

OECD Development Finance Network (DeFiNe)

Newsletter # 3

February 2011

Dear DeFiNe Members,

This is the third edition of the quarterly DeFiNe newsletter, which aims at providing an update on the ongoing activities and events of DeFiNe and the OECD Development Centre.

Yours sincerely,

The DeFiNe Secretariat

Special Focus: International Dialogue on “Exploring a New Global Partnership for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in the Context of the UN LCD IV”

> 24-26 November, Dhaka (Bangladesh)

As part of its activism to promote and advance the interests and concerns of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (UNLDC IV), the **Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Bangladesh** in association with the **OECD Development Centre, Paris** organized an International Dialogue on “Exploring a New Global Partnership for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in the Context of UNLDC IV”.

The partners of the dialogue were the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Dhaka, the Commonwealth Secretariat, United Kingdom and the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD), Switzerland.

Within the context of the Fourth United Nations Conference on LDCs (UN LDC IV), taking place in Istanbul, Turkey on 30 May - 3 June 2011, the objective of this event was to generate recommendations towards a framework for a new international agreement in support of the LDCs. The dialogue was attended by high level policy makers, leaders of civil society organizations and think tanks, development organizations, non-governmental organizations, apex bodies, private sector, academics, experts, and stakeholders globally.

It concentrated on five areas in particular: (i) Enhancing Trade, (ii) Promoting Investment, (iii) Access to Technology, (iv) ODA for Productive Capacity Development, and (v) Domestic Institutional and Policy Reforms.

[Access draft outcome document here \(in editing now\).](#)

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Other Recent Initiatives

OECD – ISSER Joint Workshop on Immigrant Integration in Ghana

> 8 December 2010, Accra (Ghana)

This workshop was co-organised by the OECD Development Centre and the Institute of Statistical Social and Economic Research (ISSER), a DeFiNe member. It brought together experts, field-practitioners, policy-makers, migrant associations and private sector representatives to discuss current issues on immigration in West Africa, and specifically Ghana.

[ISSER Website](#)

More info about [Migration at the Development Centre](#)

Presentation of the Southeast Asian Economic Outlook 2010 at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (IHEID, DeFiNe member)

> 17 December 2010, Geneva (Switzerland)

The Southeast Asian Economic Outlook (SAEO) is the OECD's annual reference on Asia's economic growth, development and regional integration process. It focuses on the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries and also addresses relevant economic issues in China and India to fully reflect economic developments in the region. The Outlook provides an annual update of regional economic trends and challenges with a statistical annex. The 2010 edition has as its special focus transport infrastructure and its implications for regional integration.

[IHEID Website](#)

International Conference on Social Cohesion and Development, 20-21 January 2011

> 22-Dec-2010, Paris (France)

The International Conference on Social Cohesion and Development held on 20-21 January 2011 deepened understanding of the relationship between social cohesion and development. Plenary and parallel sessions offered ample opportunities to discuss various topics related to the conference theme such as employment, gender and migration. The programme included, among others, Richard Freeman (Harvard University), Rebecca Grynspan (UNDP), Michael Woolcock (World Bank) and Cassam Uteem (ex President of Mauritius).

[ODI Website](#)

[DIE Website](#)

OECD Green Growth Strategy Workshop

> 10-11 February 2011, Paris

To ensure that green growth policy recommendations are relevant to countries' needs, the OECD organised a consultation to review the first draft of the Synthesis Report on 10-11 February 2011. The workshop brought together policymakers and experts across OECD and partner countries, as well as a range of stakeholders from international organisations, business, and civil society.

The purpose of the workshop was to review OECD's latest work on the Strategy's Synthesis Report and to seek feedback to ensure that it is a genuinely useful tool to support countries' transition to greener economies.

The [Green Growth Strategy](#) will be a way to manage pressing challenges to economic development and resilient ecosystems. It will lay out the tools needed to shift to a more sustainable growth path, while identifying the benefits and economic opportunities that come from heading in that direction. A first step of this work will be the Synthesis Report, which will be submitted to Ministers at the OECD Ministerial Council Meeting in May 2011.

