Country Offices receive training in Access to Information Policy
To complement the face-to-face training being offered at Headquarters, in early April 2013 a training program was launched for staff in the Country Offices, through videoconferencing workshops. Between April and August of this year, training sessions reached 378 staff members. For details on the training, and participation by Country Offices, see the table in IDBDOCS #37952260. Thanks to the following Focal Points in the Vice Presidency for Countries (VPC) for their support: Sara Bojorge Saenz (CID), Juan Carlos Sánchez (CSC), Dana Payne (CCB), Consuelo Yepez (CAN), and Peter Sollis (CDH). We hope to continue working together!

SEC/ATI holds specialized workshops and activities for the departments
The Access to Information Section (SEC/ATI) has held special training sessions for units, sectors, and departments, based on the particular characteristics and situation of each, and the types of information and documents with which they work. In all, 19 specialized workshops and activities have been held, covering about 625 persons. These activities included workshops for new Bank interns, a Knowledge Day in the Institutions for Development Sector (IFD/FMM), workshops for the MIF that included sessions on the Access to Information Policy, a workshop for specialists from the Social Sector (SCL) and the Energy Division (INE/ENE), workshops for the Office of the Secretary’s (SEC) staff, a workshop for the Office of Evaluation and Oversight (OVE), and workshops for staff in the different departments.
Access to Information Committee and progress in implementing the Policy in 2013

In 2013, work has been done in key areas for obtaining better understanding and application of the Policy by staff. In early March 2013, the Access to Information Committee approved the Departmental Classification Instructions—a tool to help staff properly classify Bank documents. As part of its supervisory functions, in May 2013, the Committee held a session to examine progress during 2012 in implementing the policy, the conclusions reached by the Policy and Evaluation Committee as part of the midterm evaluation performed by the Office of Evaluation and Oversight (OVE), and the activities to be carried out by Management in 2013. The Committee plays an active role in supervising implementation and will therefore continue to meet to track progress.

Focal Points—Key to properly implementing the Policy

Focal Points act as a liaison, mainly between their departments and the department’s units and SEC/ATI, for implementation tasks. Focal Points play an important role in identifying issues that need to be addressed, including consultations on information classification, problems related to publication of documents, technical difficulties with publishing in IDBDOCS, and consultations on procedures for the declassification and dissemination of information. We have therefore been working very closely with this staff, precisely because they are an efficient channel for transmitting knowledge about application of the Policy in the Bank.

The External Panel carries out activities at Bank Headquarters in Washington, D.C.

In January 2013, a training session was held for the members of the External Review Panel. As part of the activities, panel members had the opportunity to meet with: the President of the Bank, the Executive Vice President, the Secretary, the Deputy Secretary, the Board of Executive Directors, the Chairperson of the Access to Information Committee, staff from the Records Management Section (ACP/REC) who explained the eArchives project and aspects relating to the Bank’s historical information, SEC staff who explained the main functions of their office, staff from the Office of Ethics who explained the Bank’s new Code of Ethics, and staff from the Independent Consultation and Investigation Mechanism who talked about the Mechanism’s activities and experience with cases submitted for its consideration.

Star Focal Point: Carla Bueso of the MIF

In each semiannual newsletter, SEC/ATI recognizes a Focal Point who has made a special effort to promote the Access to Information Policy in their department. On this occasion, we salute Carla Bueso, MIF Focal Point, for her work and commitment to implementing the Policy, by including the Policy on the training agenda for MIF staff in the Country Offices. Thank you Carla!
Phases I and II of the changes to the Access to Information webpage have been completed

In 2012, SEC/ATI carried out the first stage of improvements (Phase I) which consisted of making basic changes to the Access to Information page, to include more content and present relevant information on the IDB in a more organized fashion, giving users better, easier access to the information they search for on the site. The second stage (Phase II)—implemented in 2013—includes redesign of the Access to Information page, for which a comparative analysis was performed of the web pages of the Bank’s peer multilaterals. The changes in this second phase focus on accessibility in the form of the fewest possible number of clicks by users to obtain information. This accessibility is complemented by links to other knowledge repositories such as BRIK, eArchives, MapAmericas, the Law Library, and other sections with documentation on the Bank’s website. The purpose is for the website to be a one-stop shop, as a way of increasing user access.

SEC/ATI seeks the Bank’s opinion on the Access to Information webpage

To produce a website that meets a high standard of access to the information the Bank wishes to disseminate, SEC/ATI is asking for the opinion of the Bank’s internal stakeholders, who are important users that can provide us with comments to improve the page. You are invited first to visit the page at www.iadb.org/access and then to send your comments by email to the Access to Information Section at sec-ati@iadb.org. We appreciate your time, and all comments are welcome.

Access to Information presents at the Annual Retreat of Caribbean Civil Society Consultative Groups

Adrien Lopez of SEC/ATI gave a presentation on the Access to Information Policy and the Bank’s progress in implementing the Policy to the Third IDB Annual Retreat of Caribbean Civil Society Consultative Groups held in Barbados in May 2013. She also invited the participants from civil society organizations to visit the access to information webpage and send their comments on how to improve access for information users. The panel was moderated by the IDB Representative in Surinam, Marco Nicola, and participants included Gino Persaud of Transparency International.
SEC/ATI shares with counterparts at the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB)

The Secretary of the Bank and SEC/ATI met with members of the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) to share good practices in implementing their access to information policies. From left to right: Volville Forsythe (CDB), Angela Parris (CDB), Germán Quintana (IDB), Tonya Byer (CDB), and Marcelo Cerna (IDB).

Internal campaign to promote the Access to Information Policy

In April 2013, an internal promotion campaign was conducted called the “Access Campaign” with the cooperation of the Focal Points (see the four photos). During the year, internal dissemination activities and publication of semiannual newsletters on implementation of the Policy will continue, in order to raise staff awareness.

KNL interviews Marcelo Cerna, Chief of the Access to Information Section, to promote the Policy

In March 2013, Beatriz Jellinek, the Knowledge and Learning Department’s (KNL) liaison with SEC, interviewed the chief of SEC/ATI, Marcelo Cerna, to publicize the importance for the Bank of complying internally with the policy and disseminating it externally as well. Some of the questions centered on aspects such as what the Bank was aiming to achieve with this new Policy, transparency in today’s organizations, the main players for implementing and enforcing the Bank’s Policy, the most important messages for civil society organizations, and so on. To see the interview, click the link on the Access to Information Intranet page at http://sec.iadb.org/Site/Content/ShowPage2.aspx?ID=207.