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About the Photograph:
Shashikala outside the Ashodaya Samithi premises in Mysore
Photograph by Dipankar Ghosal

Sex-worker run restaurant fights stigma and discrimination in Mysore

Mankind's quest to improve living conditions has driven progress since time immemorial. Often, the most productive and far reaching developments take place when people themselves, determined to improve their lives, come up with creative solutions. The force of this groundswell is then multiplied many times over when a development organization, with its eyes and ears to the ground, identifies and supports these new ideas and builds upon them through effective collaborations.

In the next few issues of the *India Newsletter*, we will draw on World Bank's rich collage of experiences to bring you a sampling of the

innovative ways of thinking that are being brought to bear on India's development challenges. These projects range across sectors and are spread across the vast sweep of the country.

This issue covers the innovative work being done by the sex workers community in Mysore.

Sex-worker run restaurant

Nestled among the winding back streets behind the Maharajah's grand palace in Mysore, 'Hotel Ashodaya' looks like any other eatery in the southern Indian state of Karnataka. But this is no ordinary restaurant. Instead, it is a bold and unusual effort to dispel the scorn and discrimination heaped upon one of the most ostracized sections of society: the male, female, and transgender sex workers of this historic city, many of whom are living with HIV.

For many among the sex worker community, it is also a beacon of hope. Opened barely a year ago with help from a World Bank Development Marketplace grant, the restaurant has boosted the self-esteem of those at the very margins of acceptability.

People from all walks of life flock to the eatery, where sex workers serve lunchtime 'thalis' and strong south Indian coffee. Slick

bankers, tourists, and policemen too – once the dreaded adversaries of the sex worker community – form part of the restaurant's upmarket clientele. Says Prashant Kumar, an official of HSBC Bank, who comes here to eat regularly, "For me it's the quality and taste of the food that matters. I also come here to show my support for the good work the restaurant is doing."

His statement indicates the gradual acceptance the restaurant has managed to earn in this conservative society as it chips away at one of its most deeply-held prejudices. And for Bhagya, a sex worker, it is particularly thrilling that people now address her politely, especially as all she has known is a life of scorn, hatred, and abuse.

Lives of violence and shame

But, it was not always so. When, in 2004, the University of Manitoba under a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, started an HIV prevention program in Mysore, sex workers faced a life of brutal violence and discrimination. The police humiliated them, hurled foul language at them, beat and jailed them and demanded free sex. Doctors and nurses refused to treat them, while shopkeepers hounded them off the streets. Local rowdies attacked them,

Below:
Started under the World Bank Development Marketplace grant, this restaurant is run by the sex-workers community





Above:
Trust had to be built over time. The sex-workers, skeptical at first, gradually got convinced to form a group of their own. Thus was born Ashodaya Samithi, or Dawn of Hope

leaving many with broken bones. Shunned and alone, their self-esteem at rock-bottom, many were driven to drink.

Said Dr. Sushena Reza Paul, from the Community Health Sciences Center of the University of Manitoba, who has overseen the program since its inception, “Sex work was vibrant in Mysore, an important tourist hub in Karnataka. Female, male and transgender sex workers operated from the same hot spots. Condom availability was negligible and violence and harassment were rampant. Yet, there was no HIV prevention program on the ground. An explosive epidemic was waiting to happen.”

A new beginning

When the sex workers heard that “outsiders” had come to work for them, they were skeptical. “We couldn’t believe that others were willing to help us when our own families had shunned and disowned us,” said Raghu, a male sex worker.

Trust had to be built over time. It was only after a sex worker from Kolkata’s well-known Sonargachi red light district came to talk to

them, and 130 Mysore sex workers went to see that highly successful group, that they were convinced to form a group of their own. Several community meetings were held over the next six months and finally, in December 2005, a democratically elected board was constituted – and the Ashodaya Samithi, or Dawn of Hope, was born.

Coming together for the first time with others like them was an experience many will never forget. Tears of release flowed unrestrainedly as long-suppressed emotions resurfaced and old hurts were recalled. “I could understand their pain and feel their hurt,” said Bhagya, now Ashodaya’s elected secretary, of that cathartic experience. “And, for the first time I realized I was not alone.”

The strength of the group

Banding together was key. The group set up a community kitchen where members could eat cheaply, and hired a room where women, who came to the city every morning from nearby villages to ply their trade, could rest in the afternoons.

Dr. Reza Paul and her team introduced them to condoms (the sex workers hadn’t heard about condoms till then) and helped provide counseling and health services to treat Sexually Transmitted Infections. Having gained a new confidence and awareness, the sex workers pressed the Karnataka State AIDS Society to provide them access to an ICTC testing center and Anti Retroviral Therapy (ART).

They then put together a rapid response team that could come to the assistance of any sex worker in trouble – at a hospital, a police station or on the street – within 30 minutes. When six female sex workers were arrested, the team convinced the police to release them, as this would only force sex work ‘underground’, making HIV control more difficult. “We saw the difference that Ashodaya could make,” said an enthusiastic Nagendra Prasad, a male sex worker. “It completely changed the way we looked at our lives.”

Changing others’ perceptions of them has taken longer, though. Nevertheless, having worked the streets for years picking up clients with scarcely a glance, the sex





Above:
Profits from the Ashodaya restaurant now fund a hospice for those terminally ill with AIDS. Coming together as a group has also made it easier to spread awareness about HIV

workers have become the ultimate survivors. They regularly visited police stations to sensitize them about their lives. With unerring savvy, they even managed to ensure that their restaurant was inaugurated by none other than the Police Commissioner himself, the seniormost police official in the city. “The attitude of the police towards us is “slowly changing,” said Rathnamma, a sex worker. “Now, instead of being sarcastic to us, they greet us and ask us to sit down. It is not that our work is over. Although we still have a long way to go, violence and harassment have come down drastically.”

Shanta Raj, a writer in the investigations department at the city’s Lakshmipuram Police Station who visits the restaurant often, testifies to the force’s gradually changing attitude. “Now that the sex workers are organized, they understand their responsibilities. They also feel less ashamed of themselves, don’t drink as much, and so we don’t need to arrest them as often.”

Working for the welfare of others

Coming together as a group has also made it easier to spread awareness about HIV. Condom use has risen from 13 percent in 2004 to 80 percent now. And 300 registered HIV positive sex workers are now receiving ART. Moreover, Ashodaya has become a rallying point for all HIV positive people, even those who aren’t vendors of commercial sex.

Having suffered inordinate pain themselves, the sex workers display an acute sensitivity to the suffering of others. Profits from the Ashodaya restaurant fund a hospice for those terminally ill with AIDS. And, when unclaimed bodies are found in the city, it is this group that pays for the last rites – work that few others would be willing to do. Recently, they

also donated fifty thousand rupees towards the Chief Minister’s Relief Fund after the devastating floods in the state.

The group also stands resolutely against forcing women into the trade against their will as well as the trafficking of children. Contrary to popular perception, and perhaps to dispel it, they routinely rescue lost children and deposit them at police stations, especially during the annual Dussehra celebrations when large numbers of tourists throng the city.

Tackling stigma and discrimination head-on

Said Mariam Claeson, the World Bank’s Regional Coordinator for HIV/AIDS in South Asia, “Where the sex worker community is engaged and empowered, behavioral and social changes happen, stigma, discrimination and violence are tackled up front, and barriers to consistent condom use and HIV prevention are reduced. The Ashodaya Samithi is collaborating with development partners to serve as a learning site on HIV and Sex Work.

