



Researchers Alliance for Development

Researchers Alliance for Development (RAD) Newsletter, October 2007

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NEWS



[2007 WB-IMF Annual Meetings](#)

The World Bank-IMF Annual Meetings took place on October 19-22 in Washington, D.C.

The President of the World Bank, Robert B. Zoellick, delivered remarks on "**Catalyzing the Future: An Inclusive & Sustainable Globalization**", identifying six strategic themes (fragments of the speech quoted below):

1. First, the World Bank Group faces the challenge of helping to overcome poverty and spur sustainable growth in the poorest countries, especially in **Africa**. IDA is our core financing instrument for the 81 poorest countries.
2. Second, we need to address the special problems of **states coming out of conflict** or seeking to avoid the breakdown of the state.
3. Third, the World Bank Group needs a more differentiated business model for the **middle income countries**.
4. Fourth, the World Bank Group will need to play a more active role in fostering **regional and global public goods** that transcend national boundaries.
5. Fifth, one of the most notable challenges of our time is how to support those seeking to advance development and opportunities in the **Arab World**.
6. Finally, while the World Bank Group has some of the attributes of a financial and development business, its calling is much broader. It is a unique and special institution of **knowledge and**

learning. Yet this is not a university — rather it is a “brain trust” of applied experience that will help us to address the five other strategic themes.

[Read the full speech](#)

RAD Members are encouraged to provide written feedback on the speech and the six strategic themes. Please send your comments to the RAD Secretariat.

More about the Annual Meetings

[Transcripts of statements and plenary sessions](#)

[Development Committee Papers](#)

[Schedule of events](#)



[Launch of the ‘From Research to Policy’ Lecture Series](#)

‘From Research to Policy’ Lecture Series is a new initiative developed co-organized by the World Bank and the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, in partnership with the Researchers Alliance for Development (RAD).

The Lecture Series brings together Master level students of leading schools of public policy in Europe and Asia to reflect on the following set of issues:

Does research evidence find reflection in policy decisions? Does politics affect research agendas and methods? Do academics and politicians listen to each other? How does policy making influence research priorities and methods?

The inaugural lecture of the Series took place on November 7, 2007, with 200 students of public policy video-connected from Paris, London, Beijing and Singapore. The speaker, David Dollar, Country Director for China and Mongolia, The World Bank, talked about crucial interactions between research and policy in the area *whether developing countries should open their economies to foreign trade and investment.*

[Watch the video of the lecture online!](#)

[Download an outline of the lecture!](#)

PUBLICATIONS



[Launch of the World Development Report \(WDR\) 2008: Agriculture for Development](#)

World Development Report 2008 calls for greater investment in agriculture in developing countries. The report warns that the sector must be placed at the center of the development agenda if the goals of halving extreme poverty and hunger by 2015 are to be realized. While 75 percent of the world's poor live in rural areas in developing countries, a mere 4 percent of official development assistance goes to agriculture.

- In Sub-Saharan Africa, a region heavily reliant on agriculture for overall growth, public spending for farming is also only 4 percent of total government spending and the sector is still taxed at relatively high levels.
- For the poorest people, GDP growth originating in agriculture is about four times more effective in raising incomes of extremely poor people than GDP growth originating outside the sector.

[Download full text](#)

[The World Bank Annual Report 2007](#)

This *Annual Report*, which covers the period from July 1, 2006, to June 30, 2007, 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. [Download Report](#)

[Building Knowledge Economies](#)

In many parts of the world, knowledge is being put to work to accelerate and deepen the development process, promoting innovation and helping to generate wealth and jobs. This book discusses advanced development strategies that take into account education, information and communication technology, infrastructure, innovation, and the prerequisite economic and institutional regimes.

GRANTS AND COMPETITIONS

[The African Fellows Program, call for proposals](#)

The aim of the African Fellows Program (AFP) is to support sustainable agriculture in sub-Saharan Africa by catalyzing innovative solutions needed to achieve food security. Projects should aim to develop lasting partnerships and strategic alliances that will help in developing local scientific capacity relevant to sustainable agricultural production. The potential impact of the project will be taken into account during proposal assessment. African scientists will carry out research projects in a partner European research institute, or university, for periods normally of 6 to 8 months. Fellowships are awarded on a competitive basis in a two stage assessment process.

Pre-proposal concept notes are now invited for the seventh round of this Program. Pre-proposals should be submitted by 17:00 hours (GMT) on Monday 11th February 2008, preferably by email.

[GDN call for expressions of interest](#)

Development on the Move: Measuring and Optimizing the Economic and Social Impacts of Migration

This ground-breaking, flagship project aims to contribute to research and policymaking on the impacts of migration on development. Six commissioned research teams will each undertake a study examining the impacts of international migration on development in their chosen country of study.

Each study involves two key components:

- Household survey examining developmental impacts of international migration on the country in question.
- 50-100 page country report analyzing both the developmental impacts and the role of policy in enhancing the positive effects of migration while minimizing negative impacts.

Budget: US \$500,000

Deadline: November 26, 2007