

## The Metropolitan Governance Project

Metropolitan governance is fast emerging as the governance issue of the millennium. It refers to the management, leadership, and organizational arrangements in large cities, spread over multiple jurisdictions covering urban, peri-urban and rural areas. Metropolitan issues have hovered partially or completely unattended in urban and public sector reform for decades. The shift in demographics to urban areas, growth of mega cities, burgeoning urban poverty, the inadequate services and resources coupled with trends like globalization and decentralization have raised concerns about the ability of city agencies to cope while continuing to grow. Governments and the development community have done little to assist cities grappling with these issues. With the onset of decentralization, the call for solutions to metropolitan governance problems has become even more immediate. Over the past year, requests for assistance in metropolitan governance has been expressed in at least two regions and across several networks, including FPSI, PREM, ESSD, and WBI. While a new paradigm of metropolitan governance is needed, our knowledge of the issues and probable solutions remains inadequate. It is against this backdrop that the WBI along with other network partners is launching a formal ESW on metropolitan governance.

The **objective** is to broaden the knowledge base through an exchange of ideas and experiences that will extract international opinion from leading practitioners, and help understand current and best practice, to enable the preparation of a framework policy paper, the conduct of case studies, and conclude analytical tools and a better understanding of the issues in the Bank and its clients.

The Project is not intended to produce standard positions. This is neither desirable nor feasible. Cities have far too many individual circumstances and variations for one or a few solutions to suffice. The **organizing principle** is the framework of governance defined as the system of public choice that intermediates among national and local governments on the one hand, and citizens and civil society on the other. This framework will be developed to apply to a number of city circumstances, to permit broad comparative analysis without sacrificing details of key issues in the delivery of services, provision of infrastructure, financial integrity, and the many externalities, positive and negative, that arise in metropolitan governments.

The "*Metropolitan Governance Series*" is a sequence of presentations co-sponsored with different networks and thematic groups to raise awareness within the Bank about the cross-sectoral dimensions of the issue and help road test concepts as they develop.

The series was kicked off with a presentation on *Metropolitan Governance* by Tim Campbell, Adviser in Urban Development, WBI and Team Leader for the project on February 20, 2002 that provided a brief overview of the Metropolitan Governance project, sketched out the framework and approach being taken, and looked at the two governance structures that have evolved in metropolitan Mexico City and San Salvador.

This was followed by Carl Bartone's presentation on *Institutional Arrangements for Solid Waste Management in Metropolitan Areas*. The presentation examined inter-municipal arrangements in the context of different metropolitan governance structures to look at what works and what does not. The case studies were from Sao Paulo, Santiago, Monterrey, Virginia and Turkey. Several other presentations are scheduled.

Metropolitan Governance of Clean Air Issues by Anthony Bigio was based on the Clean Air Initiative in Six Latin American cities, Rio, Sao Paulo, Lima-Callao, Santiago, Buenos Aires and Mexico City. It looked at the governance issues around Clean Air at the level of the metropolis and concluded that governance issues were as important as technical issues.

Alcira Kriemer made a presentation on Metropolitan Vulnerability to Disasters in Metropolitan Areas which highlighted the fact that vulnerability to disasters and its after effects was greater in metropolitan regions because of the high concentration of people, economic activity and the lack of strategic planning and governance around disaster prevention and mitigation.

The schedule of future presentations is as follows:

Speaker	Topic	Date	Venue	Time 12:30-2:00 pr
Bala Menon and Zhi Li	Dhaka Transportation Project and Metropolitan Governance	May 8, 2002	MC 10W-150	
Songsu Choi and Ming Zhang	Metropolitan Governance in China	May 15,2002	MC 5 W-150	
Scott Quehl and Mayor DeStefano	Credit Rating of Cities	May 21,2002	MC 7 W-150	
David Satterthwaite(TBC)	Metropolitan Dimensions of Poverty	June 5,2002	MC 9 W-150	Time 12:30-3:00p
Marc Juhel	Port Cities and Metropolitan Governance	June 18,2002	MC 6 W-150	Time 1:00-3:00pr

A team of consultants will review the literature and case experiences in Part I countries that are relevant to client countries. That effort will lead to a working seminar and kickoff for the FY03 and beyond. Phase II will consist of an exchange of experiences and ideas with Part II cities that will frame the issues, followed by case studies and a final Framework Policy Paper to be presented at a concluding seminar with representatives of Part I and Part II metropolises, donors, academics, civil society, private sector and other stakeholders .

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