January 14, 2013

TO: Chris, Mort

FR: Jonas

RE: Summary of Meeting with Jim Kim

Overview

OSF and the Bank agreed on an agenda of five issues to pursue together. A sixth item – having Kim participate in a global staff meeting with Chris Stone for the OSF network – was also agreed to. Two of the agenda items involve OSF organizing civil society consultations: one in Burma and a series on disability rights in selected countries. Perhaps we can use those efforts as jumping off points for additional consultations.

Following is a summary of the discussion, along with notes on steps we should take to follow up.

Burma

The Bank is planning to support a large project to upgrade and modernize Burma’s energy grid, described by Kim as a public-private partnership. OSF offered to organize consultations with civil society and grass roots groups in order to bring the non-governmental perspective into the planning process. Kim agreed to this. We’ll have to make sure he transmits the message to the country office. I will meanwhile talk to Maureen about the possibilities from the OSF side.

Climate Change

Kim was seized with the issue of climate change, believing that a major shift in public attitude is around the corner (as major weather events impinge on the public consciousness). He wants to get ahead of the curve now by establishing a blueprint for a carbon market that can be brought on line quickly once the politics have changed. Although it wasn’t entirely clear from his statements, he seems to think GS has a special role to play here because of his financial background.

Chris pointed out that OSF is a major donor of the Climate Policy Institute, which is best placed to work on this project. He also offered a couple of additional ways OSF might be helpful: adaptation, building on our work with six universities in Africa and the developing work on food security and water, and public education, through a potential expansion of Climate Nexus to the international arena. Kim mentioned that Yemen is already feeling the impact of climate change in its reduced access to water. We will need to talk to the Bank further to explore ways in which the two institutions may work together. The first step should be to brief Tom Heller on this discussions and then to open a dialogue with Rachel Kite, head of the Bank’s sustainable development network.

Disabilities

The Bank is supportive of inclusion and mainstreaming for people with disabilities. It has not wanted to address rights issues head on, however, preferring to deal with rights through the prism of participatory development or social accountability. OSF offered to organize consultations with the disabilities community, either writ large or in specific countries where the issue is acute. We will bring MHI and DRI into the discussion to strategize on how to take advantage of this opening.

Global Partnership on Social Accountability

The Bank would like OSF to participate in the GPSA. Chris suggested we look for opportunities to co-fund projects rather than contribute to the Bank directly. He and Kim agreed that OSF would take an observer seat on the steering committee as a way of remaining engaged. We can activate our network in several of the eight countries that have signed on to GPSA in order to identify projects for joint support.

Roma

Kim remains committed to making the trip to Romania with GS and CS. The dates are still being worked out – May 6-10 is the latest window. We did not get a chance to ask Kim about the other agenda items: appointment of a delegate to chair the Roma Decade Secretariat Foundation or attendance at the REF donor conference and Decade Steering Committee meeting. Rob Kushen and/or I will follow up with his office on these issues.

OSF Conference Call

Chris proposed that Kim participate in a global staff meeting with the OSF network to discuss issues and geographies of common interest. The offer was accepted. Kim said he wanted to talk about his experience with George Soros in earlier years and George Soros’s insight that real change would come by turning reform efforts into social movements. We will work out the substance and timing with Chris, our communications team, and Kim’s office.