

**Doing
Business
2010**

Doing Business in East Asia and the Pacific

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Reforming through Difficult Times

Singapore
October 10, 2009



THE WORLD BANK

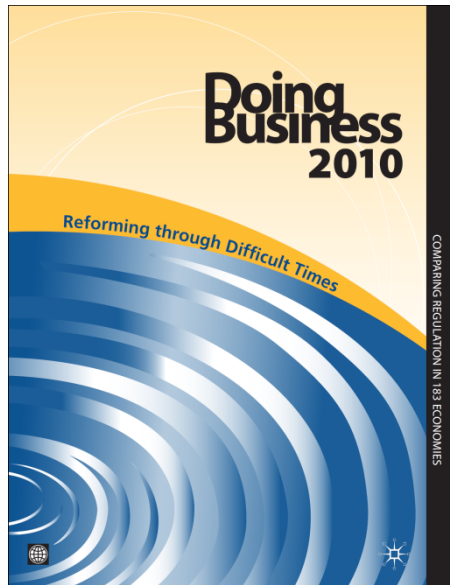


IFC International
Finance Corporation
World Bank Group

www.doingbusiness.org

Doing Business: Overview

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- ✓ Doing Business measures the regulations applying to domestic small and medium-size companies through their life cycle
- ✓ 10 indicators in 183 countries
- ✓ The objective: well-designed, streamlined regulations, accessible to all.
- ✓ Doing Business 2010 is the 7th report

Key findings in this year's report

- ✓ **Worldwide the pace of reform picks up to reach a new record, with developing countries in the lead**
- ✓ **Eastern Europe and Central Asia is the fastest reforming region six years in a row**
- ✓ **In East Asia and the Pacific 17 of 24 economies made reforms**
- ✓ **Singapore**, a consistent reformer, is the top-ranked economy on the ease of doing business for the fourth year in a row, with **New Zealand** as runner-up
- ✓ **Indonesia** was the region's top reformer, rising from 129 to 122 in the global rankings
- ✓ **Samoa** was the top reformer on the "starting a business" indicator

Top 30 on the ease of Doing Business 2010 – Singapore tops the rankings 4th year in a row

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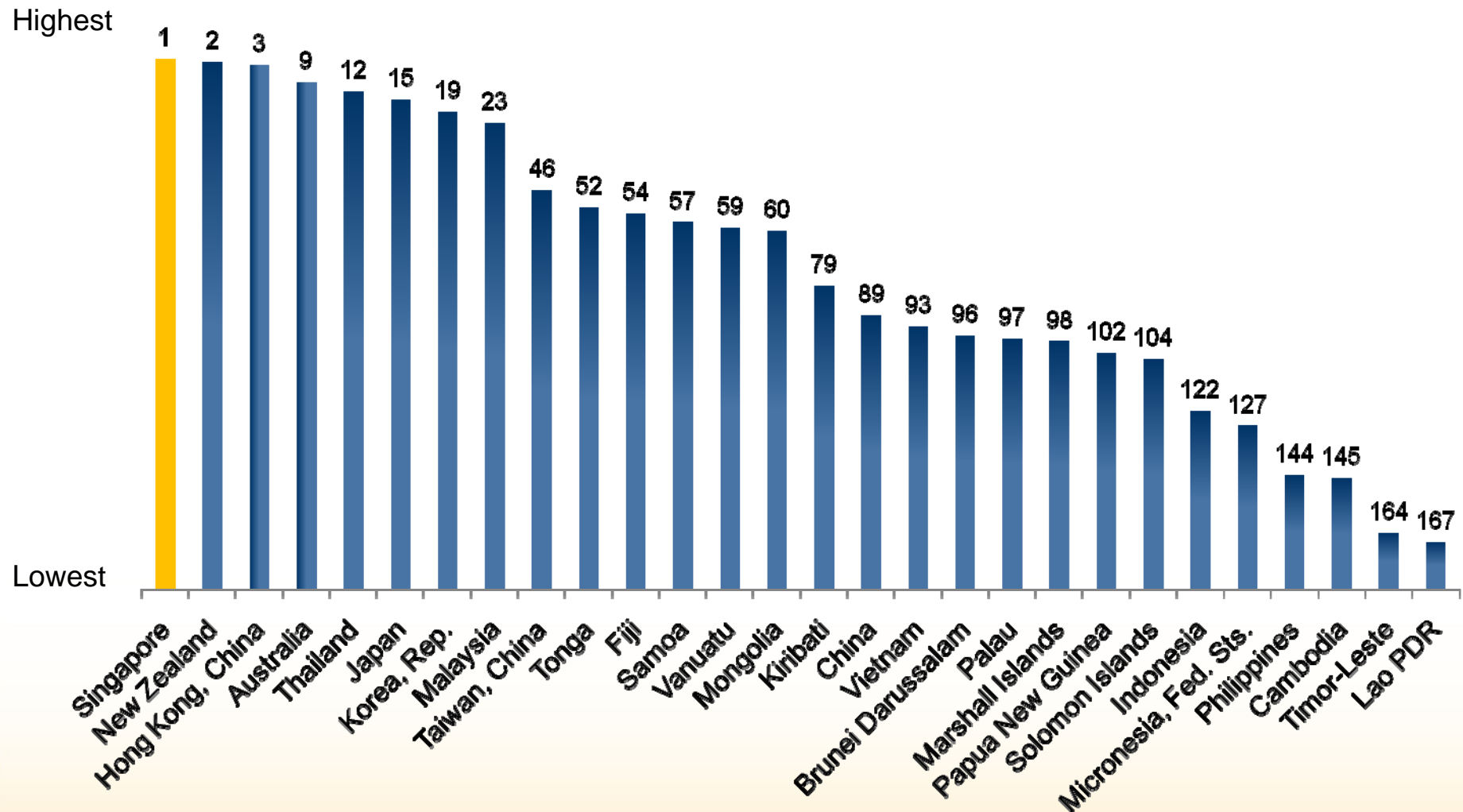
	1. Singapore		16. Finland
	2. New Zealand		17. Mauritius
	3. Hong Kong, China		18. Sweden
	4. United States		19. Korea, Rep.
	5. United Kingdom		20. Bahrain
	6. Denmark		21. Switzerland
	7. Ireland		22. Belgium
	8. Canada		23. Malaysia
	9. Australia		24. Estonia
	10. Norway		25. Germany
	11. Georgia		26. Lithuania
	12. Thailand		27. Latvia
	13. Saudi Arabia		28. Austria
	14. Iceland		29. Israel
	15. Japan		30. Netherlands

