

New Trends in Land Administration and Management and the World Bank Support for Projects in the East Asia Region

Keith Clifford Bell, United States

Key Words: Land management; accountability; good governance; land administration; land management; land policy; land reform; Millennium Development Goals; tenure security; transparency

SUMMARY

In any country, reform of land administration and management is a major investment of capital and human resources and requires strong and consistent leadership in order to achieve effective, sustainable outcomes. Such reforms require long-term commitment. Land and property are generally the major assets in any economy, and can often account for between half to three-quarters of national wealth. Land is a fundamental factor for agriculture production and is thus directly linked to food security. Land is one of the main sources of collateral, used to obtain credit from established financial institutions such as banks, as well as from informal providers of credit. In the East Asia Region, the World Bank, in collaboration with other development partners, have assisted, or are continuing to fund land administration and management (LAM) projects in Thailand, Indonesia, Philippines, Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic and Vietnam. The Bank's program of "lending" projects have had varying degrees of emphasis on social equity and stability, economic and fiscal growth, environmental responsibility and sustainable development. In post-conflict countries, tenure security and access to land are major factor in providing long-term stability, whereas development of land markets are seen as generating durable results. Complementing the Bank's program of funded projects, the Bank also undertakes a wide ranging program of analytical studies or economic and sector work (ESW) to support policy development and knowledge-building both within countries, across the region and globally. In particular at this time, significant ESW programs is addressing critical policy issues such as land acquisition and land concessions, good governance, gender mainstreaming. This paper discusses the World Bank LAM program across the East Asia Region and in particular the range of contemporary issues being addressed including: governance; access to land for development concessions along with the related issues regarding compulsory land acquisition, valuation and compensation; gender mainstreaming; institutional and policy reforms; focused capacity building; and the utilization of information and communications technology (ICT).

CONTACTS

Keith Clifford Bell
World Bank
Sustainable Development Department, EASRE
East Asia Pacific Region
Address: 1818 H Street NW
City: Washington D.C.
Zip Code: 20422
State or district: Washington D.C.
Country: United States
Tel.: + 1 202 458 1889
Fax: + 1 202 477 2733
Email: kbell@worldbank.org