



## MINUTES

### PEM PAL B COP Executive Committee Meeting October 18, 2011 through Adobe/Internet

- 1. Present:** Alena Slizhevskaya (Belarus), Anna Belenchuck (Russia), Olga Atlanova (Kazakhstan), Salamat Kussainova and Maya Gusarova (The World Bank), Florence Beraud (Moderator), Deanna Aubrey (PEM PAL Community Facilitator), Iulia Tymotin (Translator), Maja Popov (Translator), Senka Maver (PEM PAL Secretariat).

**Excused in advance:** Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

#### 2. Update on recent events

PEM PAL Secretariat reported on the following events:

- (i) Participation in T COP plenary meeting on use of IT systems in Treasury: to promote cross-COP exchange of information, five B COP members participated at the September 26-29 T COP plenary meeting in Astana, Kazakhstan.
- (ii) Study visit to Slovenian MoF by Uzbekistan MoF: Study visit took place from October 11-14, and was attended by 12 participants. It was organized in co-operation with the UNDP Uzbekistan Office. Fiscal policy design, medium-term budgeting process, and public procurement were the major topics discussed.
- (iii) Change in procedures for future study visits: The PEM PAL Secretariat will prepare, in response to the PEM PAL Steering Committee request, changes to the guidelines for study visits, to be discussed at the November 30 session of the PEM PAL Steering Committee, relating to approval process and experts' fees in the future study visits.

#### 3. Program budgeting event preparation

- (i) B COP survey: Survey will be distributed to B COP members to identify specific areas of interest.
- (ii) Venue of the next B COP program budgeting meeting: Venue has not been confirmed yet. Potential venues: Kazakhstan, Montenegro, Uzbekistan, Slovenia. The PEM PAL Secretariat will prepare a comparison table of costs (hotel, conference rooms, travel), for the B COP Executive Committee to agree on the venue through e-m, and ask the hosting ministry on the preferred dates.

#### 4. B COP Action Plan 2012-2014

- (i) The Community Facilitator will prepare a draft, to be circulated to the B COP Executive Committee members on November 15, discussed at the meeting on

November 22, and submitted to the November 30 PEM PAL Steering Committee (together with the draft PEM PAL Strategy 2012-2017).

To help assist in drafting the plan, the Community Facilitator prepared a survey, to be circulated in the week of October 23, requesting members to identify areas of interest for events over next two years to be included in the Action Plan.

It was discussed how and when the ministers should get involved in the discussion of the B COP Action Plan. The B COP Chair suggested to get input from the ministers already at the early stage because they know best their needs, and to get them involved. However, contact with Ministers should be coordinated with other COPs. A short letter to the ministers could be prepared from all the COPs which will describe the PEM PAL network, and include the plans for the future.

Reference could also be made to the results of the World Bank PFM study (once finalized). It was noted that this issue needs to be discussed further in Steering Committee meetings to determine the best approach. Suggestion was made to circulate a short version of Action Plans of all three COPs to ministers to gain their support, as well as coordinate the efforts of COPs.

## **5. Update on development of PEM PAL initiatives**

- (i) Virtual Library: Platform is in the testing phase, and will be launched soon through a notification to all PEM PAL members.
- (ii) Success stories project will be completed by end-November to feature some good stories from the PEM PAL initiative and try to assess its impact for its members, their institutions and reform agenda.
- (iii) PEM PAL Strategy 2012-2017: Steering Committee provided comments on the initial draft. Next draft is due mid-November and will be circulated to all PEM PAL members, and posted on the PEM PAL website, upon Steering Committee's approval.
- (iv) PEM PAL evaluation: the evaluation is in the interview phase; a draft report is due by early November, comments by November 22, and the final report by December 15.

## **6. Next meeting:** Tuesday, November 22 at 2:00 p.m., CET, through Adobe.