



## \*\* SABIS® President Speaks at World Bank Institute \*\*

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### For Immediate Release

From September 21-24, 2009, SABIS® President, Mr. Carl Bistany, participated as a speaker in a training seminar sponsored by the **World Bank Institute** (WBI) and held at the headquarters of the International Finance Corporation (IFC) in Washington, D.C. The World Bank Institute (WBI) is the Bank Group's principal provider of learning activities. It has delivered training courses and seminars since the 1950s, mostly for government officials in developing countries, on such topics as macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction, health, education, and policy reform in other economic sectors. The most recent seminar, entitled *Innovation in Partnerships: Private Initiatives and Public Policy in Education*, set out to explore policy options for governments to accelerate progress toward education goals by partnering with the private sector and provided a platform for the exchange of experiences.

Mr. Bistany was one of two speakers presenting to an audience of senior education policymakers from around the globe in a session on "Addressing Challenges to Partnerships". He began by providing the context for the emergence of the public-private model and identified an early challenge: *"The need to offer an education that meets the needs of the present and prepares for the challenges of the future provided the impetus that led to the concept of the public-private partnership (PPP)... When the public-private model emerged, it was welcomed in general, but unfortunately the groups actively opposing it were able to rig it with innocent-looking laws that succeeded in creating unnecessary challenges, some of which have led to damaging results."*

Reminiscent of SABIS®'s 2005 presentation at a World Bank conference held at Harvard University, Mr. Bistany went on to remind participants of the role of public-private partnerships and the need for "true partnership": *"SABIS® has always maintained that the role of the public-private partnership in education has three basic components: (1) to determine the direction and content of education, (2) to deliver it accurately, efficiently, and at a reasonable cost, and (3) to monitor its quality. All of these should be carried out in the spirit of true partnership. Without unqualified buy-in from both sectors, without ongoing communication, and without fair, consistent practices, it is impossible to build and nurture true partnership."*

Mr. Bistany went on to elaborate on challenges facing PPP projects based on SABIS®'s long-standing participation in the model. These challenges, some of which are common to different countries with which SABIS® has partnered, included disparity in funding, length of charters awarded, a skewed perception of competition, and lack of accountability, among others.

He concluded by stating: *"Complex challenges facing education set it on a path of innovation leading to public-private partnerships. As the challenges have evolved and multiplied on a global scale, the public-private partnership remains the only way to meet them head on... Trust – Dialogue – Accountability – Commitment. In true partnership, public and private sectors can work in unison to use valuable knowledge and experience to benefit nations and prepare students to face the challenges of the future."*

To receive a copy of the complete speech, send an E-mail request to [info@sabis.net](mailto:info@sabis.net).

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