



# WBI Parliamentary Programs in Asia

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**Parliamentary Strengthening Program**

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# WBI's Governance Practice Aim

We aim to support in-country reform teams to create and sustain multi-stakeholder coalitions that facilitate and manage the complex process of implementing governance reforms.

# Why the need for a program to strengthen parliaments?

- ◆ Historically, parliaments were established to represent citizens' interests and give them greater voice in government, thus providing opportunities for more open and participatory governance. Over time, parliaments have taken on greater legislative and oversight powers.
- ◆ The challenge today is for parliaments to use their authority to ensure that the needs of all citizens are met, including those of the poor, mainly through the delivery of well designed public programs and services. In practice, however, many parliaments are ineffective and lack the capacity or resources to carry out their role.
- ◆ The World Bank Institute's Parliamentary Strengthening Program aims to enhance parliaments' capacity to oversee budgets and the performance of government policies and programs.

# Our objectives

Our goals are to:

- ❖ **work in partnership with parliamentary training/research institutes;**
- ❖ strengthen the capacity of parliaments to oversee the allocation and use of public funds;
- ❖ assist parliamentarians to better represent the interest of citizens in the policy process, particularly in the poverty reduction strategy process (PRS);
- ❖ support parliamentary learning networks that address key development policy issues; and
- ❖ encourage action research on the role of parliaments.

Such research contributes to improving the design of World Bank parliamentary support programs and helps ensure impact and sustainability.

# Our audience

- ◆ Members of Parliament;
- ◆ Parliamentary staff;
- ◆ Parliamentary networks;
- ◆ Parliamentary reporters; and
- ◆ Civil society.



# Our general approach

- ◆ **South-South learning**

Working with partner institutions and World Bank operational teams to engage with and strengthen global and regional parliamentary networks as platforms for parliamentary peer review.

- ◆ **Knowledge exchange and structured learning**

- ✧ E-learning programs that build the skills of parliamentary staff, who are the corporate memory of parliaments, on topics such as the role of parliament in combating corruption, effective parliamentary committees, and the role of parliaments in extractive industries, among others.
- ✧ A university-certified executive development program for parliamentary staff is under development.

## ◆ **Networks and innovative knowledge platforms**

- ✧ WBI is taking the lead in developing a web- based parliamentary knowledge hub, Agora, to centralize parliamentary research, best practices, and expertise.
- ✧ Support to three existing regional parliamentary networks: the East Africa Association of PACs, the Southern Africa Development Community Association of PACs, and the Africa Parliamentary Network Against Corruption.
- ✧ Establish two new regional associations: the Asia Regional Association of Public Accounts Committees (December 2010) and the West Africa Association of Public Accounts Committees

# Our technical approach to training

## □ **Individual Approach**

Structured learning for MPs/ Staff to enhance their capacity as agents of change (e.g. e-learning catalogue/ executive training)

## □ **Institutional Approach**

Parliament is multiple institutions within one. Identify institutional entry points and strengthen practices and knowledge of target institutions (e.g. Strengthening the capacity of CC Committees/ PACs etc)

## □ **Systems-based Approach**

Define entry point based on the interface between parliament and broader systems (e.g. PFM, Extractive industries sector)



# Building parliamentary capacity

- Mix of all 3 approaches yields greatest capacity yields – focus on the ‘how’ element of reform
- Leveraging resources and expertise to foster and strengthen the network from the bottom
- Predominantly work at the regional level
- Foster and strengthen regional/ global parliamentary networks/ communities of practice as platforms for knowledge exchange
- Four focus themes: (i) **Budget** (PFM, Budget Oversight and Procurement); (ii) **Extractive Industries**; (iii) **Climate Change**; and (iv) **Structured learning for parliamentary staff**
- Cross-cutting areas: (a) **Analytic/ diagnostic work**; and (b) **Fragile states**

