



**Bank Information Center**  
**IFIs in Africa News Briefing**  
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**MIGA receives grant to promote environmental and social standards in Africa**

August 1 - The Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) has received a \$1 million grant from the Government of Japan to “help foreign investors address environmental and social challenges in Africa,” according to a MIGA press release. The funds will be used to set up a pilot program which will be reviewed after three years.

MIGA, the private sector insurance arm of the World Bank Group, is in many ways a surprising choice as steward of a fund to ensure environmental and social standards in Africa, considering MIGA’s own shortage of social and environmental expertise and its involvement in some of the more controversial World Bank Group projects in Africa such as the West Africa Gas Pipeline and Anvil's copper-silver mine in the Democratic Republic of Congo. By tradition, the Executive Vice President of MIGA is Japanese, and Japan continues to demonstrate a strong interest in the institution.

Read the MIGA press release at: <http://www.miga.org/index.cfm?aid=525>

**UN HIV/AIDS Envoy to Africa critical of World Bank and IMF**

July 24 - Stephen Lewis, the UN Envoy on HIV/AIDS to Africa, has criticized the World Bank and IMF for hampering African governments’ ability to contain the HIV / AIDS pandemic. Speaking on his arrival in Zambia, Lewis critiqued the two institutions for the

conditionalities they place on poor countries to access debt relief, saying that they should be more flexible in making funds available to countries for combating HIV and AIDS.

Read the *Times of Zambia* article at AllAfrica.com:

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200607241066.html>

Read about Stephen Lewis' critique of the G-8's commitments to AIDS and Africa in the *Toronto Star*:

[http://www.thestar.com/NASApp/cs/ContentServer?pagename=thestar/Layout/Article\\_Type1&c=Article&cid=1152827412162&call\\_pageid=968256290204&col=968350116795](http://www.thestar.com/NASApp/cs/ContentServer?pagename=thestar/Layout/Article_Type1&c=Article&cid=1152827412162&call_pageid=968256290204&col=968350116795)

Read Action Aid's report "Blocking Progress: How the fight against HIV/AIDS is being undermined by the World Bank and International Monetary Fund":

[http://www.actionaidusa.org/blocking\\_progress.php](http://www.actionaidusa.org/blocking_progress.php)

### **Tanzanian NGO calls for abolition of World Bank conditionalities and cancellation of debt**

July 15 - The Tanzania Gender Networking Program (TGNP) has called for the end of World Bank and IMF conditionalities and a cancellation of all debt to Tanzania and Africa as a whole. They criticized the forced privatization of their water and power sectors that were required as a condition of receiving debt relief under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative, which they claim has left them deeper in debt than when they first signed up. Their demands were made during World Bank President Wolfowitz' brief stop in the country during his tour of Africa, where he visited seven countries - Ethiopia, Tanzania, Chad, Benin, Sierra Leone, Nigeria and Liberia – in almost as many days.

Read the *Guardian* (Tanzania) article at the IPP Media website:

<http://www.ippmedia.com/ipp/guardian/2006/07/15/70356.html> or see TGNP's website at: <http://www.tgnp.org>

### **Exiting Nigerian National Universities Commission head explains why he rejected World Bank loan**

July 28 - Peter Okebukola, the Executive Secretary of Nigeria's National Universities Commission (NUC), explained that he rejected a \$102 million loan from the World Bank because "95 per cent would be spent on consultancy services provided by the World Bank, leaving the universities with five per cent for ICT" (information communications technology). Since the money was a loan which would have to be repaid by the Nigerian government, he surmised, it should be used for what the NUC, not the World Bank, deemed necessary.

Read an editorial in Nigeria's *Daily Champion* at AllAfrica.com:  
<http://allafrica.com/stories/200607280071.html>

### **Wolfowitz concludes visit to Africa**

July 23 - World Bank President Paul Wolfowitz concluded a whirlwind tour of Africa on Saturday after visiting seven countries - Ethiopia, Tanzania, Chad, Benin, Sierra Leone, Nigeria and Liberia – in almost as many days. He used the opportunity to visit Bank-supported projects on the ground, and reiterated his commitment to fighting corruption and expanding private sector in Africa to generate meaningful growth. However, sources indicate that he didn't discuss the Bank's controversial new anti-corruption and governance framework, which is currently being prepared for release at the September Annual Meetings in Singapore. The Bank has come under heavy criticism from civil society groups around the world for the lack of transparency and public consultation regarding the framework, and for the rushed manner in which the potentially far-reaching document is being developed.

