It is quite logical: in countries with a small private sector, and little-to-no foreign direct investment, a corporate governance advisory services project will focus more on other areas, such as building a regulatory framework. Increasingly, though, developing countries around the globe are prioritizing the expansion of their private sector as a way to promote sustainable growth.

Along with the expansion of the private sector comes the need for a stronger corporate governance project focus on companies and banks. And the more developed the private sector, the greater the need for this direct work. Our experiences show that this work builds on itself, as more companies experience, first-hand, the benefits of improved corporate governance: in our surveys of companies in emerging markets, client companies and non-clients alike often cite the corporate governance improvements of their competitors as the strongest driver of their own efforts to improve their practices.

The SmartLessons in this section share what we have learned from our direct work with companies and banks.