



INTERNATIONAL BUDGET PARTNERSHIP
Open Budgets. Transform Lives.

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The Open Budget Survey 2012 Draws International Press Coverage

Since 23 January IBP partners have been hosting release events for the [Open Budget Survey 2012](#), the only independent, comparative, and regular measure of budget transparency and accountability around the world. Produced every two years by experts outside government, the 2012 Survey reveals that the national budgets of 77 of the 100 countries assessed – these 77 countries are home to half the world's population – fail to meet basic standards of budget transparency.



OBS 2012 release at Ministry of Finance in [Georgia](#)

Our partners' events help highlight the urgent need for their governments to take concrete steps to make their budgets more transparent and accountable. The release efforts of the IBP and its partners have generated substantial national and international press coverage, including from the [Huffington Post](#), [The Guardian](#), the [Times of India](#), [Bloomberg.com](#), and other foreign language media outlets. To see all of the coverage to date (by region), go to the [OBI in the News](#) page.

You can also "Like" our Facebook page to receive live newsfeed updates about our partner's releases, from [Tunisia](#) to [Kenya](#) to [Afghanistan](#) and beyond.

Moving Beyond the Press Release

Transmedia Storytelling and the Open Budget Survey 2012: An Interview with Lukman Hakim, by Cynthia Ugwuibe, the International Budget Partnership

“Transmedia storytelling” — using multiple media and activities (from public events to digital technologies like social media) and formats (e.g., documentary video or audio podcasts) — is a way for “storytellers” to effectively engage their audiences in a more interactive manner. This approach is common in the entertainment and marketing industries, and it is increasingly being picked up by civil society organizations (CSOs) as a means to raise public awareness and broaden support for their causes and, ultimately, inspire social change.

Most recently the IBP used transmedia storytelling in its global release of the [Open Budget Survey](#) (OBS) 2012. The IBP produced a [video](#) that introduces viewers to the Survey and its methodology; it produced a variety of print materials (like [country summary reports](#) and an [infographic](#)) and disseminated them through the IBP website and social media; and it organized a number of events at the international level and supported its civil society partners in convening national and regional events. One example of transmedia storytelling that employed several tools and tactics was the [release event](#) that the IBP and the World Bank Institute (WBI) co-hosted on 5 February 2013. At the event, the IBP; representatives from the governments of Afghanistan, Liberia, and Brazil (via teleconferencing); and the WBI discussed the Survey’s results, highlighted successful efforts of the three countries to improve their OBI scores, and brainstormed ideas for increasing the pace of improvements in open budgeting. The event was live streamed through the WBI’s website and was covered via live Tweeting; it was also covered in a [post on the IBP’s Open Budgets Blog](#). To follow the world’s reaction to the OBS 2012, the IBP created an [OBI Storify page](#) and is presenting the press coverage of the international and national release, and the public’s reactions, from around the world on the [OBI in the News](#) page on the IBP’s website.

The IBP’s partners have also engaged in transmedia storytelling. We sat down with Lukman Hakim from the Indonesian Forum for Budget Transparency (SEKNAS FITRA) to discuss that organization’s transmedia strategy for the national and regional OBS 2012 releases in Indonesia.

Cynthia Ugwuibe: Indonesia’s Open Budget Index (OBI) 2012 score was 62, an 11-point improvement from its score of 51 in 2010. What story did SEKNAS FITRA want to tell about this improvement?

Lukman Hakim: We wanted to emphasize two things. The first was that the government had come through on its promise to be more transparent. The government has signed many national and international initiatives with the goal of being more transparent, and we wanted to let the public know about their progress, as well as obstacles the government faces in this area. The OBI is a very good tool for us to track this work.

The second message we wanted to convey was about the benefits of government transparency, such as improved accountability, increased opportunities for the public to engage with the government, and reduced public perceptions of corruption.

Ugwuibe: How did SEKNAS FITRA communicate its message? Why did it choose those channels?

Hakim: We publicized the OBI scores in a media brief that we posted on our [website](#) and on our Facebook and Twitter pages. We also invited media representatives for a press release with a government representative, and we’ve received several interview requests to discuss the OBI results.