Clearly, the daring little Hotel Ashodaya is a major step forward in tackling the stigma and discrimination that HIV positive people face, and in according the sex workers of Mysore the dignity, respect, and acceptance they have so long craved. 🌐

Next Issue: Drought adaptation initiative reduces poverty among farmers

India's carbon intensity target will contribute to a global solution



*A recent World Bank study – **Energy Intensive Sectors of the Indian Economy: Options for Low Carbon Development** – shows that a reduction in carbon intensity can be achieved while expanding energy services and reducing poverty. India has already had some success in reducing its carbon intensity, being one of the few countries whose carbon intensity declined in the 10 years preceding 2006, says Kwawu Mensan Gaba, World Bank's Lead Energy Specialist and Charles Joseph Cormier, Country Sector Coordinator, India, the two authors of this report.*

During the run-up to Copenhagen, where the international community is striving to come up with a comprehensive agreement to combat climate change, India made a significant announcement that it intends to reduce 20 to 25 percent of its carbon intensity by 2020 against a 2005 baseline. India has a relatively low carbon footprint and a steadily declining carbon intensity over the last decade, and this voluntary target will further India's contribution. The World Bank's forthcoming study – *Energy Intensive Sectors of the Indian Economy: Options for Low Carbon Development* – shows that a reduction in carbon intensity can be achieved while expanding energy

services and reducing poverty. Doing so will require stronger institutions, leadership in implementing wide-ranging energy supply and efficiency measures.

Even though India has a low carbon per capita footprint, it has already had some success in reducing its carbon intensity, being one of the few countries whose carbon intensity declined in the 10 years preceding 2006. In fact, despite the strong economic growth during the second half of that decade, which could have been expected to have come with a higher carbon burden, India's carbon intensity reduction was actually better in the latter half of the period.


According to our study, India's carbon intensity from energy use is set to decline until at least 2031. The study examines the likely development trajectories of five sectors of the Indian economy that accounted for three-quarters of India's CO₂ emissions from energy use in 2007, namely power generation, energy-intensive industries (like iron and steel, cement, fertilizer, refining, pulp and paper, and aluminum), road transportation, commercial buildings and residential housing. It presents three carbon emission scenarios outlining the different growth paths that India could follow to 2031, the end of the Fifteenth Five Year Plan.

According to our model, the carbon intensity of these five sectors is set to improve by 33 percent between 2005 and 2031 (19 percent by 2020) with existing plans, but could improve by as much as 45 percent by 2031 (and 30 percent by 2020) with an all-out effort on the technical, financial and institutional fronts to reduce carbon emissions. Needless to say, these green measures come with additional costs. Preliminary estimates suggest that the large up-front costs could be recovered in the long-term by lower operating cost. To take the instance of electricity supply to the national grid, the cost difference between the least carbon-intensive scenario and the existing plans has been estimated at 14 percent. However the cost scenario has to be fully studied by all stakeholders to integrate the transaction costs involved.

The rate of decline will be determined by the timing of investments to maximize domestic sources of renewable energy, enhance energy efficiency, reduce distortions in energy pricing, and introduce advanced coal technologies and cleaner transport options. The all-out effort, which represents the lowest carbon pathway, encompasses measures such as the introduction of 20 GW of solar energy by 2020; the import of 20 GW of additional hydropower from neighbors in the region; the acceleration by 10 years of plans to reduce transmission and distribution losses; as well as the adoption of 340 greenhouse gas emission-reducing measures that have already been introduced in the country in 80 percent of the industrial sector. In addition to this, if efforts in the

non-energy sectors like agriculture and forestry (which the Bank study did not examine) are also sustained, trends indicate that India could achieve its voluntary target while meeting its priority development objectives. Several improvements in technologies and practices in these sectors are known to help reduce carbon intensity, such as the reduction of methane emissions from irrigated rice production and livestock, the reduction of nitrous oxide from the use of fertilizers, afforestation, as well as reforestation.

An important step towards lower-carbon development over the longer term would be for India to achieve the targets it has set for itself in the Eleventh and subsequent Plans. Past performance indicates that challenges in implementation remain. In the energy sector, for example, there is a risk of achievement rates continuing at the roughly 50 percent success rate experienced for the addition of new generation capacity in the past three Five Year Plans (1991-2006). For India to rise above its past performance, it will need to ensure the availability of adequate finance and technical know-how; to strengthen the institutions delivering these targets; and to improve its skills-base. The likelihood of success also depends on putting in place a monitoring and evaluation system to detect any systemic slippages during program implementation and to ensure that early corrective measures are taken.

India is a responsible global player that shares an interest in limiting the negative effects of climate change and will decide what steps it will take to meet the development needs of its people while maintaining a low carbon trajectory. The findings in this study explore this development challenge within the menu of technological options currently available. Where there are synergies between cost-effective efficiency improvement and demand-management on the one hand and reduction of carbon intensity on the other, they should be pursued as a top priority. 

This article was originally published in the Times of India on 15 December 2009

ICR Update

This is a short summary of the Implementation Completion Report (ICR) of a recently-closed World Bank project. The full text of the ICR is available on the Bank's website. To access this document, go to www.worldbank.org/reference/ and then opt for the Documents & Reports section.

Elementary Education Project



Context:

India, a country of over a billion people with a per capita GDP of about \$515 in 2003, had made remarkable progress in poverty alleviation and education. Poverty incidence had declined from 45 percent in the 1980s to 26 percent in the early 2000s. Between 1992-93 and 1998-99, net enrollments of primary school age children (6 to 10-year-olds) had increased from 68 to 82 percent across the nation, with most of the enrollment expansion attributable to improved access, especially for girls and rural children.

Despite the remarkable achievements, India still accounted for one-quarter of the world's 104 million out-of-school children. According to Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) statistics, the Grade 5 completion rate was under 70 percent nationwide. Wide-ranging disparities across states and

Elementary Education Project	
Approval Date:	20 April 2004
Closing Date:	31 December 2007
Total Project Cost:	US\$M 7786.8
Bank Financing:	US\$M 488.7
Implementing Agency:	Ministry of Human Resource Development
Outcome:	Satisfactory
Risk to Development Outcome:	Substantial
Overall Bank Performance:	Satisfactory
Overall Borrower Performance:	Satisfactory

districts meant that, for example, the net primary enrollment ratios ranged from 63 percent in Bihar to 98 percent in Kerala.

Reflecting its deep commitment to universalizing access to and completion of elementary education of satisfactory quality by 2010, the Government of India (GOI) launched the *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan* (SSA), the National Program for Universal Elementary Education (UEE).

The rationale for external support to SSA was thus compelling. The project pioneered the sector-wide approach (SWAp) in India, in the hope that it would provide a model for more effective development assistance not only for education, but also for other sectors in the country.

Project Development Objectives:

The Project’s objective was to assist the GOI’s ongoing Program for Universal Elementary Education (SSA) that aimed at achieving universal enrollment and completion of elementary education of satisfactory quality by 2010, through

- increasing enrollment and reducing the number of out of school children;
- narrowing existing gender and social gaps; and
- enhancing the quality of education of all the elementary school students.

Project Components:

Unlike a traditional investment operation, there were no pre-defined components and associated *ex-ante* allocation of finance. Apart from the support to program management and monitoring and evaluation, SSA funding covered various categories of activities including:

I To move towards Universal Elementary Education:

- Establishment, construction and extension of primary and upper primary schools;
- Provision of training in social mobilization and educational management;
- Payment of the salaries of teachers hired under the program;
- Interventions to enroll out-of-school children.

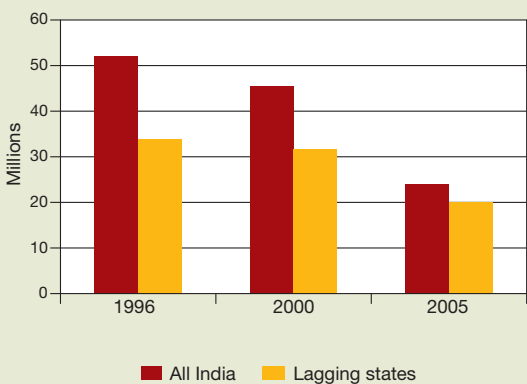
II To narrow existing gender and social gaps:

- Provision of free school textbooks to girls and students from SCs and STs;
- Special schools and facilities for girls, including residential schools and toilets;
- Hiring of female teachers to aim at parity with male teachers;
- Provision of grants to districts to support students with disability.

