

Europe and Central Asia Region



•public expenditure management • peer-assisted learning •

e-NEWSLETTER #01

*This is the first edition of the PEM PAL e-Newsletter. The purpose is to keep all members of PEM PAL up-to-date on the latest developments and to foster contact between the members of PEM PAL. This first edition is distributed by e-mail to all participants of the PEM PAL Workshop held on April 2-5, 2006 in Warsaw.*

#### Successful workshop

We have received many positive comments about the workshop. The results of the evaluation by the PEM PAL members show that the vast majority of participants were very positive. The responses on the evaluation forms indicated that everyone felt that this workshop was useful and relevant for the work you are doing. Also the written comments provided positive comments. As the organizers of workshop we are grateful for your feedback and we will use this for the preparation of future workshops.

#### PEM PAL website

The PEM PAL website is now fully operational. The address of the website is [www.worldbank.org/pempal]. The website contains all the results of previous workshops, including all the presentations, the background papers and the summaries of the breakout sessions. One particular item of interest is the list of the participants of the workshop in Warsaw, with their e-mail addresses. Please do not hesitate to contact the other members in case you have a direct questions or suggestion for a colleague in another country. The website also provides important information about the upcoming events in the PEM PAL program and the form that can be used to propose or apply for participation in PEM PAL activities. The website mentions all the sponsors of PEM PAL, and the logo of the partners can be used to directly access the website of each of these organizations.

Under the heading “What Peers are doing” the PEM PAL website provides information that is posted by the PEM PAL participants. The first item that has been included is the result of the PEFA assessment in the Kyrgyz Republic. We hope to be able to post other material shortly and welcome suggestions for material that you would like to share with others. In particular new materials on which you would like to invite comments and suggestions from other PEM PAL members are very welcome.

#### Change of e-mail address

Please note that from e-mail address of the PEM PAL program has been changed to [PEMPAL@worldbank.org](mailto:PEMPAL@worldbank.org). Please use this address for all communications.

### Communities of Practice

An important part of the PEM PAL program is to stimulate and support Communities of Practice. These are networks of practitioners who work on a specific part of Public Expenditure Management. In between the Annual Workshops, more targeted activities will be undertaken for these Communities of Practice. The purpose of these activities is to facilitate peer assisted learning between these groups of practitioners and to stimulate the development of the network between the members of these Communities.

The first activity for a PEM PAL Community of Practice is the workshop for Heads of Treasury units that will take place at the Center for Excellence in Public Finance in Ljubljana (Slovenia) on June 26-27, 2006. All the Heads of Treasury units in PEM PAL have been invited to attend. The program will focus on the development of systems and IT solutions for Treasury. In almost all PEM PAL countries there are ongoing programs to improve treasury systems, usually accompanied with large investments in IT, so this is a topic that is of great interest.

The next Community of Practice that will be developed as part of the PEM PAL program, will be for Internal and External Auditors. World Bank, GTZ and InWent will support a Community of Practice workshop for External Auditors later in 2006. The dates and venue for this program will be announced as soon as possible.

### Participation in PEM PAL

As discussed during the workshop in Warsaw, PEM PAL is a network of peers in public expenditure management. The network is intended to help and support government organizations and officials who are responsible for public expenditure management in selected countries in Europe and Central Asia. This network is supported by a number of development organizations.

At present, the organization and management of PEM PAL is undertaken by a Steering Committee with support from a secretariat located at the WB. General guidance to PEM PAL is provided by an Advisory Group, which includes the key officials from all of the 13 selected countries and of the development partners. The members of PEM PAL Advisory Committee are encouraged to nominate representatives who can participate in the Steering Committee.

### Participation in PEM PAL activities

PEM PAL offers a range of options for gaining and sharing knowledge through participation in peer assisted learning events, such as Audio Video Conferences. In addition to the annual workshops, there are Community of Practice network events. There are events organized between peers. And there are opportunities to participate in direct learning activities.

**Participants of PEM PAL can request the participation in and the funding of such events. The attached form explains how to submit such a request and what information is required as part of this request. The Steering Committee will take a decision on these proposals. The deadline for the first proposals is May 31, 2006. Please return the completed form with your request to [PEMPAL@worldbank.org](mailto:PEMPAL@worldbank.org) before this date. Given that some preparations are required, do not request for events that would take place within less than one month from this deadline.**

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*This e-Newsletter has been distributed to all members of the PEM PAL network. In case you would like to be included on the mailing list of this e-Newsletter, please send a message to [PEM-PAL@worldbank.org](mailto:PEM-PAL@worldbank.org), with your name, position, affiliation and e-mail address. If you would like to stop receiving this e-Newsletter please send a message to the same address containing the text that you would like to be “removed from the PEM-PAL mailing list”*