In addition we published a document about the OBS results in the local language, Bahasa Indonesia, to ensure that non-English speakers could easily understand the information. From our years of experience we know that putting pressure on government through mass media messages in Bahasa Indonesia has the most powerful effect. We use simple and precise phrasing so that media representatives quote us directly; if we did not, then readers would be confused by technical terms in a foreign language (English). When we translate text, reporters show much more interest in our story.

Ugwiibe: What digital technologies or social media strategies did you use for these releases, and why? What factors affected your decision making?

Hakim: We used our website to publicize the OBI release and to discuss the importance of transparency. We also Tweeted similar messages and posted on Facebook about our OBI media brief. We are well known on social media networks, so our posts tend to be reposted by others. But our strategy for using digital and social media is fairly basic because, like many organizations, we don't have the resources for a more robust digital presence.

Ugwiibe: How did SEKNAS FITRA build up a presence and following on Facebook and Twitter?

Hakim: To build up our presence on these sites, we usually mention SEKNAS FITRA's Facebook page and Twitter handle to the media during our events, and we cover many of our events via live Tweeting. Also since some of our followers are interested in politics as well as budget advocacy, we reTweet news about budget advocacy and politics along with our own comments on these developments.

Ugwiibe: How do you measure the effectiveness of your strategies?

Hakim: We have collected all media clippings (web and newspaper articles, videos, and audio) regarding our work with the OBI since the day of the release. We use this information to assess the position in which that news is being publicized. For example, did a story about our release appear on first page headlines, or second page headlines? Did we receive prime time new coverage, or a 15 seconds news summary? That data tells us which story angles or overall messages were the most effective.

Ugwiibe: SEKNAS FITRA hosted the Southeast Asia regional release as well. Was your message/story different for the regional release?

Hakim: We wanted to tell a different story in the OBI regional release. We decided not to include the media because we feared that they might not publicize the exact message that we wanted — that they would instead create sensationalized news stories that would do damage to the issues of budget transparency and public engagement in Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries. We focused more on sharing experiences between CSOs from ASEAN countries on how to improve budget transparency and public engagement, and on the ways that the [Open Government Partnership](#) helps improve government accountability. We also discussed the creation of a venue for ASEAN CSOs and government representatives to sit and work together on increasing transparency.

Ugwiibe: Did SEKNAS FITRA and its cosponsors use Twitter and Facebook to share the message of the regional release?

Hakim: Yes, we covered the Southeast Asia regional release event via live Tweeting using the Twitter handle [@opengovindo](#). UKP4, the unit in the Indonesian government responsible for OGP implementation, sent most of the live Tweets. By covering the event via live Tweeting, we communicated to the public that governments and CSOs from ASEAN countries are committed to working together to improve government transparency in these countries. Also, through live Tweeting we were able to share our message with a global audience.

Ugwiibe: What advice would you give to CSOs looking to develop an effective transmedia storytelling strategy?

Hakim: Find a strategy that makes sense for your organization and especially for your audience. Many times CSOs try to develop a transmedia strategy without first considering what media their audiences use — how messages should be conveyed to them. For example, a digital media strategy that includes Twitter, Facebook, and the like won't be effective if most of the target audience does not even use those channels. And while sending mass emails asking readers to sign a petition might be considered rude or spam in some countries, it might be appreciated in other countries (including in Indonesia).

The language of the message should also be tailored to make sure that it stays catchy, resonates with the audience, and motivates them to take a concrete desired action. For example in our particular context, using technical language in English may be appropriate for an academic audience, but that approach is inappropriate when the target audience is the general public. Replacing formal or semi-formal language in our message with figures of speech may appeal more to the general public.

To learn more about these OBI releases and the work of SEKNAS FITRA, please visit their [website](#).

Expanding Public Participation Through Technology

Calling Government's Attention to Civil Society Concerns through Photovoice, by Mallah E. Tabot, Voluntary Service Overseas-Cameroon

In e-Newsletter #69 we introduced Voluntary Service Overseas and Cuso International's new two-year initiative, the [Participatory Budgeting and Tracking \(PB&T\)](#) project, which incorporates the use of photovoice (a photography-based action research element) and short message service (SMS) technology to improve citizens' participation in local government decision making in Cameroon. This article examines two short-term results of the project, which is being implemented in three regions: Far North, North, and Northwest.

