

March 13th, 2016.

Dear Stewards,

On February 25th, GIFT lead stewards accepted the applications from 10 partners to become stewards. These partners have been working strongly in the action network for quite some time. Please join me in formally welcoming:

- The Instituto Centroamericano de Estudios Fiscales ICEFI (Guatemala and working in Central America)
- The Indonesian Forum for Budget Transparency - Seknas Fitra (Indonesia)
- Fundación Nacional para el Desarrollo, FUNDE (El Salvador)
- The Emerging Markets Investors Alliance (USA)
- Global Integrity (USA)
- The Technical Secretariat of Planning & Economic & Social Development, Paraguay
- The Ministry of Finance, The Dominican Republic
- The Ministry of Finance, Tunisia
- The Ministry of Finance, Indonesia
- The Ministry of Finance, El Salvador

The integration of these additional strong members to the action network brings GIFT's membership to an all time high (50% increase from 2014) and confirms the credibility and usefulness of its activities, dialogues, tools and incentives. These additions set the stage for a continuous and solid expansion in the near future.

GIFT agenda for 2016

Many of you have met and know the representatives of these important institutions since they have been present in various workshops and in stewards' meetings as well. During 2016, we will have again opportunities to engage with them in a variety of ways and particularly through a very active agenda of meetings and workshops planned for 2016 (so far):

- March 14, Guatemala City: Conference in Guatemala hosted by ICEFI, the World Bank, the Fiscal Openness Working Group (GIFT), in a dialogue with the Ministry of Finance, other relevant local stakeholders and the Open Government Partnership (OGP) Support Unit, to address issues around the new Guatemalan Government OGP National Action Plan on fiscal transparency commitments.
- April 4-6, Mexico City: Fiscal Openness Working Group workshop, hosted by the Ministry of Finance, with more than 10 countries' MoF and CSO representatives attending to learn about and discuss fiscal transparency portals and disclosure of budget information using open data formats.
- April 11, Washington DC: public discussion of new normative instruments for fiscal transparency and public finance management, including the IMF Resource Revenue Management pillar, the new PEFA Program Framework, and the GIFT public participation principles, in the framework of the IMF-World Bank Spring meetings.

- April-May, Washington DC (date to be determined): donor discussion on improving donor efforts to promote budget transparency and accountability, as a follow up to the IBP September meeting about sharing experiences and lessons learned in the donor approaches to the promotion of these issues, organized by IBP and GIFT.
- May 4-5-6, Cape Town, South Africa: Africa Regional OGP meeting, including a Fiscal Openness Working Group workshop on National Actions Plans, technology information tools and public participation.
- June 28-29, Ljubljana, Slovenia: OECD Senior Budget Officials meeting in collaboration with PEMPAL (World Bank), the Fiscal Openness Working Group, IBP and the Institute for Public Finance (Croatia), focusing on Europe and Central Asia.
- June/July, Jakarta (date to be determined): a Fiscal Openness Working Group regional workshop, in collaboration with GIFT partners Seknas/Fitra, the Indonesian Ministry of Finance, and the Ford Foundation.
- June 7-8, Washington DC (date to be confirmed): the GIFT General Stewards Meeting.
- September 20, Washington D.C. (date to be confirmed): GIFT Lead stewards meeting on strategic planning of the network.
- October 3-5, Washington D.C: high-level presentation of the Guide on Principles and Practices in Public Participation in Fiscal Policies; fall meetings of the IMF-World Bank (October 7-9).
- October 4-5, Washington DC (date to be confirmed): the GIFT General Stewards Meeting.
- October, Montevideo (date to be determined): FOWG session and workshop at the OGP America regional meeting in Uruguay.
- December (date to be determined): OGP Global Summit in Paris, with FOWG sessions and workshop.

Please let us know as soon as possible which of this important events call your attention, so we can start making the preparations for your participation. In any case, please save the dates for the General Stewards Meetings (June 7-8 and October 4-5).

Principles of Public Participation in Fiscal Policies and Guide on Principles & Practices

I take the opportunity to share with you the latest version of the Principles of Public Participation in Fiscal Policy. As you know, these were approved in general at the December General Stewards Meeting and were subject to additional comments by the stewards until the end of January (period extended to February). We can confirm that this version is enriched compared to the one discussed in December but that in the essence of what was approved then has not been changed.

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Finally, as part of the engagement taken in the General Stewards Meeting, please find attached a concept note of the Guide on Principles and Practices in Public Participation in Fiscal Policies. We will keep you posted about the progress of this document but, as usual, your comments will be very welcome at any time!

I thank you in advance for your time and I look forward to hearing soon from you.

Kind regards,



Juan Pablo Guerrero
Network Director