

CIVIL SOCIETY ENGAGEMENT

eNewsletter | March 2019

NEWS



Civil Society Policy Forum: Registration Closes this Friday!

The next Civil Society Policy Forum (CSPF) will convene in Washington, D.C., from April 9 to 12, 2019 as part of the WBG-IMF Spring Meetings. [Registration](#) for CSOs closes this **Friday, March 22**. The CSPF will include over 45 CSO-led policy discussions, a roundtable with WBG Executive Directors and a CSO Innovation Fair. Visit the [CSPF website](#) for more details. We look forward to seeing you next month!



3ie-IEG Conference on Citizen Engagement and Accountable Government: What Works & What's Next

The Independent Evaluation Group (IEG) and the International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie) are partnering to establish an interactive dialogue anchored in evaluative evidence, engaging stakeholders in ways that inspire them to make better decisions and ask better questions on the future of citizen engagement and accountable government. Join us on April 8 for a full-day conference featuring thought leaders from academia, civil society, and international development. Register [here](#).



Want to Protect Forests? Engage More Women, Says Nepal's Joint-Secretary for Forests

Radha Wagle, Nepal's first woman Joint-Secretary and Chief at the REDD Implementation Centre under the Ministry of Forests and Environment, is working to make the forestry sector more inclusive for women and marginalized groups. Wagle has helped finalize a Gender Action Plan that identifies ways to make forestry programs more responsive to the needs of women and encourages women's participation with support from the World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility. Read more [here](#).



DRC: A Trip to the Front Lines of the Fight Against Ebola

In the last two Ebola outbreaks in DRC in 2018 and 2019, the World Bank together with the PEF has ensured robust funding for a comprehensive Ebola response, so that health workers can focus on saving lives instead of on raising money. The DRC government and international partners are now escalating the effort from February through July 2019, and the World Bank and PEF have announced a total of \$80 million in support, which is over half the estimated cost of this response. Read more [here](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

[Land and Poverty Conference 2019](#)

Catalyzing Innovation

- March 25-29, 2019
- Washington, DC

[Civil Society Policy Forum](#)

2019 WBG-IMF Spring Meetings

- April 9-12, 2019
- Washington, DC

[Annual Bank Conference on Development Economics 2019](#)

Multilateralism: Past, Present, and Future

- June 17-18, 2019
- Washington, DC

To see more World Bank events, please click [here](#).

BLOGS AND STORIES

[The Middle East and North Africa cannot miss the Fourth Industrial Revolution](#)

The evidence shows that start-ups and small and medium enterprises are the greatest source of jobs. Digital payments systems, coupled with access to high speed internet, would both connect them to customers and increase their productivity. A connection to the cloud, for instance, would provide low cost access to the latest software. More importantly, these systems would allow these start-ups and small businesses to integrate with the national economy. These same systems would also allow the MENA economy to integrate more effectively with the global economy.

[Taking stock: Financing family planning services to reach Ghana's 2020 Goals](#)

With a high unmet need for family planning compared to many other early demographic dividend countries across lower-middle income countries, three in 10 Ghanaian women who want contraception to space or limit births currently lack access. Access to contraception is a key strategic lever for development – to empower women, improve investments in children, and ultimately contribute to poverty reduction.

[How can Malaysia realize the potential of its human capital?](#)

Accelerating human capital development will be critical for enabling Malaysia's successful transition to a high-income and developed nation. With human capital, the country can boost productivity to ensure that it stays well on its development path and that no Malaysian gets left behind in the process of growth.

This newsletter is produced by the Civil Society Team of the World Bank Group (WBG) in collaboration with other units. The Newsletter highlights several policies, programs, and initiatives of the WBG which may involve or be of interest to CSOs. Please send your comments and feedback to: civilsociety@worldbank.org. You can subscribe to the Newsletter using our [subscription page](#).

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