

World Bank Group Korea Office Newsletter

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Workshop introduced World Bank Group business opportunities to more than 100 Korean companies



More than 200 participants representing 120 Korean companies and public institutions attended the “Business Opportunities with the World Bank Group” workshop in Seoul on March 22 to learn about the World Bank’s new procurement policy.

Organized by the World Bank Group Korea Office and the Export-Import Bank of Korea (KEXIM), the workshop provided specific information on the existing portfolio and pipeline opportunities in World Bank projects across three key sectors – energy, transportation and water – where Korean companies have particular expertise.

The workshop also provided information about two other arms of the World Bank Group – IFC and MIGA – and their growing private sector investments. Korean companies are increasingly important partners for IFC and MIGA, as they look overseas for opportunities to leverage their experience and expertise in infrastructure, manufacturing and financial services.

Yoon-kyung Kim, Deputy Director General at the Korean Ministry of Strategy and Finance stressed that with its successful development model, Korea has to play a bigger role as a responsible member of the international community. “To this end, not only the Korean government, but also the private sector needs to make more efforts,” he said.

Elmas Arisoy, World Bank Procurement Manager for East Asia and Pacific region, introduced the Bank’s new procurement policy and explained that the new framework considers value-for-money as one of the core principles of the Bank’s new procurement policy.

“This implies that in many complex procurements, not only initial capital investment cost, but the whole life cycle cost will be taken into consideration in determining the contract award,” she said.



In the three parallel sessions on energy, transportation and water sectors, procurement specialist from Africa, Europe and Central Asia and East Asia teamed up with colleagues from respective Global Practices to demonstrate to the audience how to access project information and bidding advertisement step by step.

Through the workshop, participants from Korean companies gained sector specific knowledge to better understand the process and guidelines about approaching contracts followed by one-to-one meetings with sector experts.

Korea launch of World Development Report 2016 - *Digital Dividends* discussed inclusive digital growth



The World Bank Group Korea Office and the Science and Technology Policy Institute (STEPI) jointly hosted the Korea Launch of the *2016 World Development Report (WDR): Digital Dividends* on March 18 in Seoul.

Building on the report's global launch in January, the event discussed ways to ensure fair accessibility to digital technologies in developing countries which can reduce current digital divide. It also introduced Korea's experience of utilizing digital technologies to deliver greater developmental benefits.

Deepak Mishra and Uwe Deichmann, the Co-directors for the World Development Report 2016 presented the main messages of the report. "While the internet, mobile phones and other digital technologies are spreading rapidly throughout the developing world, the anticipated digital dividends of higher growth, more jobs, and better public services have fallen short of expectations," they said.

To ensure that everyone benefits, they argued that technology adoption will not be enough. "Countries will need to address the 'analog complements' by strengthening regulations that enable firms to connect and compete, adapting workers' skills to the demands of the new economy, and ensuring that institutions are accountable."

They also stressed that digital development strategies need to be broader than ICT strategies and countries should match policies to the level of digital development.

Wonki Min, Assistant Minister for Science, ICT and Future Planning (MSIP) commented that technologies are evolving and if we are to take advantage of them, countries need to have a good system to transform them to real economic development.

Sung-ho Lee from STEPI highlighted Korea's success in promoting inclusive digital growth and driving productivity through digital economy. He cautioned however, that although the under-privileged group's digital accessibility has continuously improved, the digital utilization rate by the elderly and rural people still remains low.



The event was attended by more than 100 participants including researchers and development practitioners. Of particular interest from the audience was whether digital technologies destroy more jobs than create.

Deepak Mishra advised that developing countries should push for more digital technology adoption since they will both create more jobs as well as enhance efficiency and innovation. On the other hand, he said, "countries should also prepare their workforce because they will eventually face situations that technologies destroy more jobs."

World Development Report (WDR) is a World Bank annual flagship report published since 1978.

Each year's report provides in-depth analysis and policy recommendations on a specific and important aspect of development—from agriculture, the role of the state, transition economies, and labor to infrastructure, health, the environment, and poverty.

Full text of this year's WDR is available at: <http://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/wdr2016>

World Bank pension expert discussed sustainable pension systems



World Bank pension expert Robert Palacios stressed that the right pension reforms can alleviate the fiscal burden as well as offsetting the impact of ageing on the labor force while improving the welfare of the elderly so that they can 'live long and prosper'.

In a roundtable meeting with a group of Korean pension experts in Seoul on April 15, he stressed that East Asia is experiencing unprecedented ageing and the largest ageing-driven expenditure in most countries is pensions. "Despite huge differences in pension systems, there will be fiscal pressure to supplement inadequate pensions and use general revenues to expand coverage," he said.

He stressed that older countries such as Korea must look for ways to increase labor force participation, especially for upper income workers covered by pension schemes.

The discussants explored different approaches that can improve the sustainability of the pension system while reducing the burden of the young generation.

The World Bank's latest report "*Live Long and Prosper: Aging in East Asia and Pacific*" examines how aging affects households, economies and societies, and how they can manage the risks and realize the opportunities amid such fundamental social change.

Seoul Center for Financial Sector Development

Finance sector development support program for Mongolia approved

The Ministry of Strategy and Finance (MOSF) of Korea approved a USD 1.47 million grant to support the WBG 'Mongolia: Financial Sector Development Support' program on April 21.

