

**THE WORLD BANK GROUP ARCHIVES**

**PUBLIC DISCLOSURE AUTHORIZED**

**Folder Title:** Project Management Records - Mary Shirley - Governance Conference - September 1991

**Folder ID:** 1573322

**Series:** Research Proposals that were Withdrawn or Rejected

**Dates:** 09/27/1991 – 09/27/1991

**Subfonds:** Records of the Office of the Vice President, Development Economics and Chief Economist and later Senior Vice President, Development Economics and Chief Economist (DECVP)

**Fonds:** Records of the Office of the Chief Economist

**ISAD Reference Code:** WB IBRD/IDA DEC-03-78

**Digitized:** 08/18/2025

To cite materials from this archival folder, please follow the following format:  
[Descriptive name of item], [Folder Title], Folder ID [Folder ID], ISAD(G) Reference Code [Reference Code], [Each Level Label as applicable], World Bank Group Archives, Washington, D.C., United States.

The records in this folder were created or received by The World Bank in the course of its business.

The records that were created by the staff of The World Bank are subject to the Bank's copyright.

Please refer to <http://www.worldbank.org/terms-of-use-earchives> for full copyright terms of use and disclaimers.



THE WORLD BANK

Washington, D.C.

© International Bank for Reconstruction and Development / International Development Association or

The World Bank

1818 H Street NW

Washington DC 20433

Telephone: 202-473-1000

Internet: [www.worldbank.org](http://www.worldbank.org)

**PUBLIC DISCLOSURE AUTHORIZED**

SHIRLEY (DRAFT): GOVERNANCE CONFERENCE

9/91

The WBG Bank Group  
**Archives**



1573322

R1999-150 Other #: 8 Box #: 149647B

Project Management Records - Mary Shirley - Governance Conference - September 1991

REF/WITHDR

**DECLASSIFIED**  
**WBG Archives**

# OFFICE MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 27, 1991

TO: Mr. Lawrence H. Summers, DECVP

THOROUGH: Mr. Johannes F. Linn, CECDR

FROM: Mary Shirley, CECPS

EXTENSION: 37484

SUBJECT: Proposed Conference on Governance

RECEIVED

SEP 30 1991

RESEARCH ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT

Attached please find: (i) an outline for a conference on governance proposed for March 1992; (ii) a schedule for conference preparation; and (iii) a suggestive list of potential participants. We have set up a meeting with you next week to seek your guidance on the proposal. Since we need to secure funding (from the RSB we hope) and begin making logistical arrangements as soon as possible, we're seeking feedback from you before you leave for the annual meetings.

Attachments (3)

cc: Gregory Ingram (RAD), Dennis de Tray (DECVP)

BNunberg:pqi

Copy  
pls  
OK



## GOVERNANCE IN THE 1990S: TOWARD A PRACTICAL RESEARCH AGENDA

### Proposed Conference Outline

#### I. PURPOSE

Questions of governance and their connection to economic development are in plain ascendance on the Bank's policy and research agenda, launched through the recent conceptual paper presented to the Board. The Bank (CECPS in particular) must now get down to concrete work on these issues, devising a program of operationally useful research to extend the frontier of practical knowledge. CECPS proposes a two-day conference on governance. The objective will be to provide guidance for the formulation of a research program by bringing together those leading analytic perspectives and pragmatic approaches which show particular promise for helping solve pressing governance problems.

#### II. TOPICS

To encourage in-depth discussion, the conference will begin with panel discussions of the following three governance topics:

##### \*\* Reducing Rent-Seeking Behavior in Government: Instilling Accountability and Transparency in Public Institutions

###### Questions Addressed:

- What is understood about the benefits and costs of rent-seeking behavior and how can its negative effects be minimized; what is the role of legal safeguards in promoting probity in government?
- What systems and mechanisms of transparency and accountability should be incorporated into the design of new or reformed public institutions to assure the degree of client-citizen responsiveness consistent with political and economic liberalization reforms?
- What is the effect of international aid flows and private business practices on corruption in developing country governments; how can external interventions discourage corrupt behavior?

##### \*\* From Control to Pluralism: Political Management of Economic Policy Reforms

###### Questions Addressed:

- How can governments build consensus around reform policies, managing the interests of supporting and opposing coalitions and defusing potentially destabilizing cleavages among, for example, ethnic, regional or labor groups?
- What is the role of mediating institutions such as non-governmental organizations in coalescing diverse interests around a common reform agenda?
- What does the Bank need to understand about this process for transitional societies (i.e., emergent democracies which are moving toward more

open market economic systems) and how should Bank lending and sector work be informed by analysis of these issues?

\*\* Winners and Losers in a Changing Game: The Politics of Public Spending in Shifting Political and Economic Contexts

Questions Addressed:

-- In transitional political economies where numbers of enfranchised and expectant stakeholders are rising, but resources are drastically constrained, how can the politics of public spending be managed to ensure sound and fair outcomes?

-- When budget constraints harden, what are the political dimensions of restraining aggregate expenditures, in changing the composition of expenditures, and in reducing military expenditures in favor of spending on developmental goals?

