



ODI High-Level Roundtable:

‘Capabilities of Finance Ministries’

Monday 6 June

HMT Auditorium – 1 Horse Guard’s Road - 10:30-14:00

St James Suite, QEII Centre, London, SW1P 3EE - 14:30-16:30

Background

- **Finance ministries are ubiquitous.** There is a remarkable consistency across time and place, even as the purpose and institutional shape of government varies tremendously.
- **Finance ministries are also at the centre of many current policy discussions,** be they responses to the financial crisis of 2008, how best to fund global development goals, or how to go about establishing welfare states in emerging economies.
- **Finance ministries as an object of study are curiously absent.** For the most part, analysts look at finance ministries indirectly or at the margins of attention focused elsewhere. Such perspectives provide useful insights, but risk missing crucial aspects of how finance ministries work and why they matter.

Motivation

Finance ministries are underserved by international policy. They are tasked with delivering fiscal policy and a broad range of government objectives – from spending money on government priorities, ensuring value for money and ensuring macroeconomic stability. But we know very little about how they operate and how they can be made to work better and face the challenges of the 21st century.

Purpose

We want to bring together senior government officials, international policymakers and leading scholars to address this gap in international policy through:

- Convening a discussion on *what make a Finance Ministry capable of doing its job.*
- Launching ODI's research of the Capabilities of Finance Ministries research.

Structure of event

- The focus of the discussion will be largely institutional though drawing examples from and comparisons with developed and developing country contexts.
 - Speakers will be invited to present the lessons learned as well as different perspectives on what makes a finance ministry capable and how they can successfully adapt.
 - Roundtable participants from international organizations, universities and governments will be invited to make contributions to the discussion, highlighting policy responses, cutting-edge research and country examples, respectively.

Agenda

Below is the breakdown of timing for the event:

10:30 Guests arrive tea/coffee

11:00 **Opening speeches and presentation** of the report – 30 mins

- Opening remarks by Chief Secretary to the Treasury – Rt Hon Greg Hands MP
- Report summary presentation – Philipp Krause
- Remarks by Vice Minister of Finance of Vietnam - H.E. Do Hoang Anh Tuan
- Country Representatives

11:30 **Roundtable discussion** – 60 mins

- The chair will call upon roundtable participants to offer their views on three questions below

12:30 Wrap up/closing remarks – 15 mins

12:45 **Networking lunch** – 75 mins

14:00 End

14:30 **Afternoon workshop** “Capable Finance Ministries – Trajectories of Change” (St James Suite, QEII Centre, London, SW1P 3EE)

- Country presentations covering the experiences of Vietnam and Sierra Leone, followed by comments reflecting international perspectives
 - H.E. Do Hoang Anh Tuan (Vietnam)
 - Edmund Koroma (Sierra Leone)
 - Richard Allen (IMF)
 - Julia Fleischer (University of Bergen)

16:15 Workshop end

Role of speakers and structure of discussion

The UK Chief Secretary to the Treasury will be invited to make opening remarks (approximately 10 minutes) on the question:

- How has HMT approached its own capability and ensured that it remains fit for purpose?

Following opening remarks from the UK Chief Secretary the Philipp Krause from ODI will present the findings of the research. Vice Minister H.E. Tuan will then be invited to make remarks (approximately 10 minutes) on the question:

- How has Vietnam’s Ministry of Finance developed its capabilities to manage the country’s public finances, and how will it have to change in the future?

The Vice Minister’s remarks will be followed by responses from the following country representatives:

- Mr. Edmund Koroma, Financial Secretary – Sierra Leone
- Ethiopia (TBC), Nigeria (TBC), Myanmar (TBC)

Following this, roundtable participants will be asked to discuss about:

1. Are there any organizational models, institutions or processes that have merit across many different countries (such as merging separate finance and economics ministries)?
2. What finance ministries learn from the experience of other countries (and what not)?
3. How can developed world finance ministries best assist finance ministries in the developing world?