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International Bank Account Number (IBAN)



On November 8, 2010 the Banque du Liban (BDL) and METAC held a discussion on the International Bank Account Number (IBAN). The project was supported by METAC and the use of IBAN became compulsory in July 2010. The discussion was chaired by Mr. Harout Samuelian, Deputy Governor, with the participation of Mr. Mohamad Jabri, Head of Training and Development Department at the BDL, and Mr. Saade Chami, METAC Coordinator. The discussion was attended by a number of senior officials from Lebanese commercial banks. Mr. Ali Yalcin, METAC short-term expert who led the project, made a presentation on the benefits of IBAN, its use and structure. After the presentation, the floor was open for discussion. Bankers raised a number of interesting issues related to the implementation of IBAN.

Public Financial Management Mission in Lebanon

At the request of the Lebanese authorities, an FAD/METAC/World Bank mission visited Beirut from November 8-19, 2010 to assess progress with past recommendations in the area of public financial management reforms, examine budget preparation procedure (including macro-fiscal framework), as well as PFM infrastructure (budget execution, cash management, reporting and accounting, internal controls and audit). The mission was headed by Mr. Philip Gerson, Senior Advisor in the IMF Fiscal Affairs Department. METAC was represented by Pierre Messali, PFM Resident Advisor, and David Webber, short-term expert.

METAC Coordinator visit to Syria

Mr. Saade Chami, METAC Coordinator visited Damascus from November 10-11, 2010 where he met with the Minister of Finance, the Governor of the Central Bank of Syria, the Director of the Statistical office, and other senior officials. The authorities were highly appreciative of METAC's work, agreed to increase Syria's financial contribution to METAC Phase III and to sign the confidentiality agreement as part of the Fund's procedures and policies on dissemination of TA information. The authorities also identified their TA needs and priorities going forward.

Banking Supervision Mission in Yemen



The Central Bank of Yemen (CBY) requested METAC's assistance in improving the supervisory capacity and strengthening the banking supervision environment. An October TA mission provided (i) in-the-field training as well as training on the new developed Inspection Report; (ii) training course on off-site supervision and on how to prepare a monthly and yearly report for each bank following the CAMELS approach; and (iii) training on developing a market risk circular according to standardized approach. The mission was well received by the authorities and highly appreciated by the participants.

TA Delivery during the Second Quarter of Fiscal Year 2011

Technical Assistance (TA) delivery slowed in the second quarter due to the reduction in the number of missions during August (coinciding with the holy month of Ramadan) and to the vacant Statistics Advisor position for two months. As a result, the implementation ratio declined to 64 percent compared to 94 percent in the first quarter. Most of METAC's work focused on direct TA with only one regional workshop on Taxpayers' Services. This workshop attracted a large number (35 participants) of high officials from the region, including from three GCC countries.

All METAC member countries received TA this quarter except Iraq, with Syria receiving the largest share (26 percent) followed by West Bank and Gaza (16 percent). The demand for TA in revenue administration was the highest, accounting for more than 30 percent of total TA delivered.

