

## Visit of Heads of Academic Networks to World Bank Headquarters

Washington DC, June 11-12, 2007



**The World Bank**



The World Bank, together with the Economic and Social Research Council of the UK, is organizing a **Visit of Heads of International Academic Networks to World Bank Headquarters, on June 11-12, 2007**. The visit will bring together Presidents and Secretaries General of 10-15 international academic networks, representing thousands of universities, research institutes and think tanks, and thousands of individual researchers and students around the world.

The objectives of the visit are to:

- Strengthen relations between the World Bank and academic organizations, as well as among academic networks themselves, for purposes of knowledge sharing and mutual learning;
- Build better understanding and support for development work among the academic community (mainstreaming development topics in university curricula);
- Engage a broader audience in discussion of development issues (reaching not only to traditional interlocutors - economists, but also political and social scientists, engineers, health specialists etc.; engaging critical voices).

### PROGRAM

#### **Sunday, June 10**

Arrivals at *Georgetown Suites* Hotel, Washington D.C.  
1111 30th St & 1000 29th St NW Washington, DC 20007  
Tel: 1202/298-1688

#### **Monday, June 11**

Venue: World Bank Headquarters 1818 H Street, NW, room: MC 3-570 (3<sup>rd</sup> floor)

#### **9.00 – 9.45 am Opening Session**

Chair: Jean-Christophe Bas, Manager, Development Policy Dialogue, World Bank

#### **9.45 – 10.30 am World Bank Overview**

Presenter: Maya Brahmam, Head, Speaker's Bureau, World Bank

## **Coffee break**

### **10.45 am – 12.45 pm Research at the World Bank**

The objective of the session will be to explain how research at the World Bank is organized; and what are the methods, priorities and ways of disseminating research findings at the World Bank.

Part 1: Organization of World Bank research

Presenter: Jean-Jacques Dethier, Research Manager, Development Economics, World Bank

Part 2: Dissemination of World Bank research and engaging with stakeholders

Presenter: Merrell Tuck-Primdahl, Senior Communications Officer, Development Economics, World Bank

### **1.00 – 2.15 pm Lunch Discussion (venue: MC 3-570)**

Presenter: Vinod Thomas, Director-General, Independent Evaluation Group, World Bank

### **2.30 – 3.30 pm Presentation of the World Bank Institute (WBI)**

The objective of the session will be to familiarize the participants with capacity building programs of the WBI: seminars, trainings, distance learning, consultations, publications etc.

Presenters:

Rakesh Nangia, Acting Vice President, WBI

Kenneth King, Manager, Partnerships, WBI

Chair: Sunetra Puri, Communications Adviser, WBI

### **3.30 – 4.30 pm New research at the World Bank (Post-Conflict, Access to Finance, Climate Change)**

The purpose of this session will be to hear from researchers from the Development Economics Research Group about their recent work on post-conflict countries, access to finance and impacts of climate change on developing countries.

Presenters:

Gershon Feder, Senior Research Manager, DECRG, World Bank

Gary Milante, Consultant, DECRG, World Bank

Thorsten Beck, Senior Financial Economist, DECRG, World Bank

## **Coffee break**

### **4.45 – 6.00 pm Meeting with representatives of thematic networks**

The session will serve to explain to the participants how Networks operate, and how they work together with other units (research, operations etc.). In particular, work of the Poverty Reduction network will be presented.

Presenters:

Carlos Alberto Braga, Senior Adviser, PRMVP, World Bank

Vikram Nehru, Director, PREMED, World Bank

### **8.15 pm: Dinner**

Venue: Hotel Tabard Inn, 1739 N Street NW

### **Tuesday, June 12**

Venue: World Bank Headquarters, room: MC 6-598 (6<sup>th</sup> floor)

### **9.00 – 10.15 am Parallel meetings with Regional Chief Economists (Africa, South Asia)**

2 parallel sessions will be offered to participants of the visit, each with a different regional focus. The sessions will serve to explain how World Bank Regions operate, what the work of the Regional Chief Economist entails, and how the Regions work with Country Offices in the field.

#### Meeting 1:

Shantayanan Devarajan, Chief Economist, South Asia Region, World Bank, Venue: MC 4-500 (4<sup>th</sup> floor)

#### Meeting 2:

Sudhir Shetty, Sector Director, Africa Region, World Bank  
Harry Broadman, Economic Adviser, Africa Region, World Bank  
Venue: MC 6-598 (6<sup>th</sup> floor)

### **10.15 – 11.00 am Foundations as new development actors**

The objective of the session will be to present latest World Bank research on foundations and discuss how the rising role of foundations as donors will affect the development environment.

Presenter: Olga Sulla, Senior Economist, Development Economics, World Bank

### **Coffee break**

### **11.15 - 12.30 pm Roundtable discussion “Role of higher education in development”**

The session will begin with a short presentation of World Bank’s work in tertiary education, and develop into a general discussion of the role of higher education in development. A concrete question to be addressed by participants will be: How to raise the profile of development topics in university curricula?

Presenter: Richard Hopper, Senior Education Specialist, World Bank

Chair: Steve Morgan, Associate Director, Economic and Social Research Council, United Kingdom

### **12.45 – 2.00 pm Lunch Discussion (venue: dining room F, MC building)**

Presenter: Marwan Muasher, Senior Vice President, External Affairs, World Bank

### **2.00 – 3.00 pm World Bank and the development community**

The group will meet with representative(s) of prominent think tanks and research centers based in Washington D.C. working on development and poverty issues.

Presenter:

Johannes Linn, Wolfensohn Center Executive Director, Brookings Institution

Chair: Diane Stone, Professor, Warwick University, UK; Central European University, Hungary; Chair, Researchers Alliance for Development (RAD)

### **Coffee break**

#### **3.15 – 4.00 pm Public Information Services at the World Bank, focus on field work**

The Public Information Centers (PICs) are located at World Bank country offices or at universities and depository libraries all over the world, providing access to data, publications and general information on the World Bank, as well as undertaking outreach services to various groups, such as academia and youth. The objective of the session will be to concretely illustrate the opportunities offered by PICs in the field to the academic and student community.

Presenter: Ida Mori, Public Information Officer, Public Information Services, World Bank

#### **4.00 – 5.00 pm Wrap-up Session and Way Forward**

The session will serve to conclude two days of meetings, identify main messages, emerging questions, and outline the way forward – concrete follow-up activities to be undertaken after the visit.

Chair: Jean-Christophe Bas, Manager, Development Policy Dialogue, World Bank