



THE UPDATE



THE WORLD BANK INSPECTION PANEL

NEWSLETTER

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ABOUT THE PANEL:

The Inspection Panel is an independent complaints mechanism for people who believe that they have been, or are likely to be, adversely affected by a World Bank-funded project. The Panel provides for accountability through assessment of Bank's compliance with operational policies. The process is designed to provide redress to affected people and address issues of policy non-compliance and harm. For more, visit:

www.inspectionpanel.org

MESSAGE FROM THE INSPECTION PANEL CHAIR



Ms. Eimi Watanabe
Chairperson, Inspection Panel

The twelve months since we issued the last Newsletter have been an intense period of activity for the Inspection Panel. In terms of cases, the core of our work, we have received seven requests for inspection, and as this Newsletter goes to press, we are finalizing three Investigation Reports relating to projects in India, Kenya and Ethiopia, with a fourth investigation of a project in Nepal to start in May; this is probably a record for the Panel. The main issues arising from these cases are presented in the following pages.

A major highlight for the Panel over the past months has been the public event celebrating the Panel's 20th Anniversary, combined with hosting of the Independent Accountability Mechanisms annual meeting in September 2013 (see below). The presence of President Jim Kim, as well as the Dean of the Board and the Managing Director at the event, attests to the importance that the institution

attaches to its accountability mechanisms. The occasion reminded us of the privilege of serving in this unique mechanism that responds directly to claims of harm from project affected people, the first of its kind among international financial institutions.

Over the past few years, the Panel has introduced several changes in the way we do our work, most importantly through the updating of our Operating Procedures, which had not been revised since the Panel's founding. The Procedures were in need of adjustment to reflect changes brought about by two Clarifications to the Resolution, as well as practices, in addition to changes within the Bank and the development landscape, more generally, all this while remaining consistent with the Panel's mandate as enshrined in the Resolution. The process of updating took much longer than initially intended, but the consultations around the process, with external stakeholders, Executive Directors, and Management and staff of WBG, have benefitted us enormously, especially in terms of recalibrating our approach to working with these stakeholders.

The updated OPs are elaborated in more user-friendly language. They will also enable the Panel to be more effective and efficient, increase our consultation with Requesters, Management, and EDs, provide more opportunities for early problem solving by Management, and assist in conducting speedier and more focused

investigations. Finally, some measures which aim at enhancing transparency and clarity have already been instituted, including the step of posting the Receipt of a request for investigation on the Panel website immediately upon receipt, and the new step of preparing and posting an Investigation Plan at the start of every investigation. Please read about the Operating Procedures in this newsletter.

Finally, the Panel itself has seen changes; I took over as Chairperson of the Panel from Alf Jerve in May, 2013. Alf has left his mark on the Panel through his unwavering focus on the issue of harm as the principal driver of the Panel process; this is reflected in the updating of the Operating Procedures where he played a principal role. Gonzalo Castro de la Mata joined as a Member, replacing Alf Jerve in December, 2013.

There have been some changes in the Secretariat as well. As of March of this year, our Executive Secretary, Peter Lallas, moved to a new position with the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The Panel is currently in the process of recruiting a new Executive Secretary.

I would like to end by thanking all that have supported our work in various ways. I hope you will enjoy and benefit from reading this Newsletter and let us know if you have any questions or feedback. Your feedback can also be directed to our [Facebook](#) page.



UPDATE ON CASES

Since April 2013, the Panel's work covered 10 cases relating to the following projects:

- ⇒ India Vishnugad Pipalkoti Hydro Electric Project
- ⇒ Ethiopia Promoting Basic Services
- ⇒ Kenya Natural Resource Management Project
- ⇒ Malawi Second Water Development Project
- ⇒ Nepal Power Development Project
- ⇒ Romania Mine Closure, Environment and Socio-Economic Regeneration Project
- ⇒ Uzbekistan Second Rural Enterprise Support Project
- ⇒ Nepal Enhanced Vocational Education and Training Project
- ⇒ Nigeria Lagos Metropolitan Development and Governance Project
- ⇒ Sri Lanka Road Sector Assistance Project

More information on these cases is available on our website: www.inspectionpanel.org

The Panel was set up to give people affected by Bank-supported projects an avenue for raising their concerns, knowing that the complaint will be handled by a body independent of those who manage the project.

