

Bank Information Center
Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors
June 28, 2010

Present:

Richard Bissell (chair)
Alvin Carlos (Staff: development/finance)
Chad Dobson (ex-officio)
Mamadou Goita
Korinna Horta (Secretary)
David Hunter (Treasurer)
Juliette Majot

Regrets:

Athena Ballesteros
Atila Roque
Sandra Smithey
Lisa Veneklasen

Board Minutes

The Board approved the minutes of the previous Board meeting (February 22, 2010).

Up-Date of Board Member Activities

Board Chair Richard Bissell will accept a position on the African Development Bank's inspection mechanism and resigns as Chair of BIC effective as of July 1, 2010. The Board accepted his resignation with regret.

The Board reappointed Board members David Hunter, Juliette Majot and Atila Roque for a second term.

The Board approved David Hunter to be both the Chair and the Treasurer until the Board meeting scheduled for October. In the meantime, a Board committee, including Athena Ballesteros, Mamadou Goita and Juliette Majot, will help identify candidates for possible Board membership.

At present, the Board has two committees (Development and Finance). The proposal is to create two additional committees. One would address organizational matters pertaining to the structure of the organization and the other would work on monitoring and evaluation practices.

Board Conflict of Interest Policy

The Board adopted the Board Conflict of Interest Policy. It will be circulated to be signed by Board members at the October 2010 Board meeting.

The Board Conflict of Interest Policy will be on the Board agenda annually to ensure that it reflects up-to-date Board member information. The Board secretary will be requested to keep a record.

Program Report

Financial Aspects. Chad Dobson informed the Board that the Wallace Global Fund had approved a grant of \$ 40,000 for BIC. In addition, Belgium-based 11 11 11 (Triple 11) is open to another 3-year commitment in support of BIC's Asia work. Furthermore, Oxfam Australia has committed to finance BIC's work in the Mekong Region and Indonesia.

BIC has received strong support from Revenue Watch and the Open Society Institute (OSI). But both organizations continue to debate whether to support the center or the regions in the future.

Board members will contact other possible funding organizations.

Staffing: Three new staff members have joined BIC:

- Mark Rentschler as Director of Campaigns will join the Senior Management Team consisting of Chad Dobson and Alvin Carlos.
- Patrick Kipalu (Africa) and Ashley Warriner (Asia) are being financed with CLUA funds to add more capacity in the regions.

Information Policy

The World Bank will launch its new Information Disclosure Policy on July 1, 2010. Over the last 6 months BIC has worked closely with the World Bank on implementation of the policy. This represents the first time that civil society has been involved in designing the implementation of a World Bank policy. BIC has helped bring about the cooperation of three Vice-Presidencies at the World Bank (Operations, Legal and External Affairs) which - according to Peter Singer at the World Bank's External Affairs Office - is revolutionizing the way the Bank operates.

The World Bank Group will have a new website to facilitate access to information.

Implementation of the new policy will be reviewed in one year. There will also be an Appeals Panel for which BIC has suggested several candidates. The composition of the Appeals Panel will be announced soon.

There remain, however, questions about the World Bank's budget and willingness to move forward with rigorous implementation of the new Information Disclosure Policy.

Energy Strategy

The World Bank held about 30 consultations on its new energy strategy with the last one taking place in Cairo last week. Throughout, BIC has worked with partners and has linked the discussion on Energy Strategy to the General Capital Increase. On June 24, BIC held a meeting with about 20 NGOs to discuss WB Energy Strategy. The US Treasury will meet with civil society to talk about the energy strategy shortly.

WBG President Zoellick named Andrew Steer to head World Bank Climate Change efforts (Vice-President level). BIC has a long-standing relationship with Mr. Steer.

IFC Performance Standards

In the context of the review of the IFC Policy and Performance Standards on Social and Environmental Sustainability, BIC focuses mainly on three areas: Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), contract transparency and reporting on development impact.

Forests and REDD

BIC continues to be the official observer to the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) and works towards the establishment of clear rules for disbursements of REDD funds.

Financial and Audit Report

The Audit took place in May 2010. It found BIC's books to be in order and concluded that the predicted surplus was correct.

Although cash reserves have increased to 1.5 months, they are still falling short of the target of three months of reserves.

The issues identified by the Audit as requiring strengthened internal controls and the Audit's recommendations are being addressed and implemented.

The Board approved the audit and congratulated the finance team.

Finance Projections 2010

The current annual budget of \$2.6 million represents a 3% increase from the previous fiscal year. BIC projects a balanced budget for the year.

Development of the 2011 budget will begin in early September and be presented at the October 2010 Board meeting.

Midterm Evaluation and New Strategic Plan

Juliette Majot presented ideas on developmental evaluation which is specifically designed to support on-going and innovative processes. This type of evaluation represents an opportunity to explore and reflect how change works and how to be more effective. It is driven by an internal need to know how the organization is doing and not by a specific foundation request.

This session was attended by numerous BIC staff.

BIC will prepare a new strategic plan in 2 years. The purpose of an evaluation would be to start soon with the collection of data.

Juliette Majot will form a small working group, including Alvin Carlos, Mamadou Goita and Korinna Horta, to prepare an outline or roadmap on next steps to be presented at the October Board meeting.

Asia Program

The Board was provided with an interesting presentation and update on BIC's far-flung work in Asia.

Regional Offices

Chad Dobson laid out that BIC must continue to debate which structures may be most appropriate to meet the organization's strategic goals. Does it make sense to be organized by region or would it be better to be organized by campaign and thematic area?

A Board Committee on Organization, including Lisa Veneklasen, Atila Roque and Alvin Carlos, will present a proposal on organizational structure, including the maintenance of regional offices, at the next Board meeting.

Executive Session with Executive Director

The Board and the executive director met in executive session to review staffing issues.

Change in Date of next Board Meeting

The date for the next Board meeting has been re-scheduled for October 5, 2010 to be closer to the date of the World Bank/IMF annual meetings.