



Update on Key Activities May 2009

HIGHLIGHTS

Washington, D.C. – CIPE and Transparency International-USA hosted a roundtable, “Evolving Approaches to Combating Corruption in Russia,” featuring Transparency International-Russia founder Elena Panfilova. Corruption in Russia is endemic, widespread, and well-known. Panfilova began by painting a bleak picture for CIPE’s and Transparency International’s guests from the National Endowment for Democracy, the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Department of Justice, and others. CIPE Program Officer Andrew Wilson also provided brief remarks on CIPE’s locally-based anti-corruption programs across Russia as an example of what could be done, regardless if concrete changes develop based on the public commitments against corruption made by Russia President Dmitry Medvedev. Over 50 people attended. Read more about the discussion in a blog by CIPE Deputy Director for Programs Jean Rogers on the [pocket-oriented democracy](#) in the 21st century Russia.

CIPE’s ChamberL.I.N.K.S. professional exchange participants came to Washington, D.C. in completion of their eight-week experience in the United States before returning to their home countries. Bereket Teka of Ethiopia, Ludmila Romanova of Russia, Royce Britton of Jamaica, and Temur Rahkimov of Tajikistan each gained valuable ideas and insight to become more effective in their leadership positions at their respective chambers and business organizations. CIPE hosted a session for their capstone presentations highlighting their organizations, what they learned during the ChamberL.I.N.K.S. program, and what changes they hope to institute upon returning home.

GLOBAL/COMMUNICATIONS/KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT/EVALUATION

Washington, D.C. – CIPE and The Research Triangle Institute (RTI) held a joint event on the linkages between economic growth and democratic governance at the Newseum in Washington, D.C. on May 11. To an audience of about 100 program managers, agency administrators, academic experts, and others interested in development, CIPE and RTI presented two case studies, furthering the evolving dialogue about lifting the curtain between economic growth projects and democratic governance projects. Long-time CIPE partner Jaroslav Romanchuk presented a case study on the National Business Platform for Belarus. CIPE Executive Director John D. Sullivan co-moderated the question-and-answer session afterwards. Read more about the discussion at the event in a blog post by Global Program Assistant Oscar Abello at: www.cipe.org/blog/?p=2278.

Washington, D.C. – CIPE Evaluation Officer Nigina Malikova conducted a roundtable, “Outcome and Impact Assessment,” for CIPE staff on May 22. The roundtable covered the importance of evaluation, evaluation theories, and approaches on conducting impact assessments.

Senegal – Global Program Officer Anna Nadgrodkiewicz presented the CIPE Development Institute at the eLearning Africa Conference, in Dakar. The conference is the largest elearning conference in Africa, last year attracting over 1,500 delegates from more than 80 countries (80 percent from Africa). Nadgrodkiewicz’s presentation was part of a “Demonstration and Best Practice Showcase” session allowing participants to experience leading and innovative examples of technology-supported learning in practice throughout the world. Find more information about the conference at: www.elearning-africa.com/conference.php.

CIPE released and distributed the following publications:

- *The CIPE Guide to Governance Reform: Strategic Planning for Emerging Markets*, available at: www.cipe.org/governance_reform.
- *Economic Reform Feature Service* article by Global Program Officer Anna Nadgrodkiewicz, “Private Sector Associations as the Engine of Reform in Ghana.” Read the article at: www.cipe.org/publications/fs/pdf/043009.pdf.

AFRICA

Kenya – CIPE and the Kenya Association of Manufacturers (KAM) hosted a public-private dialogue symposium with ministry officials, members of parliament, and private sector leaders from Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, and Uganda. CIPE Chairman Gregori Lebedev delivered opening remarks, followed by Kenya’s Minister of Trade, the Honorable Amos

Kimunya. CIPE Executive Director John D. Sullivan, Program Officer Kelly Spence, and Assistant Program Officer Julie Mancuso played active roles in the two-day event, in which more than 35 high-level participants discussed the quality of policy dialogue in their countries and developed strategies to strengthen public-private engagement.