ETHIOPIA PROMOTING BASIC SERVICES

INDIA VISHNUGAD PIPALKOTI HYDRO ELECTRIC PROJECT

On July 23, 2012, the Inspection Panel received a Request for Inspection concerning the Vishnugad Pipalkoti Hydro Electric Project in India. The Request was sent by residents of Uttarakhand state and raises several



social, cultural and environmental concerns, and related issues of compliance with Bank policies and procedures. In particular, the Request raises issues related to religious and cultural concerns, impacts of the Project on water sources, loss of biodiversity and other environmental harms, impacts on livelihoods, health, economic issues, and gender concerns. The Requesters also claims lack of transparency and consultations and absence of adequate studies.

World Bank Management submitted its Response to the Request on October 24, 2012, and the Panel visited the Project area in November, 2012. The Panel issued its Report and Recommendation to the Board of Executive Directors on November 26, 2012, in which it recommended that the matters raised in the Request be investigated.

The recommendation was approved by the Board of Executive Directors. The Board decided that the investigation would be effective as of March 15, 2013. Documents relevant to the Request for Inspection were disclosed after that date. The Panel is presently in the investigation phase of its process and expects to issue its report soon. Further information is available on the Panel's [website](http://www.inspectionpanel.org).

On September 24, 2012, the Panel received a Request for Inspection related to the Ethiopia Protection of Basic Services Program (PBS). The Request was submitted by two local representatives on behalf of 26 Anuak people from the Gambella region of Ethiopia, who currently live in different refugee camps outside of Ethiopia. The local representatives and the Requesters asked the Panel to keep their identities confidential because of serious concerns about their personal security and that of relatives in Ethiopia. The PBS's objective is to contribute to expanding access and improving the quality of basic services delivered by local governments in five sectors – education, health, agriculture, water supply and sanitation, and rural roads.

The Request states that the Requesters have been harmed by the Bank-supported PBS Program because, in their view, the PBS Program is contributing directly to the Ethiopian Government's Villagization Program (VP) in the Gambella Region, launched in 2010. The Request states that under the VP, Anuak people are being forced to leave their ancestral lands under mass evictions with the pretext of providing better services and improving the livelihoods of communities. In reality, they claim, in the new sites where they were forcibly moved, the Requesters found infertile land, and no schools, clinics or other basic services.

Management submitted its Response to the Request on November 19, 2012. The Panel has reviewed the Request and Management Response, and carried out its eligibility field visit. The Panel has issued its Report and Recommendation and recommended that the Board of Directors authorize an investigation into the issues raised in the Request for Inspection. The Board approved the Panel's recommendation and the investigation is currently ongoing. The Panel expects to submit its investigation report to the Board in June, 2014. Further information is available on the Panel's [website](http://www.inspectionpanel.org).



KENYA NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT

On January 14, 2013 people from Sengwer communities living in the four areas of the Cherangany Hills, Kenya, submitted a Request for Inspection. The Project, which was restructured and is now closed, aims to improve the management of water and forest resources in selected districts. It provides for realigning and demarcating boundaries in selected gazetted forests; supporting the effective implementation of the Resettlement Policy Framework; and developing and implementing Resettlement Action Plans. The restructuring includes a focus on updating the safeguards instruments and improving their implementation to respond to the needs of Indigenous Peoples in the project areas.

The Request raises many concerns including some relating to human rights violations committed against Sengwer communities. They indicate that they did not feel that they were in an equitable and fair partnership; sharing the benefits of the Project; or properly involved in

decision-making. The Request claims that the Sengwer's rights were violated because they were not being recognized as Indigenous Peoples, but as a Vulnerable and Marginalized Group. It asserts that this decision was taken without carrying out free prior and informed consultations with them. It also asserts that there are plans to resettle the Sengwer families living in Empoput Forest without carrying effective and efficient free prior and informed consultations.

Management submitted its Response to the Request on March 15, 2013. The Panel conducted its visit to the Project area in May 2013. On May 29, 2013, the Panel issued its Report and Recommendation to the Board of Executive Directors, in which it recommended that the matters raised in the request be investigated.

