

Good Governance: Fixing What's Broken

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Good Governance is Important...

But...

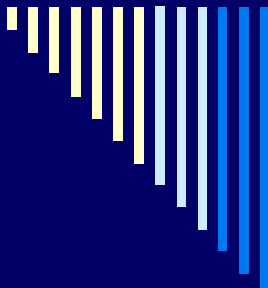
- ❑ The concept is problematic**
 - ❑ Problematic concepts create practical dilemmas for advancing good governance**
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The Idea of Good Governance...

...Is problematic because

- ❑ There is an oversupply of ideas and experiences for achieving it
 - ❑ There is unfocused demand for better governance
 - ❑ Expectations about the consequences of “getting good governance” are not realistic
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Governance — and Good Governance

□ Governance

- The institutional underpinnings of public authority and decision making
- “Rules of the game” for political interactions

□ Good Governance

- A normative concept about how institutions “ought” to work
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Good Governance: An Oversupply of Ideas?

- Accountability
 - Transparency
 - Efficiency
 - Rule of Law
 - Ordered Politics
 - Effectiveness
 - Equity
 - Macroeconomic stability
 - Poverty reducing policies
 - Universal provision of basic services
 - Fairness
 - Decency
 - Security
 - Sustainability
 - Human rights
 - Limited government
-



How the Good Governance Agenda Has Grown

<i>World Development Reports</i>	Governance Reforms Recommended
1997	45
1998	75
1999/2000	66
2000/2001	106
2001/2002	100
2003/2003	116



The Consequence: What Does Good Governance Look Like?

“Denmark or Sweden on a good day”

Matt Andrews, HKS



Good Governance: A Problem of Unfocused Demand?

Given an oversupply of ideas, for any given country there is likely to be

- ❑ A multitude of governance reforms
 - ❑ Supported by
 - ❑ a plethora of donors
 - ❑ diverse domestic reformers
 - ❑ Numerous domestic and international NGOs, think tanks, consultants, and academic institutions
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To Add to the Difficulty, the Supply of Ideas Has Been Generated:

- ❑ Without attention to
 - Sequences
 - Interdependence
 - Relative importance
 - Feasibility
 - Specific country context
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Where Should Good Governance Initiatives Focus?

- Accountability
 - Transparency
 - Efficiency
 - Rule of Law
 - Ordered Politics
 - Effectiveness
 - Equity
 - Macroeconomic stability
 - Poverty reducing policies
 - Universal provision of basic services
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-



Where Should Good Governance Initiatives Focus: Another Cut

- ❑ Institutions that set the rules of the game
 - ❑ Decision making structures
 - ❑ Organizations that administer and deliver goods and services
 - ❑ Human resources that staff government
 - ❑ The interface of officials and citizens
 - ❑ Political institutions that represent interests and engage in public debate
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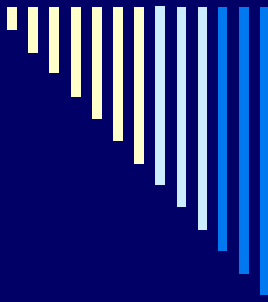
Good Governance: Appropriate Expectations about Consequences?

- Getting good governance means....
 - Economic growth?
 - Democracy?
 - Poverty reduction?
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Consequences of Good Governance: Not All That Clear?

- ❑ **Outliers should raise questions**
 - ❑ **The reference points are not necessarily consistent**
 - ❑ **Focus on the endpoint should not displace concern about the process of getting to the endpoint**
 - ❑ **A long agenda is an overwhelming burden for many countries**
 - ❑ **Good governance can be a consequence not a cause**
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Are There Remedies for What's Broken in a Concept?

- Be skeptical and ask questions about how and why
 - Consider history and what it suggests about process
 - Beware of normative concepts
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Good Governance is Important

- ❑ It deserves critical attention
 - ❑ Examples of supply, demand, and expectations should explore:
 - ❑ Why an initiative worked
 - ❑ How it came about
 - ❑ How it “fit” a particular context
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Thank You!