# Parliamentary Networks

**Strengthen parliamentary networks/communities of practice to act as platforms for:**

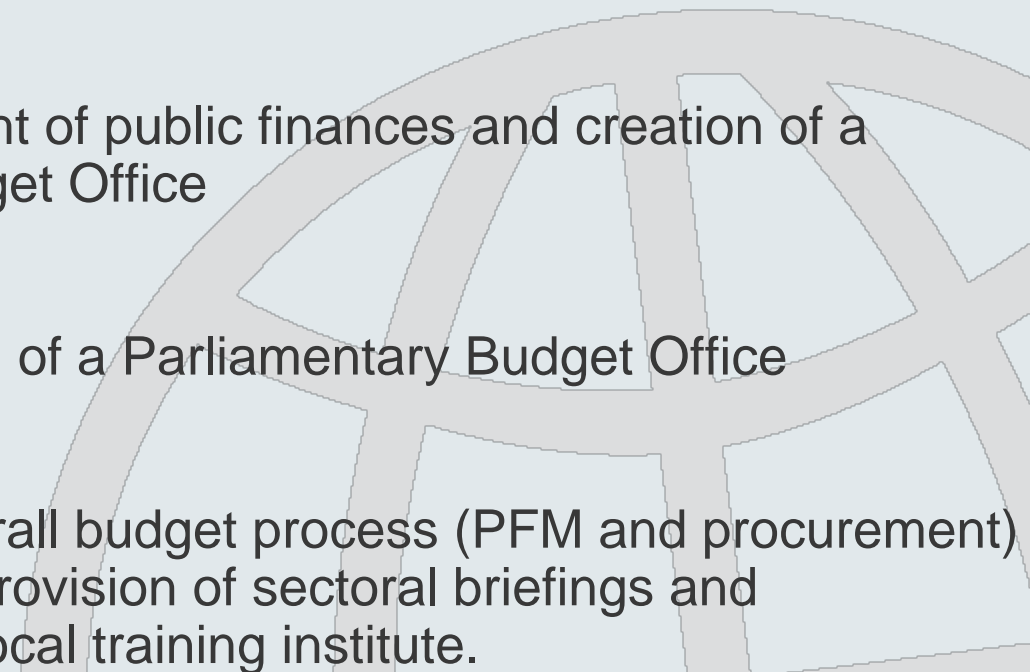
- Parliaments to develop regional benchmarks/ knowledge based on international/ regional good practice
- Peer review processes to encourage adherence to good practice
- South-south exchange
- Delivering structured learning (dynamic/ blended learning, including e-learning/ VC series/ face-to-face training/ practitioner exchange/ peer mentoring); and
- Engagement with other agents of change to build multi-stakeholder coalitions

# Our delivery partners worldwide

- ◆ Centre for Democratic Institutions (CDI)
- ◆ Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA)
- ◆ German Technical Cooperation GTZ
- ◆ GOPAC
- ◆ Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)
- ◆ Deakin University (Australia)
- ◆ National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI)
- ◆ Parliamentary Centre (PC)
- ◆ Royal Roads University (Canada)
- ◆ State University of New York (SUNY)

# Supporting Asia

- ◆ **Bangladesh**  
A comprehensive strengthening program delivered in collaboration with CIDA
- ◆ **Cambodia**  
Support to engage with the PRSP and build anti-corruption capacity
- ◆ **Indonesia**  
Strengthening parliamentary administration
- ◆ **Laos**  
Supporting oversight of public finances
- ◆ **Mongolia**  
Supporting oversight of the extractive industries, procurement and public finances together with strengthening research capabilities

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- ◆ **Pakistan**  
Supporting oversight of public finances
  - ◆ **Sri Lanka**  
Supporting oversight of public finances and creation of a Parliamentary Budget Office
  - ◆ **Thailand**  
Supporting creation of a Parliamentary Budget Office
  - ◆ **Viet Nam**  
Supporting the overall budget process (PFM and procurement) and staff training, provision of sectoral briefings and strengthening the local training institute.

# Regional approaches

- ◆ **Beechworth PAC Summer School**

An annual gathering of country delegations consisting of PAC members, staff and representatives of the SAI – Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam

- ◆ **GOPAC and SEAPAC**

Promoting development across Asia

- ◆ **ARAPAC**

A regional association of PAC-style committees that mirrors mirror the SAI regional association

# Thank you for listening

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