

## **About the World Bank Institute**

The World Bank Group is a vital source of financial and technical assistance to developing countries around the world. The World Bank Institute (WBI) is one of the Bank's main instruments for developing individual, organizational, and institutional capacity through the exchange of knowledge among those countries.

WBI designs and delivers learning programs that create opportunities for development stakeholders to acquire, share, and apply global and local knowledge and experiences.

### **Our Clients**

WBI works with policymakers, civil servants, technical experts, business and community leaders, parliamentarians, civil society stakeholders, as well as other learning institutions such as universities and local training institutes to foster the analytical, technical, and networking skills that support effective socioeconomic programs and public policy formulation. In fiscal 2008, WBI reached some 39,500 participants, 50 percent of whom were government officials, 30 percent were from Sub-Saharan Africa, and 34 percent were women.

### **Our Approach**

WBI supports the World Bank Group's six strategic priorities, namely the poorest countries, fragile states, global public goods, middle-income countries, the Arab World, and knowledge and learning. The Institute designs and delivers courses and seminars, provides policy advice, and helps identify the individual skills and organizational capabilities needed to achieve development objectives. Activities are carried out face-to-face in classrooms in Washington, DC and abroad, and at a distance using two-way videoconferencing and the Internet. WBI devotes 75 percent of its program budget to topics of regional and global interest and 25 percent to those of country-specific relevance.

### **WBI's Thematic Programs**

The Institute addresses those development topics supported by the World Bank, including: human development, poverty reduction and economic management, sustainable development, and finance and private sector development. WBI's courses and other learning products and activities are organized around 14 thematic programs, including:

- Business, Competitiveness, and Development
- Education
- Climate Change, Environment, and Natural Resources
- Financial Sector
- Governance and Anti-Corruption
- Health and Aids
- Investment Climate Capacity Enhancement
- Knowledge for Development (K4D)
- Poverty and Growth
- Public Private Partnerships in Infrastructure
- Social Protection and Risk Management
- Trade
- Urban and Local Government, and
- Water



### ***Our Business Model***

WBI's business model is built on three elements designed to increase the Institute's reach and effectiveness:

- leveraging financial resources through bilateral donor trust funds, cost recovery from participants, and by selling WBI's services to other World Bank units,
- networking with training partners to help deliver activities, thereby reducing costs, increasing the number of events, contributing to the capacity-building skills of local organizations, and fostering the exchange of knowledge and expertise among countries,
- capitalizing on the use of interactive technologies as well as blended applications of new and traditional educational methods, such as, videoconferencing, radio, and the Internet, to reach a greater number of clients more rapidly and more efficiently, and to facilitate professional networking among participants.

### ***Our Partners***

WBI has formal agreements with some 20 bilateral donor agencies, and works with many more in-country *delivery partners* that mobilize local resources and knowledge, and help strengthen local ownership. The Institute also delivers programs with leading universities on topics of mutual interest. In fiscal 2008, nearly two-thirds of WBI's activities were delivered jointly with partners, and almost 60 percent of the Institute's direct activity costs were funded by trust funds.

### ***Leadership and Governance***

WBI helps leadership teams in the public sector to improve the culture of results in their organizations. It also offers programs for the private sector on corporate social responsibility and doing business in emerging markets; and with nongovernmental organizations on reducing corruption and developing demand for good governance.

### ***New Products and Services***

Within the World Bank, WBI provides a space to explore, design, and pilot new products and services on emerging topics on the international development agenda. This includes working with new categories of clients, countries, or themes that could later be mainstreamed into World Bank operations.

### ***Scholarships***

WBI manages the *Joint Japan/World Bank Scholarship Program* and the *Robert S. McNamara Scholarship Program* which, in 2008, made awards to 278 developing-country scholars for graduate-level study abroad.

### ***The Global Development Learning Network (GDLN)***

WBI manages a small secretariat for the Global Development Learning Network ([www.gdln.org](http://www.gdln.org)) which is part of the World Bank's strategy to increase its effectiveness through technology-enabled learning and information exchange. Located in more than 80 countries, 120 GDLN partners, or Network Affiliates, use distance learning technologies to connect development practitioners around the world, thereby bridging geographical distances cost-effectively.

**Visit:** <http://www.worldbank.org/wbi>

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