



Summer/Fall 2000

# WBI News



## World Bank Launches Global Development Learning Network

*Closing the Knowledge Gap in the Fight Against Poverty*

**O**n June 21 World Bank President James D. Wolfensohn launched the Global Development Learning Network (GDLN). Through videoconferencing he was joined by leaders from fourteen countries who were present at the participating distance learning sites for a discussion of the benefits to their countries of this leading-edge tool which the Bank feels will help bridge the digital divide in the fight against poverty.

Seventeen GDLN sites participated in the launch including Ghana, Tanzania, Uganda, Senegal, Côte d'Ivoire, Benin, Ethiopia, Singapore, Thailand, China, Bosnia, Dominican Republic, Bolivia, Egypt, France, Spain, and Washington. Fifty sites are expected to be online by 2002 and 100 by 2005.

Linked through a web of high-speed communications technologies GDLN sites are part of a worldwide exchange of distributed learning activities—courses, seminars, and Internet-based discussions about key development issues. Using interactive video, electronic classrooms, satellite communications, and Internet facilities with high-speed access, the Network allows people everywhere to share their know-how and experience, regardless of time-zones, distance or national boundaries.

- GDLN provides decision makers with access to counterparts around the globe who face similar challenges
- Enables people to learn in their home environments minimizing costly travels and work disruptions.
- Bridges the knowledge gap worldwide—GDLN connects knowledge centers around the world, allowing leading practitioners in a broad range of disciplines to share cutting-edge knowledge in real time.

GDLN partners are pioneers on a new path to just-in-time knowledge sharing for development.

*“What we are participating in today is a result of technological advances, and another example of globalization at its best. We are using technology to ensure that everyone has equal access to knowledge.”*

World Bank President  
James D. Wolfensohn



# Building Capacity for Poverty Reduction

## Poverty Reduction Strategies

**T**he Comprehensive Development Framework (CDF) is an approach to development that takes a holistic stance. It seeks a better balance in policymaking by highlighting the interdependence of all elements of development: social, structural, human, governance, environmental, economic, and financial. Its most important characteristics are country ownership of the development agenda and increased partnership among government, civil society, assistance agencies, and the private sector. To support this effort in the poorest countries, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank recently endorsed adoption of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) which sets out the basis for concessional lending to low-income member countries. The PRSP, which national authorities will prepare in consultation with civil society, will describe the poverty situation in the country, set out a medium-term plan to reduce poverty and strengthen economic growth, and provide a framework for assistance from a range of development partners.

### Kick starting the process

“Within this context, WBI has taken several actions that fall into four categories,” says Ishac Diwan, manager of WBI’s Economic Policy and Poverty Reduction Unit. “First, kick-starting the PRSP process in individual countries; second, sharing lessons from experience; third, building the skills needed to support the initiative in countries, in the Bank, and in other bilateral and international institutions; and fourth, developing a global network of local knowledge institutions to exchange ideas on poverty reduction.”

The World Bank-IMF “Forum on Supporting Comprehensive and Country-Led Poverty Reduction Strategies” in April brought together the institutions’ staff, country teams, and representatives of donor agencies and NGOs. As John Page, director of the Bank’s Poverty Reduction Strategy Group explains it: “This was an opportunity to share knowledge of and experience with the CDF and PRSP processes and the new ‘rules of the game’.”

As a follow-up to this event, WBI and a group of partner institutions are

organizing a series of regional poverty forums. The first—the Africa Poverty Reduction Forum—was held in early June in Côte d’Ivoire and was jointly sponsored by WBI, the IMF Institute, the African Development Bank, and the Africa Capacity Building Foundation. “The forum provided a setting for PRSP-relevant learning and sharing of best practice and strategic thinking,” explains Mr. Diwan. “An important outcome was the formation of a working group that will coordinate capacity building

*“An important outcome was the formation of a working group that will coordinate capacity building efforts for devising poverty reduction strategies and putting together an initial program of activities.”*

efforts for devising poverty reduction strategies and putting together an initial program of activities.”

### Learning from experience

In cooperation with the Bank’s Poverty Reduction and Economic Management Network, WBI will be conducting a regular video conferencing series to disseminate the various poverty reduction strategies. These would connect government and civil

society speakers with international agency staff, donors, and NGOs involved in the country. It would be received in the Bank’s resident missions worldwide and in the main bilateral and international organizations.

