

Program for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) Panel of Experts – Brief profile

The Panel of Experts (PoE) profiled below is part of the Program for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA). The objective of this seven-member PoE is to complement and guide the work of the PIDA Consultant by providing inputs on the strategic framework for PIDA. The PoE will also provide high level peer review of the Consultant's outputs at key points in the study. As of May 16th 2010, 5 of the seven members of PoE had been confirmed and the remaining two were in the process of recruitment.



Institutional/Cross-Cutting Issues Expert

Guy Darlan, PhD in Economics, is an international consultant working primarily for the World Bank and the African Development Bank. He specializes in institutional development and capacity development, and is fluent in French and English. Prior to becoming a consultant, he worked full-time at the World Bank for 20 years, first in Operations as a Country Economist and Public Sector Management Specialist, and then at the World Bank Institute as course director and coordinator of the Institute's Africa Program. During his 10 years with the World Bank Institute, he led the Institute's effort to develop a capacity development needs assessment method that was then shared with Bank clients. He began specializing in institutional

development in 1992, after taking time out from the World Bank to study institutionalism at Princeton University. Guy Darlan is a former cabinet minister, public enterprise general manager, and university teacher.



Energy Sector Expert

Anton Eberhard is a Professor at the University of Cape Town where he directs the Management Programme in Infrastructure Reform and Regulation at the Graduate School of Business. His research and teaching focuses on the restructuring and regulation of the electricity and water sectors, investment challenges, and linkages to sustainable development. He has worked in the energy sector for more than 25 years and was the founding Director of the Energy and Development Research Centre. He is a Foundation Member of the Academy of Science of South Africa and serves on a number of Councils and Boards. He is also a former Board Member of the National Electricity Regulator of South Africa.

Prof Eberhard has more than 100 peer-reviewed publications to his credit and has undertaken numerous assignments (both locally and abroad) for governments, utilities, regulatory authorities, and donor and multi-lateral agencies.



Public Private Partnerships (PPP) Expert

James Leigland is senior advisor to the Public-Private Infrastructure Advisory Facility (PPIAF), a global, multi-donor trust fund managed by the World Bank. PPIAF provides advice and grant funding in developing countries to facilitate private sector infrastructure service provision. His other positions at PPIAF have included Program Leader for Africa and acting Program Manager. Before joining the World Bank Dr. Leigland was Consulting Team Leader at the Municipal Infrastructure Investment Unit (MIIU), a project development company created by the South African government, which structured 45 PPPs and privatizations from 1998 to 2005. Dr. Leigland served as USAID's Senior Urban Policy Advisor for East Asia in the mid-1990s, and is a former faculty member at Columbia University in New York

City, where he also earned his Ph.D. in political economy. He is the author of 35 professional publications on infrastructure and privatization issues.



Development Specialist and Team Leader

Praful Patel is a Development Specialist based in Washington DC. He is President of Centennial Africa and Middle East and serves on several boards including the African Center for Economic Transformation and Catalyst Microfinance International. Formerly a Vice president at the World Bank, his professional experience covers different programs including poverty reduction, regional integration, infrastructure, private sector, capacity building, financial sector and macro-economic management. A Uganda national, he holds degrees from the University of Nairobi, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Harvard University Executive Development Program.



Transport Sector Expert

Maryvonne Plessis-Fraissard is a consultant on Transport and Development working in the US, Europe and Africa. She serves on three US Transport Research Board Committees, and sits on the Board of several transport planning, consulting or research firms. Formerly a Director for Transport and Urban Development at the World Bank, she held responsibilities in a wide array of infrastructure and social programs, including regional development. A French national, married with three children, she holds degrees from the University of Paris, the University of Leeds (UK), and the Harvard University Executive Development Program.



Transboundary Water Resources Sector Expert

Mekuria Tafesse has an MSc degree in Civil Engineering and over 30 years of professional experience in the investigation, planning, design and construction management of water resources development projects. His focus areas include: transboundary river basin development & management, irrigation & drainage, flood control, water supply and hydropower schemes. He has worked in the public and private sectors at senior levels and has consulted for a number of multilateral organizations including the AfDB, FAO, World Bank and some NGOs). His consulting activities have exposed him to the operations of a number of river basins in Africa and recently completed a four-year service as Executive Director of Nile

Basin Initiative's Eastern Nile Technical Regional Office. Mr. Mekuria Tafesse currently consults in the area of water resources planning and management, including cooperative projects in transboundary waters.



Information & Communication Technologies (ICT) Sector Expert

Mark Williams is a Senior Economist in the Global ICT group of the World Bank where he specializes in the policy, economics and finance of the ICT sector. He has worked on these issues around the world including throughout Africa. He has been closely involved in the design and implementation of World Bank broadband investment projects in Africa and works with governments across the region on policy and sector reform. He regularly publishes articles in journals and contributes to books on the subject, including the recent World Bank Africa Infrastructure Country Diagnostic study. He is currently based in Johannesburg, South Africa, and works throughout Eastern and Southern Africa.