Photovoice promotes discussions on change within communities by providing community members with digital cameras to use to take pictures that show the state of public infrastructure and service delivery and then with the opportunity to share the photos and discuss their perspectives on the development challenges impacting their communities. Participants are also encouraged to identify and share potential solutions to local development problems. These recommendations are then passed to council members, who can take action while the community continues to oversee project implementation.



PB&T project participants' photos depict the dismal state of local public services and are helping council members better identify and prioritize constituent needs in the local budget. For example, community members in the Far North region of Cameroon were able to show gaps in access to basic services, including potable water, education, and primary healthcare. As the participant who took the photo on the left noted, "There is no water point for my village. This water source provides for the entire community, and you have to walk at least two kilometers to fetch it. Often children are late for school — or miss school entirely — because access to water is far away. We also suffer from many water-borne diseases. We need the council to provide water points in the village square."



In the Northwest region constituents of the Santa Council jurisdiction have brought to light issues like the need for better roads and education infrastructure; waste management; and water, hygiene, and sanitation services. The photo on the left shows a child outside a school bathroom and illustrates the unhygienic conditions in primary schools in this jurisdiction. The participant who took this photo noted that "the school has a population of 300 children, but there are only four classrooms and even somebody's house on the compound. It is unhygienic. The place could even kill a child — look at the structure! We want better bathrooms in schools. If things change, I will

be happy.”

After collecting all of these photos and stories, local project officers (POs) organize community exhibitions to showcase them in order to raise the visibility of the issues and promote community ownership of the project. These exhibitions bring together stakeholders, including government representatives and community leaders, which creates the opportunity for dialogue. Community members have the opportunity to both speak about the state of local public services and learn about local budgetary decision-making processes and the council’s commitments to act on identified priorities.

As part of the next steps, POs in the three regions will facilitate interaction between community and council members through SMS technology. First the POs will visit the local councils to collect information on budget allocations and expenditures for the specific projects identified during photovoice workshops and proposed by community members. At monthly intervals this information will be sent to the community members via SMS to update them on the council’s commitments; the information can range from a sum of money earmarked for the construction of a new bridge to a new contract signed for the reconstruction of a school bathroom. Community members can then report on changes they do or do not see as a result of spending on identified priorities. This dialogue will continue until the end of the budgetary year and will culminate in another photovoice workshop that captures photographic evidence of changes.

Help track that budget! VSO Cameroon’s PB&T project is on Facebook. Check out their [Facebook page](#) and don’t forget to “Like” and share this creative initiative. For more information contact Mallah Tabot at mallah.tabot@vsoint.org.

Lessons from South America in Multichannel and e-Participatory Budgeting, by Cynthia Ugwuibe, International Budget Partnership

In Participatory Budgeting (PB) citizens determine how public funds will be allocated for public services and projects. Often implemented at the state or local level, these initiatives aim to include citizens in the policymaking process, improve public accountability, and increase pro-poor spending.

In traditional PB initiatives citizens attend public assemblies to discuss priorities and elect representatives to cast final votes on preselected projects. But to increase citizen participation some governments now allow citizens to cast final votes through multiple channels, including the Internet, text messages, and conventional ballots.

An examination of such multichannel PB processes in Belo Horizonte and Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil and La Plata, Argentina shows when and why these initiatives attract higher rates of meaningful public participation. In 2006 the city of Belo Horizonte launched the Digital Participatory Budgeting initiative (e-PB) to run concurrent with its traditional PB program. The government preselected four project options for each of the city’s nine districts, and over 42 days registered voters could discuss and vote for proposed projects online. The program was a huge success; 10 percent of city voters participated in the e-PB, compared to only 1.5 percent in the traditional PB program.

The city of La Plata and the state of Rio Grande do Sul conduct similar multiphase, multichannel PB programs annually, featuring both traditional deliberative, face-to-face interactions and the multichannel — and lower cost — Belo Horizonte’s e-PB process:

Phase 1: Face-to-face deliberative process

- La Plata: At public forums citizens present projects for their neighborhoods. At final neighborhood forums, citizens decide how 30 percent of the neighborhood budget will be spent and shortlist projects for the remaining 70 percent.
- Rio Grande do Sul: At meetings [held across the state](#) citizens vote for regional priorities in accordance with available resources and the state’s multiyear plan. Then at city and municipal meetings citizens propose projects consistent with the multiyear strategy.