DB Top Reformers in 2008/09

Economy	Starting a business	Dealing with construction permits	Employing workers	Registering property	Getting credit	Protecting investors	Paying taxes	Trading across borders	Enforcing contracts	Closing a business
Rwanda	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓
Kyrgyz Republic	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		
Macedonia FYR	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Belarus	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓		
United Arab Emirates	✓	✓						✓		
Moldova	✓			✓			✓			
Colombia	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Tajikistan	✓	✓			✓	✓				✓
Egypt, Arab Rep.	✓	✓			✓				✓	
Liberia	✓	✓						✓		

Overall ranking for East Asia and Pacific and Asian OECD countries in 2008/09

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East Asia Pacific – leading across the DB indicators

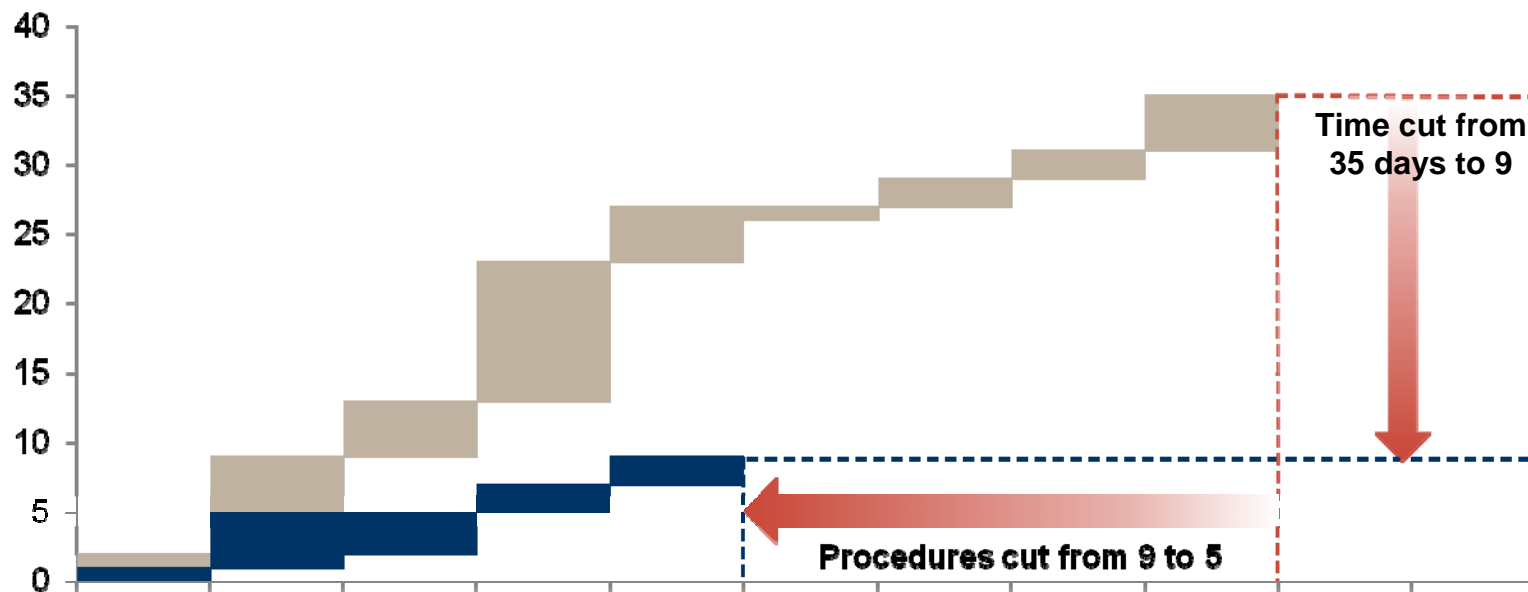
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Topic	World's top ranked 2008/09	EAP top ranked 2008/09
Starting a business	New Zealand	New Zealand (1) Australia (3)
Dealing with construction permits	Hong Kong, China	Hong Kong, China (1) Singapore (2)
Employing workers	Singapore Australia	Singapore (1) Australia (1)
Registering property	Saudi Arabia	New Zealand (3) Thailand (6)
Getting credit	Malaysia	Malaysia (1) Australia (4)
Protecting investors	New Zealand	New Zealand (1) Singapore (2)
Paying taxes	Maldives	Hong Kong, China (3) Singapore (5)
Trading across borders	Singapore	Singapore (1) Hong Kong, China (2)
Enforcing contracts	Luxembourg	Hong Kong, China (3) Korea, Rep. (5)
Closing a business	Japan	Japan (1) Singapore (2)

Among all company registration reforms in 2008/09, Samoa's had the biggest impact

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New Companies Act came into force in July 2008 – making company registration faster and cheaper

