

Background Note to the Singapore Workshop on the World Bank

The Singapore Workshop on the World Bank (aka Budapest +1) is the second workshop convened by the Centre for the Study of Globalisation and Regionalisation (CSGR). This event is organised in collaboration with the External Affairs Vice Presidency of the World Bank, the Researcher's Alliance on Development and the Lee Kwan Yew School of Public Policy. It coincides with the Annual Meetings of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, Singapore 2006.

The workshop follows the inaugural workshop at the Central European University, Budapest in April 2005. Details of this event organised by the Centre for Policy Studies can be found at: <http://cps.ceu.hu/worldbankworkshop.php>

With the departure in mid 2005 of Jim Wolfensohn as President, the World Bank Group was at critical point in its policy development. A group of fifty people met in Budapest over the first weekend of April, the day after the nomination of the Paul Wolfowitz as new President, to reflect on the past operations, policies and programmes alongside future directions of the World Bank.

This was a unique event. Participants were advanced doctoral students writing their dissertations focused on aspects of World Bank activity. Indeed, the workshop was designed to provide a networking opportunity to meet other doctoral students and post-docs working in this field. They were joined by a handful of senior academics as well as staff from the World Bank to provide comment on their research.

Following the Budapest Workshop, one of the participants – Nilima Gulrajani, now based at LSE – initiated an on-line discussion group as means for researchers to stay in touch and share information on the World Bank. Starting with around 30 people, the discussion group has now expanded to over 100 researchers. To sign up, go to: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/research_on_the_world_bank

Two publications have resulted from the first workshop. In 2007, a special edition on the World Bank will be published in the journal *Global Governance*. Published by Routledge is an edited volume by Diane Stone and Christopher Wright – *The World Bank and Governance: A Decade of Reform and Reaction* – which collects together several papers from the Budapest workshop. This book will be launched at the Singapore Workshop.

Further information can be found on the web-site of the Researchers Alliance for Development, one of the co-organisers of the Workshop. RAD is at: <http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/EXTABOUTUS/PARTNERS/EXTRAD/0,,menuPK:551961~pagePK:64168427~piPK:64168435~theSitePK:551955,00.html>

Diane Stone
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