

Development Buzz (24 April): Dr Kim to lead the World Bank | Global aid drops in 2011 | 2012 Asian Development Outlook | World Development Indicators 2012 | and more...

Author : Jonathan Pryke

Date : April 24, 2012



Dr Kim to lead the World Bank

On April 16, the World Bank's Executive Directors [selected](#) Dr. Jim Yong Kim, the Obama Administration's candidate, to become the 12th President of the World Bank Group. The appointment of Dr. Kim, a development HIV and health expert has been met with [praise](#) for selecting a development specialist, as opposed to a legal, economic or political figure, to finally helm the Bank. It has also been met with [unprecedented criticism](#) that the Bank still has not implemented a free and fair selection process and that Dr. Kim has too narrow a background to lead the world's premier development institution. *The Economist* provides a good summary [here](#). You can read an official statement from Dr. Kim [here](#).

Complements and criticisms aside, Dr. Kim will now take charge of the World Bank at perhaps the most challenging point in its history. Depolicy Visiting Fellow Robin Davies' [post](#) yesterday is a must read in relation to both the election proceedings and the challenges Dr. Kim will face.

OECD announces a dip in global foreign aid

The OECD [announced](#) this month that major donors' aid to developing countries fell by nearly 3% in 2011, a decline in real terms of \$3.4 billion. The OECD attributes this largely to the global recession. OECD Secretary-General Angel Gurría encouraged donors to meet their commitments:

The fall of ODA is a source of great concern, coming at a time when developing countries have been hit by the knock-on effect of the crisis and need it most... I commend the countries that are keeping their commitments in spite of tough fiscal consolidation plans. They show that the crisis should not be used as an excuse to reduce development cooperation contributions.

This signifies the first drop in OECD aid in the [past 15 years](#). Oxfam provides a response [here](#). Meanwhile, speculation persists that Australia's commitment to an aid program of 0.5% GNI by 2015/16 is under threat from the Government's commitment to reaching surplus in this years budget. The Oaktree Foundation is strongly campaigning against this [here](#). GetUp! Australia has launched an [online petition](#) asking the government not to cut the Foreign Aid budget.

Asian Development Bank launches its 2012 Asian Development Outlook

In early April the ADB [launched](#) its 2012 Asian Development Outlook. The Bank forecasts “developing Asia will largely maintain its growth momentum in the next couple of years.” The greatest risk to the outlook lies with Europe and the continued uncertainty over resolving ongoing sovereign debt problems. Inflation was a [major concern](#) of [last year's report](#). This year the report highlights a different concern, warning against widening income disparities and the threat rising inequality can have on undermining the poverty aspects of economic growth and the basis of growth itself. The report suggests measures including increasing spending on health and education, cutting fuel subsidies and broadening the sources of tax revenues to address rising inequality.

Forecast growth rates for Developing Asia from the ADB 2012 Asian Development Outlook

Subregion/Economy	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Central Asia	3.2	6.6	6.2	6.1	6.2
Azerbaijan	9.3	5.0	0.1	4.1	3.5
Kazakhstan	1.2	7.0	7.5	6.0	6.5
East Asia	6.7	9.8	8.0	7.4	7.7
China, People's Rep. of	9.2	10.4	9.2	8.5	8.7
Hong Kong, China	-2.6	7.0	5.0	3.0	4.5
Korea, Rep. of	0.3	6.2	3.6	3.4	4.0
Taipei,China	-1.8	10.7	4.0	3.4	4.6
South Asia	7.5	7.8	6.4	6.6	7.1
Bangladesh	5.7	6.1	6.7	6.2	6.0
India	8.4	8.4	6.9	7.0	7.5
Pakistan	1.7	3.8	2.4	3.6	4.0
Sri Lanka	3.5	8.0	8.3	7.0	8.0
Southeast Asia	1.4	7.9	4.6	5.2	5.7
Indonesia	4.6	6.2	6.5	6.4	6.7
Malaysia	-1.6	7.2	5.1	4.0	5.0
Philippines	1.1	7.6	3.7	4.8	5.0
Singapore	-1.0	14.8	4.9	2.8	4.5
Thailand	-2.3	7.8	0.1	5.5	5.5
Viet Nam	5.3	6.8	5.9	5.7	6.2
The Pacific	4.2	5.5	7.0	6.0	4.1
Fiji	-1.3	-0.2	2.1	1.0	1.2
Papua New Guinea	6.0	7.4	8.9	7.5	4.5
Developing Asia	6.0	9.1	7.2	6.9	7.3

World Bank releases its World Development Indicators 2012

The World Bank has [released](#) its 2012 World Development Indicators. The report also showcases major improvements to the Bank's data access, analysis and visualization tools (particularly in the form of new graph widgets). Improvements and highlights are showcased in this [press release](#). The report is available in full [here](#) [pdf].

World Development Indicators for Poverty 2012

In Brief

The World Bank and IMF hosted their [spring meetings](#) over the weekend. WB Director Robert Zoellick [kicked off proceedings](#), reflecting on his tenure heading the bank and discussing the path ahead. The Development Committee, which advises the Board of Governors of the World Bank and IMF on critical development issues, released this [communiqué](#).

DFID's Research for Development department released a [new report](#) 'Do They Work? Assessing the Impact of Transparency and Accountability Initiatives in Service Delivery.'

ODI released a new [Discussion Paper](#) outlining the progress and continuing benefits of the EU aid effectiveness agenda, finding that the benefits account for an increase in efficiency of around 6% of the total EU aid flows in 2009.

A new [CGD working paper](#) shows how dramatic improvements in fundraising are possible for development and public causes by linking the cause with reputable development organisations, in this case the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Is the education curriculum in developing countries getting ahead of itself? Lant Pritchett and Amanda Beatty analyse the negative consequences of this phenomenon in a new CGD [working paper](#).

A [new report](#) from UNICEF and Save the Children highlights improvements for millions of children, identifying international aid as a key driver of causing four million fewer children under 5 from dying each year than in 1990.

April 4 marked the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action, with [events in 21 countries](#) marking the day and raising funds and awareness of the ongoing development issue.

Jonathan Pryke is a Researcher at the [Development Policy Centre](#).