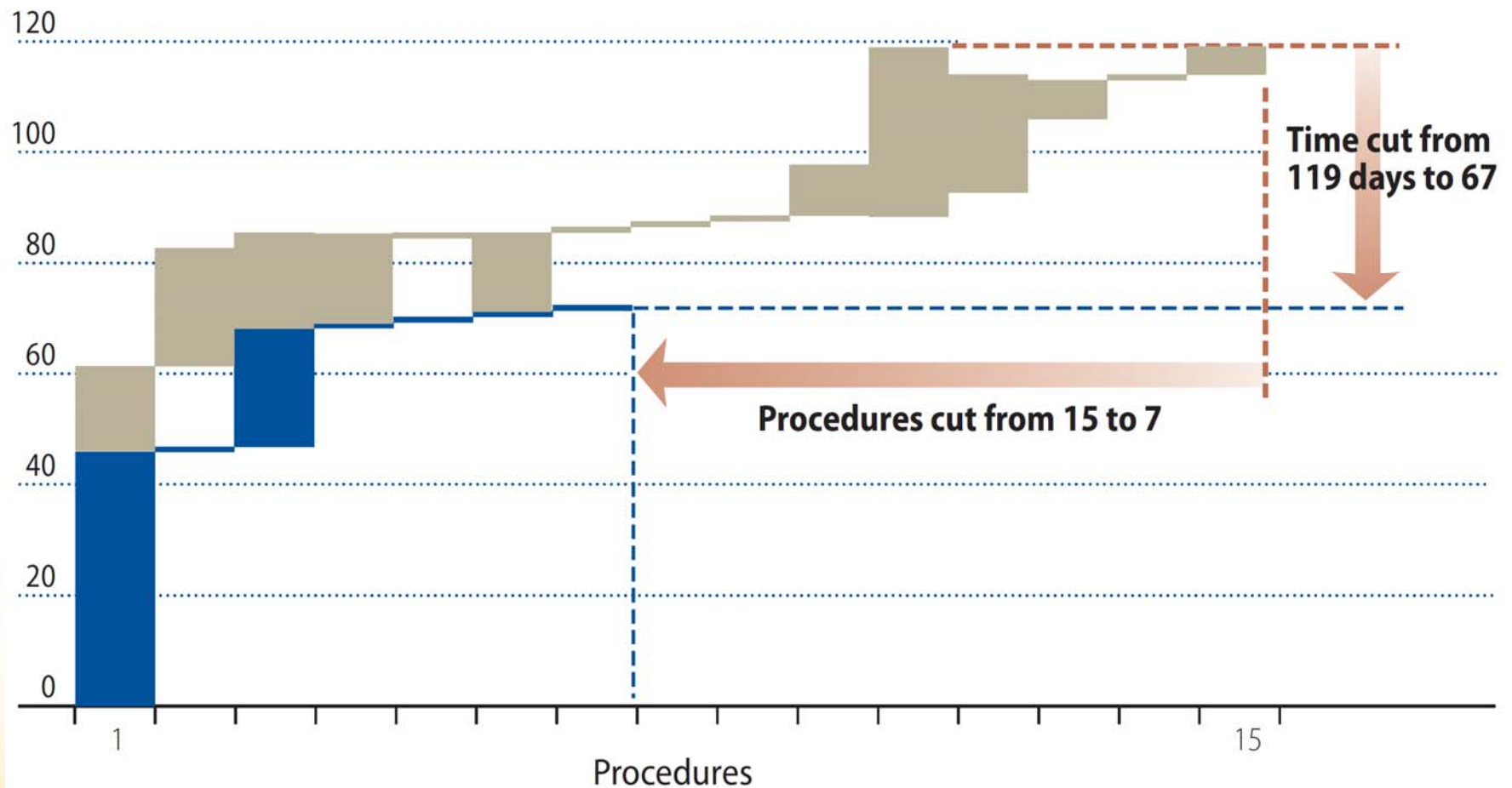


- ✓ Cost reduced by almost two thirds
- ✓ Minimum capital requirement was removed
- ✓ Standard model for constitution form was adopted
- ✓ Stamp duties removed and flat incorporation fee introduced