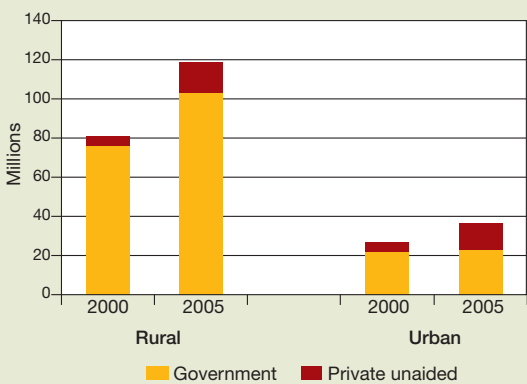
III To improve quality:

- Provision of training for new and continuing teachers;
- School grants for repair and maintenance, and for materials and equipment;
- Teacher grants for teaching and learning materials;
- Establishment and building of Block and Cluster Resource Centers; and
- Innovative activities.

Number of children not participating in schooling among 6-14 years old



Increase in the number of children participating in schooling by type of school



Source: NSS data various rounds

Right:
According to
the Census
data, the
number of
out-of-school
children have
fallen to
7 million as of
October 2006



Other significant changes:

To provide additional resources for elementary education, a dedicated 2 per cent education cess was introduced by the Government starting from the 2004-05 budget. As a result of the much higher level of domestic financing for SSA, the actual share of external funds in total program expenditures over this four year period, at 13.6 percent, was significantly smaller than the 30 percent anticipated at appraisal.

Achievements:

I To reduce out-of-school children and increase enrollment:

According to the baseline MHRD household child census of January 2003, there were 25 million children aged 6-14 years out of mainstream and alternative schools (Education Guarantee Scheme, or EGS, and Alternative and Innovative Education, or AIE, centers). The updated household censuses report an annual decline from this baseline, with the number of out-of-school children reported to have fallen to 7 million as of October 2006. However, both administrative as well as independent household surveys suggest that the target of annual reduction of 3 million a year has been exceeded. As the number of children out of school fell, enrollments increased. Enrollments increased faster than the growth in the school age population, as a result of which the Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) in

primary increased from 98.8 percent to 119.2 percent and Net Enrollment Ratio (NER) from 81.5 percent to 88.8 percent between 2000 and 2005.

The NSS data confirm the tremendous progress in increasing participation during the first phase of SSA. The most significant contributions likely came from the opening of new schools and EGS centers, awareness campaigns to mobilize communities, back-to-school camps and residential and non-residential bridge programs, expansion of existing schools and improvements in physical infrastructure, and the hiring of teachers. Under SSA, progress in reducing out-of-school children in the nine lagging states also accelerated which received the majority of funds under SSA, and contributed to more than half of the decline in children not participating in schools.

II To narrow existing gender and social gaps:

Trends from school-based data suggest that parity of girls with boys and of scheduled caste (SC) and scheduled tribe (ST) children with other children has been achieved in primary education. The share of girls in primary enrollment in 2005-06 was 47.8 percent, practically equal to their share in primary school age population (48 percent). In the case of SC and ST children, their shares in 2005-06 were 18.95 percent and 9.56 percent, higher than their shares in the



primary school age population of 17.6 percent and 9.3 percent respectively.

For SC children, the social parity ratio (with “others”) among primary age children increased from 0.85 to 0.91 between 2000 and 2005 (NSS data), reflecting substantial narrowing of gaps by 2005. For ST children, the social parity ratio improved from 0.77 to 0.87 for primary age children, once again reflecting tremendous progress in narrowing gaps.

The NSS data also confirm substantial narrowing of gender and social gaps in upper primary between 2000 and 2005, but suggest a still unfinished agenda here.

III To enhance the quality of education for all children:

Below:
The NSS data show substantial narrowing of gender and social gaps in upper primary between 2000 and 2005, but suggest a still unfinished agenda

Despite observed improvements in most input and outcomes indicators of quality, the still low learning levels, and still high teacher and particularly student absenteeism (more so in some states, e.g. Bihar), show the challenges ahead. Improving learning of children will require changes in classroom processes and interactions. This needs, for example, in addition to the recruitment and training of teachers and establishment of academic support, to ensuring effectiveness

of the training and academic support. It will also need a greater role of communities in supporting quality improvements.

SSA is now emphasizing, for example, the state level development of performance standards for teachers and academic support institutions, and improved learning outcomes. However, such changes will take time, and will only yield results in the medium and longer term.

Lessons learnt:

- A Centrally Sponsored Scheme like SSA can provide a powerful vehicle to mobilize ownership and commitment of stakeholders at all levels to a common mission.
- Flexibility to support differentiated needs is central to addressing the challenges in diverse local contexts.
- The strong focus on equity in program design has facilitated narrowing of gaps at primary, but access and equity concerns for the hardest to reach, particularly in upper primary, need to be addressed.
- Enhancing quality requires sufficient focus on classroom processes and on learning outcomes, and takes time.
- Strengthening the role of local bodies in school management can lead to improved outcomes, but furthering decentralization requires considerable efforts at capacity building at all levels – and particularly at village and community levels – to support quality.
- Partnerships with local body and private aided schools are encouraged under SSA while the growth of the unaided private sector in urban areas suggests potential gains from carefully designed partnerships with this sector as well.
- Greater use of data in planning and monitoring further improves their reliability and usefulness; there is now need to ensure capacity to generate and use reliable information on student learning and to evaluate the impact of interventions.
- The SWAp, pioneered under SSA, has facilitated partner harmonization, strengthened sectoral management capacity, and reduced transactions costs. 🌐



Events

World Bank Group President Robert B. Zoellick visits India

2-5 December 2009 • New Delhi

World Bank Group President Robert B. Zoellick visited India as the country emerges from the global economic crisis intent on accelerating growth to meet the aspirations of over a billion citizens and addressing challenges of infrastructure and human development.

Zoellick last visited India in November 2007. This visit was to better understand how the World Bank Group can be useful to India in meeting its growing demands and learning how it has withstood the crisis so successfully, lessons that may be useful to other countries. The World Bank Group made [\$5.6 billion] available to India over the course of the financial crisis in loans, grants and equity with the International Finance Corporation, its private sector arm, also establishing an IFC Asset Management Company to help deal with the crisis.

During the course of his visit to India Zoellick also travelled to villages in Tonk district of Rajasthan to meet and interact directly with rural households. In Gulabpura village of



Tonk district, he met with around 100 members from the Maitree Dairy Federation, who were initially supported by the now closed World Bank-financed Rajasthan District Poverty Initiatives Project and SRIJAN, a non-government organization. The women narrated how the Project enabled them to come together to undertake a common activity. They collected higher volumes of milk through a federation structure which helped them generate better economies of scale. This enhanced their marketing and distribution opportunities as well.

At Awa village in the same district, Zoellick interacted with nearly 100 school girls, teachers and parents from the SSA-supported Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyala – a residential primary school for girls, many of whom are first generation learners from

World Bank Group President Robert B. Zoellick interacting with community members (above) and teachers from Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalyaya (right) in Tonk district of Rajasthan






*Above:
Mr. Zoellick
with students
from Kasturba
Gandhi Balika
Vidyalaya in
Tonk district
of Rajasthan*

Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe families. Children and their parents, from historically disadvantaged communities, gave an account of how their experience with these schools is changing their attitude

towards educating their daughters.

Later, Zoellick met with farmers and members of a Water Users Association who gave him firsthand accounts into the challenges that the water-starved state faces and how they are dealing with it.


This visit by Zoellick takes place at a time when the World Bank Group is deepening its engagement with low-income states. Zoellick experienced firsthand the complexity of the development challenges facing states such as Rajasthan and some of the poverty reduction efforts being undertaken by the State to address these challenges.

While in Delhi, Zoellick also met Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, finance minister Pranab Mukherjee and several other ministers and senior government officials. 

PRESS CONFERENCE
World Bank support to Ganga River Basin Authority
2 December 2009 • New Delhi

The World Bank has agreed to help the Government of India in its recently launched program to clean and conserve the Ganga River, with an initial assistance of \$1 billion to be provided over the next 4 to 5 years. In a Joint Statement, the Minister of State for Environment and Forests, Jairam Ramesh, and World Bank Group President Robert B. Zoellick announced the Bank's commitment to explore the provision of long-term financing and knowledge assistance for this critical national program.

