

W. PAATII OFOSU-AMAAH
Vice President and Corporate Secretary

May 29, 2007

Ms. Anne Perrault
Center for International Environmental Law
1367 Connecticut Avenue, NW #300
Washington, DC 20036

Mr. Manish Bapna
Executive Director
Bank Information Center
1100 H Street NW #650
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Perrault and Mr. Bapna,

Subject: Selection Process for the World Bank Inspection Panel Vacancy

Thank you for your April 27, 2007 letter to Mr. Wolfowitz regarding the process by which members of the World Bank Inspection Panel are selected. We appreciate your interest in the process and apologize for the delay in responding to you. On behalf of Mr. Wolfowitz, I am pleased to respond to your suggestions to enhance the selection process and to increase the involvement of civil society organizations.

We agree that the selection process should be as transparent as possible. In that light, we believe that the process in place is transparent and in fact, includes features that parallel a number of your suggestions. As in the past, the **Procedures for Selecting a Member of the Inspection Panel** and the composition of the Committee to Select a New Member of the Inspection Panel were posted on the World Bank's external website under *News and Broadcast* and on the Inspection Panel's website.

To ensure that the Notice of the vacancy on the Inspection Panel received broad exposure, a link to the vacancy announcement appeared on the World Bank's external website under *News and Broadcast* and on the Inspection Panel's website. An advertisement also appeared in Science Magazine starting on April 11 and in DevelopmentEx starting on April 25. The placement of these notices invited applications and nominations worldwide. Candidates from civil society were, of course, welcome.

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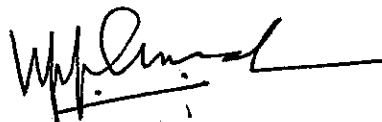
The deadline for submitting applications and nominations was extended by three weeks, to May 20, 2007. Your suggestion to extend the deadline to May 31 could not be accommodated because of the time constraints under which the selection process is carried out. The process must be completed in time for the new Inspection Panel member to begin work on September 1, and any delay in the appointment could therefore have an impact on the efficiency and effectiveness of the Panel.

We regret that, in order to protect the confidentiality of information provided by applicants for employment, we could not accommodate your suggestion to establish a publicly available roster of nominees and applicants with their respective curriculum vitae. Such a posting would have violated the confidentiality which we guarantee applicants for this and all Bank positions. We believe that such an approach is critical for attracting the wider pool of highly qualified candidates.

Upon very careful consideration of your suggestion to include a civil society representative on the committee to select a new member of the Inspection Panel, we foresaw a number of practical difficulties. An important issue pertains to how such a representative would be selected, given the global membership of the Bank and the extremely broad and diverse spectrum of civil society organizations at both the national and international levels. Moreover, many of these same organizations have been or could be expected to be interested parties in cases which may be considered by the Inspection Panel in the future.

Please be assured that we are cognizant of the civil society community's interest in the work of the Inspection Panel and appreciate your suggestions. We shall certainly keep these in mind for the next vacancy posting to ensure that interested parties are alerted in a timely manner.

Sincerely,



W. Paatii Ofosu-Amaah
Vice President and Corporate Secretary

cc: Mr. Paul Wolfowitz, President, World Bank
Committee to Select a New Member of the Inspection Panel
Executive Directors, World Bank
Ms. Edith Brown-Weiss, Chairperson, Inspection Panel