- ✓ Company seal requirement was eliminated

Continuing Reform: Construction Permitting in Hong Kong, China

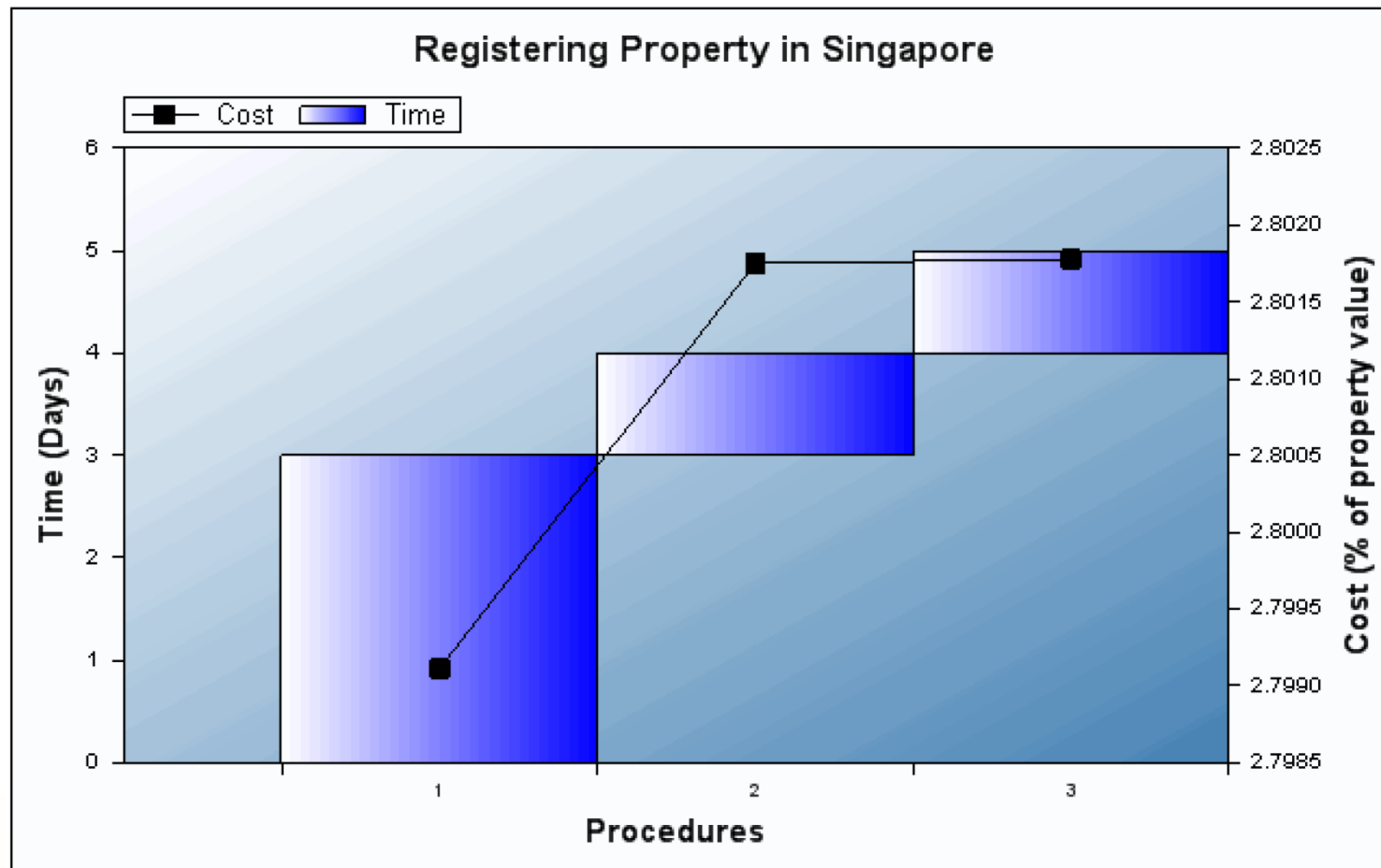
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The “Be the Smart Regulator” program speeds up permitting in Hong Kong, China