The Board approved the Panel's recommendation on June 7, 2013. Shortly thereafter, on June 29, 2013, the Panel received a second Request for Inspection concerning the NRMP, submitted by the

Cherangany Indigenous Peoples community. The claims in the Second Request were similar to those in the first Request, adding that the NRMP did not recognize the existence of the Cherangany Indigenous Peoples Community as indigenous peoples affected by the Project, and acknowledged only the Sengwer. The Panel informed the Board of the receipt of this Request and indicated that it would assess its eligibility during the investigation field visit. The investigation visit took place in September, 2013. The Panel met with both groups of Requesters, with Cherangany-Sengwer communities, and with other Project stakeholders including Government officials, Bank staff in the country office and local and national Kenya Forest Service (KFS) staff. The Panel is currently investigating the issues raised in the two Requests and it expects to submit its investigation report in April, 2014. Further information is available on the Panel's [website](#).

MALAWI SECOND WATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

On May 22, 2013, the Inspection Panel received a Request for Inspection raising concerns related to the Malawi: Second National Water Development Project. The Project includes piloting of prepaid water meters in Mzuzu, in the Northern Region. The Request was submitted by Citizens for Justice (CFJ) on behalf of a number of potential, and affected residents. The Request claims that the installation of prepaid water meters (PWM) was taking place without prior assessment of impacts, prior consultations and/or disclosure of information, and that it has an impact on the poor and on children and repercussions on their human right to water. It adds that the PWMs would increase water tariffs.

Following the receipt of the Request, the Inspection Panel contacted CFJ and Bank Management. Management informed the Panel that it was ensuring that installation of the meters would be voluntary, that the PWMs-pilot would be monitored to assess customer feedback

and that a review would inform subsequent decisions on any further roll-out of the scheme. Management added that additional assessments related to potential risks to low-income households would be undertaken if the pilot expanded to high density/low-income areas. Finally, Management clarified that there were no increases in tariffs.

The Panel determined that the Requesters' primary concerns of harm were being addressed, and their remaining concerns as related to any possible larger-scale roll-out of the PWMs, would be predicated on a future decision to expand the meter installation to low-income communities. In this case, the Panel did not register the Request, but safeguarded the Requesters' right to submit a new Request for Inspection, if they believe that a subsequent Bank-supported roll-out of the meters would impinge on their rights and interests or would directly affect them. All related documents are available on the Panel's [website](#).

IN MEMORIAM - ERNST-GÜNTHER BRÖDER

Ernst-Günther Bröder, a German national, was appointed to the Panel in 1994. He served most of his tenure as Chairperson (1994-96 and then 1998-99).

Mr. Bröder started his professional career on the Board of the Bayer Corporation, and he was a staff at the World Bank in the early 60's. Later on, he became President of the European Investment Bank, a Governor of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and a member of the special advisory group for the Asian Development Bank. He was also a member of the Panel of Conciliators for the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes.

Mr. Bröder held a Doctorate in Economics from the University of Freiburg, and studied political and natural sciences at the Universities of Cologne, Mainz, and Paris. He wrote and co-authored several books and articles on financial and economic subjects. Mr. Bröder passed away in 2013. More information about Mr. Bröder is available on the Panel's [website](#).



NEPAL POWER DEVELOPMENT PROJECT



On July 10, 2013 the Panel received a Request for Inspection related to the Nepal: Power Development Project, and specifically its 220 kV Khimti-Dhalkebar Transmission Line. The Request was submitted by 103 families who state they are indigenous and non-indigenous people from three villages of Sindhuli District and they have authorized the Secretary of the Lawyers' Association for the Human Rights of Nepalese Indigenous Peoples to represent them during the Inspection Panel process. The Project aims to support the development of Nepal's hydropower potential, increase access to electricity services in rural areas, and improve electricity supply.

The Request raises two broad issues of harm, or potential harm, and related non-compliance with Bank policies, namely harms related to deficiencies with the ongoing process of land acquisition and establishment of Right-of-Way in Sindhuli District, and harms that may have been avoided had a different alignment been selected based on a study of alternatives conducted in accordance with Bank

policy and procedures. The Panel registered the Request on July 24, 2013. Management requested an extension for the submission of its Response to the Request which was received on September 18, 2013.

A Panel team visited Nepal from September 30-October 4, 2013 to conduct its eligibility visit and gather input for its Report and Recommendation to the Board of Executive Directors. In this Report, issued to the Board on October 24, 2013, the Panel noted that the Bank and the Nepal Electricity Authority had developed an action plan which includes important steps aimed at solving the ongoing dispute in Sindhuli District. The Panel further noted the Bank's declared commitment to supervise the implementation of the proposed action plan beyond closure of the Project and its intention to learn from the experience of the implementation of this Project.