Wolfowitz's visit included a half-day stopover in Chad where Wolfowitz met with President Deby to affirm the deal laid out in a memorandum of understanding a week earlier, resolving a dispute over oil revenue management that had set Chad's government and the Bank at odds since January. Wolfowitz hailed the resolution as “a way to meet our common poverty-reduction interests,” but civil society groups remain skeptical that the agreement provides any assurance that Chad's new oil wealth will be used to benefit the country's people.

Read the Reuters article on Wolfowitz' trip at:  
[http://za.today.reuters.com/news/newsArticle.aspx?type=topNews&storyID=2006-07-23T153356Z\\_01\\_BAN355991\\_RTRIDST\\_0\\_OZATP-AFRICA-WOLFOWITZ-20060723.XML](http://za.today.reuters.com/news/newsArticle.aspx?type=topNews&storyID=2006-07-23T153356Z_01_BAN355991_RTRIDST_0_OZATP-AFRICA-WOLFOWITZ-20060723.XML)

Read more about the Bank's anti-corruption and governance framework at:  
[http://www.bicusa.org/bicusa/issues/misc\\_resources/2911.php](http://www.bicusa.org/bicusa/issues/misc_resources/2911.php)

Read more about the dispute between the World Bank and Chad on BIC's website:  
<http://www.bicusa.org/bicusa/issues/africa/2892.php>

### **WTO critics explain why failure of the Doha Round trade talks is a reason to celebrate**

July 25 - While many mainstream news sources decry the latest failure of the Doha Round trade talks at the World Trade Organization (WTO) as a blow to the world's poor, pro-poor advocates in the North and South are celebrating. The minimal potential benefits from the Doha Round would have been far outweighed by the costs associated

with the tariff reductions and further liberalization of the agricultural sector advocated by developed nations.

Read the International Herald Tribune article at:

<http://www.ihf.com/articles/2006/07/25/business/glob26.php>

Read Essential Action's Director Robert Weissman's comments at:

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/robert-weissman/celebrate-dont-mourn-c\\_b\\_25774.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/robert-weissman/celebrate-dont-mourn-c_b_25774.html)

Read commentary by Walden Bello of Focus on the Global South at:

<http://www.focusweb.org/content/view/984/92/>

### **DFID release white paper on development**

July 19 - An article from the Inter-Press Service reviews the British Department for International Development's (DFID) new policy statement (a "white paper") entitled "Eliminating World Poverty: Making Governance Work for the Poor." According to the article, the paper reiterated DFID's commitment to working in the least developed regions in the world, namely Africa and South Asia, and institutes new Governance Assessments that focus mainly on corruption to be considered in determining aid levels. The white paper also commits to a doubling of aid for science and technology, with a focus on mitigating climate change, and pledged a greater percentage of aid to target services for the poor. It also suggested the need for greater cooperation with the EU and UN on development strategies, and the creation of "a more effective and responsive World Bank, IMF and regional banks."

Read the full article at the Inter Press Service website:

<http://www.ipsterraviva.net/Europe/article.aspx?id=3612>

Download the white paper from DFID's website: <http://www.dfid.gov.uk/wp2006/>

UK civil society has exhibited mixed reactions over the white paper, with many organizations welcoming the policies put forth as a promising start, but lamenting that the document does not go far enough.

Read UK civil society responses to the DFID white paper from:

- Oxfam UK: [http://www.oxfam.org.uk/what\\_we\\_do/issues/misc/dfid\\_2006\\_white\\_paper.htm](http://www.oxfam.org.uk/what_we_do/issues/misc/dfid_2006_white_paper.htm)
  - Christian Aid UK: [http://www.oxfam.org.uk/what\\_we\\_do/issues/misc/dfid\\_2006\\_white\\_paper.htm](http://www.oxfam.org.uk/what_we_do/issues/misc/dfid_2006_white_paper.htm)
  - Action Aid UK: <http://www.actionaid.org.uk/100491/statement.html>
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