New Additions to the Public Information Center

MARCH 2007
New Additions to the Public Information Center

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South Asia Publications

Doing Business in South Asia 2007

Available on-line
English Paperback
Published January 2007

The Doing Business report investigates the scope and manner of regulations that enhance business activity and those that constrain it. New quantitative indicators on business regulations and their enforcement can be compared across South Asian countries and over time, together with global best practices.

The report covers eight countries in South Asia and examines 12 major cities in India, six in Pakistan, and four in Bangladesh. The report compares business regulations in the region with 175 economies around the world.

Doing business became easier in India in 2005-2006. Five reforms reduced the time, cost, and hassle for businesses in India to comply with legal and administrative requirements, placing the country in the top 20 reformers worldwide. Of the 12 major Indian cities covered by the report, Hyderabad has the most business-friendly regulations, followed by Bangalore and Jaipur.

Ending Poverty in South Asia: Ideas That Work

Edited

By Deepa Narayan and Elena Glinskaya

Price: $ 35.00
English Paperback
422 pages
Published November 2006
ISBN: 0-8213-6876-1

South Asian economies are booming, yet millions are...
still excluded from participation in this growth. This book offers valuable lessons in how to make markets and services work to benefit poor people directly, enhancing their dignity and freedom of choice. These case studies show how governments, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector can initiate change, learning, expanding and adapting as they go. Here are stories of development ideas that work – and of the visionary individuals who were determined to see them succeed. These achievements have taken place against all odds, in countries struggling with widespread corruption, weak governance, minimal infrastructure, deep-rooted social divisions, and poorly functioning judicial systems.

South Asia: Growth and Regional Integration: A Report based on First SAARC Business Leaders Conclave

Available on-line
English Paperback
Published February 2007

While there is a broad consensus on the key challenges that South Asia faces to sustain growth, there are differences in views on the role that regional integration should play in South Asia. This report looks at several aspects of South Asia’s growth and how regional integration can contribute to growth.

The report, which is based on the First SAARC Business Leaders Conclave, is the outcome of a knowledge partnership between the World Bank and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI), which is the apex business organization of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

India & Bangladesh: Bilateral Trade: Potential Free Trade Agreement

Available on-line
English Paperback
Published January 2007
Working Paper Series

India and Bangladesh have long shared common objectives for closer economic integration within the South Asia region and trade between the two countries has grown rapidly since the early 1990s. A free trade agreement (FTA) has been under consideration for some time. This report seeks to explore the implications of a bilateral FTA. Although the report points at possible advantages, it concludes that there is no compelling case for India and Bangladesh to pursue a bilateral FTA. Rather a broader-based liberalization would be preferable since this would yield much larger economic benefits, whilst minimizing risks.

India Policy Research Working Papers

WPS4132
The international financial integration of China and India
Philip R. Lane and Sergio L. Schmukler

Three main features characterize the international financial integration of China and India. First, while only having a small global share of privately-held external assets and liabilities (with the exception of China’s foreign direct investment liabilities), these countries are large holders of official reserves. Second, their international balance sheets are highly asymmetric: both are “short equity, long debt.” Third, China and India have improved their net external positions over the past decade although, based on their income level, neoclassical models would predict them to be net borrowers.

Domestic financial developments and policies seem essential in understanding these patterns of integration. These include financial liberalization and exchange rate policies, domestic financial sector policies, and the impact of financial reform on savings and investment rates. Changes in these factors will affect the international financial integration of China and India (through shifts in capital flows and asset and liability holdings) and, consequently, the international financial system.

Other Publications

Dancing with Giants: China, India, and the Global Economy

Edited by Alan Winters and Shahid Yusuf
Price: $ 22.95
English Paperback
288 pages
Published January 2007 by Institute of Policy Studies (Singapore) and World Bank
ISBN: 0-8213-6749-8

China is now the world’s fourth largest economy and growing very fast. India’s economic salience is also on the rise. Together these two countries will profoundly influence the pace and nature of global economic change. Drawing upon the latest research, this volume analyzes the influences on the rapid future development of these two countries and examines how their growth is likely to impinge upon other countries. It considers international trade, industrialization, foreign investment and capital flows, and the implications of their broadening environmental footprints. It also discusses how the two countries have tackled poverty, inequality and governance issues and whether progress in these areas will be a key to rapid and stable growth.
An Opportunity for a Different Peru: Prosperous, Equitable, and Governable
Edited by Marcelo M. Giugale, John L. Newman and Vicente Fretes-Cibils
Price: $45.00
English Paperback
856 pages
ISBN: 0-8213-6862-1
For the first time in the republican history of Peru, the presidential transition takes place in democracy, social peace, fast economic growth and favorable world markets. In other words, there has never been a better chance to build a different Peru – a richer country, more equal and governable.