At a joint press conference the two leaders said: "The Ganga has sustained civilization throughout time, but is today burdened by expanding production, industries and urban development along its banks and in its basin, with all the pollution this brings," said Zoellick, following a detailed discussion of the Government's Ganga program on the first day of his four-day visit to India. "The Bank would be honored to help and support India's renewed endeavor to revitalize this uniquely important river."

"This is a project of enormous national importance and I am pleased that the World Bank has come forward to assist us," said Jairam Ramesh. 



Recent Project Approvals

Andhra Pradesh Municipal Development Project

The World Bank's Board of Executive Directors has approved the US\$ 300 million Andhra Pradesh Municipal Development Project. The Project will finance sustainable, high-priority urban infrastructure projects, selected and implemented by urban local bodies (ULBs). The main goal of this Project is to help strengthen the capacity of these local self government institutions to enable them to sustain and expand urban service. 🌐

Sustainable Urban Transport Project

The World Bank's Board of Executive Directors has approved the US\$ 20.33 million Sustainable Urban Transport Project. This Project will finance capacity building and demonstration projects in select cities that will create models of sustainable transport solutions for Indian cities to replicate. These projects include public transport development such as development of new bus systems, and non-motorized transport development including cycle track investments. 🌐

Recent Project Signings

Coal-fired Generation Rehabilitation Project • 17 December 2009

The Government of India and the World Bank signed a Loan Agreement of US\$180 million equivalent for the Coal-fired Generation Rehabilitation Project, which is expected to lower carbon emissions and boost power production at these plants.

The signatories to the Agreement were Mr. Govind Mohan, Joint Secretary, on behalf of the Government of India, Ms. Giovanna Prennushi, Acting Country Director on behalf of the World Bank and senior government officials from the state governments of Haryana, Maharashtra and West Bengal.

The Project will pilot a new approach to renovation and modernization that moves beyond simple life-extension to making the rehabilitated plants more energy efficient and environmentally sustainable. This means the renovated plants will use less fuel (coal) and emit fewer greenhouse gases for every unit of electricity produced.

This would be the first step in a decade-long Government of India plan to augment power supply by rehabilitating a range of old coal-fired plants as the country moves to more climate-friendly options for energy generation in the long term. 🌐

Right: Mr. Govind Mohan, Joint Secretary, Government of India and Ms. Giovanna Prennushi, Acting Country Director, World Bank at the signing ceremony for the Coal-fired Generation Rehabilitation Project



This is a select listing of recent World Bank publications, working papers, operational documents and other information resources that are now available at the New Delhi Office Public Information Center. Policy Research Working Papers, Project Appraisal Documents, Project Information Documents and other reports can be downloaded in pdf format from 'Documents and Reports' at www.worldbank.org

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India: Policy Research Working Papers

The new multi-polar international monetary system

By Mansoor Dailami and Paul Masson

Backed by rapid economic growth, growing financial clout, and a newfound sense of assertiveness in recent years, the BRIC countries – Brazil, Russia, India, and China – are a driving force behind an incipient transformation of the world economy away from a US-dominated system toward a multipolar one in which developing countries will have a major say. It is, however, in the international monetary arena that the notion of multipolarity – more than two dominant poles – commands renewed attention and vigorous debate. For much of its history, the quintessential structural feature of the international monetary system has been unipolarity – as American hegemony of initiatives and power as well as its capacity to promote a market-based, liberal order came to define and shape international monetary relations. As other currencies become potential substitutes for the US dollar in international reserves and in cross-border claims, exchange rate volatility may become more severe. There are also risks that the rivalry among the three economic blocs may spill over into something more if not kept in check by a strong global governance structure. While the transition will be difficult and drawn out, governments should take immediate steps to prevent financial volatility by enhancing cooperation on monetary policies, currency market intervention and financial regulation.

The impact of trade in services on factor incomes: Results from a global simulation model

By S. Amer Ahmed

Indian gross domestic product per capita increased rapidly between 2001 and 2006 in a climate of increasing services trade, with the export-oriented services sector responsible for rising shares of growth in gross domestic product. Due to its contribution to aggregate economic growth, there is a great need for empirical examination of the distributional consequences of this growth, especially in light of the challenges in obtaining theoretical solutions that can be generalized. This paper fills this gap in the literature by using a global simulation model to examine how sensitive

factor incomes across different industries may have been to the historical changes in India's services exports and imports, and provides insight on the distribution of the national income growth attributable to the expansion of the services industry. Rent on capital in the service sector and wages of all workers would have increased as a result of greater services trade in this period, while income from capital specific to agriculture and manufacturing would have declined. The factors involved with the urban-based services sector may thus benefit from the services trade growth, while the total factor income involved in rural agriculture may decline.

How might India's public health systems be strengthened?

By Monica Das Gupta, Rajendra Shukla, T.V. Somanathan and K.K.Datta

The central government's policies, though well-intentioned, have inadvertently de-emphasized environmental health and other preventive public health services in India since the 1950s, when it was decided to amalgamate the medical and public health services and to focus public health services largely on single-issue programs. This paper discusses how successive policy decisions have diminished the Health Ministry's capacity for stewardship of the nation's public health. The authors suggest establishing a focal point in the Health Ministry for public health stewardship, and revitalizing the states' public health managerial cadres as well as the grassroots public health workers.

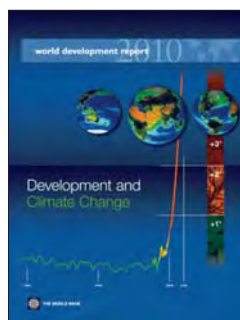
Public interest litigation in India: Overreaching or underachieving?

By Varun Gauri

Public interest litigation has historically been an innovative judicial procedure for enhancing the social and economic rights of disadvantaged and marginalized groups in India. In recent years, however, a number of criticisms of public interest litigation have emerged, including concerns related to separation of powers, judicial capacity, and inequality. These criticisms have tended to abstraction, and the sheer number of cases has complicated empirical assessments. This paper finds that public interest litigation cases constitute less than 1 percent of the overall case load. The paper argues that complaints related to concerns having to do with separation of powers are better understood as criticisms of the impact of judicial interventions on sector governance. On the issue of inequality, the analysis finds that win rates for fundamental rights claims are significantly higher when the claimant is from an advantaged social group than when he or she is from a marginalized group, which constitutes a social reversal, both from the original objective of public interest litigation and from the relative win rates in the 1980s.

Other Publications

World Development Report 2010: Development and Climate Change



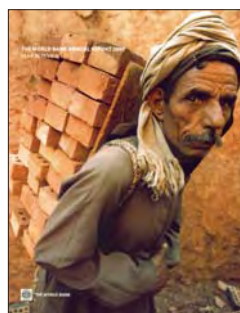
By World Bank
Price: \$ 26.00
English Paperback
 300 pages
 Published November 2009
 by World Bank
 ISBN: 0-8213-7987-9
 ISBN-13: 978-0-8213-7987-5
 SKU: 17987

Today's enormous
 development challenges are

complicated by the reality of climate change – the two are inextricably linked and together demand immediate attention. Climate change threatens all countries, but particularly developing ones. Understanding what climate change means for development policy is the central aim of the *World Development Report 2010*. It explores how public policy can change to better help people cope with new or worsened risks, how land and water management must adapt to better protect a threatened natural environment while feeding an expanding and more prosperous population, and how energy systems will need to be transformed.

The report is an urgent call for action, both for developing countries who are striving to ensure policies are adapted to the realities and dangers of a hotter planet, and for high-income countries who need to undertake ambitious mitigation while supporting developing countries efforts. A climate-smart world is within reach if we **act now** to tackle the substantial inertia in the climate, in infrastructure, and in behaviors and institutions; if we **act together** to reconcile needed growth with prudent and affordable development choices; and if we **act differently** by investing in the needed energy revolution and taking the steps required to adapt to a rapidly changing planet.

