

Minutes of the Meeting of the Bank Information Center's Board of Directors on

April 22, 2013

Attendance

1) There were present:

Board members: Mamadou Goita, Marcus Colchester (by phone), Charly Moore (Treasurer, by phone), Katharine Redford (Chair), Susanne Breitkopf, Amy Shannon, David Hunter

BIC Staff: Chad Dobson (Executive Director), Alvin Carlos (Development Director, Secretary of the Corporation), Joshua Lichtenstein (Forest Campaign Manager), Amy Ekdawi (Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Program Manager), Jelson Garcia (Asia Program Manager), Hetal Patel (Senior Finance Associate), Rachel Burton (Disability Program Associate), Mr. Joe Athialy (South Asia Regional Coordinator), Shiro Ando (Burma Coordinator), Nadia Hadad (Asia Program Associate), Guadalupe Lagrada (Southeast Asia Regional Coordinator), Nadia Daar (MENA Senior Program Associate), Katelyn Gallagher (MENA Program Assistant), and Angelina Jarrouj (MENA Program Assistant).

Regrets from Board members: Athena Ballesteros

Call to Order

2) Ms. Redford convened the meeting at 9:10am.

Introductory Business

- 3) The Board welcomed Amy Shannon and David Hunter as new Board members.
- 4) The Board decided to discuss some board development matters during lunch.
- 5) The Board approved the minutes from the November 12, 2012 meeting, with one editing change.

Update on BIC's work

- 6) Mr. Dobson provided some contextual changes on BIC's work, with regard to key personnel at the U.S. Congress, U.S. Treasury, and the World Bank.
- 7) Mr. Klemm provided an update on BIC's World Bank safeguards campaign work, including work on involuntary resettlement, disability rights, child rights, model policy on environmental assessment, and BIC's coordination role. Mr. Klemm also provided an update on the World Bank's timeline on the review, civil society involvement in the campaign, and scope and architecture issues of the campaign. The Board discussed the pros and cons of a potential safeguards harmonization across multilateral development

banks. The importance of continued Board engagement on the safeguards campaign was highlighted.

- 8) Mr. Garcia introduced BIC's staff based in the region, namely Mr. Joe Athialy (South Asia Regional Coordinator), Shiro Ando (Burma Coordinator), Nadia Hadad (Asia Program Associate), and Guadalupe Lagrada (Southeast Asia Regional Coordinator).
- 9) Mr. Athialy shared BIC's work in India, including the campaign on the Tata Mundra and GMR Kamalanga coal power plants, and BIC's work to promote parliamentary oversight of Indian government dealings with international financial institutions (IFIs).
- 10) Mr. Ando provided color on BIC's work in Burma, now that IFIs have re-engaged the country after more than two decades of disengagement. BIC is assisting Myanmar CSOs in monitoring the World Bank's Community-Driven Development Project, facilitating engagement between Burmese groups and IFIs, and building the capacity of Burmese groups in engaging IFIs.
- 11) Ms. Hadad shared BIC's work on pushing for a national forest safeguards system in Indonesia, given the various initiatives on REDD in the country (Indonesia is the third largest country with forest coverage. REDD stands for Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation).
- 12) Ms. Lagrada shared how Mekong CSOs see BIC as a convenor and information provider on international standards, and a key partner in regional movements on human rights.
- 13) Mr. Lichtenstein shared BIC's work on the World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) and the forest safeguards review, and BIC's role as the NGO Observer at the FCPF Participants Committee. Mr. Lichtenstein raised the need to discuss how BIC can continue playing a role in addressing the drivers of deforestation beyond REDD.
- 14) Ms. Ekdawi shared BIC's work in the Middle East and North Africa. She identified the need to: (i) diversify funding for the program, (ii) figure out the best way to maintain presence in the region, and (iii) address CSO demands in the region to hold other IFIs accountable (including the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the African Development Bank). Ms. Ekdawi expressed a request for the Board to consider inviting a new Board member from the Middle East and North Africa.
- 15) Ms. Daar shared BIC's work in Yemen, which is focused on increasing transparency, accountability and CSO participation through working with specific CSO partners, parliamentarians, and journalists. The World Bank plays a major role in Yemen.
- 16) Ms. Gallagher shared BIC's CSO capacity building work and convening role in Egypt, specifically around housing and urban planning problem projects and advocating for stronger social and environmental policies.
- 17) Ms. Jarrouj shared BIC's work in Tunisia, including collaborating with CSO partners on investigating how the World Bank's development policy loan to the country is being spent.

Executive Session

18) The Board had an executive session from 12:35pm to 2:15pm.

Finances*

- 19) Mr. Carlos briefed the Board on the organization's final 2012 audited financials. Mr. Carlos noted the surplus of ~\$72,000, compared to the previous deficit projection. Mr. Carlos explained that a number of factors contributed to the surplus, including grants covering more salaries and increased donations.
- 20) Ms. Patel discussed the auditor's recommendations on BIC's internal financial controls, and how BIC is planning or has addressed these issues.
- 21) Mr. Carlos discussed the latest 2013 budget projections. BIC is now projecting a slight deficit of ~\$7,000, with more than 90% of the revenue now secured. The status of various potential and current donor foundations were discussed.

Board Development*

- 22) The Board elected Mr. Hunter as the new Board Treasurer.
- 23) The Board designated Mr. Carlos to investigate whether District of Columbia allows for electronic approvals by the Board, and to propose language accordingly for the Board to consider.
- 24) The Board discussed the idea of asking board members to donate to BIC, as one of a suite of opportunities to show their commitment to the organization. This will be further discussed electronically with the full Board.
- 25) The Board agreed to have a 2-day Board meeting during the Fall, to have more time to discuss substantive issues together with BIC senior staff.
- 26) The Board requested specific recommendations that it can consider for new Board member additions.

The Board adjourned at 3:30pm.

*Mr. Colchester, Mr. Moore, and Ms. Redford were not present during the discussion on finances and the last three items under board development.