Nigeria – CIPE Program Officer Kelly Spence and consultants Wumi Gbadamosi and Toki Mabogunje traveled to Enugu for a four-day workshop, “Strengthening the Voice of Enugu’s Small and Medium-Sized Enterprise (SME) Sector.” This workshop is part of a multi-phase CIPE Regional Business Agenda program in Nigeria’s southeast region. CIPE trained over 40 leaders of local business associations on organizational governance, SME development, membership development, and the role of business associations in a democratic society, and public policy advocacy.

ASIA

Indonesia – The Indonesian Institute for Corporate Directorship (IICD) held its annual conference in Bali on May 1, at which it released the results of its most recent corporate governance scorecard project and gave awards to the Indonesian firms with the highest scores in various categories. Participating were 150 directors and managers of Indonesian companies, and several senior government officials including Finance Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati. John Callebaut, CIPE regional director for Asia, delivered the opening remarks

Indonesia – Regional Director John Callebaut met with the members of the Business Ethics Program steering committee of Indonesia Business Links (IBL) in Jakarta. In an attempt to bolster IBL’s focus on the impact of its work, Callebaut proposed that a session on impact assessment and project evaluation be added to the CIPE regional conference to be held in Jakarta later this year and hosted by IBL. IBL also expressed interest in participating in the Asia Democracy Forum (supported by CIPE and the National Endowment for Democracy) to be conducted in Seoul later this year.

China – The Transition Institute conducted its latest policy and reform discussion forum on May 16. Hua Xinmin, a leading activist for the private ownership of urban land, spoke to an audience of more than 50 enthusiastic participants. During the forum, the speaker described the ongoing problem of urban citizens’ losing their land rights because of rapid expansion of urban areas. She provided some historical background on policy changes related to land ownership. Currently, all the land is owned by the government and individuals can only obtain land use rights. The forum developed a recommendation to the government that the state should allow private ownership of urban land.

CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

Moldova – The Employers Association of Moldova held a meeting with representatives of 14 other business associations to address the effects of the global economic crisis on the Moldovan economy. Participants proposed the creation of an anti-crisis committee, to include members of the government, the business community, think tanks, and opposition parties to develop and implement an action plan to stabilize the economy and strengthen the business environment. Participating associations will use the committee to advocate for the National Business Agenda, which the business community developed in 2008 with assistance from CIPE and the Institute for Development and Social Initiatives (IDSI). Two IDSI experts moderated the meeting.

EURASIA

Armenia – The Association for Foreign Investment and Cooperation (AFIC) organized a roundtable meeting on small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) policy reform in cooperation with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization office in Armenia. The executive director of the government’s SME Development National Center, Ishkhan Karapetyan, made a detailed presentation on proposed changes in SME legislation to 31 members of the business community and experts from international organizations, which was followed by an open discussion. These reforms reflect the proposals of an advocacy network of Armenian business associations that AFIC developed as part of a CIPE-supported project. According to Karapetyan, the Ministry of Economy will shortly present the reform package to the National Assembly for adoption.

Kyrgyzstan – The National Alliance of Business Associations (NABA) held a meeting of its members on May 13 to prepare final comments on a draft law on inspections, which NABA recently proposed to Parliament. NABA is compiling the comments, along with analysis on the efficacy of the proposed reforms and the results of a survey of businesses on the impact of a moratorium on inspections, into a white book, which it will distribute to members of parliament before debate on the bill begins.

Russia – Following extensive advocacy efforts by CIPE partners OPORA (the Union of Business Associations of Russia) and the think tank INDEM (Information Science for Democracy), the Ministry of Justice issued a decree on May 5 to authorize the accreditation of experts – both legal entities and individuals – to examine Russian statutory acts for their potential to generate corruption and their correspondence with anti-corruption legislation. This decree follows the federal government’s approval in March 2009 of the Methodology and Procedures for Anti-corruption Examination of Statutory Acts.