The World Bank Annual Report 2009: Year in Review



By World Bank
Available: On-line
English Mixed media
 Published October 2009
 by World Bank
 ISBN: 0-8213-7946-1
 ISBN-13: 978-0-8213-7946-2
 SKU: 17946

This Annual Report, which
 covers the period from July
 1, 2008, to June 30, 2009,

has been prepared by the Executive Directors of both the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and the International Development Association (IDA) – collectively known as the World Bank – in accordance with the respective bylaws of the two institutions. Robert B. Zoellick, President of IBRD

and IDA, and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors, has submitted this report, together with the accompanying administrative budgets and audited financial statements, to the Board of Governors.

Convenient Solutions for an Inconvenient Truth: Ecosystem-based Approaches to Climate Change



By World Bank
Price: \$ 22.95
English Paperback
Published November 2009
by World Bank
ISBN: 0-8213-8126-1
ISBN-13: 978-0-8213-8126-7
SKU: 18126

Global warming and changes in climate will have severe and lasting impacts on national efforts to alleviate poverty and promote

sustainable development. Some of the world's poorest countries and communities are the most vulnerable and are already suffering the consequences. Yet often these countries are rich in natural capital, ecosystems, and biodiversity that can contribute to solutions as they can to climate change. Biodiversity is the foundation and mainstay of agriculture, forests, and fisheries.

Biological resources provide the raw materials for livelihoods, agriculture, medicines, trade, tourism, and industry. Forests, grasslands, freshwater, and marine and other natural ecosystems provide a range of services, often not recognized in national economic accounts but vital to human welfare: regulating water flows and water quality, flood control, pollination, decontamination, carbon sequestration, soil conservation, and nutrient and hydrological cycling.

Current efforts to address climate change focus mainly on reducing emissions of greenhouse gases, mainly through cleaner energy strategies, and on attempting to reduce vulnerability of the communities at risk by improving infrastructure to meet new energy and water needs.

Public Sentinel: News Media and Governance Reform



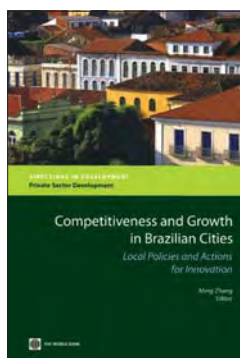
Edited by Pippa Norris
Price: \$ 40.00
English Paperback
440 pages
Published November 2009
by World Bank
ISBN: 0-8213-8200-4
ISBN-13: 978-0-8213-8200-4
SKU: 18200

This book approaches the issue of news media and governance with three

broad questions that it attempts to answer on the basis of quantitative data and case studies.

- First, a normative approach asks: What ideal roles should media systems play to strengthen democratic governance and thus bolster human development?
- Second, an empirical approach considers independent evidence derived from cross-national comparisons and from selected case studies, asking: Under what conditions do media systems actually succeed or fail to fulfill these objectives?
- Third, a strategic approach asks: What policy interventions work most effectively to close the substantial gap that exists between the democratic promise and performance of the news media as an institution?

Competitiveness and Growth in Brazilian Cities: Local Policies and Actions for Innovation



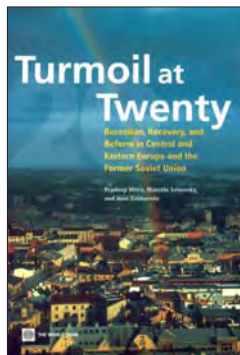
Edited by Ming Zhang
Price: \$ 25.00
English Paperback
120 pages
Published November 2009
by World Bank
ISBN: 0-8213-8157-1
ISBN-13: 978-0-8213-8157-1
SKU: 18157

Cities need to strive to reduce the cost of doing business by improving

services, infrastructure, and reducing bureaucracies. But for a middle-income country like Brazil, which needs to be economically competitive in a globalized environment, this is not sufficient. Cities also need to strive to add value to local firms to innovate and learn from each other, to nurture and facilitate the creation of synergies generated by the presence of interconnected economic clusters in the city, and to provide incentives for all local players to continuously upgrade the level of competitiveness – to become better and the best.

With regard to local policy actions, this book highlights the cluster approach to competitiveness, with its focus on facilitating private sector collaborations for collective efficiency.

Turmoil at Twenty: Recession, Recovery and Reform in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union



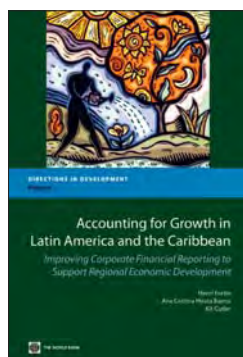
By Pradeep Mitra, Marcelo Selowski and Juan Zalduendo
Price: \$ 28.00
English Paperback
256 pages
Published November 2009
by World Bank
ISBN: 0-8213-8113-X
ISBN-13: 978-0-8213-8113-7
SKU: 18113

The transition economies of

Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, among all emerging – and developing economy regions, have been hardest hit by the global economic crisis of 2008-09. This is partly due to the region's deep integration into the global economy across many dimensions – trade, financial, and labor flows. Attempts by countries that came later to the transition to catch up rapidly to Western European living standards, made them vulnerable to reversals in market sentiment.

Written on the eve of the twentieth anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, *Turmoil at Twenty* analyzes the run-up to the current crisis and addresses a number of key questions related to vulnerability to the recession, expected recovery, and necessary reforms in the region.

Accounting for Growth in Latin America and the Caribbean: Improving Corporate Financial reporting to Support Regional Economic Development



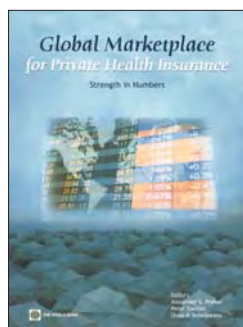
By Henri Fortin, Ana Cristina Hirata Barros and Kit Cutler
Price: \$ 29.95
English Paperback
Published November 2009
by World Bank
ISBN: 0-8213-8108-3
ISBN-13: 978-0-8213-8108-3
SKU: 18108

The importance of moving toward high-quality, global standards of accounting

and auditing has never been clearer. In the midst of the global financial and economic crisis, the leaders of the Group of 20 met and issued their "Declaration on Strengthening the Financial System," placing significant emphasis on sound accounting and auditing standards as a critical piece of the international financial architecture.

Transparent and reliable corporate financial reporting underpins much of the Latin America and Caribbean development agenda, from private-sector-led growth to enhanced financial stability, facilitating access to finance for small and medium enterprises, and furthering economic integration.

Global Marketplace for Private Health Insurance: Strength in Numbers

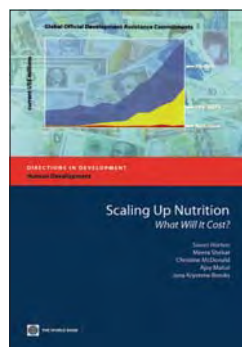


Edited by Alexander S. Preker, Peter Zweifel and Onno Schellekens
Price: \$ 49.95
English Paperback
600 pages
Published November 2009
by World Bank
ISBN: 0-8213-7507-5
ISBN-13: 978-0-8213-7507-5
SKU: 17507

Rich or poor, countries around the globe are struggling

to find a way to pay for health care. The authors of this book present an analysis that shows private health insurance can play a role in providing more affordable access to health care to more people, no matter what their economic status.

Scaling Up Nutrition: What Will It Cost?

