

Focus on Public–Private Partnerships

The World Bank Institute (WBI) has been the World Bank Group's principal provider of learning activities for more than 50 years. Recently, however, client demand for peer-to-peer learning along with the emergence of interactive technologies have prompted WBI to adopt a new strategy based on connecting global knowledge and distilling practitioner experience. WBI is also extending its reach by working with partners, including networks of country and regional institutions to develop and replicate customized learning programs.

The new strategy focuses on seven priority themes including **Fragile and Conflict-affected States**; **Growth and Crisis**; **Governance**; **Climate Change**; **Health Systems Strengthening**; **Public–Private Partnership**; and **Sustainable Urban Development**.

Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) are powerful vehicles for mobilizing nongovernment resources—technical, managerial, and financial—to deliver essential public goods. Reflecting the demands of its clients, WBI has identified PPPs as a key area for capacity building.

Our work in PPPs

WBI delivers structured learning programs, knowledge exchanges, and innovation-sharing on PPPs. Our flagship event PPPI Days, a two-day conference for senior PPP practitioners and policy makers to discuss innovations, new developments, and the challenges they face has been held annually since 2006. PPPI Days 2010 will be held March 22–23 in Manila, Philippines, in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank.

The theme of this year's event is **PPPs in a changing global environment**. PPPI Days 2010 will highlight the key lessons on how the public sector has responded to the challenges of delivering PPP programs in the face of the global financial crisis, and to discuss how governments can ensure that deals continue to be financed and represent value for money. The event will also highlight the increased role for PPPs in the urban, health, and environment sectors.

PPPI Days will be the linchpin in WBI's PPP practitioner network. A series of virtual meetings among participants through the Global Development Learning Network (GDLN) will shape the agenda and provide detailed follow-up to the issues discussed in March. Regional PPP forums—such as WBI organized in Africa last year—are also a key component of this network.

Structured learning

WBI programs include structured learning activities such as courses and seminars; knowledge exchange such as policy dialogues and consensus building; support for innovative ideas; and learning-by-doing. They aim to share good practices, address complex cross-sectoral issues, and enhance local ownership. State-of-the-art learning materials are produced and disseminated through video-based distance learning and e-learning as well as face-to-face.

Infrastructure. With the Asian Development Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank, WBI is designing a global core learning program on PPPs for public sector practitioners charged with developing and implementing PPP programs. The core learning program will



highlight the practical challenges of PPPs by drawing on the collective experience of the multilateral development banks. It will be delivered by partners at the country or regional levels, some of whom will also be involved in developing learning materials.

In addition to the global course, WBI will also deliver customized training at the regional and country levels, and GDLN events focusing on topics of special interest.

Health. PPP can be a key solution in countries where public sector delivery of social services may be insufficient but where private sector capacity exists. WBI's PPP course addresses a long-neglected policy area in the health sector, namely working strategically with the private sector to achieve public policy objectives. This program uses country examples to highlight seven policy instruments for engaging the private sector in health: practical regulation instruments (incentive and self regulation); contracting with the nongovernmental sector; demand-side policies such as vouchers; adopting private sector approaches in social marketing and social franchising; working with the private sector to empower citizens through information for behavior change; and mechanisms for training and for sharing information with private providers.

This program has been successfully tailored to both middle- and low-income (IBRD and IDA) countries (Bangladesh, China, Egypt, and Pakistan) and regionally for the Middle East and North Africa, East Asia, South Asia, and Africa.

Planned activities

WBI is expanding its current PPP program to include:

1. Building capacity in governments to analyze, evaluate, and benchmark PPP structures to inform the design of policies, regulations, and incentives
2. Supporting learning on PPPs for climate change mitigation and adaptation
3. Supporting governments and financial institutions in using PPPs to design innovative financial instruments for infrastructure investments
4. Enabling governments to assemble PPPs in order to access risk-transfer markets for managing weather, commodity, and natural disaster risks
5. Enabling governments to mobilize private and public sector experiences and partnerships for delivery of basic services in the health and education sectors.

WBI works with private and public sector partner institutions to identify high-priority needs and to deliver learning programs at the retail level using multi-disciplinary teams of local and international experts.

WBI is keen to form alliances and networks with private and public donors, foundations, communities of practitioners, training institutions, and research organizations.

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