

EXTERNAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

The World Bank Institute's External Advisory Council, founded in 1997, convened in Washington for its annual meeting on October 25–26, 2005. On the agenda were several critical challenges facing WBI and other capacity development institutions—among them aid harmonization, state building, conflict prevention, the development of foundational capacity, knowledge sharing through technology-based learning, and exchanging knowledge and best practices in capacity development with middle-income countries and the countries of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. A key motif running through the discussions was the best means of leveraging the comparative advantage of a global institution such as WBI to achieve the greatest benefit from fixed resources.

In considering WBI's role in supporting the development of capacity, the council first identified WBI's comparative advantages and key attributes:

- As the only multisectoral, global vice presidential unit in the World Bank Group, the Institute is able to apply frameworks from one network to sector operations in another and to broker inter-regional cooperation.
- Unlike other Bank units, WBI is able to work with a wide range of nontraditional and subsovereign parties—including parliaments, NGOs, civil society, journalists, and youth. WBI is the hub of a global range of partnerships with hundreds of institutions worldwide.
- WBI's activities are increasingly integrated with country finance and investment operations.
- Because it works within a longer time frame than investment operations, WBI has staying power.
- WBI is agile, innovative, adaptable, and able to respond rapidly to emerging issues. It thus is able to pilot innovative responses.
- WBI provides space for thought and innovation—a laboratory to generate and test new ideas.

The Council advised WBI to continue on its path of becoming more selective, counseling that—despite its inclusiveness and vision, and fast-growing demand for its products and services—the Institute cannot hope to do everything, everywhere. As demonstrated in the report that follows, WBI has responded to the council's recommendations through program consolidation and by further concentrating its resources on focus countries.



President Paul Wolfowitz and Vice President Frannie Léautier, with members of the External Advisory Council, before their meeting with the World Bank's Committee on Development Effectiveness on October 25, 2005

BACK ROW

- Mme. Huguette Labelle
Chair, Transparency
International, Germany
Former Chancellor,
University of Ottawa
Canada
- Dr. Adele Simmons
Vice Chair, Chicago Metropolis 2020
USA
- Dr. Jan-Olaf Willums
Head, Inspire Management AS
Norway
- Mr. Syed Barbar Ali
Advisor, Packages Ltd., Lahore
Pakistan
- Ms. Kim Jones
Vice President, Global Education
and Research, Sun Microsystems
USA
- Professor Sir Partha Dasgupta
Chairman, Faculty Board of
Economics and Politics
University of Cambridge
United Kingdom

FRONT ROW

- Baroness Helena Kennedy
Queen's Counsel
Former Chairperson, British Council
United Kingdom
- Ambassador Ruth Jacoby
Director General,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Sweden
- Professor Pepi Patron
Professor of Philosophy,
Pontificia Universidad Católica
del Perú
Peru
- Professor Heba Handoussa
Advisor, Economic Research Forum
for Arab Countries, Iran, and Turkey
Arab Republic of Egypt