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Objet: **World Bank Weekly Newsletter** / September 12, 2005

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- * Global Environment Facility Reform Program
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NEWS

*Global Deal
Program*

Africa Action Plan

The Africa Action Plan -- "Meeting the Challenge of Africa's Development: A World Bank Group Action Plan" -- has been presented to the Bank's Board of Executive Directors. The plan is the result of a request by the Board that the region present an action plan to the Development Committee detailing its Africa strategy. It also addresses the Gleneagles call for international coordination of increased assistance to Africa to meet the Millennium Development Goals. The plan makes specific commitments, such as increased financial support for free primary education in 15 countries and more funding for roads, power, and other infrastructure. In addition, it supports the African Infrastructure Consortium in mobilizing resources for country and cross-border regional infrastructure projects. more
("http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/NEWS/0,,contentMDK:20639053~pagePK:64257043~piPK:437376~theSitePK:4607,00.html")

Mobilizing Support to Fight Malaria

The Bank sponsored a conference in Paris September 8-9 to secure more resources and better coordination in the fight against malaria in Africa. The goal is increased support to fight malaria and to give people easier access to insecticide-treated bed nets and new anti-malarial drugs to control a disease that kills more than a million people each year. The Bank has crafted, with partners such as the World Health Organization and the US Centers for Disease Control, a US\$500 million program that will cover 17 countries over three years. That intensive phase of the program will be supported by a smaller regional approach, which will provide about US\$160 million for research into monitoring, insecticides, drug resistance and operations. more
("http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/NEWS/0,,contentMDK:20638104~pagePK:34370

Global Environment Facility Adopts Reform Program

The Council of the Global Environment Facility has adopted a reform program that will change the way the Facility provides grants to developing countries. The new resource allocation framework will explicitly link the award of the Facility's support to a country's potential to generate global environmental benefits, as well as its performance, including transparency and good governance. The Council represents the facility's 176 member governments, including 32 donor nations. more
("http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/NEWS/0,,contentMDK:20637028~menuPK:51062075~pagePK:34370~piPK:34424~theSitePK:4607,00.html")

PUBLICATIONS

Local Organizations in Decentralized Development

Local organizations have become key mechanisms in effective, fair and sustainable resource management and development. Two debates dominate discourse on the roles of organizations. The first is a practical one on how to make local organizations function effectively. The second focuses on the relative roles of government organizations and different forms of non-government organizations. This book adds empirical evidence to the debate on whether or not these functions are performed as expected. Based on research in three sectors in three Indian states, the authors' findings indicate that the design of, and support for, local organizations are often little more than rudimentary, resulting in less-than-adequate performance and raising serious sustainability concerns. more
("http://publications.worldbank.org/ecommerce/catalog/product?item_id=4932356")

FOR A FULL LIST of available publications:

<http://publications.worldbank.org/ecommerce/>
("http://publications.worldbank.org/ecommerce/")

EVENTS AND DISCUSSIONS

International Day of Peace

September 21-- This global observance was established by a United Nations resolution in 1981 and was first celebrated in 1982. It provides an opportunity for individuals, organizations and nations to create practical acts of peace on a shared date. It is now principally used to highlight the Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World, 2001-10. more
("http://www.internationaldayofpeace.org/")

Video Meeting -- Urban Forum 2005

The Forum, at Bank headquarters, was entitled "Cities: Grounding the Development Agenda" and focused on the challenges and opportunities to urban development in Bank member countries. The Mayors of Bogota, Colombia; Foshan City, China; Maputo, Mozambique and Tbilisi, Georgia shared comments that served as the backdrop for the sessions. more
("http://info.worldbank.org/etools/BSPAN/PresentationView.asp?PID=1435&EID=707")

*Forum
at Bank
Urban development*

REGIONAL NEWS AND PROJECTS

For a summary of proposed projects in all regions: Summary

("http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/PROJECTS/PROCUREMENT/0,,contentMDK:50004501%7EmenuPK:63001537%7EpagePK:84269%7EpiPK:60001558%7EtheSitePK:84266,00.htm")

AFRICA - SUB-SAHARAN

Offering the Safety of a Net in Congo

Malaria is the number-one killer of children under five in the Democratic Republic of Congo where at least one in every five children dies before they reach their fifth birthday. And statistics show less than 1 percent of children in the country sleep under an insecticide treated net. The Bank is helping the government turn that around -- with a US\$30 million grant which will see two nets in every house in more than 80 health zones in the country, as well as effective and prompt anti-malarial treatment.

