

# Investing Across Borders

## Global indicators of FDI regulation

### Overview

The *Investing Across Borders* (IAB) project is a new global benchmarking initiative being developed by the World Bank Group that annually measures the ease of establishing and operating a foreign-owned business in countries across the world.

The IAB project uses the methodology of the *Doing Business* project of the World Bank Group in order to compare the quality of investment climates across countries, identify good practices in investment policy design and implementation, and stimulate and guide investment policy reforms.

The IAB indicators are based on a survey of private sector practitioners – primarily investment lawyers and consultants advising foreign investors – and combine an evaluation of the quality of laws and policies, as well as their implementation and enforcement in practice.

#### Countries to be covered in the first IAB report (planned for release in May 2010):

**Sub-Saharan Africa (AFR – 21 countries):** Angola, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritius, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia

**East Asia & Pacific (EAP – 10 countries):** Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Thailand, Vietnam

**Eastern Europe & Central Asia (ECA – 20 countries):** Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Macedonia, FYR, Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Turkey, Ukraine

**Latin America & Caribbean (LAC – 14 countries):** Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru, Venezuela R.B.

**Middle East & North Africa (MNA – 5 countries):** Egypt Arab Rep., Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Yemen, Rep.

**South Asia (SAR- 5 countries):** Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka

**OECD high income (12 countries):** Austria, Canada, Czech Rep., France, Greece, Ireland, Japan, Korea Rep., Slovak Rep., Spain, United Kingdom, United States

### Thematic Coverage

IAB indicators cover the following thematic areas of FDI regulations and administrative processes:

- 1) Investing across sectors
- 2) Starting a foreign business
- 3) Accessing land
- 4) Arbitrating disputes

### Practical Use

The IAB's cross-country data can be used by:

#### Governments and Investment Promotion Intermediaries to:

- Identify and share regional and international good practices that help guide policy advocacy priorities
- Stimulate and advise investment policy reforms
- Strengthen credibility of information provided by IPIs by using third party evaluations of the quality of the investment climate
- Benchmark their country against other countries to refine promotion strategy and publicize success in improving investment climates from year to year

#### Foreign investors and site location consultants in order to:

- Facilitate their global investment location decisions by complementing other available sources of information
- Provide easy-to-use, practical indicators on the efficiency of investment processes and the quality of investment laws as implemented worldwide, made widely available on the internet

#### Advisors and consultants on investment policy and promotion to:

- Identify specific legal, regulatory and administrative impediments affecting countries' investment attractiveness
- Analyze regional and global good practices to better target and design their advisory assistance
- Foster competition to improve FDI regulations by allowing countries and regions to compare themselves with each other
- Monitor and analyze the impact of investment climate reforms

[www.investingacrossborders.org](http://www.investingacrossborders.org)

Contact: Peter Kusek, Project Manager, t. +1 202 473 7517, [pkusek@ifc.org](mailto:pkusek@ifc.org), The World Bank Group, Washington, DC