



AFGHANISTAN	EGYPT
IRAQ	JORDAN
LEBANON	LIBYA
SUDAN	SYRIA
WBG	YEMEN

Regional Workshop in Lebanon



In partnership with the Banking Control Commission of Lebanon (BCCL), METAC organized a workshop on “Cross Border Supervision” during April 24-25, 2012 in Beirut. The workshop gathered thirty-three officials from the BCCL, METAC and non-METAC countries, and was led by Mr. Rachid Awad, METAC Banking Supervision Advisor, and two short term experts. The workshop covered the latest international practices on supervision of cross border banks, with a substantial set of practical examples and case studies. One of the main topics discussed during the workshop was the establishment and functioning of supervisory colleges as a tool to prevent and resolve cross-border problems in systemically important banks.

Banking Supervision Mission to Afghanistan

Mr. Rachid Awad, METAC Banking Supervision Advisor, visited the Da Afghanistan Bank (DAB) from April 7-12, 2012 to review regulations on related parties and loan classification and provisioning. Some recommendations were given to enhance these regulations and align them with international standards and best practices. The mission also had detailed discussions on the enforcement framework currently applied at DAB and on ways to strengthen it in light of the current problems faced by the Afghani banking sector. Accordingly, an action plan with specific steps and requirements was prepared for that purpose and agreed upon with the supervisory team at DAB.

Consumer Price Index Mission to Afghanistan

A METAC short-term expert, Mr. Kari Manninen, visited the Central Statistics Organization (CSO) in Kabul from April 15-26 to conduct the last of a series of missions aimed at helping the CSO extend and update the consumer price index (CPI) for Afghanistan.

So far, the CSO compiled and published the CPI for the capital city, Kabul, and the national CPI that also included five other major cities. The new CPI now covers ten provinces using updated market basket weights based on the 2007/2008 National Risk Vulnerability Assessment (NRVA) data for all provinces. Price collection has respectively been introduced to ten cities. To mark the successful completion of the project, an official ceremony will be organized by the CSO in early May 2012 to launch the new CPI. The new CPI will have a base period of March 2011 and the first new index will refer to the first month of the Afghan year 1391, or April 2012.

Tax Administration Mission in Lebanon

A METAC tax administration mission comprising Mr. Cedric Andrew from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) panel of fiscal experts and Ms. Manal Assir METAC Revenue Administration Advisor visited Lebanon during April 16-27 to provide technical assistance to the Value Added Tax Directorate (VAT) on combating VAT refund fraud.

The mission reviewed current working practices for administering VAT refunds and held a workshop on effective VAT refund management, sharing with attendees best practices in this area. The mission met with a number of tax officials and senior members of the various VAT departments, and made a number of recommendations for strengthening VAT refund controls for consideration by the VAT Directorate.

Public Financial Management Headquarters Mission to Afghanistan

Mr. Jacques Charaoui, METAC Public Financial Management (PFM) Advisor, joined a headquarters mission to Kabul from April 4-14, 2012 to review the implementation of the PFM roadmap established during the previous FAD mission and advise on further reforms. While noting progress in some areas, the mission recommended further measures relating to medium-term fiscal forecasting and analysis, budget process and programmatic approach, provincial budgeting, financial planning and cash management, and financial oversight of state-owned enterprises and corporations.