Phase 2: Direct voting

- La Plata: Citizens cast paper ballots on proposed projects at one of 44 locations over two weekends, or during a nine-day period via a secure SMS system. In 2010 over 12 percent of voters [participated](#).
- Rio Grande do Sul: Over 36 hours citizens vote for their spending preferences via the Internet, paper ballots, and mobile phones. Approximately 18 percent of the state's adult population voted in 2012 — the [highest rate of public participation](#) in the state's election processes, excluding presidential elections where voting is mandatory.

Lessons Learned:

These cases indicate how and under what circumstances PB initiatives can increase public participation:

1. Multichannel PB initiatives that make voting more convenient can increase participation in the overall process, even while a greater percentage of citizens may still vote through traditional ballots rather than online or via SMS. This apparent contradiction might be because in multichannel PB programs like La Plata's, burdensome requirements for voting, like engaging in meetings, are eliminated.
2. New voting methods attract citizens that would not typically participate in conventional PB. According to an Open Government Technology Alliance survey of 23,000 voters who cast their vote via the Internet in the Rio Grande do Sul 2012 PB cycle, 63 percent said that they would not have participated in the process if they could not vote online.
3. For meaningful public participation citizens must have the opportunity to discuss priorities and propose projects that they will later vote on.
4. According to Tiago Peixoto, Open Government Specialist at The World Bank, citizens are more likely to participate when they perceive that participation has a binding effect on how public funds are allocated. For example, in Belo Horizonte's e-PB citizens voted directly for projects, whereas in traditional PB elected delegates make final votes.
5. PB initiatives are likely to be more successful when there is widespread communication and mobilization by both civil society and government before and during PB. In La Plata, for example, citizens canvassed for public support for their project proposals, and the government used online and traditional media to publicize the process through online and traditional media outlets.
6. A supportive and responsive government is essential. In Belo Horizonte and La Plata government quickly responded to public inquiries about the process and moderated multichannel forums.

For more information about these participatory budgeting initiatives please contact Cynthia Ugwuibe at Ugwuibe@cbpp.org or Tiago Peixoto at tpeixoto@worldbank.org.

What We're Learning About CSO Budget Work

What Factors Play a Role in Effective Civil Society Budget Advocacy? by Justine Hart and Jay Colburn, International Budget Partnership

In order to foster effective advocacy that promotes more open and accountable public budgeting and better budget policies and implementation, the IBP partners with civil society organizations (CSOs) around the world. The IBP supports its civil society partners' budget work through training and technical assistance, funding, and collaboration at the national, regional, and international level. The IBP also undertakes rigorous research into [the state of budget transparency, participation, and accountability](#) around the world and into [the causes and consequences of greater or lesser transparency](#). It also undertakes substantial research based on [case studies](#) that look at civil society campaigns to promote open budgets and advocate for pro-poor budget policies. These case studies explore when and under what conditions civil society budget advocacy can positively impact budget systems, practices, policies, and outcomes. What we have learned so far is that for CSOs to have impact, they need access to information, opportunities to engage with government, and collaborative relationships and strong

networks with other CSOs and the media. This article examines some of the ways that our partners have overcome challenges related to these factors.

First, CSOs often lack access to budget information and opportunities to participate in budget processes. Budgets are essential for ensuring the delivery of critical services like maternal health and basic education. Is government investing public money sufficiently in these services? To answer this question, you need access to budget information — and opportunities to hold the government to account. Unfortunately, according to the Open Budget Survey (OBS) 2012, far too many governments, such as that of [Myanmar](#), which publishes budget documents for internal use only, provide the public with little to no information on the national government's budget and financial activities during the course of the budget year.

The efforts of IBP partner organizations in using the Open Budget Survey to push for greater budget transparency have been documented in a number of countries. With pressure from the IBP's partner Réseau Gouvernance Economique et Démocratie (REGED), the government of [the Democratic Republic of Congo](#) took several new steps to improve government transparency, such as publishing the Executive's Budget Proposal and including transparency provisions in several new public finance laws and regulations. In [Honduras](#), the increased attention given to budget transparency issues through the preparation and production of the Open Budget Survey 2010 brought together local civil society organizations, the IBP, the Millennium Challenge Corporation, and the government to make progress on budget transparency, including publishing all eight key budget documents.

