



2015 CAPE conference: bricks and dollars

11 & 12 November 2015

DAY 1 | Wednesday 11 November

8.15 am Registration & breakfast

9.00 am Opening remarks

Edward Hedger, Director - Finance and Economic Development, ODI

9.05 am Introduction to day 1

Philipp Krause, Public Finance Team Leader, ODI

9:10 am Session 1: A renewed push for infrastructure

The world is hungry for infrastructure investment. In 2014, the IMF declared [‘the time is right for an infrastructure push’](#). Yet the development community has been here before – there have been earlier periods of infrastructure enthusiasm, with the [white elephants](#) to show for it, but precious little growth. How can governments avoid the mistakes of the past? What institutions and processes are needed to invest in infrastructure, and to invest well? Our keynote speakers will draw on experiences from their own countries to address these questions and our respondents will share cross-country findings of their institutions.

Keynote Speakers

- H.E. Gyude Moore, Minister of Public Works, Liberia
- H.E. Ato Ahmed Shide, State Minister of Finance and Economic Cooperation, Ethiopia

Chair

Alison Evans, Chief Commissioner, Independent Commission for Aid Impact

Discussants

- Richard Hughes, Division Chief, IMF
- Robert Hunja, Director Global Governance Practice, World Bank
- Phyllis Papadavid, International Macroeconomics Team Leader, ODI

11.00am Coffee and tea break

11.30 am Session 2: How to decide what to build?

Decisions on what and where to build can influence the path of national and regional development. Yet planning and selecting infrastructure projects is highly politicised. Decisions may be held hostage to pork barrel politics (“build it in my constituency”) or NIMBY-ism (“not in my backyard”).

- How can institutions support good decisions on which projects should receive public funding?
- How can political challenges be overcome to select an economically efficient project portfolio?
- What capabilities are required to plan and coordinate regional infrastructure projects?

Chair

Aarti Shah, Head of Technical, CABRI

Speakers

- Anand Rajaram, Governance Global Practice, World Bank
- Geoffrey Spence, Chief Executive, Infrastructure UK, HM Treasury
- Rosalind Thomas, Managing Director, SAEx International Ltd
- Ameet Morjaria, Assistant Professor, Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University

1.00pm Networking lunch

2.00pm Session 3: Putting plans into action

In a recent IMF study, low and middle income countries, on average, scored higher than advanced economies against criteria of preparation of national and sector plans; yet results have often disappointed when translating these visions into reality. Many developing countries are struggling to spend available capital for public investment: execution rates average around two thirds in Sub-Saharan Africa. Where spending does occur, the realised value of assets is often much lower than the financing invested.

- What are the key drivers of inefficiencies during implementation?
- How have certain countries managed to avoid these pitfalls?
- How can the absorptive capacity for investment be increased?
- Where governments lack capabilities, how can the private sector and development partners be used to address gaps?
- How can governments procure infrastructure in ways that are efficient, whilst serving the interests of the private sector and citizens?

Chair

Alastair McKechnie, Senior Research Associate, ODI

Speakers

- Geraldine Barker, Director Project Delivery, UK National Audit Office
- Dan Hymowitz, Head of Insight and Learning, Tony Blair Africa Governance Initiative
- Joel Turkewitz, Lead Public Sector Specialist, Governance Global Practice, World Bank
- Sungmin Han, Fellow, Public Investment Evaluation Division, Korea Development Institute

3.30 pm Coffee and tea break

4.00 pm Keynote Speaker: Gordon Brown in conversation with Kevin Watkins (TBC)

In this conversational session, Gordon Brown will discuss his experiences of infrastructure investment, both as a former Chancellor and Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, and in his current role as Chair of the World Economic Forum's Global Strategic Infrastructure Initiative.

5.15 pm Networking reception

DAY 2 | Thursday 12 November

8.15 am Registration & breakfast

9.00 am Recap of day 1 and introduction of day 2

Philipp Krause, Public Finance Team Leader, ODI

9.05 am Session 4: Investing in cities

In an increasingly urbanised world, increasing amounts of investment will need to take place in cities. Investment in urban infrastructure is needed to drive national and global growth. And investment in urban infrastructure is needed not just to promote growth but also to serve the needs of the majority of the world's population that now lives in cities.

- What role should sub-national governments play in infrastructure investment, and what specific challenges do they face?
- How can urban infrastructure be built and maintained despite shoe-string city budgets?
- How can urban government introduce user fees and land taxation to finance urban infrastructure?
- What role should national government play in overseeing the management of investments?

Chair

Dinah McLeod, Director of Strategic Development, ODI

Speakers

- Jean-Paul Faguet, Professor of the Political Economy of Development, London School of Economics
- Marissa Moore, Director of Urban Development Infrastructure, National Treasury, South Africa
- Zhi Liu, Peking University, Lincoln Institute Center for Urban Development and Land Policy
- Nick Godfrey, Head of Policy and Urban Development, New Climate Economy project, The Global Commission on the Economy and Climate

11.00 am Coffee and tea break

11.30 am Session 5: Working with the private sector

The recent Addis Ababa Conference on Financing for Development emphasised the role the private sector can play in filling infrastructure gaps. Multilateral development banks have stated that the capital is not the

constraint to investment but that ‘the critical barrier to achieving an uplift in infrastructure investment is an insufficient pipeline of bankable projects ready to be implemented’.

- How have certain countries been successful in attracting private finance?
- What does the private sector look for in infrastructure investment opportunities?
- What can international organisations do to address barriers?

Chair

James Cameron, Chair of Climate Change Capital, and chair of ODI

Speakers

- Paola Lazarte, PPP coordinator, Ministry of Education, Peru
- Xaypaseuth Phomsoupha, Director General, Ministry of Energy and Mines, Lao PDR
- Julia Prescott, Partner and Chief Strategy Officer, Meridiam
- Philippe Valahu, Executive Director, the Private Infrastructure Development Group

1.00 pm Networking lunch

2.00 pm Session 6: Who’s paying?

The financing for development agenda has largely focused on mobilising capital to close infrastructure gaps. The figures bandied around to fill infrastructure gaps seem to be growing by the year. Concerns around debt sustainability mean countries cannot simply borrow to fill these gaps. As governments enter into a widening array of infrastructure financing arrangements, there are growing risks that debts will once again become unsustainable. Unless the amount of external concessional financing rises (which seems unlikely), the bill for this expansion will ultimately need to be paid by taxes or user fees.

- How can finance ministries mobilise funding to meet their aspirations in a fiscally sustainable way?
- What can be done to strengthen management of debt and fiscal risks in a changing financing landscape?
- What lessons can be learnt from the past about reforms to pricing of infrastructure-related services?
- How can governments effectively work with providers of development assistance to address constraints to infrastructure financing?

Chair

Marco Cangiano, former assistant director, IMF Fiscal Affairs Department

Speakers

- Annalisa Prizzon, Research Fellow, ODI
- Jeffrey Gutman, Senior Fellow, Brookings Institution
- Amadou Hott, CEO of Fonds Souverain d'Investissements Stratégiques "FONSIS" (the sovereign wealth fund of Senegal)
- Mark Harvey, Head of Infrastructure Profession, DFID

3.30 pm Coffee and tea break

4.00 pm Closing session: building the future

This session will review the most relevant insights, opinions and evidence from panellists and participants at the conference.

Chair

TBC

Speakers

- Richard Hughes, Division Chief Fiscal Affairs Department, IMF
- Neil Cole, Executive Secretary, CABRI
- Robert Hunja, Director, Global Governance Practice, World Bank
- Julia Prescott, Partner and Chief Strategy Officer, Meridiam