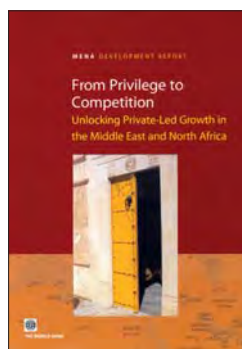


By Susan Horton, Meera Shekar, Christine McDonald, Ajay Mahal and Jana Krystene Brooks
Price: \$19.95
English Paperback
132 pages
Published November 2009
by World Bank
ISBN: 0-8213-8077-X
ISBN-13: 978-0-8213-8077-2
SKU: 18077

Action against malnutrition is needed more than ever. An additional US\$10.3 billion a year is required from public resources to mount a successful attack against undernutrition on a worldwide scale. This would benefit over 360 million children in the 36 countries with the highest burden of undernutrition—home to 90 percent of the stunted children worldwide—and prevent 1.1 million child deaths. Since early childhood offers a special window of opportunity to improve nutrition, the bulk of the investment needs to be targeted between pre-pregnancy until two years of age.

This call for greater investment in nutrition is also opportune, at a time when global efforts to strengthen health systems provide a unique opportunity to scale up integrated packages of health and nutrition interventions, with common delivery platforms, and lower costs.

From Privilege to Competition: Unlocking Private-Led Growth in the Middle East and North Africa

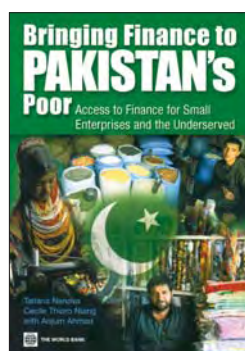


By World Bank
Price: \$ 38.00
English Paperback
276 pages
Published November 2009
by World Bank
ISBN: 0-8213-7877-5
ISBN-13: 978-0-8213-7877-9
SKU: 17877

This book underlines the need to strengthen reforms in many areas – specifically,

by reducing policy uncertainty and improving credit and real estate markets. It also highlights other important issues that restrain the credibility and impact of reforms in many parts of the region: conflicts of interest between politicians and businesses, an investment climate that favors a few privileged firms, and a dominant private sector that often opposes reforms.

Bringing Finance to Pakistan's Poor: Access to Finance for Small Enterprises and the Underserved



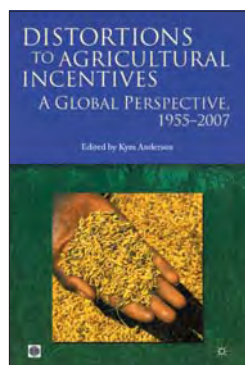
By Tatiana Nenova and
Cecile Thioro Niang
Price: \$29.95
English Mixed media
360 pages
Published November 2009
by World Bank
ISBN: 0-8213-8030-3
ISBN-13: 978-0-8213-8030-7
SKU: 18030

Although access to
financing in Pakistan is

expanding quickly, it is two to four times lower than regional benchmarks. Half of Pakistani adults, mostly women, do not engage with the financial system at all, and only 14 percent have access to formal services. Credit for small-and medium-size enterprises is rationed by the financial system. The formal microfinance sector reaches less than 2 percent of the poor, as opposed to more than 25 percent in neighboring countries. Yet it is the micro-and small businesses, along with remittances, that help families escape the poverty trap and participate in the economy.

Bringing Finance to Pakistan's Poor is based on a pioneering and comprehensive survey and dataset that measures the access to financial products by Pakistani households. The survey included 10,305 households in all areas of the country, excluding the tribal regions.

Distortions to Agricultural Incentives: A Global Perspective, 1955-2007



Edited by Kym Anderson
Price: \$ 39.95
English Paperback
680 pages
Published October 2009
by Palgrave Macmillan,
World Bank
ISBN: 0-8213-7665-9
ISBN-13: 978-0-8213-7665-2
SKU: 17665

Distortions to Agricultural
Incentives series brings
together analytical

narratives of the evolution over the past half-century of policy-imposed distortions to farmer incentives and food prices in 80 countries, drawing on new, consistent set of estimates spanning 90 percent of the world's agricultural markets.

World Bank-Civil Society Engagement: Review of Fiscal Years 2007 to 2009

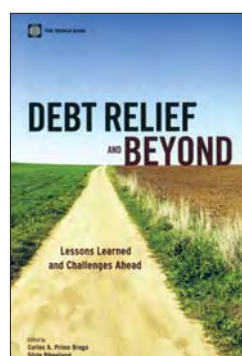
Available: On-line
Published October 2009

The Civil Society Review represents a comprehensive accounting of Bank-civil society relations across the institutions over the past three years (2007-2009).

It provides detailed information on global consultation processes, examples of operational collaboration, CSO funding mechanisms, and civil society outreach initiatives by region and constituency teams. The message which comes through is how World Bank Group-civil society relations have grown in breadth and depth over the past three years. The extensive dialogue carried out during the high-level roundtables on the food and financial crises over the past year was clear evidence of growing mutual interests.

The report also provides numerous examples of civil society involvement in Bank operations across the institution.

Debt Relief and Beyond: Lessons Learned and Challenges Ahead



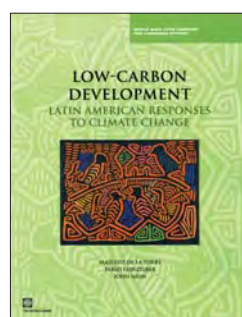
Edited by Carlos A. Primo
Braga and Doerte Doemeland
Price: \$29.95
English Paperback
480 pages
Published October 2009
by World Bank
ISBN: 0-8213-7874-0
ISBN-13: 978-0-8213-7874-8
SKU: 17874

The history of debt relief
goes back several decades.

It reveals that a country's accumulation of unsustainable debt stems from such factors as deficiencies in macroeconomic management, adverse terms-of-trade shocks, and poor governance. Debt-relief initiatives have provided debt-burdened countries with the opportunity for a fresh start, but whether the benefits of debt relief can be preserved depends on transformations in a country's policies and institutions.

In 1996, the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative was launched as the first comprehensive, multilateral, debt-relief framework for low-income countries. In 2005, the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative was established, which increased the level of debt relief provided to HIPCs. As of early 2009, assistance through these two initiatives had been committed to 35 countries and amounted to US\$117 billion in nominal terms, or half of the 2007 GDP of these countries.

Low-Carbon Development: Latin American Responses to Climate Change



Edited by Augusto de la
Torre, Pablo Fajnzylber and
John Nash
Price: \$35.00
English Paperback
176 pages
Published October 2009
by World Bank
ISBN: 0-8213-8054-0
ISBN-13: 978-0-8213-8054-3
SKU: 18054

Governments and civil society in Latin America and the Caribbean should be well informed about the potential costs and benefits of combating climate change, their policy options over the next decades, and the global context for these policy decisions. At the same time, the global community needs to be better informed about the unique perspective of the Latin American and Caribbean region: problems the region will face, its potential contributions toward combating global warming, and how to maximize this potential while continuing to maintain growth and reduce poverty.

Handbook on Impact Evaluation: Quantitative Methods and Practices

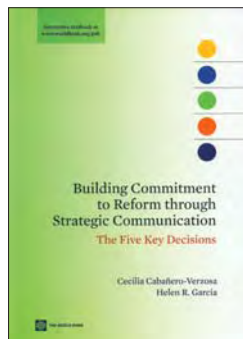


By Shahidur Khandker,
Gayatri B. Koolwal and
Hussain Samad
Price: \$39.95
English Paperback
280 pages
Published October 2009
by World Bank
ISBN: 0-8213-8028-1
ISBN-13: 978-0-8213-8028-4
SKU: 18028

This book reviews quantitative methods and models of impact evaluation. It begins by reviewing the basic issues pertaining to an evaluation of an intervention to reach certain targets and goals. It then focuses on the experimental design of an impact evaluation, highlighting its strengths and shortcomings, followed by discussions on various non-experimental methods. The authors also cover methods to shed light on the nature and mechanisms by which different participants are benefiting from the program.

For researchers interested in learning how to use these models with statistical software, the book also provides STATA exercises in the context of evaluating major microcredit programs in Bangladesh, such as the Grameen Bank.

Building Commitment to Reform through Strategic Communication: The Five Key Decisions



By Cecilia Cabanero
Verzosa and Helen R.
Garcia **Price:** \$ 25.00
English Paperback
144 pages
Published October 2009
by World Bank
ISBN: 0-8213-7621-7
ISBN-13: 978-0-8213-7621-8
SKU: 17621

Strategic communication is a powerful tool for creating broad-based support for reform and change initiatives. Much has been written about why communication matters in reform efforts, but there is scant material

available to help those who manage reforms apply communication concepts and approaches to their own programs and policy-reform initiatives.

