

New DAG Co-Chairs

Mr. Christian Rogg (DFID) and Mr. Abdul Kamara (AfDB) have taken up the DAG bilateral and multilateral co-chairs position for the period August 2018 to July 2019.

Retreat Highlight

DAG retreat took place on 10th May 2018 at Yaya Village to reflect on how to better position the DAG to support Ethiopia realize resilience building in the long term. The retreat also consulted on the think piece that is under preparation by DFID and WB on

lowlands resilience building. In order to create for better synergies DAG members also shared information on their ongoing portfolios in the areas of resilience building.



Presentations were made by members on resilience building based on studies conducted in the lowlands. Root causes of vulnerability; resilience building and sustainable development in lowlands; governance and vulnerability in lowland peripheries; causes of vulnerability from gender perspective; diagnostics study in resilience building interventions were among topics that have been covered.

and survey finding on EU resilience building



Following the presentations, DAG members were divided into three thematic areas and discussed how to ensure collective response to GoE's resilience building and reform agenda. The groups discussed on service delivery; market development and gender/social norms in lowlands. Each group identified main challenges, gaps or overlaps; shared lessons learned and good practices on resilience building. Going forward DAG ExCom will follow-up the next steps to address vulnerabilities in Ethiopian lowlands.

Joint Field Visit

A Joint DAG/HRDG field visit to Afar was organized from 13 to 15 February 2018 to bring key development and humanitarian partners together in order to create better understanding of how the New Way of Working is implemented on the ground.

The visit focused on two sectors (education and WASH). The issue of access, quality and challenges in delivering education and water services to pastoral communities has been discussed with pertinent stakeholders.

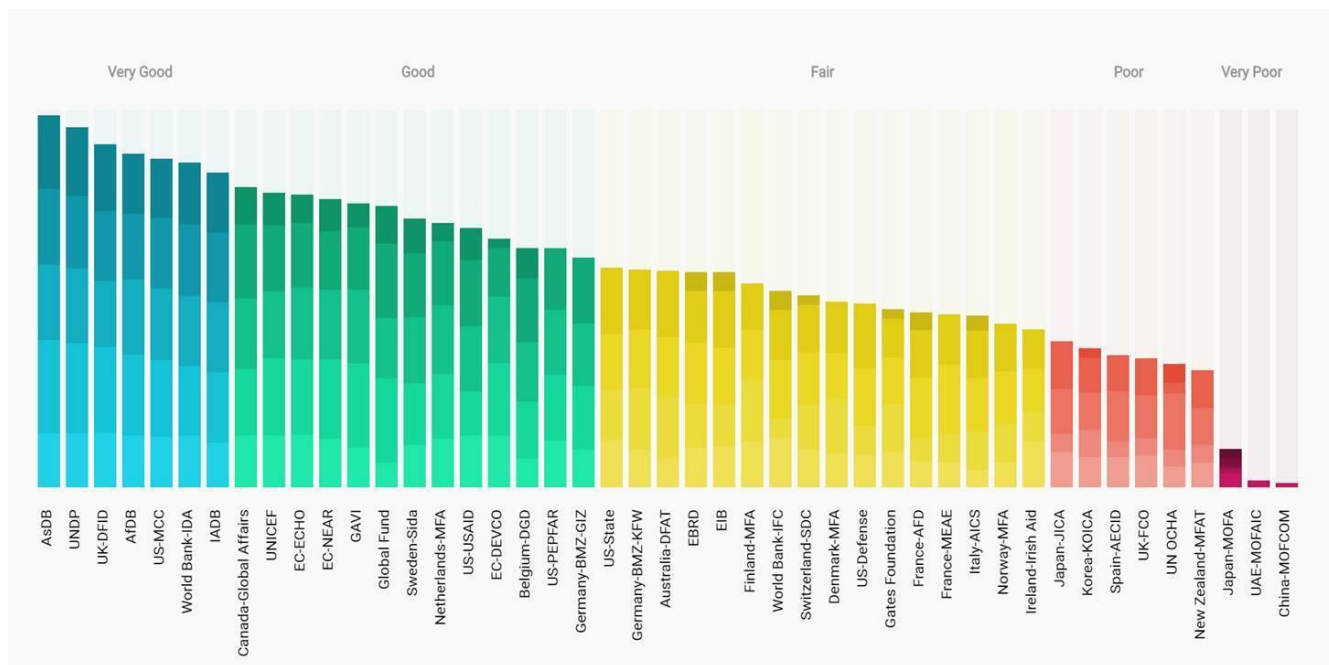
Discussion with key stakeholders highlighted that it is possible to provide sustainable water supply in

hydrological complex settings that face frequent drought. However, these long term investments require larger scale investment and skills in managing and maintaining the water schemes. It was also noted that institutional WASH must be accelerated to ensure quality health and education services as a backbone to long-term community development and economic self-reliance. The DAG agreed to undertake similar field visits in the future for better multi-sectoral coordination.



The 2018 Aid Transparency Index

Public What You Fund has researched 45 agencies and produced the 2018 Aid transparency index The report is available for [download](#)



Agency highlights

African Development Bank



The African Development Bank organized a workshop on May 29 and 30 2018 on private-sector development reforms in Ethiopia.

The gathering attracted high-level participants from the Government of Ethiopia, private sector, think tanks, civil society organizations, and development partners to discuss options for sustaining Ethiopia's accelerated growth through empowering the private sector.