[IRMA Website](#)

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Forthcoming Initiatives

> **Joint- bulletin from the OECD Development Centre and Center for Latinamerican Political Studies (CELAEP):**

[Public expenditures on education in Latin America](#) (2 pages, in Spanish)

> March 2011

> **Preparatory meeting:** [Road to the Fourth United Nation Conference on the Least Developed Countries](#)

> 17 March 2011, Geneva, Switzerland

[Development Symposium during the UN LDC IV](#)

> 10-11 May 2011, Istanbul

In conjunction with the Fourth United Nations Conference on the LDC (UNLDC IV) on 9-13 May 2011 in Istanbul, we propose a two day Development Symposium. Through a series of events organized by the civil society, private sector, international organizations and other relevant LDCs stakeholders, the Symposium will constitute a space where policy makers, IGOs, NGOs, academics, policy researchers and analysts, and private actors will meet to generate innovative thinking, analysis and dialogues on pressing issues in the sustainable development policy domain of LDCs. The main goal is to provide targeted inputs on the role of two key factors in particular: (i) emerging partners for development and (ii) trade, in fostering structural transformation in LDCs, to inform the UNLDC IV negotiating process.

The Symposium will be organized by a consortium of organizations that will be responsible for holding individual sessions.

The Opening High Level Plenary will be organized by the Development Centre and Centre for Policy Dialogue, in collaboration with the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development, Commonwealth Secretariat and our local partner TESEV.

[CPD Website](#)

[TESEV Website](#)

OECD Global Forum on Development

> May 2011 and Fall 2011 (Exact date to be confirmed), Paris

The OECD Global Forum on Development (GFD) has been postponed. It will take place in Fall 2011 and focus on "Governance, domestic resource mobilisation and public and private investment for growth". The Annual Meeting of DeFiNe will take place back to back with the Forum.

This 2011 edition will be a follow-up to a special session on "Good governance of public expenditure for development" to be held at the OECD 50th Anniversary Forum and Council meeting at ministerial level Forum (23-27 May 2011).

CELAEP (DeFiNe member): International Seminar on Development and Social Change

> 24 March 2011, Quito, Ecuador

[CELAEP Website](#)

[Agenda](#)

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Development Centre News

[Consolidate policy advances to create a Latin American decade](#)

> 26-Jan-2011

The uneven global recovery is challenging Latin America and the Caribbean, but the region will emerge stronger from the crisis with high growth potential if it continues deepening integration into the global economy. This was one of the main conclusions reached by leaders and experts participating in the III International Economic Forum Latin America & the Caribbean 2011, organized for the third consecutive year by the OECD Development Centre, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and France's Ministry of Economy, Finance and Industry.

[Are working remittances relevant for credit rating agencies?](#)

> 04-Jan-2011

This paper by Development Centre economists Rolando Avendaño and Sebastián Nieto-Parra have studies the impact of workers' remittances on sovereign ratings in 55 developing countries over the period 1993–2006. The paper has been included in the first issue of new journal Review of Development Finance. Results suggest that there is no single model to rate countries and the impact of remittances on ratings is enhanced for small, low and middle income economies.

[Economy: Opportune time for major reforms to boost growth and reduce inequality in Colombia](#)

> 22-Dec-2010

Closing the income gap with the OECD and enhancing distribution of growth requires reforms in many fronts in Colombia. Better functioning labour and product markets and investment in skills and infrastructure would boost productivity, while well-designed social and education policies can reduce inequalities. In meeting these challenges this report examines how Colombia can draw on broad OECD policy experience and best practice in selected areas including education, infrastructure, competitiveness, labour markets and public finances.

[International Economic Forum Latin America & the Caribbean](#)

> 24-Dec-2010

The International Economic Forum Latin America and the Caribbean brings together leaders from public and private sectors to discuss the region's economic performance and share solutions to its development challenges. The third incarnation of the Forum was recently held on January 24th, 2011 and was co-organized by the OECD, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and the French Ministry of Economy, Finance and Industry (MINEFI).

This year's forum focused on new factors of growth in Latin America and the Caribbean, in a world of shifting wealth, and included panels on the role of Latin America and the Caribbean within the G20 process, the opportunities and challenges of commodity trade, and the role of middle income sectors in development.

[Middle class in Latin America economically vulnerable, says OECD](#)

> 03-Dec-2010

Even though the growing middle class in Latin America is becoming an engine of economic progress, this group remains economically vulnerable when compared with high income OECD countries, according to the OECD Development Centre's Latin American Economic Outlook 2011. Therefore, Latin American governments must ensure that they do not fall down the economic ladder.

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Black Sea and Central Asia Initiative and Eurasia Competitiveness Programme Joint Project launch

> 25-Nov-2010

On the 26th of November 2010, Economic Development and Competitiveness in Eastern Europe and the South Caucasus will be launched in Bucharest. The preliminary report will be presented to the Romanian government, to the six participating countries in Romania, to international organisations in Romania, as well as to the media.

ASEAN countries returning to pre-crisis growth

> 9-Nov-2010

The six major ASEAN countries have rebounded from the global economic crisis, with medium-term growth prospects returning to pre-crisis levels, according to the 2010 Southeast Asian Economic Outlook by the OECD Development Centre.

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