The grant, supported by the Seoul Center Korean Trust Fund will provide assistance in the areas of banking, securities, insurance, payment systems, insolvency, and financial education. The Seoul Center team in Korea will participate in the program implementation and also connect Korean partner institutions where possible to enhance delivery.

Knowledge Exchange: The Seoul Center team led by Sameer Goyal, Program Manager, presented at the Workshop of the Council on International Financial Cooperation (CIFC), a consultative group of 30 leading financial sector institutions in Korea's. In May it is supporting UNCITRAL Law Forum in Incheon (May 16-18) and provide a key note speaker for KODIT Global Forum on SME Finance (May 12).



The Seoul Center for Financial Sector Development, a bilateral partnership between WBG and the Ministry of Strategy and Finance of Korea, was established in 2012 to deliver best-practice financial sector development assistance across East Asia and Pacific (EAP) countries.

For more inquiries about the Seoul Center, please contact Ms. Youjin Choi, Financial Sector Specialist, ychoi@worldbank.org

Korea Office Special Representative spoke to aspiring development experts



Special Representative of the World Bank Group Korea Office, Joyce Msuya, stressed that the region is faced with diverse emerging development challenges that require demanding solutions.

Speaking to a group of aspiring international development experts studying at Sogang University's Graduate School of International Studies on April 6, she mentioned that issues of rapid urbanization, rising middle class, aging population and climate change are becoming more prominent.

"Demands for the World Bank Group will grow from clients, and taking flexible approaches and providing customized solutions have become central in responding to clients' diverse demand," she said. She also stressed that as the global growth slows down, institutions like the World Bank need to enhance efficiencies to deliver greater value for donors' contributions.

During the Q&A session, the students showed great interest in how the World Bank's projects are put into practice. Joyce Msuya explained that the World Bank does its best to respond to requests from country clients.

She also highlighted that transparency is a key principle in the Bank's operations and introduced various monitoring tools, including inspection panel and anonymous calling service through which anyone can report inefficiency.

"Gender equality is a wise decision for economic development"



"Gender equality and women empowerment have become buzzwords in the international community and Korea must maintain a comparable level of interest and policy framework," said Joyce Msuya, Special Representative of World Bank Group Korea Office, during an interview with *Women's News* on March 7, on the occasion of the International Women's Day.

She said in the grand scheme of things, Korea is heading in the right direction. "The statistics dating from 2004 to 2014 indicate that Korean women's economic participation rate has steadily increased, and this is encouraging compared to the world average of 55 percent."

She noted however that much more needs to be done and changes take time. "It took the World Bank with 12,000 employees more than 10 years to implement gender integration and diversity policies and see results. Needless to say it will take more for Korea with a population of more than 50 million."

She stressed that gender equality is not only morally right, but is also a wise decision for economic development. "It is very inefficient to have a small number of women participating in economy while the number of educated women has increased. Increasing women's economic participation will contribute to all aspects of society."

Full text of her interview (in Korean) is available
http://www.womennews.co.kr/news/view.asp?num=91857#.Vyf6bE_Vycw

—Announcements—

Joon Young Park appointed as IFC Representative for Korea



Mr. Joon Young Park was appointed IFC's Resident Representative for Korea effective April 8.

Mr. Park will be leading origination of new business opportunities for IFC with a focus on outbound investments by Korean corporates and will be responsible for IFC's engagement with Korea and for managing IFC's presence in Korea.

Before joining IFC, he was a Senior Banker in the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) for over six years where he focused on equity investments in financial institutions. He has managed large teams in various countries as the lead banker, originating and executing complex transactions with particular focus on advising global private equity firms and sovereign wealth funds. He has also been a Board member in portfolio companies.

Prior to EBRD in London, Mr. Park has had 11 years of M&A and private equity experience in Seoul, New York and Hong Kong at Credit Suisse, Rothschild and Lehman Brothers across various industry sectors.

Mr. Park holds a BS in Business and Administration from Yonsei University, Korea and an MBA from Keio Business School of Keio University, Japan. He is also fluent in Japanese and conversational in Mandarin and Russian.

Victoria Kwakwa appointed as World Bank Vice President for East Asia and Pacific Region



Ms. Victoria Kwakwa was appointed as the new Regional Vice President for East Asia and Pacific, effective April 15.

Ms. Kwakwa, a Ghanaian national, will lead the Bank's advisory and lending operations in the region and oversee strategic engagement with the region's 23 member countries. The Bank's lending in East Asia Pacific is expected to reach \$7.5 billion in this fiscal year ending June 30.

Ms. Kwakwa was previously the World Bank's Country Director of Vietnam, overseeing a multibillion-dollar lending portfolio and an innovative knowledge program. During her tenure, the Bank's partnership with Vietnam has deepened, responding to the increasingly complex challenges of an emerging middle-income country. Before moving to Vietnam, Ms. Kwakwa was the Country Manager for Rwanda, where she worked with the government to design and pilot programs in social protection, health financing and agriculture productivity.

Upcoming Event

Open Learning Campus (OLC) Korea Launch, Seoul, June 24, 2016 (tbc)

Open Learning Campus (OLC) uses the newest learning design methodologies and digital tools to integrate innovations such as open courseware, games and mobile formatting to provide easily accessible quality learning in a resource-efficient manner.

Following the global launch in January, the OLC Korea launch will emphasize the long-standing and valuable partnership between Korea and the World Bank's Leadership, Learning & Innovation (LLI).

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