Another challenge that CSOs face is ensuring that the public is able to participate in budget decision-making and oversight processes in an equitable and sustained manner. Citizens can be involved in multiple stages of the budget process, and many budget CSOs work to advance policies that enable such participation. Though the OBS 2012 finds that there is a widespread failure of governments to provide meaningful opportunities for citizens and civil society to participate in the budget process, there are a number of countries that are providing interesting and innovative mechanisms for participation in all stages of the budget process. Some examples of include:

- Budget formulation: In Trinidad and Tobago the Ministry of Finance receives inputs on the budget from citizens and responds via public forums.
- Budget approval: In Kenya the legislature's budget committee holds public hearings to review and discuss the budget.
- Budget implementation: In New Zealand government agencies use budget-focused surveys, hold public consultations, and collect public input on the budget online.
- Budget oversight: In South Korea the Citizen Audit Request System allows citizens to request special investigations by the national audit office into government programs that are particularly important or where malfeasance and inefficiencies abound.

In addition to budget information and open dialogue, organizations engaged in budget work benefit when they are part of a network of other groups with similar goals. CSOs seldom achieve successful outcomes without strong partnerships, and budget groups tend to find more success when they attempt to broaden and strengthen their networks by engaging with movements and organizations that have shared goals.

Organizational involvement in networks has contributed to our partners' recent successes in various contexts. Sikika in Tanzania, which campaigns against the wasteful use of public financial and human resources in the health sector, has [cultivated key allies](#) in the media and parliament that help move forward its agenda. As part of its grassroots mobilization and social audit work, the Social Justice Coalition in South Africa has used its [relationship with a committed mayor](#) to overcome bureaucratic challenges. And in Brazil grassroots groups, social movements, labor unions, religious organizations, and research institutes [formed a coalition](#) to defend social program funding under threat by tax reform.

Despite the challenges that budget CSOs continue to face, there are opportunities for them to work toward a more open dialogue with governments and to build new alliances based on the lessons learned by other organizations doing similar work. To learn the impact that civil society can have on budgets, check out the IBP's Learning Program [case studies](#).

Publications

IBP Publications

This month the IBP released a new case study on how donor agencies have adopted the [Open Budget Index](#) into their foreign assistance framework. "[Foreign Assistance and Fiscal Transparency: The Impact of the Open Budget Initiative on Donor Policies and Practices.](#)" by Linnea Mills, presents findings on how, when, and why the U.S. Department of State, the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), and the U.K. Department for International Development (DFID) adopted the Open Budget Index in language and practice.

The IBP also released three case studies on the role of the IBP, its local partners, donors, and governments in pushing for greater budget transparency, using the Open Budget Survey (OBS) as a guide and progress measure, in [Afghanistan](#), the [Democratic Republic of Congo](#) (DRC), and [Honduras](#). The case study on Afghanistan highlights its improved Open Budget Survey (OBS) score and the efforts of donors, civil society organizations (CSOs), and the media in pressuring the government to improve its Public Financial Management system. The DRC study examines how the IBP's country partner used OBS 2008 and 2010 results to constructively engage with the Ministry of Budget and to train the legislature and media to use information gained from budget transparency for wider economic governance reforms. As a result of these efforts and pressure from international development partners, the DRC government published key budget documents for the first time in 2010. Finally, the Honduras case study describes how the OBS 2010 increased awareness of Honduras' budget transparency problems and incentivized a multi-stakeholder approach to bring about change.

You can access these and other publications on budget transparency here:
http://internationalbudget.org/ibp_publication_categories/budget-transparency/.

Further Reading from the Field

A new section of the IBP newsletter that brings you relevant coverage of budget issues and civil society's engagement in public budgeting from academia and professional journals

Participatory Budgeting

If you enjoyed the article in this newsletter on Participatory Budgeting (PB), there are more great resources out there! The [Journal of Deliberative Democracy's](#) most recent edition is a special issue on PB, edited by Brian Wampler and Janette Hartz-Karp. The editors lay out an agenda that gives a nod to the precipitous growth of PB as an organizing project for citizens to hold their governments accountable: by one estimate more than 1,500 municipalities around the world have adopted participatory budgeting. The articles included in the special issue run the gamut from the theoretical to the concrete, and the global to the microlevel. For example, Wampler notes the extent to which PB's popularity, like that of any democratic process, is based on its continued ability to effect real social change. At the same time, as Ernesto Ganuza and Gianpaolo Baiocchi note in their article, "The Power of Ambiguity: How Participatory Budgeting Travels the Globe," PB has proved adaptable to a fairly wide variety of social contexts. While this feature has made PB an attractive tool for activists seeking to advance progressive causes, it also carries risks if government actors co-opt the language of participatory budgeting without pushing forward goals of inclusion, participation, and social justice.