Washington, D.C. – CIPE partner and the Executive Director of the Analytical Center “Strategy” Jaroslav Romanchuk traveled to Washington, D.C. to meet with high-level U.S. State Department officials, key Capitol Hill staff, think tanks,

foundations, and media outlets. He presented at the Balkan-Black Sea Initiative and gave an interview to Voice of America. He also presented at an event sponsored by CIPE and the Research Triangle Institute on the linkages between economic growth and democratic development. Romanchuk spoke at a CIPE-CATO Institute event about the current economic situation in Belarus and Belarus' foreign policy toward Europe and Russia. Romanchuk was in the U.S. to receive the 2009 Sir Anthony Fisher International Memorial Award in the category of Young Institutes for his authorship of the book, *In Search of Economic Miracle: Lessons for Belarus*.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Argentina – The Center for Financial Stability (CEF) hosted a regional seminar, “Capital Markets in Latin America: Convergence and Integration.” Roughly 90 people from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Peru, and Uruguay attended the event, including representatives from stock exchanges, regulators, investors, academics, and diplomats. CEF had conducted an analysis of the prospects for the integration of capital markets in Latin America based on the gap between actual and best international practices. CEF presented its work and shared their work on corporate governance to start a discussion with local and regional experts.

Colombia – CIPE and the Political Science Institute (ICP) have published the 20th edition of *Perspectiva* magazine, “Latin America’s Foreign Policy in the Current World [Dis]Order.” This edition is currently being sent to regional partners in nine Latin American countries and will be officially launched in June.

Nicaragua – The Nicaraguan Government established a new one-stop government office to handle free trade zone paperwork and requests. The creation of this office is a direct result of suggestions made by CIPE partner the Superior Counsel for Private Enterprise in its National Business Agenda for 2009.

Venezuela – CIPE partner the Center for the Dissemination of Economic Knowledge (CEDICE) organized an international forum in Caracas on May 28-29 in celebration of its 25th anniversary. The event featured 13 panel discussions, one of which – sponsored by CIPE – was on the global financial crisis, featuring the 19th edition of *Perspectiva* magazine. Marcela Prieto, executive director of CIPE partner the Political Science Institute (ICP) in Colombia, moderated the panel. Peruvian author Mario Vargas Llosa, former Bolivian President Jorge Quiroga, former Mexican Foreign Minister Jorge Castañeda, and the former President of El Salvador Francisco Flores participated in the event. CIPE Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean John Zemko attended the forum.

MIDDLE EAST/NORTH AFRICA

Algeria – CIPE Program Officer Shirin Sahani conducted a program development and monitoring trip in Algeria where she met with CIPE partner Cercle d'Action et de Reflexion Autours de l'Entreprise to discuss implementation of the newly-launched Algerian corporate governance code. (www.algeriacorporategovernance.org) The code calls for more accountability and transparency in conducting business. Sahani attended a seminar and debate hosted by the Forum des Chefs d'Entreprises (www.fce-dz.org) on its recent study evaluating the implications of the informal sector on Algeria's economic liberalization. Sahani also held meetings with the Algerian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Association of Algerian Women Entrepreneurs and Managers, small and medium-sized entrepreneurs in Oran, and representatives of the U.S. embassy.

Bahrain – CIPE and the Bahrain Accountants Association organized a seminar with members of the board of directors of the Bahrain Holding Company (Mumtalakat) on May 18. The seminar was facilitated by John Stout, CIPE board member and vice chair of the corporate governance committee at the American Bar Association, and attended by CIPE Program Officer Danya Greenfield. The seminar was a targeted session for high-level, newly appointed directors from Mumtalakat on the roles and responsibilities of directors in ensuring good governance practices.

Bahrain – On May 4, CIPE co-sponsored a conference with the International Chamber of Commerce and the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce, “Corporate Governance in the Kingdom of Bahrain.” The conference drew widespread public interest and gathered more than 100 key stakeholders. CIPE consultant David Brown, former CEO and chairman of the Ontario Securities Commission, delivered one of the keynote presentations on the importance of corporate governance and international best practices. The session was opened by Central Bank Governor His Excellency Rasheed Mohammed Al Maraj and the Chair of the National Committee on Corporate Governance Abdel Razak Hassan Al Qassir.