There are multiple ways to achieve that goal. New reforms must stem from a widespread and participatory debate, one of a common vision conceived for and by Peruvians. This book aims at making a technical and independent contribution to such debate; it summarizes the knowledge available about the challenges to be faced by the new administration.

The study provides a conceptual framework to the analysis of the country's 34 economic sectors and the two historical perspectives behind them. In doing so, it offers a comprehensive reform agenda that sheds light on possible priorities and courses of action.

Private Voluntary Health Insurance in Development: Friend or Foe?
Edited by Alexander S. Preker, Richard M. Scheffler and Mark C. Bassett
Price: $30.00
English Paperback
456 pages
Published December 2006
Private voluntary health insurance already plays an important role in the health sector of many low and middle income countries. The book reviews the context under which private insurance could contribute to an improvement in the financial sustainability of the health sector, financial protection against the costs of illness, household income smoothing, access to care, and market productivity.

This volume is the third in a series of in-depth reviews of the role of health care financing in providing access for low-income populations to needed healthcare, protecting them from the impoverishing effects of illness, and addressing the important issues of social exclusion in government financed programs.

How Universities Promote Economic Growth
By Shahid Yusuf and Kaoru Nabeshima
Price: $30.00
English Paperback
312 pages
Published December 2006
The distinguished contributors to How Universities Promote Economic Growth examine the wealth of international experience on efforts to multiply links between universities and businesses. They offer valuable and succinct guidance on some of the most effective policy measures deployed by national and regional governments, firms and universities to enhance the contribution that tertiary institutions can make to economic change.

Reforming Payments and Securities Settlement Systems in Latin America and the Caribbean
By Massimo Cirasino, Jose Antonio Garcia, Mario Guadamillas and Fernando Montes-Negret
Price: $45.00
English Paperback
295 pages
Published December 2006
ISBN: 0-8213-6635-1
Payments and securities settlement systems are considered critical for the safe and effective functioning of a financial system. In Latin America and the Caribbean, efforts to raise the awareness of the importance of modernizing national payments systems were formalized through the 1999 Western Hemisphere Payments and Securities Clearance and Settlement Initiative (WHI).

Reforming Payments and Securities Settlement Systems in Latin America and the Caribbean extracts the main lessons and experiences of the WHI, describing trends in payments and securities settlement systems worldwide and assessing Latin American and Caribbean systems in relation to international standards and best practices. Assessments cover legal and regulatory frameworks, interbank exchange and settlement circuits, retail settlement systems, government payments, foreign exchange and cross-border settlement, the interbank money market, securities settlement systems, and the oversight role of the central bank and its coordination with other authorities and the private sector.
The “results agenda” adopted by the World Bank and other donors aims to ensure that development assistance yields sustainable poverty reduction.

The Annual Review of Development Effectiveness 2006 assembles evaluative evidence around three questions central to poverty reduction:

- How effectively has economic growth translated into poverty reduction in Bank-assisted countries and what factors have affected these results?
- What factors have led to high-quality results in areas that deliver services to the poor?
- What measures help raise the accountability of public institutions responsible for delivering and sustaining these results?

The report identifies three key areas where the World Bank can further strengthen its effectiveness in helping countries reduce poverty:

- Economic growth has improved in many Bank client countries but a stronger focus on the nature of growth is needed to ensure that such growth leads to jobs for the poor and productivity increases in poorer regions and sectors where the poor earn their incomes.
- Consistent use of a clearly articulated results chain helps ensure that Bank country assistance programs and individual projects set realistic objectives, that key cross-sectoral constraints to achieving them are adequately considered and that due attention is given to building capacity.
- A realistic assessment of the political economy of governance-related reforms is needed to tailor efforts to increase the accountability of public sector institutions to local conditions.