more
("http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/NEWS/0,,contentMDK:20637599~pagePK:34370~piPK:34424~theSitePK:4607,00.html")

Approved

SOUTH AFRICA AND TUNISIA -- Africa Stockpile Program -- (See details in the Middle East and North Africa Region below)

*Poverty
Debt*

TANZANIA -- Third Poverty Reduction Support Credit -- US\$150 million to support the implementation of Tanzania's National Strategy for Growth and Poverty Reduction. The financial support will narrow the gap between the cost of implementing elements of the strategy and resources available from the government's own domestic revenue and other donor support. It will also facilitate progress towards achieving the objectives of sustaining and accelerating economic growth. more

("http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/NEWS/0,,contentMDK:20640519~pagePK:34370~piPK:34424~theSitePK:4607,00.html")

New and revised project information documents:

Africa - Southwest Indian Ocean Fisheries Project Document

("http://www-wds.worldbank.org/servlet/WDS_IBank_Servlet?pcont=details&eid=000104615_20050907102713")

Benin -- Malaria Control Booster Program Document

("http://www-wds.worldbank.org/servlet/WDS_IBank_Servlet?pcont=details&eid=000104615_20050818092856")

Burundi -- Public Works and Employment Creation Document

("http://www-wds.worldbank.org/servlet/WDS_IBank_Servlet?pcont=details&eid=000104615_20050907095141")

Kenya -- Financial Sector Reform Credit Document

("http://www-wds.worldbank.org/servlet/WDS_IBank_Servlet?pcont=details&eid=000104615_")

20050907093538")

For more regional information: <http://www.worldbank.org/afr>
("http://www.worldbank.org/afr")

EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

New and revised project information documents:

Lao People's Democratic Republic -- Health Services
Improvement Document

("http://www-wds.worldbank.org/servlet/WDS_IBank_Servlet?pcont=details&eid=000104615_20050823123511")

Philippines -- Manila Third Sewerage Project Document

("http://www-wds.worldbank.org/servlet/WDS_IBank_Servlet?pcont=details&eid=000104615_20050907094937")

For regional information: <http://www.worldbank.org/eap>
("http://www.worldbank.org/eap")

EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

New and revised project information documents:

Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia -- Electric Power Development Document

("http://www-wds.worldbank.org/servlet/WDS_IBank_Servlet?pcont=details&eid=000104615_20050907093137")

Mongolia - Second Private Sector Development Credit Document

("http://www-wds.worldbank.org/servlet/WDS_IBank_Servlet?pcont=details&eid=000104615_20050819160417")

Russian Federation - Southern Okrug Local Initiatives
Project Document

("http://www-wds.worldbank.org/servlet/WDS_IBank_Servlet?pcont=details&eid=000104615_20050907101906")

For more regional information: <http://www.worldbank.org/eca>
("http://www.worldbank.org/eca")

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Approved

BRAZIL -- Minas Gerais Rural Poverty Reduction -- US\$35 million to help reduce high levels of rural poverty in the most impoverished areas of the state by improving the

well-being and incomes of the rural poor. This would be achieved through better access to basic socio-economic infrastructure and services, increasing the capacity of rural communities to organize collectively to meet their own needs. It would also enhance local governance by greater citizen participation and transparency in decision-making, and foster closer integration of development policies, programs and projects at the local level. more

("http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/NEWS/0,,contentMDK:20637459~pagePK:34370~piPK:34424~theSitePK:4607,00.html")

Press release

("http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/NEWS/0,,contentMDK:20637253~pagePK:34370~piPK:34424~theSitePK:4607,00.html")

MEXICO -- Second Programmatic Environment Development Policy Loan -- US\$200.5 million to support the government of Mexico's efforts to mainstream environmental concerns in the development agenda of sectors such as tourism, energy, water and forestry. The loan also seeks to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of local environmental management processes in the country.

more
("http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/NEWS/0,,contentMDK:20637483~pagePK:34370~piPK:34424~theSitePK:4607,00.html")

Press release

("http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/NEWS/0,,contentMDK:20637199~pagePK:34370~piPK:34424~theSitePK:4607,00.html")

For more regional information: <http://www.worldbank.org/lac>
("http://www.worldbank.org/lac")

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

Approved

SOUTH AFRICA AND TUNISIA -- Africa Stockpile Program -- US\$5.7 million for a partnership of private industry, non-profit organizations, government, and multi-lateral organizations, who have agreed to cooperate in an effort to eliminate the accumulation of obsolete pesticides. more

("http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/NEWS/0,,contentMDK:20640541~pagePK:34370~piPK:34424~theSitePK:4607,00.html")

