



Dear CDD colleagues and friends,

By now we hope that all of you have returned refreshed and rejuvenated from summer holidays. We wanted to touch base with you to let you know about some changes in the CoP/GSG secretariat, and provide an outlook of what's ahead in the coming months.

First, on the changes within the CDD secretariat team. As we noted in the last issue of the newsletter, we have bid a fond farewell to Sean Bradley after his three years coordinating the CDD CoP. Sean has moved on to Myanmar, where he will lead the [national CDD program](#), one of the largest IDA investment projects in a fragile state and a flagship of the Bank's program in Myanmar. Sean is being replaced by Nik Myint, who is coming to the CoP secretariat after four years in Myanmar, where he helped lead the WBG's re-engagement, including as TTL of the first Myanmar Country Partnership Framework, the CDD project, and a peace and conflict program. We've asked Nik to take the lead on the [CDD in FCV](#) agenda, so look for some news on that front soon.

We also said goodbye to two other pillars of our team – Kaori Oshima and Galen Tan – who have moved on to bright new pastures in the Africa region here at the Bank, and at USAID respectively. While the replacement for Kaori's work on the knowledge management side is being finalized, Evan Caplan has joined us as a part-time consultant to carry forward Galen's communications work.

Given the bright new faces in the CDD secretariat, all four of us are looking forward to hearing from you with ideas, suggestions and requests on how to make the CDD CoP/GSG as effective, fun and engaging for you as possible.

Secondly, on the look ahead. We are gearing up for another busy and exciting year, with a focus on three priorities: (1) pushing the agenda on local economic development, (2) deepening our

knowledge on FCV engagement to support the IDA18 scale up, and (3) continuing to optimize operational, knowledge sharing, and communications aspects of CDD projects. We know that members of our community are also interested in other thematic issues such as CDD in urban areas and front-line services. We are happy to accommodate those issues on a demand basis.

- **Priority 1: Local economic development.** We are working closely with colleagues on territorial development in GSURR and in the Agriculture GP to identify opportunities to use CDD platforms to increase incomes, jobs, and economic activity, including through improved access to markets and value chains. We are planning a series of learning events as well as other knowledge exchanges on this topic over the next six months, including through operational support to a set of pilot countries and a regional conference early next year.
- **Priority 2: FCV.** We are working to support the [IDA18 scale up](#), including in light of an [IEG review](#) documenting the value of CDD approaches in fragile states by expanding our knowledge base of what works in these environments. Nik is leading this engagement in close coordination with the Stability, Peace and Security GSG, which will include a review of the CDD portfolio in FCV environments, an exchange among task teams, and engagement with partners including internally at the FCV CSA and externally with the UN and other partners. While Nik will be reaching out separately to task teams currently working on CDD operations in FCV contexts, please do [drop him an email](#) if you are interested in this topic so that we have an updated distribution list for this thematic area.
- **Priority 3: Optimization of CDD operations, communications, and knowledge-sharing.** This includes hands-on operational support to task teams, on-demand knowledge support (through the [help desk](#), via emails, and over coffee) and a series of structured knowledge exchanges, including monthly learning events and tailored courses. Last year, the CDD secretariat responded to almost 200 total requests throughout the year, an average of 5 requests for information, assistance, and materials per week as part of our “help desk” function. So if you are in need of TORs, consultants, operation manuals, or CDD general presentations, just drop us a line or check out our CDD GSG/CoP [site](#). No need to reinvent the wheel!

In knowledge-sharing and communications, this year, we are considering offering again the popular [CDD core course](#) for new and future TTLs of CDD operations. This will likely take place in Q3 and we are trying to gauge interest, so please email us if you would be interested in this. We are also planning a series of shorter clinics on specific operational considerations, including procurement and the new [Environment and Social Framework](#). Look for more information on this shortly. We will be seeking new ways of capturing the tacit knowledge of busy project teams and codifying it into a body of knowledge to share with others. We aim to continue our tradition of

bringing in external experts to inform – and challenge – our thinking and develop new approaches so that we are a community that is both inward and outward looking. On communications specifically, in addition to continuing our CDD monthly newsletter, we hope to explore more dynamic social media outreach, and also offer a new service to our project teams to transform their technical documents into more popular mediums such as feature and results stories, blogs and short briefs. So if you are in need of some help highlighting your terrific stories, let us know!

In all of these activities, we count on your support and expertise. Ours is a horizontal approach that doesn't rely on expertise being centered in the secretariat but rather seeks to draw on the great breadth of experience, insights and energy that all of you bring to the CoP. To that end, please do [email us](#) with ideas, thoughts and suggestions or [join the conversation](#) in our online forum.

We look forward to seeing many of you in the coming months!

Susan, Nik, and Evan