At the same time, the Panel noted that while the action plan attempts to resolve the ongoing dispute in Sindhuli District, the claims of the Requesters regarding Bank's non-compliance and resulting harms, with respect to analysis of alternatives, impact of the transmission line on historical and cultural properties, consultation and disclosure, issues of involuntary resettlement and indigenous peoples, and impacts on livelihoods continue to have merit.

In light of these observations, the Panel recommended that an investigation be

carried out concentrating on issues of compliance with World Bank operational policies and procedures that relate to alleged loss of livelihoods, or potential future losses, for vulnerable communities, including indigenous groups, and issues of compliance with respect to the study of alternatives and alignment of the transmission line. The Panel also recommended that the investigation should start after April 30th, 2014 to allow for implementation of the proposed actions set forth in Annex of the Management Response. The Board approved the Panel's recommendation, and the Panel is currently preparing for the investigation phase. Further information is available on the Panel's [website](#).



ROMANIA MINE CLOSURE, ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC REGENERATION PROJECT

On May 22, 2013, the Panel received a Request for Inspection related to the Romania: Mine Closure, Environmental and Socio-Economic Regeneration Project. The Request was submitted by a representative of affected people from the neighborhoods of Sipoteni and Vermesti in Comanesti, Bacau County, Romania.

The Request raises concerns related to construction that deepened a water

channel on Emil Rebreanu Street, damaging houses, which are no longer safe for habitation. The channel also damaged annexes to the houses, fences, and orchards. The Request further states that poor construction quality caused sewage and wastewater infiltration into surrounding soil, affecting the drinking water and the health of the people and their animals and damaged the structure of surrounding streets.

Following the receipt of the Request, the Panel reviewed Project documentation and ascertained that the Project closed on October 31, 2012. Therefore, in accordance with the Resolution establishing the Panel stipulating that "requests filed after the Closing Date of the loan financing the project" could not be heard by the Panel, the Panel did not register the Request for Inspection. All related documents are available on the Panel's [website](#).



UZBEKISTAN SECOND RURAL ENTERPRISE SUPPORT PROJECT

On September 5, 2013, the Inspection Panel received a Request for Inspection related to the Uzbekistan: Second Rural Enterprise Support Project and its Additional Financing. The Request was submitted by three organizations: the Human Rights Society of Uzbekistan "Ezgulik"; the President of the Association of Human Rights in Central Asia; and, the UzbekGerman Forum for Human Rights, on their behalf and on behalf of the signatories to the Request who requested their identities to be kept confidential.

The Request states that the Project did not adequately identify the risks associated with cotton harvesting in its Social Assessment and other documents, and it's contributing to the perpetuation of child labor and forced labor. The Request asserts that the government has "completely ignored" national legislation prohibiting em-

ployment of children under 16 years old, and its ratification of a number of ILO Conventions, including Convention 182. The Request states that forcing children to participate in the cotton harvest represents a serious threat to their well-being.



The Panel reviewed the Request and Management Response, which was submitted on November 6, 2013, visited the Project area and met with all stakeholders. The Panel determined that the

Request met the technical eligibility criteria for an investigation. Considering the important potential for further positive developments, the Panel has determined that it should defer its recommendation on whether to investigate the matters raised by the Request in order to provide a sufficient opportunity for the Government and its partners to implement third-party monitoring and continue to address the child and forced labor issue. The Panel will report back to the Board within 12 months of its Eligibility Report on whether a full investigation is warranted, taking into account the positive result of the proposed third-party monitoring of child and forced labor in Project-financed activities and progress in the dialogue between the Bank and Government on the concerns characterizing the current system of cotton production. All related documents are available on the Panel's [website](#).

NEPAL ENHANCED VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROJECT

On September 25, 2013 the Panel received a Request for Inspection related to the Nepal: Enhanced Vocational Education and Training Project. It was submitted by the Blue Diamond Society, a non-governmental organization in Nepal, on behalf of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex (LGBTI) community of Nepal.