For more regional information: <http://www.worldbank.org/mena>
("http://www.worldbank.org/mena")

SOUTH ASIA

The Waters of Bangladesh

A comprehensive Water Resources Assistance Strategy for Bangladesh, drawing on a consultation process with government, experts and civil society, has been prepared by the Bank and is being discussed with government. The strategy aims to identify and prioritize needed reforms and investments in all major water-related sectors, ranging from supply and sanitation, agriculture, fisheries, and resources management, to

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inland transport. The Strategy aims to sharpen the focus of government and other interested parties in Bangladesh's water sector and elicit their strong engagement in the country's water development and management efforts, under the umbrella of Bangladesh's Poverty Reduction Strategy and the National Water Management Plan. more ("http://www.worldbank.org.bd/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/COUNTRIES/SOUTHASIAEXT/BANGLADESHEXTN/0,,contentMDK:20603357~pagePK:141137~piPK:141127~theSitePK:295760,00.html")

Approved

PAKISTAN -- Second Improvement to Financial Reporting and Auditing -- US\$84 million to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of public expenditure and increase the potential for economic growth and poverty reduction. The project will work with different tiers of government to introduce an automated system-wide implementation of medium term budgetary frameworks, assist in improving business processes and changes to government financial management. It will result in setting up enhanced accountability systems for devolved levels of local government. more ("http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/NEWS/0,,contentMDK:20637435~pagePK:34370~piPK:34424~theSitePK:4607,00.html")

Press release

("http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/NEWS/0,,contentMDK:20637333~pagePK:34370~piPK:34424~theSitePK:4607,00.htm")

For more regional information: <http://www.worldbank.org/sar>
("http://www.worldbank.org/sar")

BUSINESS AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

European Private Sector Enterprise Outreach Services

The Bank's Enterprise Outreach Services disseminates information to the European private sector about business opportunities offered by the World Bank Group. It is also involved in capacity building through SMExchange and working within frameworks such as the Business Partnership for Development to establish a dialogue on global issues. Private Sector Liaison Officers facilitate companies' access to the knowledge and the business opportunities offered by the Bank Group, and help the Bank engage leading companies on development issues. more ("http://wbIn0018.worldbank.org/eurvp/web.nsf/pages/Business%20Global%20-%20Hom")

Opening -- Lead Economist and Sector Leader

The Latin America and the Caribbean Region's units responsible for Bank operations in Brazil are seeking a Lead Economist and Sector Leader for the Country Office in Brasilia, with an anchor unit located at headquarters. Criteria for selection include a Ph.D. in Economics and 12 years of relevant work experience. Candidates should have demonstrated effectiveness in conducting policy dialogue on issues with senior government officials, the private sector, donor representatives and civil society. Familiarity with Bank operations would be an advantage. Applicants should include in their application, a list of publications and other written work of which they are the primary author. The closing date for this position is September 15. more ("http://lnweb28.worldbank.org/HRS/careers.nsf/postings/200508031?OpenDocument")

For a full list of open positions and scholarships:

<http://www.worldbank.org/jobs> ("http://www.worldbank.org/jobs")

TAKE A LOOK

Providing Adequate Social Assistance in Belarus

Belarus has dramatically changed the way it distributes social benefits among its citizens. Research conducted with a Bank grant is helping the country launch a system that will target state assistance to its neediest and most vulnerable citizens, while saving scarce government resources. Research showed that Belarus had nearly 200 types of social benefits targeting more than half the population. And, although government spending on benefits was high -- 14 percent of its gross domestic product each year -- the amounts were not enough to make a difference to people's lives. In trying to assist everyone regardless of their income, the government could only provide the needy with a thin blanket of support. more

("http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/COUNTRIES/ECAEXT/BELARUSEXTN/0,,contentMDK:20264083~pagePK:141137~piPK:141127~theSitePK:328431,00.html")

DID YOU KNOW?

The Bank supported Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua, at their request, in the design of strategies to ensure that the Central American Free Trade Agreement can effectively promote inclusive development. The Bank's strategy includes a total of US\$1.14 billion in already-approved loans to bolster investments and reforms in support of agreement's complementary agenda. Loans include financing for infrastructure development improvements in the investment climate, investments in rural development and in strengthening governance and institutions. Bank assistance also includes grants to aid small and medium enterprises in accessing trade opportunities associated with the accord. more

("http://lnweb18.worldbank.org/LAC/LAC.nsf/ECADocbyUnid/9E56B2DC8514948085256DB20073248F?OpenDocument")

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