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NEWS RELEASE

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SURVEY RESULTS ON CORRUPTION IN EGYPT RELEASED BY CIPE AND AHRAM CENTER

Cairo, Egypt – At a high-profile conference in Cairo, the Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE) today released a groundbreaking survey of Egyptian citizens’ experience with, and perception of, corruption in Egypt. The survey was conducted by the Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies (ACPSS), who queried nearly 1800 Egyptian citizens on this crucial issue. The survey results, combined with a CIPE and ACPSS survey of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) conducted in 2009, provides insight into corruption in Egypt on two important levels: those of the Egyptian small business owner, and the average Egyptian citizen.

“Weak governance and insufficient transparency allow space for corruption to flourish,” said CIPE Executive Director John D. Sullivan, speaking on the opening panel. “Insight into where and how corruption occurs can help reformers know where to focus their efforts.”

The event attracted more than 100 attendees, including government officials, business associations, academics, and the media. Other speakers included Mr. Shawky el Sayed, Member of the Shura Council; Dr. Abdel Moneim Said, Chairman of the Ahram Center, and Mr. Saad Hagra, Managing Editor of the business daily *Alam al Youm*.

This survey – part of CIPE’s “Combating Corruption and Promoting Transparency” program – is a companion study to an earlier survey conducted by CIPE and ACPSS of nearly 800 Egyptian SMEs about their experience with corruption in the course of doing business. CIPE’s advisory council of prominent Egyptian business association leaders, government officials, journalists, and civic leaders will draw upon the results of both surveys to conduct an advocacy program to recommend specific policy changes to reduce the risk of corruption.

CIPE’s “Combating Corruption and Promoting Transparency” project is a comprehensive program of survey research, training, and technical assistance intended to raise awareness of corruption in Egypt and combat its corrosive effects on the economy and society. The project is made possible by a grant from the United States Agency for International Development.

The SME survey report can be found here:

www.cipe.org/regional/mena/pdf/2009%20Egypt%20SME%20Survey%20Report%20EN.pdf

And the Egyptian national public perceptions preliminary report can be found here:

www.cipe.org/regional/mena/pdf/2009%20Egypt%20National%20Survey%20Report%20EN.pdf

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The Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE) strengthens democracy around the globe through private enterprise and market-oriented reform. CIPE is one of the four core institutes of the National Endowment for Democracy and a non-profit affiliate of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Since 1983, CIPE has worked with business leaders, policymakers, and journalists to build the civic institutions vital to a democratic society. CIPE's key program areas include anti-corruption, advocacy, business associations, corporate governance, democratic governance, access to information, the informal sector and property rights, and women and youth.

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