There is also Benjamin Goldfrank's contribution to this issue, which focuses on the [role of the World Bank in promoting PB](#), and six studies on cases as varied as the "unlikely success" of Peru's top-down introduction of participatory budgeting, or the emancipatory potential of engaging stakeholders "from the bottom up" in the United States. The entire journal is open access, so be sure to check out the [special issue](#).

Transparency and Access to Information

Participatory budgeting is at least in part about constructing transparent spaces – as Ganuza and Baiocchi suggest in the article cited above – and access to information is crucial for citizen engagement in all kinds of budget processes. A recent article by Daniel Albalade del Sol in the [Journal of Economic Policy Reform](#) addresses the question of what factors make local governments transparent, focusing on municipalities in Spain. Among other things, he finds that municipalities with mayors from leftist parties are more transparent; and that mayors whose parties hold an absolute majority in their city councils tend to be less transparent.

This latter finding would come as no surprise to the IBP's Paolo de Renzio, whose paper (co-authored with Joachim Wehner), "[Citizens, Legislators, and Executive Disclosure: The Political Determinants of Transparency.](#)" finds that fiscal transparency at the national level is associated with a legislative situation in which several parties contest elections and share power, making it more difficult for a powerful executive to control the legislature.

Of course, in an authoritarian context, the determinants of transparency may differ radically from those mapped out by del Sol, and the use of information to promote accountability is not as straightforward as it might be in more democratic regimes. Such is the thrust of a recent article by Yeling Tan, titled "[Transparency without Democracy: The Unexpected Effects of China's Environmental Disclosure Policy.](#)" which appeared in the journal [Governance](#). Tan studies environmental CSOs working in China, where she finds that close relationships between local officials and polluting businesses often undermine the ability of local residents to hold their governments accountable. Her piece also holds lessons for civil society, however, as she ultimately maps out success stories. The environmental CSOs that Tan studies forged unconventional alliances to put pressure on government, including with international NGOs and with multinational corporations that have an interest in making sure that their local suppliers in China are relatively clean. Learn more about Tan's work by checking out the [Governance blog](#).

Jobs and Opportunities

Program Officer for Content Development and Digital Strategy, Communications, International Budget Partnership

The IBP is seeking a Program Officer for Content Development and Digital Strategy for its Communications team. This person will work in tandem with the organization's leadership and staff to develop and implement integrated communications strategies. This program officer will play a role that is both creative and analytical in developing, producing, and promoting the IBP's principal electronic communication products: the bimonthly newsletter, website, and social media platforms. The program officer will also support the communications capacity and efforts of the IBP's staff and partner organizations and its international network. For more information and to apply, please read the [full job description](#).

Program Officer (Francophone Africa), Open Budget Initiative, International Budget Partnership

The IBP is seeking a program officer (Francophone Africa) to provide support to the [Open Budget Initiative \(OBI\)](#). The OBI is a research and advocacy program that seeks to increase public access to budget information and promote inclusive and accountable public finance management. The program officer will report to the IBP's director of International Advocacy and Open Budget Initiative, and to the supervisor of the IBP's Open Budget Survey. For more information and to apply, [click here](#).

3-5 May: Attend the Participatory Budgeting Conference in Chicago!



2nd International Conference on
PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING in the US
& Canada
MAY 3-5 2013, CHICAGO

Come to Chicago from 3-5 May 2013 to participate in the second International Conference on Participatory Budgeting in the United States and Canada. Participatory budgeting (PB) gives people the power to directly decide how to spend parts of the public budgets that affect their lives. Conference participants will learn about PB processes around the world and participate in sessions on youth engagement, tech tools, and facilitation, as well as see PB in action at PB Chicago voting events. For those new to PB, a training workshop (separate registration) will provide key background necessary to make the most of the PB Conference. **Registration is now open** on the **conference website**. **Early Registration ends 22 March 2013.**