The Annual Review of Development Effectiveness 2006: Getting Results

By Monika Huppi
Price: $ 22.00
English Paperback
Published December 2006
ISBN: 0-8213-6906-7

The results agenda adopted by the World Bank and other donors aims to ensure that development assistance yields sustainable poverty reduction.

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2006 Annual Report on Operations Evaluation

By Janardan Prasad Singh
Price: $ 22.00
English Paperback
Published December 2006
ISBN: 0-8213-6845-1

The Annual Report on Operations Evaluation series continues to strengthen its focus on results, monitoring, and evaluation. This latest edition updates the implications of managing for results in World Bank operations, assesses if monitoring and evaluation practices provide staff with information that helps them manage for results, and looks at IEG’s own effectiveness. Its recommendations address ways to make monitoring and evaluation more effective and influential tools.

Engaging with Fragile States: An IEG Review of World Bank Support to Low-Income Countries under Stress

By Soniya Carvalho
Price: $ 20.00
English Paperback
Published December 2006
ISBN: 0-8213-6847-8

During fiscal 2003-05, World Bank lending and administrative budgets to fragile states amounted to $4.1 billion and $161 million, respectively. IEG’s report assesses the effectiveness of this Bank support.

The report finds that the Bank and the donor community have improved their operational readiness to engage with fragile states, and made substantial progress on donor coordination at the international policy level. Significant challenges remain, however. Donor agendas have been overly ambitious and need to be made more selective, the effectiveness of donor programs needs to be improved after the immediate post-conflict phase in war-ravaged countries when structural change is needed, and donors need to develop transparent aid allocation criteria that ensure that fragile states will be neither under- nor over-aided. The report makes recommendations to overcome these challenges and distills lessons for the Bank and other donors.

The Polish Fixed-income Securities Market: Recent Developments and Selected Policy Challenges

By Michel Noel, Noritaka Akamatsu, Wladyslaw Jan Brzeski and Carlo Segni
Price: $ 10.00
English Paperback
Published November 2006

This title analyzes the recent evolution of the Polish fixed-income securities market, including the money market, the government bond market, and the non-government bond market,
focusing in particular on the sub-national bond market. It examines key policy challenges facing the development of the sector, including policies to stimulate the development of the classic repo market, increase the reliability of the government bond yield curve, stimulate the overall development of the non-government bond market, and undertake a reform of the legal and regulatory framework for local government borrowing.

In keeping with the theme of the World Development Report 2006: Equity and Development, and following the success of the World Bank Group’s Legal Forum on “Law, Equity, and Development” in December 2005, this volume of The World Bank Legal Review focuses on issues of equity and development. The volume draws together some of the key ideas of the Legal Forum, including articles by many of its distinguished participants, and explores the role of equity in the development process, highlighting how legal and regulatory frameworks and equitable justice systems can do much to level the playing field in the political, economic, and socio-cultural domains, as well as how they can reinforce existing inequalities.


By Kyran O’Sullivan and Douglas F. Barnes
Price: $ 10.00
English Paperback
62 pages
Published November 2006
ISBN: 0-8213-6878-8

This study gives an overview of the intermediation of worker remittance flows from the United States to Guatemala. In contrast to other remittance corridors in the world, most transfers in this corridor are channeled in the United States through the formal sector, and distributed in Guatemala through the banking system. However, both senders and receivers have little access to financial products and services. This study argues that in a country characterized by high income inequality and low and concentrated access to credit, the large role played by domestic banks in distributing remittances seems promising in terms of creating a point of contact that could lead to cross-sales of other financial services.

The US-Guatemala Remittance Corridor

By Hela Cheikhrouhou, Raul Hernandez-Coss, Radwa El-Swaify and Rodrigo Jarque
Price: $ 15.00
English Paperback
86 pages
Published November 2006

This study argues that in a country characterized by high income inequality and low and concentrated access to credit, the large role played by domestic banks in distributing remittances seems promising in terms of creating a point of contact that could lead to cross-sales of other financial services.

