Remarks at Development Marketplace

by
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MR. WOLFENSOHN: The challenge has barely begun. Next month our global population will reach 6 billion. On current trends, we will not meet the international development goal of halving poverty by 2015, nor the goal of universal primary education by that date. On current trends, we will not meet the international development goal of reversing the current loss of environmental resources, both nationally and globally, by that date.

In 25 years' time, that 6 billion people on our planet will grow to 8 billion. This is not a legacy to leave our children.

COMMENTATORS:-In 1998, we held the first ever Innovation Marketplace here in the Atrium of the Bank, and that marketplace was open primarily to Bank staff.

-And as we thought about last year's event, we said why don't we open it up to the entire development community so that we can create the future together.

-We got slow proposals in the beginning, very few. And as word got around, we got an avalanche of proposals.

-One thousand one hundred fifty-six applications from teams around the world in 92 different countries.

-And these are the 300-plus finalists here today. And they are talking to each other, they are making connections, and they are also being judged by a jury panel.

-So much new thinking and so many different people from all over the globe, it is just wonderful.

-The dream is to help a mother, because the children who study in bare foot, who study half naked; give a woman only three months working, the child is dressed.

-Development marketplace, I think this is just the tip of the iceberg, because I think what it shows is that there are many, many people around the world thinking about how to reach the poor and how to reflect voices of the poor. I've been very impressed and moved by what I've seen.
About every eight seconds, somebody else dies because of tobacco.

Being here, listening to the people, looking at the posters, I'm absolutely impressed by the quality. I think it's of a high standard.

Our dream is a world free of poverty for people with disabilities. You're sending high-tech volunteers to train people with disabilities to use the new information technologies.

The project is ending female genital cutting in Curacao, Guinea, and providing new opportunities.

It shows that the Bank is really reaching out in partnership and looking for new ideas to help stimulate the development debate.

It is this crisis of orphans who are dying of HIV/AIDS and are being taken care of by kinship caregivers who do not have any support. Let us empower the caregiver.

This is what they're calling the next revolution in farming. This is also 100 percent organic. The beauty of this is growing vegetables in circles.

I discovered myself numbers of project which is very interesting, which it can be adjusted to and recopied for Cambodian environment.

I saw this one woman who was working on coffee in Mexico. She's now getting ideas from somebody who's working on coffee in Africa, from somebody who is working on coffee in Guatemala. That I think is really the new Bank.

A network of our design groups from perhaps the state of Himachal Pradesh in North India work with us to create a Web portal to be able to market the products to around the world and also work with local NGOs.

Our dream is to let indigenous participate because they were always excluded. This time it's the first time indigenous people are going to be able to access justice.

Children play on a merry-go-round, and it pumps water into a tank, and we've proved that the messages that are on the tank are being accepted by the community. We can put the HIV/AIDS messages on them. Then we'll improve the perception of the virus.

Our dream is for civil society and government and poor communities to be working together to fight poverty.

MR. WOLFENSOHN: This is clearly one of the greatest events we've ever had at the Bank. It is remarkable to see so many people from within and outside the Bank join together in one very simple objective, which is to see how we can do development better.
Well, I hope that as a result of this we will get other people that will contribute. In fact, as a result of this being on the website, it is quite possible that private individuals could come in on the Web, find something that they like, and make a contribution.

COMMENTATORS: Over the next 12 months, we're going to be following these proposal teams as they develop their ideas, and we're going to see what works and what doesn't work, and we're going to share the results with the rest of the development community.

-I do not get any money, but I'm very happy to be here because I made a lot of contacts. I saw other people whose programs and things that can also be done in my own country. So it's a big, big, big achievement of having been here to see what was going on.

-Searching for solutions together.

-Together.