



World Bank Update

PARLIAMENTARY NEWSLETTER

November 2009



FIELD VISIT TO MONGOLIA

Thirteen Parliamentarians – from Asia, Africa and Europe – led by Dr. Laode Ida, Deputy Speaker of the Indonesian Senate, visited Mongolia from 26 to 30 October. The delegation focused on mining and extractive industries revenue management, the impact of the global financial crisis on Mongolia's economy and development, and good governance and social accountability.



Parliamentary Field Visit to Mongolia

“According to a Mongolian saying, seeing one time is better than listening a 1000 times.” said World Bank Country Manager to Mongolia, Arshad Sayed, when he briefed the parliamentarians at the World Bank office. The delegation had the opportunity to visit World Bank supported projects in and around Ulaanbaatar and met with the Chairman of the Great State Ikh Hural of Mongolia (Parliament of Mongolia), D. Demberel, and with Mongolian parliamentarians. The delegation also discussed public hearing mechanisms with Mongolian CSOs and visited the Parliamentary Research Center and National Legal Institute. On October 29, the delegates participated in the Economic Policy Conference, which focused on how to manage the global financial and economic crisis.

“This field visit was a unique opportunity for our delegation to see how the World Bank and other development stakeholders are cooperating with Mongolia on its development efforts,”

said MP Laode Ida, Board Member of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank (PNoWB). “Parliamentarians from the North and the South took this opportunity to learn more from each other and to share their own experiences with colleagues from the Mongolian Parliament”. Besides PNoWB, the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) also partnered on identifying participants for the visit.

CLIMATE CHANGE

On October 24 World Bank Managing Director Graeme Wheeler addressed 120 legislators from the top 16 major economies parliaments (Brazil, Canada, China, European Parliament, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, S.Korea, Mexico, Russia, South Africa, United Kingdom, United States of America) members of the Danish Parliament and individual expert legislators invited from Colombia, Cameroon & DRC, gathering in the Danish Parliament for the GLOBE Copenhagen Legislators Forum. The Forum was organized in association with the Com+ Alliance of Communications for Sustainable Development that sponsored 20 journalists from emerging economies and developing countries to participate. The World Bank is an active member of COM+.

The Copenhagen Legislators Forum Aims to i) deliver cross-party support from the parliaments of the

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major economies of the G8 & European Parliament, Australia, Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Mexico South Africa and South Korea for an ambitious post-2012 climate change agreement; ii) agree that legislators can drive the move to a low carbon economy, irrespective of the outcome in Copenhagen; and iii) agree a set of 'legislative principles' to guide domestic climate change legislation.

World Bank Lead Energy Specialist for the Latin America and the Caribbean Todd Johnson also addressed the meeting. He presented the first study on low carbon paths for MX. This is the first in a series that includes Brazil and other emerging economies.

More information at www.globeinternational.org/copenhagen

FROM THE REGIONS

Please find below a selection of activities undertaken by country offices over the last month

Togo - A delegation of four parliamentarians from Togo, led by the President of the Finance and Exchanges Committee, visited the World Bank and the IMF in Washington from October 20 to 24. Discussion topics included the need for training and capacity building programs for the members of the Finance Committee and better understanding of the World Bank's strategic tools for assisting partner countries. The parliamentarians met among others with several Executive Directors and senior staff from the Africa

department. The EXT Parliamentary Team and the World Bank Institute also addressed the MPs, together with the Head of Secretariat of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank.

For more information please contact nbathily@worldbank.org

Turkey - In Fiscal Year 2009 within the framework of the Civil Society Fund Program, the Turkey Country Office has allocated a total of US\$ 45,000 to be distributed as grants for the implementation of projects focused on 'Civic Engagement for the Empowerment of Women'. One of the winner NGOs - the Legislation Association (YASADER) - used their \$ 5,000 grant money to put together a Seminar on 'Strengthening the Involvement of NGOs working for Women in the Legislative Process'. This Seminar took place on November 5-6, at the Grand National Assembly of Turkey (TBMM) as YASADER managed to organize the event under the auspices of the Parliamentary Commission for Equal Opportunities for Men and Women. The two day event was well attended by a group of around 100 people and among the speakers were Members of the Parliament, Academia, NGOs and the bureaucrats working on the topic of "Gender Equality". This is the first time a Turkish NGO implements a project together with the Parliament and with the support of the World Bank.

For more information, please contact tcelasin@worldbank.org

Bangladesh - A delegation from the European Parliament Development Committee met with the WB office in Bangladesh during its mission to Bangladesh on November 1-3. The Bank country office in Bangladesh hosted the delegation for a brief on the Bank program in Bangladesh (rural electricity, rural roads, social investment to give a few pointers), and provided an analysis of the country's situation. The delegation's main issues of interest were climate change and the problem of food security. The mission opened the door for further cooperation between the Bank and the EU on South Asia.

For more information please contact glaryea@worldbank.org

Brussels - The World Bank Group organized a public consultation on the World Bank Environment Strategy with Brussels based stakeholders hosted at the European Parliament on



October 8. The meeting, hosted by Eva Joly, chair of the development committee and Jo Leinen, chair of the environment committee, drew an audience of over 140 participants, in-



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cluding key MEPs and representative of industry. The consultation process started in June will allow stakeholders to provide inputs on the conceptualization of the full WBG Environment Strategy, expected to be approved and completed by December 2010.

