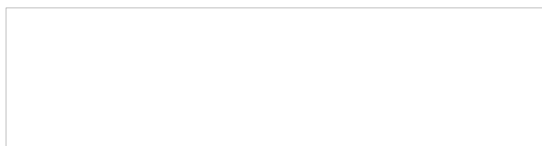


World Bank Launches Tokyo Development Learning Center



Tokyo, Japan, 1 June 2004 – The World Bank today announced the launch of the Tokyo Development Learning Center (TDLC), a joint initiative with the Japanese Government that sends a powerful signal of Japan's commitment to help strengthen the Asia-Pacific community.

The TDLC, which will serve as a knowledge and training center for the region, is the latest addition to the Global Development Learning Network (GDLN), an initiative launched by the World Bank in 2000. Now comprising more than 60 centers around the world, the GDLN makes use of state-of-the-art Information and Communications Technology (ICT) to enable knowledge sharing and collaboration free from geographical constraints.

The GDLN utilizes a combination of satellite, fiber and ISDN telecommunications, depending on local availability and cost, to link the network around the world. Making use of videoconferencing facilities and high-speed internet connections, public, private and non-governmental organizations are encouraged to collaborate in seminars, training events and meetings with their counterparts around the world.

In Tokyo to attend the launch, **World Bank President, James D. Wolfensohn** commented, *Japan is the second largest contributor to the World Bank, and its generous assistance to poorer countries in Asia-Pacific and around the world is well known and widely respected. But experience shows that money alone won't make the difference. The key is knowing how to unlock the power of knowledge and expertise.*

"The TDLC is a fantastic resource, drawing on the experience of Japan and other countries across the region, it will serve as a center for collaboration, especially in promoting intra-regional knowledge sharing. More than just a new facility, we are I hope, opening a new chapter in Japan's engagement with the region and the world," he said.

The center will promote human resource development and institution building in developing countries, especially in Asia-Pacific. It will enable Japan to act not only as a financier for regional development, but also as a supplier of development practice, knowledge and solutions that build capacity on the ground.

Mr. Sadakazu Tanigaki, Japanese Minister of Finance said, *"The TDLC is a valuable instrument in aiding human resource development and administrative capacity building in the Asia-Pacific region. Japan has great expectations for the center".*

"I would like to call upon our friends in the region to inject their ideas into TDLC programs, so that together we can ensure the TDLC serves the region as effectively as possible. We would be delighted if Japan's experience and knowledge of development could be used to enrich intellectual exchange amongst our partners in the region. I would like to emphasize that, through the TDLC, Japan is committed to supporting the activities of the GDLN in the Asia and Pacific region," he said.

For more information about the TDLC, visit : www.jointokyo.org
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