Singapore: Streamlining through computerization in Government agencies

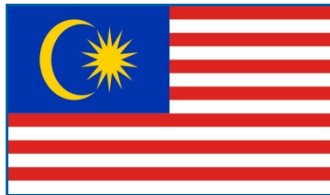
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- ✓ Responses come faster when conducting due diligence
- ✓ Time to register property dropped from 9 days to 5

Malaysia: A model of good practice in getting credit

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Strength of legal rights: 10 out of 10

Depth of credit information: 6 out of 6

Public registry coverage: 48.5% of adults

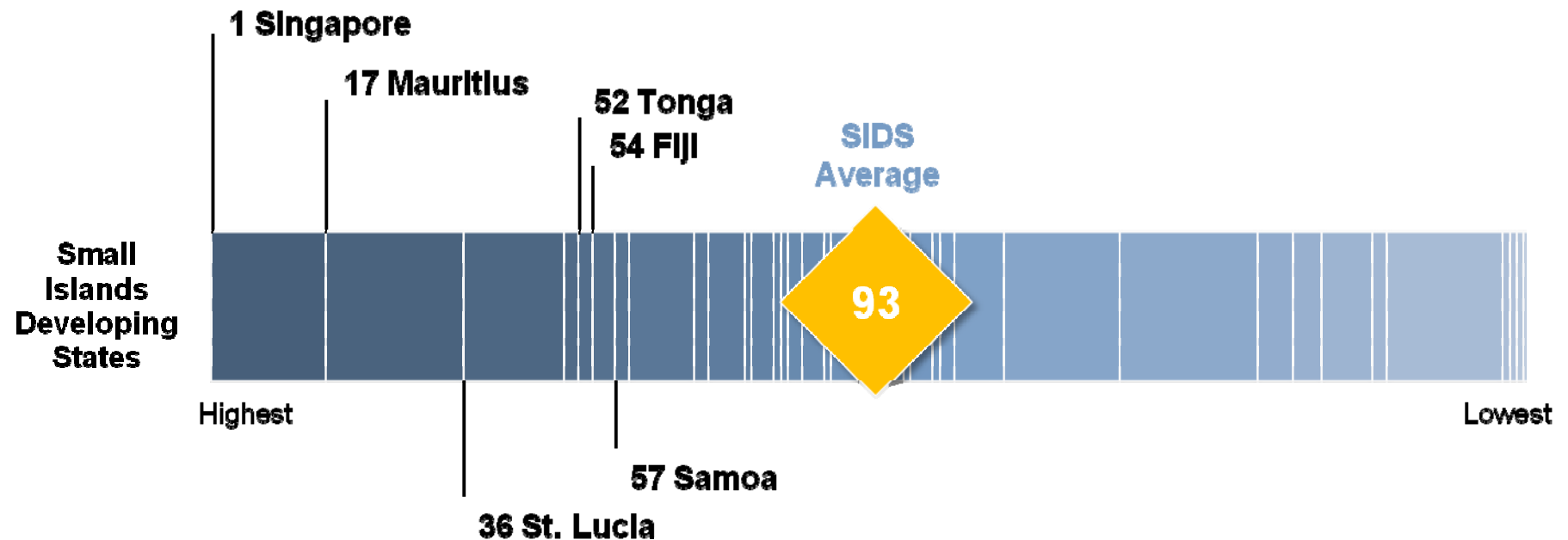
Private registry coverage: 82% of adults

