

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Bank Information Center's Board of Directors on
February 8, 2012**

Attendance

1) There were present:

Board members: David Hunter (Chair), Sandra Smithey, Mamadou Goita, Charly Moore (Treasurer), Lisa Veneklasen, Katharine Redford, Athena Ballesteros, Juliette Majot (by phone)

Staff: Chad Dobson (Executive Director), Alvin Carlos (Development Director, Board Secretary), Hetal Patel (Senior Finance Associate, during Financials discussion), Mark Rentschler (Campaigns Director, during the Safeguards discussion), Joshua Lichtenstein (during the review of BIC programs), Jelson Garcia (during the Burma Update session)

Regrets: Marcus Colchester

Call to Order

2) Mr. Hunter convened the meeting at 9:20am.

Vote for Officers

3) The Board unanimously elected Ms. Redford as the new Board Chair (effective March 1, 2012), and re-elected Mr. Moore as Treasurer and Mr. Carlos as Secretary.

Re-election of Board members

4) The Board unanimously re-elected Athena Ballesteros for a second three-year term as a Board member.

Review of Agenda

5) The Board reviewed and approved the agenda for the day.

July and September 2011 Minutes

6) The Board approved the minutes of the July 1 and September 20, 2011 Board meeting.

Executive Director's Report

- 7) Mr. Dobson expressed that despite the tough fundraising environment, funding for the organization remains stable.
- 8) Mr. Dobson shared updates on a number of staff transitions in the past months:
 - a. LAC's BICECA program is ending after 6 years of funding from the Moore Foundation. Southern partners are now capable of engaging directly with funders.
 - b. BIC's LAC Manager has left due to personal reasons and is currently consulting with BIC on Mexico. BIC is currently looking for a replacement.
 - c. BIC's Africa Associate has moved to Forest Peoples Programme based in DRC.
 - d. Open Society Foundation has discontinued its funding of our Europe and Central Asia (ECA) program after two years due to a change in priorities. As a result, BIC currently does not have staff on ECA. The Rockefeller Brothers Fund may be interested in this region, but will be focused on the Balkans.
- 9) BIC staff continues to be strong and motivated. Staff had a good program evaluation last week to distill lessons learned from previous campaigns.

Board Structure

- 10) The Board brainstormed on how it could be more effective in performing its functions.
- 11) The Board discussed how to be more effective in its other responsibilities aside from its oversight function, which includes conducting a robust Executive Director evaluation and providing more strategic guidance.
- 12) Mr. Dobson recalled that in the past, BIC had a small Board that would perform the oversight function, and had a larger Advisory group that would provide strategic guidance.
- 13) The Board recognized the need to carve out more time during Board meetings to discuss strategic issues.
- 14) The Board expressed interest in reviving the idea of having a larger, more diverse Advisory Board that would meet once a year to provide strategic guidance to BIC. This would be separate from the core Board that would perform the oversight function.
- 15) The Board Chair proposed that during the day-long Fall Board meeting the Board would invite potential Advisory Group members to participate in strategic discussions.

Board Development

- 16) The Board Chair proposed to develop a Board profile grid that lists the skills that the Board needs and matches those skills with each Board member. This would serve as a tool to identify what specific skills are needed in a new Board member.
- 17) Mr. Dobson identified four key skills needed in a BIC Board Member: a) has good strategic sense to help in developing strategies, b) can help on messaging and media work, c) can connect BIC with potential funders, and d) a high profile person with strong credibility in the development community. Other Board members identified the need to

have someone with financial management skills and knowledge of international financial institutions.

- 18) The Board agreed on the importance in developing a draft Board profile grid based on these skills. Mr. Hunter, Mr. Dobson, and Mr. Carlos will develop the draft and present it during the next Board meeting.

Financials

- 19) The Board was briefed by Mr. Carlos on the latest 2011 budget versus actual revenue and expense projections. He expects the deficit to be at around \$70,000, which is lower than the Board-approved \$91,000 deficit.
- 20) The Board was briefed by Mr. Carlos on the organization's latest fundraising efforts. Mr. Carlos noted the significant scaled up efforts amongst all staff in trying to raise funds. In the past 13 months, BIC has been pursuing leads from about 20 donors. The Board was updated by Mr. Carlos on the status of each of those leads.
- 21) The Board was briefed by Mr. Carlos on the latest 2012 budget projections. After assuming that a subset of the funding leads would come in, Mr. Carlos projects a ~\$47,000 deficit for 2012.

Burma Update

- 22) Mr. Garcia gave a presentation to the Board on the latest developments in Burma. He conveyed a cautious optimism amongst civil society as flickers of change in the country continue to unfold. The World Bank may engage in initial technical assistance around specific sectors. BIC is well-placed to support informed civil society interventions around IFI re-engagement.

Program Evaluation of BIC's Campaigns

- 23) Mr. Lichtenstein shared with the Board the outcome of BIC staff's evaluation of BIC's four recent campaigns and special initiatives. BIC staff focused on reviewing strategies, partnerships, funding, and staff capacity in those campaigns, and attempted to extract lessons to better plan for current campaigns.

Safeguards Campaign

- 24) The Executive Director led a discussion with the Board on BIC's campaign to strengthen the World Bank's social and environmental standards.
- 25) Mr. Dobson mentioned the broad CSO letter sent to World Bank President Zoellick about the importance and benefits of the Bank's standards, and the need to expand safeguards in other areas.
- 26) Mr. Dobson reflected on his previous World Bank policy reform campaign experience in the past 20 years.

Executive Session

- 27) The Board commenced their executive session with Mr. Dobson at 3:05pm.
- 28) The Board commenced their executive session at 3:15pm.
- 29) The Board adjourned at 3:25pm.