Ana Silvia Aguilera joined GPOBA as an Infrastructure Specialist on January 28, 2013. Ana Silvia comes from the Latin American Region (LAC) where she had been working for six years on infrastructure projects, primarily in transport and water, but also some multi-sector operations that also included energy and ICT. She has implemented OBA approaches in the water and energy sectors, including the first OBA Facility financed by GPOBA in Honduras for water and sanitation. She also has experience working with performance-based contracts in the road sector. Prior to joining the WB’s LAC region, she worked for over two years with the Inter-American Development Bank as part of the team preparing the IDB Country Strategies for Central America and Caribbean countries. Ana Silvia is an economist by her academic background.

Constance (Connie) Polite joined GPOBA as a Program Assistant working closely with the Program Manager and the GPOBA Team to meet GPOBA’s objective of providing basic services in developing countries and transition to a Center of Expertise. Connie was selected competitively to this position and her appointment was effective on January 14, 2013. Connie joined the Bank in 1999 as a temporary working in the old Strategic Resource Management Department and various departments of the Bank as a Short-term Temporary and Extended Term Temporary. Prior to joining the Bank, she worked as a Staff Assistant for a major trade association and for an international labor organization.

Hywon Cha Kim joined GPOBA on a Short Team Consultancy as Knowledge Management Consultant on January 7, 2013. She will assist the Center of Expertise Group with the Knowledge Management pillar. Prior to joining GPOBA, she has been working at the World Bank in the realm of Knowledge Management in different capacities since 1996. Hywon has worked with the Water and Sanitation Program for 10 years (1996-2006), GPOBA for 1.5 years (2006-2008), the Water Unit for 3 years (2008-2011), and most recently with SDN’s Front Office for the past 1.5 years (2011-2012). She has been involved in a range of activities from knowledge sharing and transfer, website development and renewal, publications production, as well as innovation initiatives. She has a master’s degree in Urban Planning from the University of Virginia and a B.A. in Economics from Boston College.

Jessica Lopez joined GPOBA on January 28 on a Short Term Temporary assignment, in which she will be primarily supporting the Knowledge and Learning team with training event preparation and other awareness building activities. Jessica is currently working towards a master’s degree in International Development Economics at American University, and has a B.A. in International Affairs from the University of Georgia. This is her second assignment with GPOBA, as in 2012 she was Short Term Temporary supporting the Knowledge and Learning team as well as New Business. Her experience prior to joining GPOBA includes leading the training department at a non-profit behavioral health center in Atlanta, GA, and working at the United Nations office in Washington.

Mariana Dahan joined GPOBA as an Infrastructure Specialist on January 14, 2013. She brings her knowledge and expertise in meeting GPOBA’s objective of providing basic services in developing countries. After ten years of experience in the telecommunications industry, Mariana became interested in development economics and the diffusion of innovations – a topic she has studied extensively in her PhD research work at MIT. Mariana joined the Bank in 2009, working for the last three years on telecom infrastructure and ICT projects (SDN VPU), on impact evaluations and scaling-up results in the health sector (PREM), and on targeting mechanisms for safety nets beneficiaries (HDN).

Saúl Eduardo González joined GPOBA on a Developmental Assignment as Research Assistant on December 7, 2012. He will assist the New Business Group and the Center of Expertise Group. Since 1998, he has been working in MIGA, most recently as a Research Assistant in the Operations Department, tracking trends in the ICT and financial sectors as well as political and economic news, in addition to contributing to business development. Prior to MIGA, Saul was a foreign service officer for five years, working in press, educational and cultural affairs with the US Information Agency in Morocco, Tunisia and Saudi Arabia. He previously worked for one year in Brussels as a trainee in the European Commission’s Directorate General for Information, Communications, Culture, serving as the Acting Information Officer for Latin America. He focused on International Relations during his MPA studies at the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs, and received a BA in Spanish from the University of Texas. Saúl is also fluent in French and has a working knowledge of Arabic, Portuguese and Italian.