Lebanon – Senior Program Officer for Global Programs Aleksandr Shkolnikov spoke on an opening panel at a joint CIPE and Lebanese Transparency Association (LTA) event coinciding with the launch of two new corporate governance tools in Lebanon. Corporate governance guidelines for listed companies and corporate governance reference guidebook for family firms were presented at the “Corporate Governance and Access to Information” workshop. Shkolnikov spoke about CIPE's approaches to corporate governance and the CIPE role in supporting the development of these new tools. Shkolnikov also delivered opening remarks and participated in a keynote panel at an event on “Reinforcing Financial Supervision and Regulation” held jointly by CIPE and the Union of Arab Banks (UAB). He spoke about CIPE's support of UAB's effort to launch new corporate governance guidelines for banks and presented about lessons learned from the financial crisis.

Oman – On May 19, CIPE participated in a conference on Corporate Governance in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) region, organized by the Federation of Chambers of Commerce in the GCC. CIPE board member John Stout presented a paper, “From Sustainable Companies to Sustainable Economies: Corporate Governance as a Transformational

Development Tool.” The conference focused on the benefits of good corporate governance and reviewed progress in each of the GCC countries towards the application of corporate governance best practices.

Tunisia – CIPE Program Officer Shirin Sahani attended meetings with stakeholders involved in developing the corporate governance index and annual report guide, which are part of a CIPE project with L’Institut Arabe des Chefs d’Entreprises (IACE) to advance good governance in Tunisia by promoting financial disclosure and transparency in local companies. The index is based on best practice guidelines developed by IACE in 2008 and will be the basis of the corporate governance awards for companies whose efforts exceed minimum compliance requirements, to be announced on June 25. Read the guidelines at: www.iace.org.tn/fr/medias/downloads/CIPE/guide_anglais.pdf

MENA Regional – CIPE released and distributed the French version of *Business Principles for Countering Bribery: Building Integrity in the Middle East and North Africa*, which builds the business case for countering bribery and other forms of corruption in the MENA region, available in French at: www.cipe.org/francais/PDF/BPCB_francais.pdf, in Arabic at: www.cipe-arabia.org/files/pdf/article1143.pdf, and in English at: www.cipe.org/publications/fs/pdf/063008.pdf.

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan – CIPE Afghanistan, with the Afghanistan Center for Research and Policy Studies, conducted a training course on “Private Property and Economic Development” for 13 members of the Economic and Budget Committee of the Upper House of the Afghanistan Parliament. Members of the Ministry of Women’s Affairs also attended the program. The program discussed how clear property rights can be a catalyst for economic development.

Bangladesh – CIPE partner the Bangladesh Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BWCCI) has been advocating for the adoption of policy recommendations from its Women’s National Business Agenda. Based on one of the recommendations, the Bangladesh Bank issued a circular requiring access to loans for women entrepreneurs, yet many local banks have failed to follow through. BWCCI was able to get the Bangladesh Bank to agree to a set of incentives and penalties for local banks to encourage adherence to the circular.

Pakistan – CIPE’s work in Pakistan was highlighted in two publications, *The News* and *The Pakistan Tribune*. The articles discuss CIPE’s entry into the country, its work with chambers of commerce and business associations over the past three years, and its recent success in facilitating dialogue between the government and the business community on standards for microfinance banking. The new standards are expected to almost double the number of borrowers in Pakistan by the end of 2010 from 1.8 million to 3 million.

Pakistan – The Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI), a recipient of a small, capacity-building grant from CIPE, launched a radio program for women entrepreneurs. Uks Radio Productions, a National Endowment for Democracy partner, assisted with the development of the episodes and material. Notable guests included Punjab Minister for Excise and Taxation Mian Mujtaba Shujaur Rehman and LCCI President Mian Muzaffar Ali. The launch was widely covered by the Pakistani press, including the *Business Recorder* and *The News*. The radio programs will make information on business development available to women in 99 Pakistani cities.

Sri Lanka – The Pathfinder Foundation conducted a community meeting on May 13 on “The Impact of the New Electricity Act.” Dr. Tilak Siyambalapatiya, managing director of Resources Management Associates gave the key presentation. Other presentations were made by Dr. Rohan Samarajiva, executive director of LIRNEasia; Y. P. Dassanayake, convener of the Federation of Electricity Consumer Societies; and Srilal Miththapala, electrical power engineer for the Tourist Hotels Association of Sri Lanka.

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