The Request states that the LGBTI community of Nepal will suffer as a result of World Bank's "omissions or failures" related to the Project since by only inviting men and women to apply for the trainings offered, the Project discriminates against the LGBTI community who, due to their sexual orientation, prefer to be classified as third gender or "other" when a gender option has to be selected. The Requesters fear the LGBTI community will therefore be deterred from applying for the training, and discrimination, marginalization, and a pattern of possible exclusion may result from

the Project, thereby possibly hindering their future empowerment.

Following the receipt of the Request, the Panel reviewed relevant Project documentation, and informed Management of the Request. A Panel team, which was coincidentally in Nepal for a mission related to another Project, met with the Blue Diamond Society in Kathmandu on September 30. At this meeting, the Panel team explained the Panel process and sought additional information relating to the allegations of harm mentioned in the Request and details about the Requesters' efforts to raise their concerns with the Bank.

On October 15, the Panel met with Bank Management in Washington, which confirmed that the Bank, Blue Diamond Society, and the Ministry of Education and Sports had met to discuss the concerns raised in the Request, and that the Ministry agreed that subsequent calls for applications related to vocational training delivered under the auspices of the Project will be revised to

address Blue Diamond Society's concerns. The Blue Diamond Society subsequently confirmed this development to the Panel.

In light of the foregoing, the Panel decided not to register this Request. The principal basis for this decision was two-fold. First, the Panel determined that the Request did not fully meet certain basic admissibility criteria for registration with regard to the link between the Project and harm, since the Requesters were not aware of an incident where a member of LGBTI community had been discriminated under the Project, and had not informed Bank Management prior to submission of the Request. In addition, once informed about the Request, Management took immediate action to meet with the Requesters and proposed steps to address and resolve their concerns. The Requesters have confirmed this to the Panel and further action by the Panel was no longer needed at this stage. Information related to this case is available on the Panel's [website](#).



NEWS AROUND THE PANEL

GONZALO CASTRO DE LA MATA NEW PANEL MEMBER



EXECUTIVE SECRETARY CHANGE



PANEL LAUNCHES REVAMPED WEBSITE

The Inspection Panel invites you to visit its new [website](#) where you will find news about the Panel, up-to-date information on Panel cases, the Panel's policies and procedures, and its publications.

The website introduces a number of new features, including a search engine to access Panel cases by case number, country or project name. The design of the website was thoroughly reviewed and updated with a focus on user friendliness and improved navigability. The new website facilitates the tracking of ongoing cases and provides a clear outline of the necessary steps for filing a Request for Inspection. Additionally, the website refers to the Independent Accountability Mechanisms Network and provides links to other mechanisms at sister international financial institutions.

[Gonzalo Castro de la Mata](#) was appointed as a new Member of the Inspection Panel on December 16, 2013. He replaced [Alf Jerve](#), whose five-year term expired on October 31, 2013. Gonzalo was selected to this position through an international, competitive recruitment process.

Gonzalo, a US and Peruvian national, brings to the Panel more than twenty years of development experience. His career includes roles across the private sector, public sector and multiple areas of development work, which enables him to bring a balance of interest, authority, experience and flexibility to the Inspection Panel. Most recently as Chair of an Independent Advisory Panel for the Export-Import Bank of the US, he demonstrated his thorough knowledge and appreciation for the nuanc-

On March 24, the Panel's Executive Secretary [Peter Lallas](#) moved to an exciting new position with the Global Environment Facility. Before joining the Panel in 2005, Peter worked for many years on global environmental treaties and cooperation in a variety of capacities.

Panel members and Secretariat staff express their deep appreciation to Peter for his guidance over the years. His expertise and understanding of safeguards with respect to international law and policy issues, coupled with his humanistic and compassionate approach, were central to the Panel's work for the past years. His advice was invaluable during his tenure, as was his dedication to helping address the concerns of the poor and most vulner-

es of each stage of a project cycle, from policy creation to implementation.

Gonzalo's early career included key roles at the World Bank in the Global Environment Facility, at the World Wildlife Fund and Wetlands for the Americas.

He earned a Ph.D. in Ecology and Population Biology from the University of Pennsylvania and received his M.A. and B.A. from the Cayetano Heredia Universidad in Lima, Peru. Dr. Castro de la Mata currently serves as Founder and Chairman, Ecosystem Services, LLC.

Gonzalo was elected unanimously by the Panel as Chairperson of the Panel for one year as of November 1, 2014, replacing current Chairperson [Eimi Watanabe](#).

able. Panel members and Secretariat staff wish him continued success in this new position.