-- What are the differential effects of changing expenditure patterns on different income groups; which inter-sectoral trade-offs penalize lower strata and what political strategies can help mitigate these penalties?

III. ORGANIZATION AND FORMAT

Several types of experts will be asked to show how their methodological approach would address sub-sets of the above questions. These include, but are not limited to: political scientists with rational choice orientations and comparative political development perspectives; economists with a new institutional economics perspective; experts with a public law/ legal administration background; business and organizational management experts; practitioners and policy makers with applied experience on the relevant issues; and Bank staff.

For the first day and a half, plenary panels will be organized for each topic. For each panel, two speakers will be asked to prepare brief papers (of 15 pages in length). The papers will:

(i) briefly summarize how their particular school of thought would approach the subject;

(ii) illustrate their analytical approach with a short case study (based on previous empirical work, preferably but not exclusively using developing country material); and,

(iv) discuss the implications for the Bank and its research agenda.

The papers will be prepared on the basis of close consultation with CECPS and will be submitted by mid-February. They will be circulated in advance to all panel members. For each panel, a third speaker with direct operational or policy making experience (this may, in some cases, be a Bank staff member) will be asked to prepare a short (5 page) commentary on the relevance and applicability of the drafts to actual governance problems he or she has confronted.

The second half of day two will be devoted to a discussion led by Bank staff with outside expert participation of the implications of the proceedings



for the governance research agenda. This discussion will begin with a brief plenary session designed to take stock of the lessons of prior Bank research on political economy/ governance issues and to outline the goals of the afternoon sessions. The conference will then break into small working groups to formulate tentative research suggestions. Group leaders will report their findings to the plenary for fuller discussion in the final session. CECPS will provide carefully constructed guidelines to ensure that a useful product emerges from the small group discussions. While a fully developed research agenda is not a realistic output of the conference, it is reasonable to try to refine a set of important, researchable topics, make a determination about what approaches are most appropriate to each topic, and, in very rough terms, lay out the basic elements of a preliminary proposal for study of each topic.

The participants will include 50 Bank staff as well as ten representatives of other international and bi-lateral development institutions with direct interest in governance issues. Twelve outside experts will be invited to participate. The conference will be scheduled for March 26-27, 1992, to be held in Washington, D.C.

Governance Conference  
March 26-27, 1992

Approximate Preparation Timetable

November 1:	Decide on date and total number of participants, speakers, seating style Look at hotel alternatives Check AV arrangements/availability/price
November 15:	Commission papers from speakers Prepare tentative agenda
November 30:	Choose hotel
January 6:	Make expense commitment to hotel Finalize AV arrangements
February 1:	Send invitations to participants, RSVP etc
February 10:	Discuss on binder/number of papers/size Order Binders, Tabs, cover sheets, etc
February 15:	Finalize speaker list Send Speaker confirmation letters Consultant requests, travel etc Receive background papers
February 17:	Choose menu; prepare budget estimate
February 20:	Sample binder title to Graphics/Printing Request
February 25:	RSVP from participants/ Call non RSVPs
March 1:	Binder materials/background papers finalized Print Name tags
March 10:	Revisit hotel/finalize room, AV man, seating etc. Finalize Agenda/Table of contents/participant list etc
March 11:	Send Binders out
March 23:	Confirm menu/number of participants

List of Possible Experts for Governance Conference\*

Robert Bates  
Department of Political Science  
Duke University

Kenneth Shepsle  
Department of Government  
Harvard University

David Brady  
Graduate School of Business  
Stanford University

Thomas Heller  
School of Law  
Stanford University

Joan Nelson  
Overseas Development Council

Barry Ames  
Dept. of Political Science  
Washington University

David Laitin  
Dept. of Political Science  
UCLA

Robert Wade  
Institute of Development Studies  
University of Sussex

Robert Klitgaard

Stephan Haggard  
Dept. of Government  
Harvard University

Bolivier Lamounier  
Departamento de Ciencias Politicas  
Universidade de Sao Paulo

Mancur Olson  
Dept. of Economics  
University of Maryland

Douglass North  
Dept. of Economics  
Washington University



Adam Prejworski  
Dept. of Political Science  
University of Chicago

Ruth Collier  
Dept. of Political Science  
University of California, Berkeley

Collin Campbell  
Dept. of Government  
Georgetown University

Barbara Geddes  
Dept. of Political Science  
UCLA

Richard Posner  
School of Law  
University of Chicago

Terry Moe  
Dept. of Political Science  
Stanford University

Atul Kohli  
Dept. of Politics  
Princeton University

Susan Shirk  
Dept. of Political Science  
University of California, San Diego

Genaro Arriagada  
Vice-Chair, Christian Democratic Party  
Chile  
Universidad de Chile

Oliver Williamson  
Dept. of Economics  
University of California, Berkeley

E.A. Brett  
Institute of Development Studies  
University of Sussex

\* This list is suggestive, although initial contacts have been made with several of the people mentioned. An effort will be made to balance the present emphasis on political science, new institutional economics and law with experts and practitioners with direct management/policy experience. To the extent possible, inclusion of developing country participants will be sought.