### Building skills

To instill new types of skills critical to the PRSP process, WBI is redirecting some of its skill-building activities toward the poorest countries. Institute staff are developing an integrated curriculum that will refocus some of its core courses on policy analysis, participation techniques, and data monitoring and analysis.

### Developing a global network

WBI plans to establish centers of excellence on the policy process that will be the main channels for the Institute’s skill-building efforts. Their programs will include an electronic resource center, networking and dissemination, training for policymakers and civil society members, support for social debates, and capacity for policy advice.

“This,” elaborates Mr. Page, “is intended to help policymakers and civil society answer two questions: Are there ways to make policy change faster, less conflictual, and more

effective and sustainable? How can key actors in policymaking be equipped to become better policy entrepreneurs?”

For more about the

**Comprehensive Development Framework (CDF):**

<http://www.worldbank.org/cdf/>

**The World Bank’s work on poverty:**

<http://www.worldbank.org/poverty/>

**PRSP:** <http://www.worldbank.org/poverty/strategies/index.html>

# Learning Fair Showcases Artisans' Role in Economic and Social Development

## The Artisan as Entrepreneur

ON JUNE 6 WBI'S ARTISANS AS ENTREPRENEURS LEARNING FAIR BROUGHT TOGETHER DEVELOPING COUNTRY ARTISANS, THE DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY, NGOS, WHOLESALERS, RETAILERS, AND INVESTORS TO BROADEN UNDERSTANDING OF THE ROLE ARTISAN ENTERPRISE CAN PLAY IN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT.

"The fair explored complex issues associated with the long-term survival and success of artisan enterprise, identifying gaps in information and in generating the creative energy needed to shape more responsive policies and programs," says WBI's Jerri Dell who organized the fair.

The event showcased enterprise initiatives and innovations from around the world. Speakers, panels, and web sites examined the nature of artisan enterprise, what it needs to succeed as well as the contribution development professionals can make.

"This marked the beginning of a collaboration to promote artisan enterprise as a means of improving the lives of millions," Dell says. "For a long time it was believed that culture and business development were exclusive of one another, but promotion of cultural heritage and economic development can go hand-in-hand. This event helped show that."

In most developing countries the crafts production sector is an untapped resource with enormous potential for income-generating activities for artisans, requiring minimal investment.

Ninety percent of all crafts are made in developing countries, where many artisans train younger generations in their techniques but don't actually try to sell the crafts. This is because they're not interested in the commercial aspect of their production, don't realize the value of their goods, or make the goods for their own use. But it's also true for many that access to a big enough market remains a problem. A valuable means of bridging the gap between supplier and consumer is through e-commerce.



Senegalese Weaver

The Artisan fair grappled with these issues through discussion of five main topics:

- Indigenous culture and the global market;
- Investing in artisans;
- Increasing artisan competitiveness in a global market;
- Commerce, culture, and alternative fair trade; and
- Enabling policies for artisan enterprise development.

Several artisans were on hand to demonstrate their crafts: weavers from Peru, paper-makers from Tibet; a weaver from Ghana, and a stone-cutter from Peru.

## Gaining access to markets

"Throughout the day, we learned about various global initiatives to promote artisan entrepreneurship," Dell says, including Bank-supported projects in Bhutan, Romania, and Morocco. Another effort was a tourism project in Indonesia where boatloads of tourists bring artisans more income in one hour than a month's worth of market business. And some e-commerce efforts are already having an impact, bringing crafts from Latin America, Asia, and Africa onto the global market.

Dell says her long-term goal is to come up with a Comprehensive Artisan Development Framework that would

establish guidelines for practitioners who want to know how and where to invest and have predictability of investment. Some suggestions arising from the meeting include:



Peruvian Potter  
(Photos by Lawrence Merrill)

- Promote authenticity of products but also encourage innovation and creativity among the artisans.
- Find the middle path between increasing the quantity of crafts products and protecting the environment.
- Educate and train artisans in business principles of entrepreneurship.
- Use the Internet to democratize the flow of information, giving access to the poorest to trade secrets and also to make information available on what works and what doesn't work.