Peter has expressed his deep thanks and appreciation for the opportunity to work at the Panel over these years, and to serve its mission of bringing concerns from "village to Bank Board room". Peter expressed his deep gratitude especially to the people who came to and trusted the Panel to provide a fair, independent and effective avenue of recourse and accountability in support of their rights and better outcomes of Bank interventions. He also thanks the Panel members and Secretariat staff for their dedication and excellence in supporting this work over the years, and for their friendship.

The Panel consists of three members who are appointed by the Board for nonrenewable periods of five years. As provided for in the Resolution establishing the Panel, members are selected on the basis of their ability to deal thoroughly and fairly with the Requests brought to them, their integrity, their independence from Bank Management, and their exposure to developmental issues and to living conditions in developing countries.

The Panel is functionally independent of Bank Management, and reports solely to the Board. In addition, Panel members are prohibited from ever working for the Bank after their term ends.



PANEL ADOPTS UPDATED OPERATING PROCEDURES

In April 2014, after a presentation to the Board of Executive Directors' Committee on Development Effectiveness, the Panel released its revised [Operating Procedures \(OPs\)](#). This was the first update to the OPs since they were drafted in 1994. It gave the Panel the opportunity to bring the OPs in line with the Resolution and its Clarifications and to reflect changes in Panel practices that have evolved over time. Important elements of the new OPs are their focus on transparency, greater due diligence, early solutions and learning from experience. Broad consultation on the OPs with all stakeholders created clarity around the Panel process, including the differentiated approaches to cases, which are more efficient, are leading to improved outcomes and creating opportunities for early solutions. For exam-

ple, Management and the Panel agreed on a pilot approach that promotes early solutions to stakeholders' requests (see below).

The update went through a two-phase process led and coordinated by the Panel. Phase One included an internal analysis of the existing Inspection Panel framework, and targeted discussions on the Panel process with external and internal stakeholders from June - December 2011. The Panel recruited two accountability experts who discussed the OPs with respective external and internal stakeholders. External stakeholders included former requesters, civil society organizations, representatives of other international accountability mechanisms, members of the academic community, former Panel members, and tech-

nical experts who have worked on Panel investigations. Internal stakeholders included Bank technical staff and senior management. The Panel conducted the consultations with the Board of Executive Directors.

Phase Two completed the revision process through additional consultations and finalization of the updated Operating Procedures, which incorporated the results of the discussions. These focused on ways to strengthen the engagement of different stakeholders so that the Panel process leads to better outcomes, both for the requesters and for the institution in terms of lessons learnt. This draft was disclosed publicly for comments over 60 days, from November 14, 2013 to January 15, 2014. For finding from the targeted discussions, comments from CSOs and Panel's response, please visit the Panel's [website](#).

PILOT APPROACH TO SUPPORT EARLY SOLUTIONS IN THE PANEL PROCESS

In the course of updating the Inspection Panel's Operating Procedures, the Panel, working with the Bank's Operations Policy and Country Services and Legal Vice Presidencies, developed a [pilot approach for early solutions](#). The pilot approach is designed to make it possible for Management to work with requesters to find possible solutions to their Request without immediately triggering the full-fledged Panel process. With the Requesters' agreement, intervening at an early stage would create greater opportunity for them to obtain an early response to their concerns, including through a postponement of the Panel's decision on registration of the Request (which triggers a mandatory 21 business-day period for Management to respond to the request). Specific advantages of this pilot approach, include its greater flexibility and providing an accelerated

process to address Requesters' concerns.

This approach would be considered in cases where the issues of alleged harm in the Request are clear and limited in scope and where early resolution would be in the interest of all parties. It would apply for cases where Management has initiated or planned to address the alleged harm and confirms that it is able to do so, and when the Requesters support a postponement of the decision on registration to explore this opportunity for early solutions. It is important to note that this remains a pilot and will only be rolled out following an independent assessment planned for 2015, when the appropriate lessons will be drawn. It is also crucial to emphasize that it is within the Requester's prerogative to return to a regular Panel process at anytime.