Ethiopia has experienced robust economic growth from 2003/04 to 2016/17, with real GDP growth averaging over 10% per year. Growth during this period was driven by public investments in infrastructure and social sectors.

However, expansion of public investment has widened the savings-investment gap and external sector deficits, which has increased the need for borrowing to fill the financing shortfalls. Consequently, the public debt has increased and weak export performance has worsened the risk of external debt distress, which may affect Ethiopia's access to external development financing. Therefore, sustaining Ethiopia's high real GDP growth as envisaged in the Growth and Transformation Plan II (2015/16 and 2019/20) requires increasing the contribution of private investment and finance.



Against this background, the workshop provided a platform for stakeholders to discuss and identify the most effective approach to unlocking constraints to private-sector development, notably limited access to finance and foreign exchange, weaknesses in trade logistics, and bottlenecks in labour and product markets.

In his keynote address, H.E. Dr. Abraham Tekeste, Minister of Finance and Economic Cooperation, observed that

Ethiopia recognizes the private sector as a key contributor to growth. Dr. Tekeste added that a number of reforms are underway to improve competitiveness and support private-sector development, including development of industrial parks and investments in integrated transport and energy infrastructure to reduce the cost of doing business.

Mr. Pierre Guislain, Vice-President, Private Sector, Infrastructure and Industrialization at the African Development Bank, commended the Government for the high growth levels and called for a purposeful approach to reforms to address the key bottlenecks to private-sector development. He emphasized the need to open up the services sector, including capital markets and financial services, communications, and logistics, in order to contribute to an increase in productivity in all sectors of the economy (including industry, mining and infrastructure).

Mr. Guislain reiterated the will and commitment of the African Development Bank to support deeper dialogue between the Government and the private sector, to continue financing of enabling environment reforms and infrastructure development, and to provide direct financing to private sector companies, building on the successful track record of the Derba Midroc cement plant financing. He indicated that the African Development Bank hopes to move from having financed only one private sector project over the past decade, to financing at least one new project every year.

The Bank's Country Manager, Dr. Abdul Kamara, observed that the two-day workshop sought to create a platform for experience-sharing and raising awareness among stakeholders involved in Ethiopia's private sector and identifying key policy recommendations to accelerate private-sector development in the country. It also focused on developing a pipeline of bankable private-sector operations for financing by the Bank and other financiers.

Participants reiterated the central role of a vibrant private sector in accelerating Ethiopia's structural transformation, and unlocking opportunities to create jobs and improve welfare. In this context, workshop is an important milestone in the operationalization of the Bank's Country Strategy Paper (2016-20) for Ethiopia, which seeks to accelerate structural transformation and private sector development. The workshop is also consistent with the Bank's [Ten Year Strategy \(2013-2022\)](#) and [High 5 priorities](#).

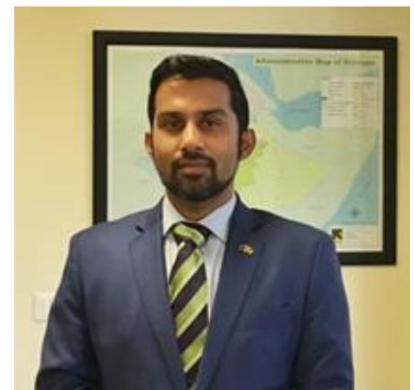
Introducing new heads of agency



Or Daniely (Mr.)
Deputy Head of Mission for Israel



Ivan Roberts (Mr.)
Minister-Counsellor and Senior
Director(Development)
Canada



Siddhartha Chakrabarti(Mr.)
Head of Development
Australian Embassy

Or Daniely (M.A. political Science) Joined Israel Prime Minister's office as Analyst in 2013. After two years of service in 2015 he joined the Ministry of foreign Affairs in Israel, middle east and peace process division. He worked as Diplomatic cadet at Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs 2015-2017.

Currently Mr. Daniely is posted to Ethiopia, Rwanda and Burundi in Addis Ababa as Diplomatic Cadet at Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs; DCM at Embassy of State of Israel starting from September 1st, 2018.

Ivan Roberts joined the Foreign Affairs Department of Canada in 1989 in the Development Stream. He spent 1989-2013 as an officer in the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). He has worked in Multilateral, Americas, and Africa Branches. He has been on posting in Zimbabwe, Peru, Senegal, Burkina Faso and Haiti, before coming to Ethiopia in 2017.

He has substantial experience managing development programs. This includes: The Gulf of Guinea Program as HQ Director, the Senegal Program as Decentralized Director, the Canadian Embassy in Burkina Faso as Head of Mission, and the Haiti Program as Head of Cooperation.

Siddhartha (Sid) Chakrabarti is the Deputy Ambassador, and Head of Development, at the Australian Embassy in Addis Ababa (accredited to the African Union, South Sudan, Djibouti and the Central African Republic). Mr. Chakrabarti has worked with the Australian Government in Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Pakistan, Indonesia, and Fiji and has acted as the Executive Officer to the Secretary, Director for Indian Ocean issues, Assistant Director for India – political issues, an executive officer for Afghanistan – humanitarian issues, and a policy officer for Australia's global development partnerships.

Mr. Chakrabarti has a Masters in Arts (Middle East and Central Asia) with honors from the Australian National University and LL.B and Bachelor of Economics from the University of Western Australia.

Upcoming Events

High Level Forum (HLF) in October 2018- topic TBD Mid-Term Review of the Second Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP II)- date and topic TBD

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