- ✓ Distributes all the loans extended by the financial institutions (even loans below 1% of income per capita)
- ✓ Gathers historical credit information going back at least 2 years, of both individuals and companies
- ✓ Allows online access to credit information
- ✓ Allows all types of assets (changing pool/future/entire business) to be used as collateral
- ✓ Has a unified collateral registry
- ✓ Allows out-of-court enforcement of security rights

Big challenges facing Small Islands Developing States

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Performance of SIDS economies on the ease of doing business 2008/09



- ✓ Isolation
- ✓ Lack of economies of scale
- ✓ High transportation and communications cost
- ✓ Susceptibilities to natural disasters
- ✓ Limited means and capacity to develop infrastructure

Why does it all matter?

- ✓ Improving business start up is associated with an increase in economic growth and investment rate.
- ✓ Lowering barriers to entry correlate to less perceived corruption and a smaller informal sector.
- ✓ Removing barriers to entry also gives opportunities of inclusion to youth and women.
- ✓ Strong collateral laws and functioning credit registries, make banks more likely to extend loans.
- ✓ Reducing delays at trading borders or reducing the number of documents required for trading could increase trade flows.
- ✓ Reforms improving customs administration and reducing corruption can help increase customs revenue.
- ✓ Efficient property registration can make it easier to transfer property and can help boost the number of new title registrations.

Thank you. For more information: www.doingbusiness.org

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Doing Business

Measuring business regulations

The Doing Business project... provides objective measures of business regulations and their enforcement across 183 economies and selected cities at the subnational and regional level. [Learn more...](#)

select a topic
select an economy
Historical Data

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Current Features



Highlights from Doing Business 2010: The number of reforms hit a record level this year. Between June 2008 and May 2009, 287 reforms were recorded in 131 economies. Low- and lower-middle-income economies set the fast pace - these economies accounted for two-thirds of reforms in 2008/09. [Read more...](#)

▶ [Download overview \(PDF, 144KB\)](#)

Economy	Starting a business	Dealing with construction permits
Rwanda	✓	✓
Paraguay	✓	✓
Mauritania, FNB	✓	✓
Bahrain	✓	✓
United Arab Emirates	✓	✓
Moldova	✓	✓
Guatemala	✓	✓
Tajikistan	✓	✓
Egypt, Arab Rep.	✓	✓
Liberia	✓	✓

Doing Business 2010's top reformer: For the first time since Doing Business started tracking reforms, a Sub-Saharan African economy, Rwanda, led the world in reforms. Overall, Rwanda introduced reforms in 7 out of the 10 categories, rising from 143rd to 67th place on the ease of doing business rankings. [Read more...](#)

▶ [Who ranked 1st in Doing Business 2010? See where your country ranks among 183 surveyed!](#)

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▶ [Reform case study: How Colombia overcame a burdensome building permit process](#)

▶ [Doing Business in India: The latest Doing Business subnational report surveys 17 Indian cities](#)

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Press Releases

The following *Doing Business 2010* press releases were issued on Sept. 9, 2009.

- **Global release:** [Doing Business 2010: Governments Set New Record in Business Regulation Reform.](#)
- **Regional releases:** [Africa, Caribbean, East Asia & Pacific, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Latin America, Middle East and North Africa and South Asia](#)

What's New?

Getting electricity: Information on the time, procedures and cost required for a business to obtain an [electricity connection](#)

New economies: Doing Business coverage extended to [Cyprus](#) and [Kosovo](#)

Special Features

Doing Business on Facebook: Connect with other users of Doing Business products!

Doing Business on Twitter: Get updates from the field on the *Doing Business 2010* roadshow [@WorldBankPSD](#).

Business Planet: Take a [trip around the world](#) to discover how easy (or difficult) it is to do business in 183 economies.

Doing Business Blog: Shares the experiences and insights of the Doing Business team, its local partners, and successful reformers.

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