In November, 2013, based on the agreement of the Requesters and Management, the Panel decided to pilot the approach through a Request for Inspection for the [Nigeria: Lagos Metropolitan Development and Governance Project](#) and has, in keeping with the pilot approach, postponed its decision on Registration to provide an opportunity for an early resolution of the Requesters' concerns. On March 20th the Panel issued an interim note to the Board with an update of the progress of the Pilot. The Requesters and Management are currently engaged in implementing their agreement, and are working toward resolution of some outstanding issues. The Panel will wait for this expected progress and by May, 2014 will inform the Bank's Board of its decision how to proceed, based on the Requesters' satisfaction that their concerns have been successfully addressed.



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www.inspectionpanel.org

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FULL-TIME MOST SENIOR NON-CHAIR PANEL MEMBER MODEL

The Panel completed its assessment of the nine-month pilot (February 2013 - November, 2013) that tested a model of two Panel Members working full time. Until the pilot's launch, the Chairperson of the Inspection Panel was the only full-time Member, while the other two Members were engaged based on operational needs of the Panel's workload. This pilot was intended to promote greater efficiency and effectiveness of the Panel's work through enabling more regular interaction among stakeholders, greater due diligence at the early stages of the Panel process and a shorter investigation time frame, all of which was thought could be better

achieved with two rather than one fulltime Panel member. Panel Member Eimi Watanabe thus, joined the Panel office in Washington, D.C. on a full-time basis on February 1, 2013 under a nine-month pilot to test the above model.

In assessing the pilot, the Panel conducted in-depth interviews with a broad spectrum of Panel stakeholders inside and outside the Bank. These interviews revealed that a stronger Panel presence at Headquarters facilitated more deliberate and differentiated approaches to Panel recommendations, as well as greater due diligence at every stage of the process and more constructive engagement with stakeholders.

In addition, the assessment found that because of the fluctuating nature of the Panel's work, the constant presence of a second full-time Panel member could not be justified and that provisions already exist for longer presence of a second Panel member in Washington if required. However, the Pilot illustrated the value of a period of overlap between the incoming and outgoing Panel Chairpersons to ensure a smooth transition and continuity in leadership. The Board of Executive Directors approved the Panel's recommendation on a non-objection basis for a three-month overlap between the incoming and outgoing Chairpersons.

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

TENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISMS WASHINGTON D.C., SEPTEMBER 25-26, 2013

During September 25-26, 2013, the Inspection Panel hosted the 10th Annual Meeting of Independent Accountability International Financial Institutions (IAMs) at International Financial Institutions (IFIs), bringing together an illustrious assembly committed to responding to the grievances of people affected by projects they finance. It

was ten years ago when the IAMs formed a network to encourage cooperation and learning across their respective mandates. This three-day event sparked debate on issues establishing causal linkages between harm and non-compliance, review and evaluation of IAMs, and building capacity of mediators and communities. The meeting was

a place for debate about how the approach to addressing grievances of affected people pioneered by IAMs can remain relevant. The next IAM meeting will be hosted by the [Project Complaint Mechanism](#) of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development in September 2014 in London.

ADDRESSING PEOPLES' CONCERNS: 20 YEARS & COUNTING—THE PANEL WASHINGTON D.C., SEPTEMBER 27, 2013

On September 27, 2013, the Inspection Panel celebrated its 20th Anniversary as the first independent citizen-driven accountability mechanism among multilateral, global organizations. A former Bank President noted that the Panel provides a "safety net" for the exceptional cases where the Bank's own high standards may not be met and strengthens the link between the Bank and the people affected by its projects. The Panel also set in motion the establishment of similar mechanisms in other international organizations to achieve greater transparency

and accountability in their work. At the public event of this forum, speakers included the Honorable Barney Frank, former Chairman of the House Financial Services Committee and World Bank President Jim Yong Kim followed by a Panel discussion, including Dean of the Bank's Board, Merza Hasan; Managing Director Sri Mulyani, CAO Vice President, Meg Taylor; Director of the Bank-watch NGO, Bank Information Center, Chad Dobson and two Requesters from affected communities. The President, Managing Director and Dean of the Board reinforced the Bank's strong commitment to the work of the Inspection Panel and its

critical role of ensuring accountability and transparency, which is central to the Bank's corporate governance.

The meeting brought together heads and staff of the IAMs, members of the Bank's Board, Senior Management and over 150 WB Staff, government officials, more than 70 students from local universities, leading NGOs on development and accountability, professors and academics in the field, activists and community members. The event was web-streamed live to reach a global online audience, including WBG staff worldwide.



