

## **Minutes of the Meeting of the Bank Information Center's Board of Directors on July 1, 2011**

### **Attendance**

1) There were present:

Board members: David Hunter (Chair), Charles Moore (Treasurer), Mamadou Goita, Juliette Majot, Sandra Smithey, Lisa Veneklasen, Atila Roque (phone), Athena Ballesteros (phone)

Staff: Alvin Carlos (Development Director), Chad Dobson (Executive Director), Mark Rentschler (Campaigns Director, during Strategic Planning discussions), Hetal Patel (Senior Finance Associate, during Financials discussion)

Regrets from Board member: Katharine Redford

### **Call to Order**

2) David Hunter convened the meeting at 9:07am. The Board reviewed and approved the agenda for the day.

### **October 2010 and February 2011 Minutes**

3) The Board approved the minutes of the October 5, 2010 and February 18, 2011, after requesting two minor edits.

### **Executive Director's Report**

Chad Dobson provided the Board a summary of developments over the last couple of months.

- 4) IFC campaign. The World Bank Group Board has approved a new IFC Sustainability Policy/Performance Standards that incorporated FPIC for indigenous peoples and contract transparency, among other things.
- 5) Energy campaign. The WB management has proposed restricting coal projects for non-IDA countries, but is facing resistance from some Board members. Meanwhile, Southern CSO partners are trying to communicate that Southern Executive Director positions against coal restrictions do not necessarily represent the broad community.
- 6) Forest/REDD. BIC is facilitating advocacy gains as the NGO Observer to the World Bank Forest Carbon Partnership Facility's Participants Committee. IFIs receiving pass-through WB FCPF funds to re-grant to member governments will now have to, as a minimum, follow WB safeguards and have an independent accountability mechanism (which would be new for UNDP, UNEP, FAO).

- 7) Transparency. It is the one year anniversary of the new WB access to information policy. WB has now trained its more than 10,000 staff. There is commitment to implement the policy in WB headquarters, but the challenge is lack of budget and lack of interest in some local offices. BIC continues to encourage the formation of CSO consultative groups in six pilot countries that will work with WB local offices on how to proactively disseminate information to the public and project-affected communities.
- 8) BIC's region-specific activities
  - a. Europe/Central Asia Program is focusing its advocacy work on a controversial hydropower project in Tajikistan and proposed lignite coal plant in Kosovo.
  - b. Asia Program is working with partners on the first CAO financial intermediary case in India, as well as the Cambodia Inspection Panel case. After years of disengagement, Indian CSOs have decided to re-engage IFIs, and agree on the need to engage parliamentarians.
  - c. Africa Program continues to support partners working on the Eskom complaint. CSO AfDB monitoring network is coming together, with BIC's continued support. Network plans to work on AfDB's information disclosure & safeguards.
  - d. MNA is receiving increased support from funders, following the Arab Spring. We are focusing on Egypt, Tunisia, Lebanon, Yemen.
  - e. LAC partners for the first time collectively met with their WB Executive Director, and plan to continue regular direct engagement.

## **Financials**

- 9) The Board was briefed by Mr. Carlos on the 2010 audited financials and latest 2011 projections. In line with previous projections, BIC generated a slight surplus in 2010. The audit acknowledged improvements made by BIC management on a number of internal financial control procedures. BIC management does not plan to require account codes in invoices as suggested by the auditor, since it believes that BIC's current system already allows accuracy in coding. BIC management will work to reconcile the balances of the amounts advanced to field offices on a quarterly basis, instead of monthly as suggested by the auditor, to match staff capacity. Mr. Carlos also enumerated the various foundations that management is currently pursuing for 2012 funding.

## **Strategic Plan**

- 10) The Board raised several points and requested a number of edits and additions to improve the document.
- 11) The Board adopted BIC's Strategic Plan for 2012 to 2015, pending changes that reflect the Board's discussion.

## **Board Development**

- 12) The Board solicited and obtained new members for its board development committee, which now comprise Ms. Veneklasen, Ms. Majot and Mr. Moore, with Mr. Hunter and Mr. Dobson as ex-officio members.
- 13) After discussion of the merits of the candidate, the Board decided to invite Mr. Marcus Colchester to join BIC's board, to be made effective on January 1, 2012. Mr. Colchester is currently the director of Forest Peoples Programme in England, and is expected to bring in superb intellectual skills, expertise on forests and global advocacy, rich knowledge of BIC's and the community's history, and fundraising abilities.
- 14) The Board Chair noted that three Board members will rotate out in July 2012.
- 15) The Board Development Committee will discuss what are the additional needs of the Board (which may include a Global South representative, a Washington expert, a fundraiser, Southern woman), and will identify and propose candidates to the full Board afterwards.
- 16) The Board discussed options for varying the frequency & length of Board meetings, and the use of videoconferencing to match the needs of the Board. The Board decided to explore having a 1.5 day meeting during its 2012 summer meeting, to help maximize members flying in from abroad.

## **Executive Session**

- 17) The Board had an executive session with Chad, ending at 2:16pm.
- 18) The Board had an executive session with just Board members, ending 2:40pm.