More information at www.worldbank.org/environmentconsultations

Senegal - On October 31, representatives from the World Bank Country office in Senegal and the Paris based Parliamentary team met with MP Amadou Ndiaye Lo, Vice President of the National Assembly of Senegal, Vice President of the Foreign Affairs Committee and the Chair of the local chapter of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank (PNoWB). In a two hour meeting, they agreed on a joint year program of activities, which includes two seminars, local field visits and a briefing by the Country Director to the National Assembly.

For more information please contact nbathily@worldbank.org

Spain - A group of Spanish MPs visited the World Bank Head Quarters on November 5 to meet with Bank Senior Management as part of a tour of several international organizations. The group included the President of the Spanish Parliamentary Committee for Development Cooperation, Ms. Delia Blanco, and party speakers of the Committee. Hosted by the ED's office, Parliamentarians had a chance to learn about the Bank's role in addressing the crisis and about key initiatives of interest for Span-

ish international development policy. As Spain builds up its aid program, the involvement of Spanish MPs in aid policy-making also increases. In particular, the Parliamentary Committee for Development participates in the process of setting global development priorities and deciding annual strategies and budget allocations.

For more information please contact jbarrera@worldbank.org

SELECTION OF UPCOMING ACTIVITIES FOR PARLIAMENTARIANS

For more information on these activities, please contact evandamme@worldbank.org. E-courses can be found on www.parliamentarystrengthening.org

Consultations on Country Assistance Strategies (CAS)



The World Bank regularly engages parliamentarians and other constituencies during consultations on the Country Assistance Strategies. In November, Country Assistance Strategies for which consultations with national parliaments were held, will be sent to the Board for the following countries: Belarus (CAS-Progress Report), Kyrgyz Republic (CAS-Progress Report, presentations to MPs planned after the CAS-PR has gone to the Board),

Seychelles (Implementation Strategy Note), Sierra Leone (Country Assistance Strategy) where a series of national consultations for the African Development Bank (ADB) and the World Bank Group Joint Assistance Strategy (JAS) have been held, as well as an event specifically for Parliament (which also covered the new Anti-Money Laundering Law), Serbia (CAS-Progress Report), Tajikistan (Country Assistance Strategy).

31 October 31, 2,7,9,14,16,21 November Parliamentary Press Corps Training Video Conference

This course will provide technical training for the Ghana press corps on parliamentary structure and procedures.

October-November E-learning course on parliament and the media

The course Role of Parliaments in Promoting an Information Rich Society helps parliaments to facilitate the flow of information between parliament and the community via the media

9-12 November Seminar on the Role of Public Accounts Committees and Auditors General, Dhaka, Bangladesh

This Seminar will combine theoretical and practical aspects of Public Accounts Committees and address performance, Auditors General, benchmarking and standards, national and regional associations and country action plans.



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19-20 November Pacific Benchmarks Workshop, Cook Islands

The aim of the workshop, organized in partnership with CPA and UNDP, is to bring together Speakers and Clerks of Pacific Parliaments to finalize and endorse Pacific Benchmarks for Democratic Legislatures

30 November – 3 December Presentation of the Disaster Risk Reduction Facility, Luanda

Saroj Jha, Programme Manager SGFDRR, has been invited to the EU - Africa Caribbean and Pacific Joint Parliamentary Assembly for a presentation on the Global Facility for Disaster Risk Reduction

30 November – 4 December Field visit to Burkina Faso

The Burkina Faso Country Office, the World Bank Parliamentary Relations Team and the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank (PNoWB) are preparing a Parliamentary Field visit to Burkina Faso.

Southern Political Science Association - PAC Workshop - January 7-9, 2010 in Atlanta, GA

WBI is organizing a panel at the Southern Political Science Association Annual Conference which will review Public Accounts Committee (PAC) benchmarking analysis for the Pacific, South Asia, British Isles, Canada and Nigerian States. Feedback received will be used to shape the next stage of WBI's Parliamentary Benchmarking Program

PUBLICATIONS

Development Outreach: Fragility & Conflict



Fragile and conflict-affected states are not new, but the challenges they pose have moved to the top of the development agenda in recent years. Experience has shown that the task of moving a poor, conflict-affected state out of fragility is a complex, difficult, and long-term project. In many cases, like in Afghanistan, gains have been hard-won, slow and uncertain. Nevertheless, recent history offers grounds for optimism. The October issue of Development Outreach looks at what international organizations and bilateral donors can really do to help fragile and conflict-affected states overcome societal tension and violent conflicts, and build the strategies, coalitions and capacity required to create conditions for growth and sustained development.

More information at <http://wbi.worldbank.org/wbi/devoutreach/>

NEWS

Outside Review Supports Bank Group Reform

A recently completed external review of the Bank Group's governance, headed by former Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo, provides a series of recommendations supporting further governance reforms, commends the Bank for expanding initiatives during the financial crisis, and supports strengthening the Bank's financial capacity.

More information at <http://sitere-sources.worldbank.org/NEWS/Resources/WBGovernance-COMMISSIONREPORT.pdf>

Please find the latest information on WB reforms at <http://www.worldbank.org/html/extdr/worldbankreform/>

Disclosure Policy Review and Global Consultations

As part of a comprehensive review of its disclosure policy, the Bank is proposing to shift its approach to disclosure from today's policy, which spells out what information the Bank discloses (a "positive list"), to one in which the Bank would disclose any information in its possession that is not on a list of exceptions. The guiding principles and key elements of the proposed policy are discussed in a newly revised approach paper, which incorporates the results of extensive consultations.

More information at <http://go.worldbank.org/FSBLXEWJ50>