

OECD Development Finance Network (DeFiNe)

Newsletter # 2

November 2010

Dear DeFiNe Members,

This is the second issue of the new DeFiNe newsletter, which is now circulated quarterly in order to provide an update on the ongoing activities and events of DeFiNe and the OECD Development Centre. Your comments and suggestions on how to improve it are most welcome.

Yours sincerely,

The DeFiNe Secretariat

Annual Meeting, 11-12 October 2010

Once again, we would like to thank all the speakers and participants for their attendance and valuable contribution to the event.

PUBLIC EXPENDITURES – INFRASTRUCTURE

On 11 October 2010, a preparatory meeting for next year's OECD Global Forum on Development (GFD) was held on "Public Expenditures - Infrastructure".

The updated [concept note and agenda](#), [biographies of speakers](#), [abstracts](#) and [presentations](#) are now online on our website. A summary report will be available soon.

DeFiNe MANAGEMENT MEETING

On 12 October (morning), the DeFiNe Management Meeting discussed the Network's strategy: expansion, programme of work for 2011-12, and update of the executive structure.

A [summary of the debates](#) is available.

Africa's Emerging Partners, 12 October 2010

DeFiNe members were invited to participate in an informal OECD experts brainstorming on "South-South Co-operation: Africa's New Partners". This meeting aimed to shape the content for a special thematic chapter in the 2011 edition of the *African Economic Outlook*, the pre-eminent report on African economies produced jointly by the African Development Bank, the OECD Development Centre, UNECA and UNDP.

[African Economic Outlook website](#)

[Video: How should African governments engage with China, Brazil or India?](#)

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Forthcoming Initiatives

[International dialogue on “Exploring a New Global Partnership for the Least Developed Countries \(LDCs\) in the Context of the UN LCD IV”, co-organised by the Centre for Policy Dialogue \(CPD, a DeFiNe member\) and the OECD Development Centre.](#)

> 24-26 November, Dhaka (Bangladesh)

Within the context of the Fourth United Nations Conference on LDCs (UN LDC IV), taking place in Istanbul on 30 May - 3 June 2011, the objective of this event will be to generate recommendations towards a framework for a new international agreement in support of the LDCs. The event will concentrate on five areas in particular: (i) Enhancing Trade, (ii) Promoting Investment, (iii) Access to Technology, (iv) ODA for Productive Capacity Development, and (v) Domestic Institutional and Policy Reforms.

DeFiNe members are invited to participate in this event.

[OECD – ISSER Joint Workshop on Immigrant Integration in Ghana](#)

> 8 December 2010, Accra, Ghana

This workshop will be co-organised by the OECD Development Centre and the Institute of Statistical Social and Economic Research (ISSER), a DeFiNe member. Its objective is to bring together experts, field-practitioners, policy-makers, migrant associations and private sector representatives to discuss current issues on immigration in West Africa, and specifically Ghana.

[ISSER Website](#)

More info about [Migration at the Development Centre](#).

[Presentation of the Southeast Asian Economic Outlook 2010 at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies \(IHEID, DeFiNe member\)](#)

> 17 December 2010, Geneva (Switzerland)

The Southeast Asian Economic Outlook (SAEO) is the OECD's annual reference on Asia's economic growth, development and regional integration process. It focuses on the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries and also addresses relevant economic issues in China and India to fully reflect economic developments in the region. The Outlook provides an annual update of regional economic trends and challenges with a statistical annex. The 2010 edition has as its special focus transport infrastructure and its implications for regional integration.

[OECD Global Forum on Development](#)

> April 2011 (Exact date to be confirmed), Paris

More info will be sent to you soon.

Past Initiatives

[CEBRI Seminar on “Brazilian and Chinese Businesses in Africa: Partnership, Competition, and Development”](#)

> 12 August 2010, Sao Paulo (Brazil)

This CEBRI (DeFiNe member) meeting was attended by the OECD Development Centre's Africa and Partnerships & Networks Units.

[CEBRI Website](#); [Agenda of the event](#)

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[Presentations of the Perspectives on Global Development 2010: Shifting Wealth in India and Switzerland](#)

This OECD report looks at the major realignment of the global economy that has taken place in the last two decades. Economic and political power has been shifting towards the developing world and emerging economies thanks to high and sustained growth rates in large developing countries, particularly the Asian giants of China and India.

Two presentations of this OECD Development Centre report were hosted by DeFiNe members:

> *23 September* at the Global Development Network (GDN), New Delhi

> *13 October* at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (IHEID), Geneva

[Presentation of the Perspectives on Global Development 2009: "Is Informal Normal? Towards More and Better Jobs in Developing Countries" at the National Council for Applied Economic Research \(NCAER, a DeFiNe Member\)](#)

> *22 September 2010*, New Delhi, India

This OECD report compiles evidence and data on informal employment form across the developing world. It combines this evidence with in-depth case studies to offer insights on the characteristics and causes of informal work. In doing so, "Is Informal Normal?" aims to contribute to evidence-based policy dialogue by taking stock of the importance of informal employment and examining policy options to respond to the challenge of creating more and better jobs.

[NCAER Website](#)

Development Centre News

[Fiscal Policy in Latin America: Better After All?](#) > *08 October 2010*

Latin America overcame the 2008-2009 international crisis in apparently robust macroeconomic health. At the onset of the crisis, most countries in the region had positive budget surpluses, reasonably low debt-to-GDP levels and credible monetary policies thanks, in several cases, to inflation targeting regimes. As the crisis progressed, policy makers could boast significant fiscal packages while keeping country risk in check.

[MDGs: Aid is Only Part of, not the Whole Solution](#) > *22 September 2010*

With only five years left until the 2015 deadline to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, world leaders are meeting in New York on 20-22 September to agree on an accelerated action agenda. You can expect the usual calls for additional aid money commitments and no doubt new pledges will emerge. But are aid money commitments the core of the matter?

[Working paper on "Rethinking the \(European\) foundations of Sub-Saharan African regional economic integration"](#) > *16 September 2010*

Support for regional economic integration in Africa runs high amongst development partners and African elites. Peter Draper concludes in this working paper that a much more limited approach is required, one that prioritises trade facilitation and regulatory cooperation in areas related primarily to the conduct of business; underpinned by a security regime emphasising the good governance agenda at the domestic level.

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[Gender Inequality and the MDGs: What are the Missing Dimensions?](#) > *15 September 2010*

As world leaders meet in New York in September 2010 to review progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), new research by the OECD Development Centre finds that looking at women's control over resources, their level of decision-making power in the family and household, and their degree of control over their own physical security can shed light on the bottlenecks that hamper further progress across all the MDG targets.

[Working paper on "Renminbi and Poor-Country Growth"](#) > *08 September 2010*

Discussions on how best to exit from global imbalances to create a more balanced world economy have ignored the impact on poor countries of proposals to redress these imbalances. This paper aims at filling that gap. It gauges the degree of renminbi (RMB) undervaluation; presents evidence on RMB undervaluation and China's GDP growth rate; surveys the role of the real effective exchange rate – both its level and its stability over time – for underpinning growth in developing countries, especially in large dual economies such as China and India.

[Asian Business Cycle Indicators \(ABCIs\)](#) > *13 September 2010*

A tool to provide comparable information on the short-term economic climate and potential macroeconomic risks of Asian economies in as close to real time as possible, the Asian Business Cycle Indicators (ABCIs), was launched by the OECD Development Centre's Asia and Pacific desk.

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