HIGHLIGHTS

Mexican President Announces Support for GPSA during OGP Summit

On October 28, Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto opened the Open Government Partnership Global Summit in a ceremony held at the Palacio de Bellas Artes in Mexico City. During his remarks, the President announced his support for the GPSA, which promotes the principles of open governance and supports civil society working with and evaluating governments.

Earlier this year, the Government of Mexico became the fourth country to commit funds to the GPSA, and equally important, it is the second middle income country to financially support the initiative. Watch the Opening Ceremony here>>>

Reflections from the OGP Summit

by Olive Moore, GPSA Knowledge & Learning

I spent last week inside some very beautiful old buildings in Mexico City with over 2,000 others from governments, civil society organizations and businesses from around the world. As well as admiring the beautiful architecture, I got to hear Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto speak in the stunning Palacio des Bellas Artes. But we also had more serious business: reviewing and strengthening the Open Government Partnership (OGP). Read more>>>

GPSA Grantee in Tunisia Shares Nobel Peace Prize

The Nobel Prize of Peace 2015 was awarded to the Tunisian National Dialogue Quartet – an alliance of Tunisian workers, employers, lawyers and activists – for establishing broad-based national dialogue that countered the spread of violence in Tunisia. The Quartet, founded in 2013, is made up of four organizations, including the Tunisian General Labor Union (UGTT) – one of the GPSA’s Grantees – which played a critical role in the collective dialogue leading up to the new "social contract" in the country after the Jasmine Revolution of 2011, the event that triggered the Arab Spring.

According to UGGTT Secretary General Hassine Abassi, the GPSA project will help identify the needs, gaps and challenges for both the education and health sectors. He added, “By identifying those, we will be able to have something to highlight through constructive dialogue with the public sector.” Read more>>>

Photo: Mr. Sami Awadi & Mr. Hassine Abassi (UGTT), and Stig Trommer (Acting Program Manager, GPSA)

Thank You to our Roster of Experts

GPSA Partners and World Bank staff play an integral role in reviewing grant proposal applications. This year, the GPSA Roster of Experts consisted of 83 experts drawn from civil society, media, academia, multilaterals, as well as from the World Bank – who voluntarily reviewed over 500 applications that were received during the 3rd Call for Proposals. These individuals were drawn from over 35 countries and from a range of expertise such as social accountability, health, education, extractives, program implementation, and transparency. Anne-Lucie Lefebvre, a World Bank Senior Public Sector
Specialist based in Madagascar, has been on the Roster of Experts for three years. She said that this experience has given her the opportunity to learn about innovative approaches and tools civil society is proposing to strengthen transparency, accountability and participation in different countries. She added that her interaction with the GPSA is useful because “it helps inform our dialogue with government and civil society... I was able to engage with governments on civil society and participation.”

We would like to thank the Roster of Experts for their help evaluating grant applications. The Roster of Experts was established in accordance with the GPSA Board Paper to support the proposal review process.

Stockholm Civil Society Week

The GPSA was represented at the first Stockholm Civil Society Week, organized by SIDA, the Swedish development agency, convening Swedish and international CSOs, donors and government representatives. In a plenary session, Andres Falconer, head of GPSA Partnerships, introduced the GPSA and examined the role of the World Bank and other multilateral institutions in opening civil society space and protecting freedom of association. Co-panelists included GPSA partner Richard Ssewakiriyanga (Uganda NGO Platform), GPSA Roster of Experts collaborator Alan Fowler (ISS Erasmus University), Kristina Henschen (Concord Sweden) and Maina Kiai (UN Special Rapporteur on the Right of Freedom of Association). The event took place in parallel to the meeting of the International Donor Group, a network of donors to civil society organizations, where the GPSA represents the World Bank.

Stories from the Field | Stronger Community Voices Improve Maternal and Child Health in Indonesia

Improvements are being seen in maternal and child health services in Indonesia. In 2013, the GPSA awarded a grant to Wahana Visi Indonesia to implement a program to improve maternal and child health in a number of areas in Eastern Indonesia. The group has been looking into the causes of the high maternal mortality rate and ways to solve the problem – such as encouraging citizen feedback for better health services. Read more and Watch the video>>>

From the Knowledge Platform | The Bank Wants to Hear Your Views on Governance!

The 2017 World Development Report on Governance and the Law E-Forum is taking place on the Knowledge Platform, with over 100 posts by more than 35 participants who are discussing their views, knowledge and experiences on governance and the law. This online discussion is focused on learning from practitioners’ and organizations’ experience and inputs. This E-Forum closes on Friday, November 13, 2015. Share your views here>>>

EVENTS

Doing Development Differently: Status and Plans for the Future? | Nov 17, 2015 | This Brown Bag Lunch discussion will center around development processes that are geared towards real impact. Leni Wild from the Overseas Development Institute will present the latest update about the discussion and plans for future actions. More information coming soon to our Events page>>>

Engaging with Citizen Voices and Experiences: The 2017 World Development Report on Governance and the Law | Oct 19 – Nov 13, 2015 | This three-week E-Forum is one means through which the WDR 2017 will engage with stakeholders working on governance issues to identify daily experiences and challenges, reflect on various factors, and share good practices: wrld.bg/TbfAq.
GPSA GLOBAL PARTNERS
Since our last edition, two new organizations have joined the GPSA partnership. View the complete list of 260+ partners here >>

Among our newest partners is Research Triangle Institute International (RTI), one of the world’s leading research institutes that provides research and technical services to governments and businesses across different sectors. The GPSA invited RTI’s International Development Group to share lessons from experience and best-fit practices to promote effective development outcomes and governance through focusing on accountability, responsiveness and information-sharing as a presenter at a recent Brown Bag Lunch event. RTI is interested in exchanging learning and experience with GPSA members to advance understanding of social accountability. RTI Press is publishing an upcoming book, Governance Approaches to Service Delivery: The Practical Application of Social Accountability across Sectors, edited by Anna Wetterberg, Derick W. Brinkerhoff, and Jana C. Hertz, which will be presented at a future GPSA seminar.

IN REMEMBRANCE...

The World Bank Remembers Dr. Samuel Paul
The World Bank, the Global Governance Practice, the Leadership, Learning and Innovation Vice Presidency, and the GPSA deeply regret the passing of their esteemed colleague and friend, Dr. Samuel Paul, who worked every day to improve the lives of millions of people. He pioneered the creation of citizen report cards to amplify the voices of ordinary citizens and the poor, and enable them to hold governments to account. He was an important inspiration and guide for the World Bank’s work in this area, where he served as advisor since 1978. In 1994, Dr. Paul founded and spearheaded the Public Affairs Centre (PAC), a think tank that advanced his groundbreaking work. He is survived by his wife and three children.

Condolences to Friends and Family of Mr. Arif Khan, Governance & GPSA Project Coordinator in Bangladesh.

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Join the Knowledge Platform to interact, network, share and discuss social accountability: http://gpsaknowledge.org/