The report also argues that authorities have an important coordination and catalytic role to play, for increased efficiency in remittance intermediation,
potential for greater access. The report concludes with specific avenues for further policy action in terms of transparency, regulatory environment, financial literacy and access, risk management, and money laundering prevention.

Urban Bus Toolkit: Tools and Options for Reforming Urban Bus Systems

A PPIAF–Sponsored Project
English
CD-Rom and On-line
The World Bank, with the support of the Public Private Infrastructure Advisory Facility (PPIAF), has developed a toolkit on bus transport reform, available at http://www/ppiaf.org/UrbanBusToolkit/. This initiative offers alternatives for national and city policy-makers who seek to provide more efficient urban bus transport services.

The toolkit makes it easy for local officials to identify and analyze public transport industry reform alternatives in a concise, step-by-step process. The toolkit offers alternative reform approaches, and is a powerful device for helping the decision makers select the best one for their respective cities. It contains suggestions for legislations, regulations and regulatory frameworks, enabling rules, procedural guides, checklist and concession agreements, procurement and bidding, contracts and evaluation, compliance monitoring and performance delivery assessment procedures.

Down to Earth: Agriculture and Poverty Reduction in Africa

By Luc Christiaensen and Lionel Demery
Price: $ 15.00
English 118 pages
Published February 2007
ISBN: 0-8213-6854-0
This book contributes to the debate about the role of agriculture in poverty reduction by addressing three sets of questions:

- Does investing in agriculture enhance/harm overall economic growth, and if so, under what conditions?
- Do poor people tend to participate more/less in growth in agriculture than in growth in other sectors, and if so, when?
- If a focus on agriculture would tend to yield larger participation by the poor, but slower overall growth, which strategy would tend to have the largest payoff in terms of poverty reduction, and under which conditions?

From Envisioning to Designing e-Development: The Experience of Sri Lanka

By Nagy K. Hanna
Price: $ 18.00
English Paperback
Published December 2006
ISBN: 0-8213-6866-4
From Envisioning to Designing e-Development presents a concrete case in bridging the gap between vision and actionable programs. It captures how Sri Lankans worked with local stakeholders and aid agency counterparts in moving from developing a shared vision of comprehensive e-development to designing a multiyear investment program, creating a national ICT agency, and piloting, implementing, and adapting the strategy.

Migration and Remittances: Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Union

Edited by Ali Mansoor and Bryce Quillin
Price: $ 28.00
English Paperback
224 pages
Published December 2006
Migration in Eastern Europe and Central Asia is relatively large by international standards, driven both by political factors (the 1990 collapse of the Soviet system, ensuing emergence of conflicts and new states, and opening of borders with Europe) and economic factors (abrupt economic deterioration and corresponding search for better employment and living conditions). The report analyzes the different kinds of migration as well as the policies on both sides of the equation to limit negative side effects (like emargination, criminal activities, and brain drain) and maximize positive ones (increased labor pool for services, remittances, return migration with improved human and financial capital).

Sourcebook for Evaluating Global and Regional Partnership Program: Indicative Principles and Standards

By Independent Evaluation Group
Available On-line
English Paperback 114 pages
Published December 2006 ISBN: 1-60244-001-8
The purpose of the indicative principles and standards contained in this Sourcebook is to help improve the independence and quality of program-level evaluations of GRPPPs in order to enhance the relevance and effectiveness of the programs. The principal audiences for the Sourcebook are the governing bodies and
fostering competition, and ultimately highlighting the management units of GRPPs, as well as professional evaluators involved in the evaluation of these programs. It is also hoped that these principles and standards will heighten awareness and help advocate for improved evaluation of GRPPs among higher-level policy makers in both aid agencies and developing countries.

At the present stage, the Sourcebook has not been formally endorsed by the World Bank or the OECD/DAC Evaluation Network. The publication of the Sourcebook in its present form represents the beginning of a period of practical application, use and review in order to inform and further improve it before eventual formal endorsement. Therefore, both IEG and the OECD/DAC Evaluation Network encourage those who use the Sourcebook to provide feedback based on their experience.