The Five Communication Management Decision Tool helps reformers and their teams develop a framework for their communication strategies. This decision tool helps managers see change initiatives through the eyes of those who will be affected by the reforms. When the decision tool is used in the early stages of the development of change programs, reformers gain an even deeper understanding of the stakeholders' perspectives on the reforms, which influence stakeholder opposition or support for them. Such understanding will not only be instructive, but possibly transformative—for both change agents and those stakeholders whose support is critical to the success of reform. Reform agents may recognize the source of stakeholder resistance and be able to revise reform goals and redesign change interventions. Stakeholders who have a shared understanding of why the status quo is not acceptable and change is necessary are more likely to create coalitions of committed allies and supporters who will work together to achieve reform goals.

Investing with Confidence: Understanding Political Risk Management in the 21st Century



Edited by Gero Verheyen,
Srilal M. Perera and
Kevin W. Lu
Price: \$ 35.00
English Paperback
250 pages
Published October 2009
by World Bank
ISBN: 0-8213-7893-7
ISBN-13: 978-0-8213-7893-9
SKU: 17893

Investing with Confidence: Understanding Political Risk Management in the 21st Century addresses the key issues relevant for investors today, including arbitration, understanding and pricing for risk, and new developments in investments through timely assessments from 15 experts in the fields of international investment, finance, insurance, law, and academia.

Contributors to this volume examine key political risk issues including claims and arbitration, perspectives on pricing from private, public and multilateral providers, and explore new frontiers in sovereign wealth funds and Islamic finance. The volume begins with a look back to the founding of International Center for the Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) and MIGA and the respective visions for both of these important institutions. It continues with a review of new developments in global finance and risk management, including Islamic finance and sovereign wealth funds, and provides an investor perspective of what drives the decision making process on procuring political risk insurance. The volume then turns to consider methodologies of pricing from the private, public, and multilateral perspectives, and examines the expropriation and the pledge of shares.

Tiger Economies Under Threat: A Comparative Analysis of Malaysia's Industrial Prospects and Policy Options



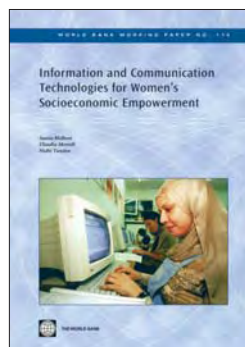
By Shahid Yusuf and Kaoru Nabeshima
Price: \$ 24.95
English Paperback
304 pages
Published October 2009
by World Bank
ISBN: 0-8213-7880-5
ISBN-13: 978-0-8213-7880-9
SKU: 17880

In recent years, growth rates in the so-called "Tiger

economies" of Southeast Asia have been above the average not only for developing countries but for the world as a whole. Yet they fall short of the economic growth experienced during 1975–95. The underlying worry for policy makers is that the decrease presages the beginning of a downward trend, a worry that has been sharpened by the global recession. But are the Tiger economies under threat? And if so, what are the causes and how can they be addressed?

This book employs a comparative analysis of the Southeast Asian Tiger economies, centered on Malaysia, to tackle these questions.

Information and Communication Technologies for Women's Socio-Economic Empowerment



By Samia Melhem, Claudia Morell and Nidhi Tandon
Price: \$ 20.00
English Paperback
120 pages
Published October 2009
by World Bank
ISBN: 0-8213-8133-4
ISBN-13: 978-0-8213-8133-5
SKU: 18133

This paper reviews how women in the developing

world access and use information and communication technology (ICT). It examines the discourse and controversies surrounding the digital gender divide, including links to poverty and illiteracy. Major themes concerning women and ICTs are explored, such as women in the ICT workforce, how girls and women relate differently to ICT, and opportunities and barriers for women in science and technology in general. Current research relating to gender and ICT is often country-specific and is more prevalent in developed countries than in developing countries.

The overall objective of this paper is to influence policy dialogue around women and ICT for development by raising awareness of the digital gender divide. Economic opportunity for women in ICT will not be realized until policies address gender considerations and ensure that ICT investment contributes to more sustainable and equitable development.

Legal Frameworks for Tertiary Education in Sub-Saharan Africa: The Quest for Institutional Responsiveness



By William Saint and Chritine Lao
Price: \$ 15.00
English Paperback
74 pages
Published October 2009
by World Bank
ISBN: 0-8213-8124-5
ISBN-13: 978-0-8213-8124-3
SKU: 18124

The performance of tertiary educational institutions is

heavily influenced by their governance arrangements, management structures, accountability mechanisms, and regulatory environments. *Legal Frameworks for Tertiary Education in Sub-Saharan Africa* analyzes 70 examples of tertiary education legislation and individual statutes of selected public institutions in 24 Sub-Saharan African countries. It identifies the range of formal governance and management practices for university educational systems set forth in these legal documents. These factors are fundamental for determining the responsiveness, adaptability, and flexibility of tertiary education systems, and ultimately the capacity of these systems to manage change and maintain relevance under continually shifting circumstances.

Overall, the analysis finds general tendencies to increase institutional autonomy, to strengthen accountability mechanisms, to shift from appointment to elective representation in the filling of higher governance and management positions, and to expand university links with civil society, the private sector, and regional and international institutions.

Annual World Bank Conference on Development Economics 2008, Global: Private Sector and Development



Edited by Boris Pleskovic and Justin Yifu Lin
Price: \$ 29.95
English Paperback
176 pages
Published September 2009
by World Bank
ISBN: 0-8213-7125-8
ISBN-13: 978-0-8213-7125-1
SKU: 17125

This book presents selected papers from the

ABCDE Meetings, held May 17–18, 2007 in Bled, Slovenia. Hosted by the World Bank and Government of Slovenia, more than 400 experts from countries around the world met to deliberate the theme: Private Sector and Development. This volume presents papers on financial inclusion, factors that matter the most for business climate, and the provision of public services by non-state actors.

**World Bank Urban and Local Government Strategy:
Harnessing Urbanization for Growth and Poverty
Alleviation**

Available: On-line
English 28 pages
Published October 2009

It is projected that in the next two decades cities will expand by another two billion people – ninety percent of that urban population growth is expected to take place in developing countries.

To respond to these challenges, the new Urban and Local Government Strategy aims to work with developing countries as they take advantage of the economic opportunities associated with rapid urbanization. The strategy offers a number of tools to help cities better manage urban growth.

**Getting Electricity: A Pilot Study by the Doing
Business Project**

Available: On-line

English 40 pages
Published October 2009

Getting Electricity presents findings on the kinds of constraints entrepreneurs around the world face in getting access to electricity and illustrates patterns in connection processes. The study tracks all the procedures, the time, and the cost required for a business to obtain an electricity connection for a newly constructed building. It highlights economies where this process is efficient and others where it could be made simpler and more efficient.

The *Getting Electricity* pilot study sheds light on the interactions of businesses with distribution utilities. In doing so it covers only a small part of electricity service for the 140 economies surveyed. Yet it provides information on a number of issues for which data previously did not exist for such a large number of countries. These include the efficiency and cost of the services provided to commercial customers by distribution utilities, the complexity of procedures, and the resources expended by businesses in obtaining a connection.

