations & International Affairs, *Emmanuel Jimenez*, Director, WDR 2007, *Maya Brahmam*, Head, Speakers Bureau, *Christopher Neal*, Senior Communications Advisor, Development Economics Vice Presidency, *Axel Peuker*, Manager, Investment Climate Unit (CICIC), *Charles Udomsaph*, Investment Climate Unit, *Ian Goldin*, Vice President, External Affairs, *L. Alan Winters*, Director, Development Research Group, *Boris Pleskovic*, Development Economics Vice Presidency, *Ed Campos*, Lead Public Sector Specialist, *Tuan Minh Le*, Public Finance Economist, *Jean-Jacques Dethier*, Research Manager, DECRS, Development Economics.

Major outcomes:

- session on “Infrastructure and Governance” to be held during ABCDE Tokyo;
- plans to organize a competition for young researchers to develop papers based on the “Doing Business” survey data, as a joint initiative of the RAD and the Investment Climate Unit of the International Finance Corporation (IFC);

- RAD will be present during the World Bank – IMF Annual Meetings in Singapore.

5. Linking the World Bank and academic networks

The RAD has initiated interaction and is seeking ways to cooperate with other global academic networks: the Coimbra Group, the International Association of University Presidents (IAUP), the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU), ASEAN AUN Network, the European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes (EADI), Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF) and others.

- During ABCDE 2005 (Amsterdam), representatives of academic networks (IAUP, AUF, Global Union Research Network and the Coimbra Group met with François Bourguignon, Senior Vice President and Chief Economist, The World Bank;
- Jean-Christophe Bas, Manager, Development Policy Dialogue, The World Bank, attended the Annual Meeting of the Coimbra Group as one of the panelists;
- Jean-Christophe Bas, Manager, Development Policy Dialogue, The World Bank, attended the Annual Meeting of the International Association of University Presidents as one of the panelists.

At the occasion of the ABCDE, heads of several major global academic networks will meet and discuss modalities of working together.

6. Working Group on Migration

The Working Group has been officially launched in November 2004 at a meeting between World Bank staff and researchers working on migration. The group seeks to support a dialogue between World Bank staff and researchers who could contribute to the World Bank work program on migration.

In the academic year 2005/ 2006, the following activities have been completed as part of the migration working group:

1. Parallel session “Transit migration and the Economy of Transit Countries”, ABCDE Tokyo 2006;

2. Series of programs organized under the auspices of the European University Institute, and implying other members of the migration working group and/or of the World Bank:

- Training session on migration directed by Philippe Fargues, in which Heba Nassar has delivered a course (Florence 2004);
- *Mediterranean Report 2005*, an e-volume edited by Philippe Fargues in which Heba Nassar has contributed a chapter.
- Thematic session “Forecasting the labor market and migration” (Istanbul 2006) in which Refik Erzan and Heba Nassar are participating;
- Florence School on Euro-Mediterranean Migration and Development, in which Maurice Schiff, The World Bank, (2005) and Heba Nassar (2006) have delivered courses.

Objective 2: Mobilizing audience on development issues and curricula & knowledge transfer.

1. Compact Seminar on Development

The Compact Seminar is a 2-3 day series of workshops and presentations aimed to raise awareness on development-related issues and policies among graduate students of various fields of study, young professionals and representatives of civil society organizations. The seminars are jointly organized with the host institution and follow an interactive methodology, such as role plays and lectures from practitioners in the field which challenge students’ common perception of development policies. In the year 2005, two Compact Seminars were organized in cooperation with the host institution:

- **June 13-14, 2005**, Compact Seminar for graduate students at Kiev Mohyla Business School, Kiev, Ukraine, under the title “Development Challenges in Ukraine and in Eastern Europe. Which Role for Multilateral and Bilateral Agencies and for the Private Sector?”.

The seminar aimed to introduce the World Bank and its operations in Ukraine to the students as well as discuss the business climate in Ukraine and the region. Speakers included senior World Bank and IFC staff, private sector representatives as well as members of parliament and academics. About 50 students took part in the seminar.

- **May 2-3, 2006**, Compact Seminar for graduate (research major) students of development studies at Sorbonne Pantheon University, Paris-1, RAD member institution.

The objective of this two-day series of roundtables and presentations was to present to the students the latest research and policy trends as well as example of projects on three major issues in development (and major research areas of the attendees): migration, infrastructure and environment. Speakers from the World Bank, Sorbonne University, OECD, French Development Agency, French Ministry of Economy, Finance and Industry as well as Ministry for Transport, Infrastructure, Tourism and the Sea, and NGO Pro-Natura were represented, to show the students a variety of approaches to the 3 major issues in development. 80 students of Bachelor, Master and PhD level participated.

2. International Essay Competition

Young people all over the world are working to solve community problems, such as lack of access to education or jobs, the spread of HIV/AIDS or conflict. Yet, the impact of their work does not always receive enough exposure and recognition. With the International Essay Competition, the World Bank and its partners invite youth aged 18-25 to share their experience and ideas on community work and participation in public life.

The Essay Competition 2006 has been organized in partnership with 10 prominent academic and civil society institutions, for the most part RAD members, for example: Cairo University (Heba Nassar), Jadavpur University (Joyashree Roy), the National Autonomous University of Mexico (Hector Castillo Berthier), University of Texas San Antonio (Don Lien), Africa Leadership Forum (Olumide Ajayi).

Nearly 2000 young people from 136 countries submitted essays on the following themes (participants were asked to choose one of two topics):

Topic 1: How do you contribute to solving community problems?

Topic 2: How do you influence decision making?

Authors of 9 best essays have been invited to present their work at the final jury during the ABCDE conference in Tokyo.

3. Global Issues Lecture Series

The World Bank has initiated the Global Issues Seminar Series to promote better understanding of global issues, and to trigger discussion among students of social sciences, international development, public policy and business. It is a semester-long series of weekly lectures that bring together staff from the World Bank and other international organizations with students of 5-7 universities in different parts of the world, using the videoconferencing technology. The Global Issues Seminar Series is designed and directed by the World Bank External Affairs Unit in Washington DC.

The Autumn 2006 edition brought together universities from Africa, Middle East and Europe, including Sorbonne University, Paris-XII, a RAD members institution. The Spring 2006 Global Issues Seminar Series edition focuses on the Asia/Pacific region. A RAD member, the Jadavpur University, India, is taking part in the series.

III. RAD Communication Tools

The RAD website is being developed to include new features www.worldbank.org/rad - members can post their recent research work on the site.

The RAD Secretariat produces a Newsletter that is circulated to the 500 RAD members once every two months.

The RAD online community will be launched in June 2006, to facilitate free interaction among the members.

IV. Network Expansion

Throughout the past months, the RAD has expanded its membership to regions outside Europe and Middle East and has established contact with research institutes and universities in Africa, North and South America, and Asia. The RAD has now over 500 members from over 60 countries. Since June 2005, 150 new members have joined the network.