

The World Bank Institute presents

**Tomorrow's Leaders Speak Out:
Partnering to Combat Corruption and Improve Governance**

**24-Hour Global Consultation complementing the *Improving Governance and Fighting Corruption: New Frontiers in Public-Private Partnerships* Conference,
Brussels, March 14-15, 2007**

Initiatives towards improving governance and fighting corruption need to encourage participation beyond today's leaders in business and politics. Tomorrow's leaders are those students currently in business schools and universities around the world. There is a growing awareness among the development community that the feelings of these future leaders toward global challenges should inform the thinking of decision-makers today. It is therefore important to create spaces for these future leaders to continue their dialogue and transform their thoughts into actions.

Building on its successful Global Classroom Initiative¹ and connecting participants through the Global Development Learning Network², the World Bank Institute (WBI) will organize this new dimension to complement the *Improving Governance and Fighting Corruption: New Frontiers in Public-Private Partnerships* Conference, which will take place in Brussels on March 14-15, 2007. In collaboration with the Belgian government and the OECD, WBI has taken the lead in organizing a 24-hour videoconference discussion, connecting over 30 leading business and public policy schools around the world in twelve sequential two-hour sessions and progressing region-by-region around the globe as the day advances. At several critical points, the videoconference sessions will intersect with the Brussels conference, allowing current leaders to learn from the recommendations of their future successors, and today's students to absorb current thinking on these critical issues.

¹ A partnership between WBI, Wharton School of Business, University of Pennsylvania, and other top universities and business and public administration schools globally, the Global Classroom (TGC) initiative connects regularly future leaders enrolled in MBA and MPA programs from around the world via video-conference and web-based learning to discuss case-studies on business ethics, anti-corruption, leadership, sustainability and the role of business in development. For more information, please visit: <http://www.developmentandbusiness.org/tgc>

² The Global Development Learning Network (GDLN) is a global partnership of learning centers that offer the use of advanced ICTs to connect people working in development around the world. For more information, please visit: <http://www.gdln.org>

The videoconference dialogue will complement the Brussels Conference in three ways:

- *Enrich the agenda:* The videoconferences will be highly structured and moderated toward the goal of a concise and concrete set of useful recommendations, which will feed into the conference proceedings.
- *Expand the reach:* These activities will add between 300 to 400 additional “virtual” participants through the videoconference sessions, in addition to a potentially large audience through live Internet video-streaming and media publicity.
- *Include the business community:* Through the presence of leading business schools, the event intends to reach out to both the business community and future business leaders.

WHAT? – A 24-hour virtual consultation through videoconferencing

- 12 sequential 2-hour VCs, each connecting 4 to 5 schools or GDLN Centers from the same region or the same language;
- Live video streaming of the videoconference discussion from the conference web site, <http://www.improvinggovernance.be> ;
- Opportunities for website audiences to participate through e-mail-based discussions;
- Live broadcast of the videoconference sessions on television screens located in the lounge(s) of the conference area.

WHEN? - From March 14, early afternoon to March 15, early afternoon (Brussels time)

The videoconference consultation will run in parallel to the conference in Brussels. The event will begin and end during a plenary session.

WHO? – Future leaders from around the world

Students from leading business and public policy schools around the world (see annex for an initial list of schools). The students will decide whether or not they would like to invite high school students, business, government and/or civil society representatives to participate and/or observe from their respective sites. Ideally, the students at every site know each other and belong to an existing cohort.

HOW? – An interactive, Internet-savvy format

Before the event begins, each participating site will receive background materials in the form of a paper prepared by the World Bank Institute’s Business, Competitiveness, and Development team titled “Fighting Corruption: Business as Partner.” They will also be assigned a role to play as a stakeholder group (private sector, government, donor community, or civil society) and a set of Guiding Questions (see Annex 1 for examples) to prepare for that role.

A dedicated website (<http://www.improvinggovernance.be>) with additional background material will be made available to the participants, and they can suggest additional resources to be included there.

During each two-hour videoconference session, participants will work through three rounds of discussion based on the Guiding Questions. They will provide actionable recommendations for fighting corruption while roleplaying their assigned stakeholder, then vote on collective actions from all the stakeholders. Finally, participants will work on drafting actions they can take in their own lives to fight corruption.

The intended outcome of this exercise is a matrix of concrete, actionable recommendations by future leaders on how the private sector, individually and through public-private and multi-stakeholder partnerships, can play a meaningful role in the governance and anti-corruption agenda. A more detailed report will follow after the conclusion of the VC event, capturing the richness of ideas and recommendations arising from the sessions.

Annex 1: Guiding Questions

Round 1 & 2 Questions

Private Sector

If a private company wants to take a pragmatic stance on reducing corruption, what is the most important thing it can do?

What do you think the private sector should do individually, working within other firms, and with other stakeholders to combat corruption?

Public Sector

If a government is serious about demonstrating its commitment to reducing corruption, what are the first (one / two / three) things it should do?

What do you think the public sector should do individually and with other stakeholders to combat corruption?

Civil Society

What can civil society bring to the picture - and what kinds of civil society activity are likely to make the most difference? What can be done if civil society is weak within a country?

What do you think the civil society sector should do individually and with other stakeholders to combat corruption?

International Multilateral Community

What can multilateral organizations, like the World Bank Group, most usefully do to help combat corruption?

Round 3 Questions

Are today's leaders from across the different sectors taking a strong enough stance on fighting corruption?

Does corruption affect you in your daily life? Is it present at your university/school? How can you best engage in fighting corruption NOW?

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