



Bernard L. Schwartz Forum
on Constructive Capitalism



Center
for Global
Development

forum
International Forum for Democratic Studies

DEVELOPMENT AND DEMOCRACY PROMOTION WORKSHOP

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**The Bernard Schwartz Forum on Constructive Capitalism
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BACKGROUND:

Over the past decade, there has been considerable convergence between the agendas of the development and democracy promotion communities. Donor agencies like the World Bank, the UK Department for International Development, and the Millennium Challenge Corporation have put rule of law, accountable government, and strong institutions at the top of a new “governance” agenda. Conversely, organizations in the business of promoting democracy have focused on the need to “deliver on the promise of democracy” by helping democratic parties and groups formulate social and economic agendas that broaden their potential bases of support by tackling problems of poverty and exclusion that weaken democratic legitimacy.

In practice, however, the two communities are compartmentalized, speak different languages, and fail to exploit potential synergies. An institution like the World Bank, for example, has sought to build “demand for good governance” through promotion of civil society, but is limited in its willingness to support parties or NGOs overtly opposing the existing government. Conversely, democracy organizations may not be up to date on the range of social policy initiatives available around which to build party programs, or work on the ground with community-driven development projects and by that means contribute to meaningful institutionalization of democratic systems.

CONFERENCE OBJECTIVE:

The purpose of this workshop will be to bring the development and democracy promotion communities together for a workshop in which they can better understand each other's activities and look for synergies in pursuing their respective agendas. We will look at three topics:

1. *Development and Democracy Promotion: Convergence or Oblique Agendas?* While the agendas of the two communities have converged, their perspectives and vocabulary are quite different. What are the possibilities for potential collaboration,

- or at least clarification of a division of labor, between the two, both in the field and at a policy level inside the US government?
2. *Inequality, Poverty, and Democracy.* Democracy promoters need help from development organizations in “making democracy deliver,” that is, in formulating sustainable and well-crafted social and economic interventions designed to appeal to the poor majority in many developing countries. Development practitioners, on the other hand, need to learn to think more politically about how to achieve support for programs that reach the poor and reduce income inequality. What commonalities already exist? Are there ways the two sides work together to accomplish common aims?
 3. *External actors, democracy promotion, and economic policy.* If there is going to be a renewed effort on the part of democratic political actors to address problems of poverty and inequality, they will immediately face the problem of “who pays?” and “who loses?” External actors have various tools (in addition to the military interventions which have given democracy promotion a bad name): foreign aid, traditional IMF-style advice on economic reform strategies, and various form of agreed oversight from outside, including naming and shaming of corrupt or irresponsible governments. What has been helpful – both to building democratic institutions and building the support of a middle-class majority for equitable growth? What has been at best neutral and at worst problematic? What are the lessons for the two communities?

The workshop will involve a seminar-style discussion among a small group of select practitioners from both the development and democracy-promotion communities. Each of the three panels will begin with two brief presentations, followed by discussion involving all of the workshop’s participants. We intend to make transcripts of the session publicly available; in addition, presentations will be considered for publication in the *Journal of Democracy* or as free-standing occasional papers from the Schwartz Forum on Constructive Capitalism or the Center for Global Development.

This workshop will be held in Kenney Auditorium of the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies from 10:30am-5:15pm March 24, 2010. For information contact Seth Colby, Executive Director of the Bernard Schwartz Forum on Constructive Capitalism, scolby2@jhu.edu.