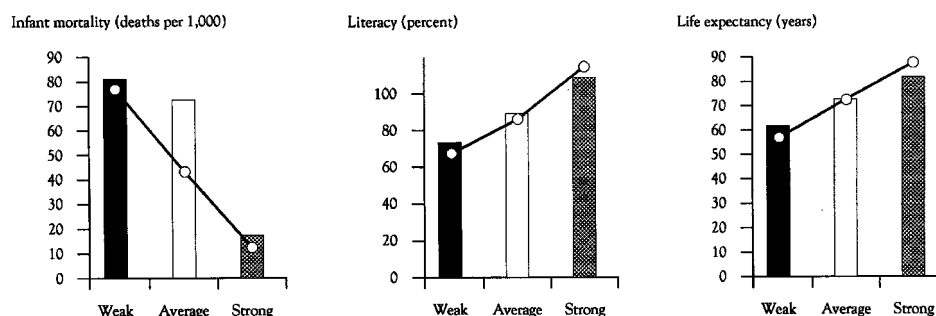
"Participants seemed really grateful that the Bank was finally recognizing the importance of the issue," says Dell. "But the Bank and others must still work together to address issues of market access for the goods, Internet access for the poorest in the developing world, and business training for the artisans. It's also important to train consumers about the value of artisan products to ensure demand for such goods, and to mainstream the development of this sector within other projects."

For more about the **Artisan as Entrepreneur**: [www.worldbank.org/artisan](http://www.worldbank.org/artisan)

# Governance and Anticorruption Program Stresses Action Plans

Corruption is usually defined as the abuse of public office for private gain. Countries with effective, honest, and meritocratic government institutions with streamlined and clear regulations, where the rule of law is enforced fairly, and where civil society and the media have an independent voice, have higher incomes and investment growth and longer life expectancy (see the figure). Both international and historical experience indicate that a country does not have to become fully modernized and wealthy to achieve capable and clean government. In an attempt to reduce corruption, which in some countries is pervasive throughout government, the World Bank has become heavily involved in anticorruption activities.

## EXAMPLES OF THE DEVELOPMENT DIVIDEND OF GOOD GOVERNANCE



Note: The line depicts the predicted value taking into account the causal effects from improved governance to better development outcomes, controlling for other factors. By contrast, the value of each column reflects the unconditional mean in each category, that is, the development outcome values without controlling for causality direction or omitted variable bias.

## Journalists in Central America

As part of its governance program, in April WBI and the Organization of American States co-hosted the “Central American Meeting on Anticorruption” in San Jose, Costa Rica. The workshop brought together young journalists from Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama; anticorruption workers from Central American civil society groups and governments; and representatives of organizations such as Transparency International and the Carter Center.

The workshop began with the participants defining the corruption problem in their countries. Once permitted to discuss what has always been a taboo subject, discussions rose to an intense level as they described specific obstacles to clean, transparent government and the kinds of corruption they have witnessed all their lives: lack of credibility of government institutions, weak tax systems, politicized judges, drug trafficking, and human rights violations, among others. As

one of the journalists, Indira Murillo of Honduras put it, “I learned that journalists from many countries face the same problems of censorship and the same struggle against corruption, so we were able to create some solidarity thanks to this course.”

The workshop was a demonstration of a four-phase course—“Controlling Corruption and Improving Governance”—that WBI has developed to stimulate a process in which countries draft anticorruption action plans based on consultations with, and continuous involvement of civil society. To date, WBI has established steering committees for the course in Bolivia, Paraguay, and seven African countries.

## Maastricht Conference

Another pertinent event was the “Working Conference on Anticorruption” held in Maastricht, the Netherlands, in April, and organized by WBI and the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, whose objective was the development of an anticorruption action plan by donor countries. The

conference built on donors’ increasing desire to coordinate anticorruption activities and enhance collaboration with the World Bank, specifically among the Utstein Group, which consists of Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, and the United Kingdom. The topics that the delegates covered were

- Guidelines and procedures donor countries can prepare to prevent corruption in their own development activities
- More efficient and effective coordination among bilateral donors and funding bodies, international financial institutions, and other multilateral organizations
- Collection of data on corruption by donor countries and the development of monitoring mechanisms
- Aid that donor countries could provide to help recipient countries with institution building to prevent corruption more effectively.

