World Bank Cuts Global Economic Outlook for Next Two Years



Washington, March 11 (RHC)-- The World Bank has lowered its global growth forecast for 2015 and next year due to poor economic prospects in the eurozone, Japan and China. In its Global Economic Prospects report, the bank said the world economy will expand only three percent for 2015 -- a marked difference from its June prediction of 3.4 percent.

In 2016, world GDP growth will reach 3.3 percent. Last June, economists forecast 3.5 percent growth for 2016. This is while the global economy grew only 2.6 percent in 2014, coming in below the bank's expectation of 2.8 percent.

The bank's downgrade comes as deflation fears emerge from the eurozone and Japan, despite prospects in the United States and Britain. The eurozone has fallen into deflation for the first time since the financial crisis in 2009. Economists warn that deflation in the eurozone could strangle economic growth and drain government funds.

The debt crisis has forced EU governments to adopt harsh austerity measures and tough economic reforms, which have triggered incidents of social unrest and massive protests in many European

countries.

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