India Project Documents

**Andhra Pradesh Water Sector Improvement
Project**

Date 15 December 2009
Project ID P100954
Report No. AB5215 (Project Information Document)
AC4858 (Integrated Safeguards Data
Sheet)

Tamil Nadu Road Sector Project

Date 15 December 2009
Project ID P118981
Report No. AB5287 (Project Information Document)
AC4844(Integrated Safeguards Data
Sheet)
E668 (Environmental Assessment)

Vocational Training Improvement Project

Date 08 December 2009
Project ID P099047
Report No. 52057(Procurement Plan)
52078(Procurement Plan – Consulting
Services)

**Scaling up Sustainable and Responsible
Microfinance Project**

Date 03 December 2009
Project ID P119043
Report No. AC4931(Integrated Safeguards Data
Sheet)

**Karnataka Wind Power Carbon Finance
Project**

Date 01 December 2009
Project ID P119295
Report No. E2298 (Environmental Assessment)

Vishnugad Pipalkoti Hydro Electric Project

Date 30 November 2009
Project ID P096124
Report No. AC4129 (Integrated Safeguards DataSheet)

Secondary Education Project

Date 22 November 2009
Project ID P118445
Report No. AC4762 (Integrated Safeguards Data
Sheet)

Karnataka Wind Power Carbon Finance Project

Date 19 November 2009
Project ID P119295
Report No. 51759 (Project Information Document)

**Additional Financing for Second Elementary
Education Project**

Date 18 November 2009
Project ID P118673
Report No. AC4857 (Integrated Safeguards Data Sheet)
AC4865 (Integrated Safeguards Data Sheet)

Sustainable Urban Transport Project

Date 22 November 2009
Project ID P100589
Report No. 51144 (Project Appraisal Document)

Integrated Coastal Zone Management Project

Date 01 November 2009
Project ID P097985
Report No. E2303 (Environmental Assessment)
RP884 (Resettlement Plan)

Punjab State Road Sector Project

Date 01 November 2009
Project ID P118673
Report No. 52031(Procurement Plan)

Fifth Power System Development Project

Date 20 October 2009
Project ID P115566
Report No. 51152 (Procurement Plan)

APRPRP 2nd Additional Finance

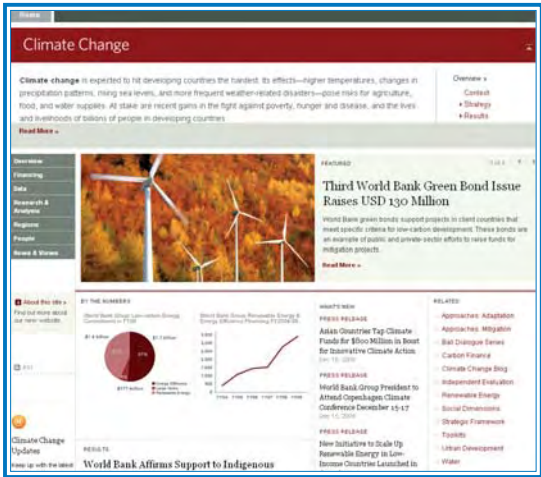
Date 19 October 2009
Project ID P118821
Report No. AB5029 (Project Information Document)

**Orissa Rural Poverty Reduction Project:
Procurement plan for the year 2009-2010**

Date 13 October 2009
Project ID P093478
Report No. 51474 (Procurement Plan)

Latest on the Web

- Climate change data portal for development practitioners and policy makers



Climate Change Data Portal offers useful tools including a Google map interface, Bank and external data, projections, historical climateology data, data on changes in crop yields under climate change for 14 major crops worldwide, and the Bank’s disaster hotspots data.

It is intended to provide quick and readily accessible climate and climate-related data to policy makers and development practitioners. The site also includes a mapping visualization tool displaying key climate variables data as well as a screening tool for assessing development projects for sensitivities to climate change.

Please see: www.worldbank.org/climatechange

- World Bank Group in Copenhagen



Climate change is expected to hit developing countries the hardest. Its effects – higher temperatures, changes in precipitation patterns, rising sea levels, and more frequent weather-related disasters – pose risks for agriculture, food, and water supplies. At stake are recent gains in the fight against poverty, hunger and disease, and the lives and livelihoods of billions of people in developing countries.

Tackling this immense challenge must involve both mitigation – to avoid the unmanageable – and adaptation – to manage the unavoidable – all while maintaining a focus on its – social dimensions.

The World Bank, along with other multilateral development banks and international finance organizations, supported country-led negotiations in Copenhagen. Check back to this page for updates, events, press releases and additional information in the COP15 days.

Please visit: www.worldbank.org/climatechange

● **Growth and Crisis: Building Capacity through Rethinking Development Paradigms**



The Growth and Crisis Blog aims to share knowledge and improve the public's common understanding on ways of accelerating growth and on challenges brought by the current global economic crisis. It includes ideas, lecture notes, and media on issues relating to the impacts of and policy responses to the global financial and economic crisis of 2008-09, and to the design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of growth strategies. The blog holds an open dialogue with participants of courses, partners, researchers, academia, civil society, government officials and, in general, the broad public interested in rethinking development paradigms and policies. This blog is written by the staff of the World Bank Institute's Growth and Crisis Program (WBIGC), with contributions from guest bloggers, and supported by WBI's Multimedia Center and the World Bank's Information Solutions Group (ISG). It can be accessed at: <http://blogs.worldbank.org/growth>

B-Span

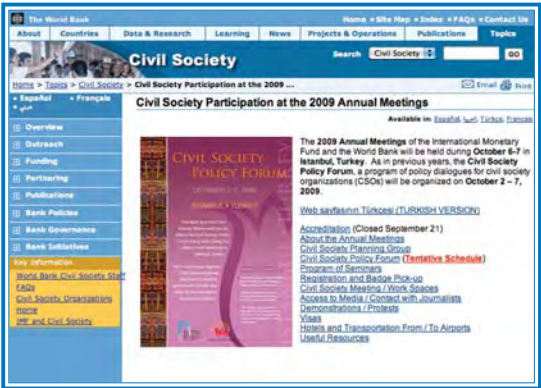
● **Xplane and the Economist create video on global climate change**



Watch "The Carbon Economy," a three-minute video about the growing importance of climate change and green technologies and solutions with a moving soundtrack that conveys the troubled state of global climate change and what steps must be taken to reach a positive outcome. This production was created using Apple's Keynote software.

Visit: <http://www.youtube.com/xplanevisualthinking#p/a/u/0/cju6Zi4OT54>

● **CSOs attend Istanbul annual meetings**



Civil society participation at the 2009 World Bank – IMF Annual Meetings in Istanbul, Turkey was the largest and most intense ever. Over 1,000 CSO representatives were accredited and nearly 500 attended the six-day Civil Society Policy Forum (CS Forum). The CS Forum sponsored 50 policy dialogue sessions on topics ranging from the global economic crisis and information disclosure, to climate change. Turkey's civil society community participated actively, with leading national CSOs convening policy sessions. The CSO Townhall with Bank President Robert Zoellick and IMF Managing Director, Dominique Strauss-Kahn was well attended, with some 200 CSOs present.

Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/ydca688>

● **100 ideas to Save the Planet by Development Marketplace finalists**




The finalists came from 47 countries to compete for 25 grants to protect the world's most vulnerable people from climate change. The competition's focus is on Indigenous Peoples, Climate Risk Management, and Climate Adaptation. The competition added another dimension to outreach this year by creating an expanded Web presence with a strong emphasis on multimedia and social media. Learn more and join the global conversation on the DM 2009 Blog, live webcast and other social media (Twitter, Facebook, Flickr, and other channels).

Visit: www.developmentmarketplace.org

New Access to Information Policy

The World Bank's Board of Executive Directors, on November 17, 2009, approved the Bank's new policy on access to information which positions the Bank as a transparency leader among international institutions. The policy was informed by extensive external and internal consultations held in 33 countries and through the Bank's external website. It reflects the views of member countries, civil society organizations, academia, parliamentarians, media, the private sector, international organizations, donor agencies, and Bank staff.

The new policy represents a fundamental shift in the Bank's approach to disclosure of information – moving from an approach that spells out what documents it can disclose to one under which the Bank will disclose any information in its possession that is not on a list of exceptions. The policy statement will become effective on July 1, 2010. A progress report will be presented to the Board by the end of 2011.

"This paradigm shift underscores the Bank's commitment to transparency and accountability and recognizes their fundamental importance to development and to achieving the Bank's mission of overcoming poverty and improving development effectiveness," said World Bank Group President Robert B. Zoellick. 

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