

Ferid Belhaj**Country Director, Timor-Leste, Papua New Guinea & Pacific Islands
The World Bank Group, Sydney**

Ferid Belhaj has started in April 2010 in his present position as Country Director for Papua New Guinea, Timor Leste and the Pacific, covering Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. He joined the World Bank's Legal Department in 1996 as an operational lawyer on the MENA and East Asia Regions. He led Legal and Judicial Reform projects in Morocco, Jordan and Thailand. From 2002 to 2007, he was the Bank Country Manager for Morocco, before moving on to represent the Bank at the United Nations headquarters in New York in 2007.

Prior to joining the Bank, Mr. Belhaj practiced law in Paris and Tunis, held the post of Deputy Chief of Mission and Legal Adviser at the Embassy of Tunisia to the United States of America and was the Legal Adviser for Permanent Mission of Tunisia to the United Nations. In those capacities, he worked on the legal and institutional aspects of the Middle East peace process and negotiated the entry into force of the UN Law of the Sea Convention.

Ferid Belhaj graduated from the Tunis Law School and the Universite Pantheon-Assas, Paris Law School, with a Masters Degree in Constitutional Law and Political Science and a Masters Degree in International Law.