For more information on WBI’s **Anticorruption and Governance Program**: <http://www.worldbank.org/wbi/governance/>

# Piloting New Programs

## Using Knowledge for Development

In December the second pilot of WBI's core course on Using Knowledge for Development was held in Singapore for participants from Korea, Malaysia, Thailand, and Vietnam. Developing countries must exploit the opportunities presented by the new knowledge revolution if they are to reduce poverty and improve social and economic development. Countries are currently prevented from tapping into the growing stock of knowledge by poor economic incentive regimes, institutions, and delivery mechanisms; and by regulatory frameworks that do not support effective exploitation of new technologies. This WBI course provides analytical tools and country and sector examples of successful knowledge strategies. The course comprises five modules: Challenges and opportunities of the knowledge revolution, economic incentives, and strategies; Education and training; Innovation systems; Information infrastructure; and Governance. Each participating country team develops and presents concrete knowledge strategies based on an innovative methodology for undertaking knowledge assessments.

Contact: Anuja Adhar Utz,  
Autz@worldbank.org

## Managing Development Projects

WBI held this new six-day course in Sana'a, Yemen. The course focused on project planning and estimating, communication systems, team management, quality in projects, project performance measurement, and project management tools and applications, with all content customized to meet the needs of the participants. The partici-



pants emphasized the importance of sustained Bank support in implementing the tools and techniques learned and in providing further training. In response, WBI is exploring the possibility of initiating regular exchanges of information and organizing a videoconference.

Contacts: Hoveida Nobakht,  
hnobakht@worldbank.org,  
or Chandra Ranade,  
Cranade@worldbank.org

## Strategic Choices for Education Reform Core Course

A pilot of this course was held in June in Washington, DC. Participants in multidisciplinary teams explored alternative approaches to national education reform. This highly interactive course focused on the following themes: the education reform imperative and how best to catalyze and sustain reform

initiatives within often complex political, social, and economic environments; diverse approaches to enhancing teaching and learning; alternative approaches to financing education that support desired classroom reforms and learning outcomes; organization and management of education systems; and evaluation and performance monitoring.

Contact: Karen Lashman,  
klashman@worldbank.org

## Distance Learning Course on the Language of Instruction in Basic Education

This course was held for the first time in April for more than 60 participants gathered at videoconference sites in Bolivia, Ethiopia, Ghana, Mexico, Paraguay, and Washington, DC. The course was aimed at countries with significant linguistic diversity, with the objective of helping countries broaden their understanding of language of instruction issues. The course consisted of four modules: social and political dimensions of language of instruction; pedagogical issues in mother tongue and bilingual education; necessary conditions for successful implementation of language of instruction policies; and economic aspects of the choice of a language of instruction. Course participants are continuing their discussion of pertinent topics through a listserv. To join send a message to [loi@listserv.worldbank.org](mailto:loi@listserv.worldbank.org).

Contact:  
Koffi Edoh, [kedoh@worldbank.org](mailto:kedoh@worldbank.org)

WBI offers a set of 25 core courses on topics that are critically important to the development process. These courses incorporate state-of-the-art theory and practice, and undergo extensive peer review. All courses are conducted in partnership with international, regional, and national academic and training institutions; and are delivered face-to-face and through distance learning.

See [www.worldbank.org/wbi/corecourses](http://www.worldbank.org/wbi/corecourses)

# Resources from the World Bank Institute



## Videos from WBI's GLOBAL LINKS Television Documentary Series

*Nature's Pharmacy* explores the world of traditional medicine, from the spiritual rituals of Nigerian healers to the ancient therapies of Indian practitioners. Eighty percent of the world's people rely on traditional remedies, yet these cures and knowledge about them are rapidly being lost. As cities expand, valuable forests are destroyed, and many precious plants face extinction. Yet experts say it is not too late. This documentary takes a look at how communities, countries, and corporations

are working to save valuable plants and ancient knowledge.

