

## World Knowledge Forum 2012

**Jim Yong Kim**

**Delivering On Development**

**8:30-9:40**

Dr. Jim Yong Kim today presented this year's keynote address at the 13<sup>th</sup> World Knowledge Forum in Seoul, South Korea. Entitled "Delivering on Development—Harnessing Knowledge to Build Prosperity and End Poverty," Kim's speech discussed the need for a science of delivery, the knowledge required for international development, and the concrete steps the World Bank will be taking to end poverty.

Dr. Kim, President of the World Bank, is the former president of Dartmouth College and former director of the HIV/AIDS Department at the World Health Organization. Kim, a physician by trade, holds an M.D. and a Ph.D. in anthropology, both from Harvard University.

The world is changing. Emerging markets make up half of the world's economies. Governments and their partners can no longer rely on rhetoric. The world's radical inequalities in wealth are not sustainable. Dr. Kim touched on all of these points, emphasizing, "Bold action must be guided by knowledge." We need a "shift today in how countries, communities, and their partners harness knowledge for development."

"There is an urgent need for a science of delivery," Dr. Kim continued. He added that countries have strong policies, but those policies don't always make their way into practice. Material infrastructure and services like education and health care do not meet acceptable standards in many parts of the world. However, there are instances of successful development. "We need to move from isolated examples to broad global progress," Dr. Kim said.

Dr. Kim also focused on the character of the knowledge needed for a science of delivery. "Delivery has a paradoxical quality. The better it is, the less we notice it," he said.

He stressed that the movers and 'implementors' of our most successful businesses and governments must develop a science of delivery. "The quality of our knowledge depends on the inclusiveness of the debate," he said. It must be about problem-solving. "It is a practical brand of knowledge that looks for the most effective means to achieve a defined end," he added. This knowledge must be analytic. It must be scientific. It must be logical.

Lastly, Kim gave some insight into what three steps the World Bank will be taking in the near future to create, develop, and implement a science of delivery on matters of international development.

The first step the World Bank will take is the creation of a pilot program with a wave of countries, the first of which is South Africa. This pilot program is designed to develop and harness the knowledge that,

when put into practice, improves economic conditions and reduces poverty. South Africa will be home to a developmental knowledge bank.

Dr. Kim continued with the World Bank's future steps. "We've got to measure results, not just how many kilometers of rural roads get built, but whether those roads are helping reduce poverty," he said. The World Bank will invest in tools and strategies that will help measure the outcomes.

The third step Dr. Kim described will focus on methods for capturing and sharing this knowledge. "We'll use innovative approaches and tools to capture the tacit knowledge of master implementations, and teach delivery skills," he said.

Dr. Kim highlighted the importance of case-based learning, clinical mentorships, and a commitment to learning from failure. "How can we avoid repeating past mistakes if we don't even talk about where we've failed?" he inquired. Through this shared knowledge and clinical mentorship of world leaders, Dr. Kim and the World Bank endeavor to put an end to poverty.