East Asian Visions: Perspectives on Economic Development

Edited by Indermit S. Gill, Yukon Huang and Homi Kharas

Price: $ 35.00
English Paperback
368 pages
Published January 2007

Despite the diversity in income levels, languages, culture, resource endowments, and political systems, the countries of East Asia are more integrated now than they have ever been. Goods, money, and ideas are being traded across the region. East Asia is redefining itself from a collection of disparate nations that looked mainly to markets in the west, to a more self-reliant, innovative, and networked region. Countries in this region are strengthening ties with each other and seeking more strategic partnerships with the rest of the world.

East Asian Visions is a collection of essays that convey, firsthand, how some of the most influential thinkers in East Asia view these challenges. The writers are eminent policy makers, statesmen, and scholars. They write about how competition with the west has bred success; how crises in the region have provoked introspection; and how the rise of China is catalyzing change.

Some of the themes that permeate these essays include:

● How can East Asia’s growth success be explained?
● Can all countries benefit from China’s success, or will some be crowded out?
● Will regional integration aid efficiency or will it become a source of vulnerability?
● How can East Asian countries deal with the growing domestic concerns such as inequity, slum pollution, and corruption?

Reforming Power Markets in Developing Countries: What Have We Learned?

By John E. Besant-Jones
Available on-line
English Paperback
Published September 2006

This paper compiles the lessons of experience from the reforming of power markets of developing countries and transition economies. The paper acts a sourcebook of about 240 references to this documented experience and complements the World Bank’s Operational Guidance Note for Public and Private Roles in the Supply of Electricity Services (OGN; World Bank 2004b) by compiling lessons of this experience that help in applying the Note’s guidance.

Handbook of Water Resources in India: Development, Management, and Strategies

Edited by John Briscoe and R.P.S. Malik

Price: Rs. 695
English Hardcover
364 pages
Published January 2007
by Oxford, World Bank

India, with a large agricultural base, growing requirements in cities, and a fast emerging economy, requires careful management of its resources.

Water resources, especially those that sustain life, need to be developed and managed efficiently. This handbook focuses on major water policy issues in India. It examines the evolution of India’s water management, discusses the achievements of the past, and anticipates future challenges.

The volume explores the relationship of water with economic growth, poverty, environment, energy, and rights and entitlements. It analyses appropriate policies and financing for water-related projects in India and recommends methods to manage the transition from past practices in a principled yet pragmatic manner. The handbook also addresses the debate on scaling-up of infrastructure and future strategies on pricing and its regulation.
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Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) Institutional Strengthening & Capacity Building Program Project
Date 6 December 2006
Project ID P099979
Report No. AB2732 (Project Information Document)

Strengthening India’s Rural Credit Cooperatives Project
Date 19 December 2006
Project ID P102768
Report No. AB2747 (Project Information Document)

Jammu and Kashmir Participatory Watershed Management Project
Date 26 February 2007
Project ID P099857
Report No. E1580 (Environmental Assessment)

Andhra Pradesh Community-Based Tank Management Project
Date 12 February 2007
Project ID P100789
Report No. AB2774 (Project Information Document – Revised)
AC2641(Integrated Safeguards Data Sheet)
E1559 (Environmental Assessment)
RP0516 (Resettlement Instruments)

Latest on the Web

South Asia Agriculture Website
www.worldbank.org/saragriculture

80 percent of South Asia’s poor live in rural areas. Most depend on agriculture for their livelihood. Agricultural and rural development is thus key to eradicating poverty and creating conditions for sustainable and equitable growth. The South Asia Agriculture website explores the issues that pertain to the sector.

Governance has become a central topic in development, and many sets of indicators have been developed to measure the quality of governance and to rank countries accordingly. But how are these measurements made and the indicators applied? What issues arise in constructing and using governance indicators? In this round table, World Bank and external experts discussed data and methodologies used to develop governance indicators, the respective advantages and disadvantages of various indicators, issues related to the use of indicators in measuring the results of various development policy actions, and directions for future development.

Climate Change in South Asia – A Conversation with Sir Nicholas Stern

According to Sir Nicholas Stern, even a moderate rise in temperatures could cause serious changes to the environment in South Asia. Stern led the eponymous Stern Review, which last year examined the economic impact of climate change.
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