*Waste Not . . . A City* takes viewers to Accra, Ghana, to look at how this African country is dealing with the challenge of overflowing waste in its cities. Tired of municipal services that left them with trash-laden streets, some enterprising Ghanaians took matters into their own hands—literally. They formed their own trash companies, but the results were mixed. This documentary introduces viewers to citizens who are trying to improve the quality of life in their city and the obstacles they face.

Contact: Christina Hoffman, [choffman@worldbank.org](mailto:choffman@worldbank.org)

## New Publications and CD-ROM

### The Quality of Growth

Vinod Thomas, Mansoor Dailami, Asbok Dharesbwar, Daniel Kaufmann, Nalin Kisbor, Ramon E. Lopez, and Yan Wang.

The last decade of the twentieth century witnessed striking progress in many parts of the world but also saw stagnation and setbacks—even in countries that

had previously experienced fast economic growth. These large differences and sharp reversals in outcomes have taught us much about what contributes to development. Economic growth remains central—not just its pace, but crucially also its quality. Four dimensions of quality going into the growth process proved especially relevant for the outcomes from country experience: the distribution of opportunities, the sustainability of the environment, variability of global risks, and the framework of governance. These qualitative dimensions allow economic growth to bring about relatively greater degrees of poverty reduction and more widespread improvements in the quality of life of the population. At the same time, they also directly comprise development. Viewing the pace of growth and these qualitative factors defining the nature of that growth together puts the spotlight on an undistorted or balanced growth of at least three sets of assets of a country: physical, human, and natural capital, rather than an almost exclusive focus on promoting the accumulation of physical capital. Thus, the book advocates broadening the policy framework to include the

human and natural capital in addition to physical capital and the agenda for action to go beyond the pace of growth to include the qualitative attributes of the growth process.

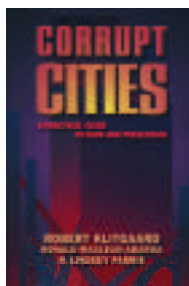
A Copublication of the World Bank and Oxford University Press. 2000. 200 pages. ISBN 0-19-521593-1. Stock no. 61593. Price Code S25

### Corrupt Cities: A Practical Guide to Cure and Prevention

Robert Klitgaard, Ronald MacLean-Abaroa, and H. Lindsey Parris

Drawing on their decades of experience in battling corruption around the world, the authors of this book offer a novel way to defeat corruption on the local level. "Preventing corruption," the authors contend, "can help raise city revenues, improve service delivery, stimulate public confidence and participation, and win elections." The book shows how it has been done, even in the most adverse settings, and how it can be done again. Case studies from New York, Hong Kong, and La Paz, Bolivia, show how seemingly hopeless problems can become the catalysts of successful reform.

2000. 175 pages. ISBN 0-8213-4600-8. Stock No. 14600. Price code: S20

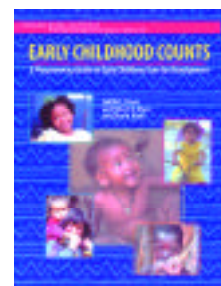


### Early Childhood Counts: A Programming Guide on Early Childhood Care for Development

Judith L. Evans with Robert G. Myers and Ellen M. Ilfeld

This Programming Guide is a complete manual concentrating on early childhood development (ECD) which can be used separately or in conjunction with the CD-ROM. It is an extensive, easy-to-use guide that details the preparation, planning, implementation, financing, monitoring and evaluation of diverse ECD programming strategies. It can be used to develop training workshops and customized learning materials. Together with the CD-ROM, it can also serve as the basis of a self-guided course on ECD. The CD-ROM includes an electronic version of the Programming Guide supplemented by six other categories of supporting materials: A library of some 300 documents, including more than 100 case profiles; Worksheets to help users apply concepts; ECD briefs providing detailed discussion on a range of topics; and a number of video segments and visual presentations with pictures and text.

2000. 420 pages. ISBN 0-8213-4567-2. Guide Stock No. 14567. CD-ROM Stock No. 14568. Price code S30 for guide. S50 for guide and CD-ROM



To order Phone: 800-645-7247/  
703-661-1580; Fax: 703-661-1501

E-mail: [books@worldbank.org](mailto:books@worldbank.org)  
Internet: [www.worldbank.org/publications](http://www.worldbank.org/publications)