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**News Release**

2012/ECA

**World Bank Appoints New Regional Director for the South Caucasus**

**Yerevan, June 21, 2012.** Mr. Henry Kerali has been appointed World Bank Regional Director for the South Caucasus effective July 1, 2012. In this position, Mr. Kerali will oversee the Bank’s program in the three countries – Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia -- and lead the development and implementation of the Bank’s Country Partnership Strategies in these countries. He will lead the dialogue with civil society and other development partners. Mr. Kerali will be based in Tbilisi, which hosts the Bank’s Regional Office for the South Caucasus.

Mr. Kerali has worked in different regions of the world including Latin America, Africa, East Asia, South Asia, and Europe and Central Asia (ECA). His most recent position was the Sector Manager for Transport overseeing the Banks’ transport program in the ECA Region.

Prior to joining the Bank in 2003, Mr. Kerali was a Professor at the University of Birmingham, England, specializing in the development of transport infrastructure. He led the research of developed economic cost-benefit models for assessing the feasibility of infrastructure investments.

Mr. Kerali, a dual Ugandan and UK national, was educated in Uganda where he studied Civil Engineering. He holds an MSc and a PhD from the University of Birmingham in England. He is the author of many publications in various books and journals.

Mr. Kerali will take over from Mr. Asad Alam, who is moving to Pretoria, South Africa, as the Country Director for Southern Africa.

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