THE GLOBAL LAND FORUM GUATEMALA, APRIL 22-26, 2013

The Panel participated to the Global Land Forum organized by the International Land Coalition (ILC), which took place in Antigua, Guatemala from April 22-26, 2013. Tatiana Tassoni, Sr. Operations Officer, introduced the Inspection Panel and its role and presented experience and lessons learned from Panel's cases addressing Requests for Inspection that raised issues related to land rights of communities in World Bank financed projects.

COLLABORATION WITH ACADEMIA

From September 2013, Stephanie Chu (LL.M. candidate, 2014) and Paul Henson (J.D. candidate, 2015) at NYU School of Law in the International Organizations and Global Governance Clinic of Professors Grainne de Burca and Angelina Fisher participated in a project with the Panel on the effectiveness of citizen-driven accountability function within the changing role and responsibilities of the Bank. In coordination with Dilek Barlas, Deputy Executive Secretary, the participants wrote a paper on "The Inspection Panel: Responding to Contemporary Challenges at the World Bank". They presented their paper on January 14, 2014.

As in every year, on October 30, 2013, advocates participating in Columbia University Human Rights Advocates Program visited the Panel. Dilek Barlas, Deputy Executive Secretary and Tatiana Tassoni, Sr. Operations Officer, introduced the Panel and its role and presented experience and lessons learned from Panel's cases to the advocates.

In March 2014, Dilek Barlas, Deputy Executive Secretary, together with Anders Hjorth Agerskov, Head of the Preventive Services Unit at the Bank's Integrity Vice Presidency, participated as a guest speakers at Dr. Vinay Bhargava's Policy and Practice of International Development class George Washington University, Elliott School of International Affairs International Development Studies Program.

NON-JUDICIAL ACCESS TO REMEDY CANADA, APRIL 29-30, 2013

The Panel participated to the International Expert Workshop on "Business Impacts and Non-Judicial Access to Remedy: Emerging Global Experience" during April 29 - 30, 2013, co-hosted by the UN Working Group on Business and human rights and the Office of the Extractive Sector CSR Counsellor, and with the support of the Government of Canada. Dilek Barlas, Deputy Executive Secretary of the Panel participated to the workshop. Approximately 60 experts from business, labor unions, financial institutions, civil society organizations, national human rights institutions, independent national and regional ombudsman and government representatives attended the workshop. During the workshop various issues related to non-judicial access to remedy, common elements in effective remedy outcomes, interface between business-run complaint offices and other grievance mechanisms and convergence of non-judicial grievance mechanisms were discussed.

REGIONAL STAKEHOLDER MEETING GHANA, NOVEMBER 4-8, 2013

On November 4-8, 2013, the Compliance Review & Mediation Unit (CRMU) of the African Development Bank (AfDB), along with other AfDB operational units, held a Regional Stakeholders Workshop and Staff Training, in Accra, Ghana. The workshop was intended to train about 50 participants from government implementation units and Civil Society Organizations about different AfDB accountability offices. In the workshop Serge Selwan, Sr. Panel Operations Officer, presented the Panel process and analyzed with the participants some of the projects in Africa that the Panel reviewed. The Panel's presentation included a review of means to improve CSO-IAMs collaboration. Participants in the workshop expressed interest in more trainings to raise awareness and capacity.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SPRING MEETINGS, 2014

During this year's Spring Meetings, on Tuesday April 8, 2014, Panel Member [Zeinab Bashir El Bakri](#) will participate in the Bank's orientation session and will present the general features of its process.

On Thursday April 10, 2014, between 12:30 pm and 2:00 pm, the Panel will host a public session entitled "Latest Developments at the Inspection Panel". This session will include a presentation of the Panel's updated Operating Procedures and the new pilot approach to support early solutions in the Panel process. It will focus on the latest developments and new directions at the Panel, which objectives are to make the Panel more accessible, user-friendly, and effective in responding to grievances and concerns raised by project affected people, while staying within the ambit of the Panel's governing framework.

Finally, the Panel is very pleased to host again this year its regular Open House, on Friday 11, 2014, at 5:30 pm.

Contact Us

The Inspection Panel

1818 H Street NW,
Mail Stop: MC10-1007
Washington, D.C. 20433, U.S.A.

Tel: 202 458 5200

Fax: 202 522 0916

Email: ipanel@worldbank.org

And on [Facebook](#)