



Update on Key Activities August 2007

OF SPECIAL NOTE

Nicaragua – CIPE partner the Superior Council of Private Enterprise (COSEP) organized an Investment Forum for Brazilian and Nicaraguan businesspeople in Managua. A Brazilian delegation including President of Brazil Lula da Silva, members of his cabinet, and 40 Brazilian business leaders participated in the forum. They exchanged views and discussed possible future projects with President of Nicaragua Daniel Ortega and the local business community. During the forum, President of COSEP Dr. Erwin Kruger made a presentation on Nicaragua's National Business Agenda, which is currently being implemented through a public-private partnership. In addition, the 75 Nicaraguan private sector representatives and businesspeople who participated in the meeting had the opportunity to discuss possible alliances and joint investments with the Brazilian business community. President da Silva and President Ortega gave the closing remarks at the event. The forum was covered by the local media, including features in the two leading newspapers *La Prensa* and *El Nuevo Diario*.

Philippines – The Institute of Corporate Directors (ICD) signed an agreement with the Philippines Stock Exchange and Securities and Exchange Commission, specifying that all listed firms will now have to submit a corporate governance scorecard – designed and tested by ICD – as a condition for listing on the exchange. The scorecard forms the basis for a corporate governance survey conducted by ICD. For more information, visit the CIPE Blog, www.cipe.org/blog/?p=504, or visit the website of the Philippines Stock Exchange at: www.pse.com.ph/html/NewsRoom/pdf/memo_082407_CGSurvey.pdf.

GLOBAL/KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

Another chamber of commerce has joined CIPE's International Chamber Internship and Leadership Program and will be hosting an intern this fall. The Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce in Joplin, MO will host Delia Roxana Stef from the Association of Businesswomen and Top Managers in Romania. Other participating interns will be with chambers in Atlanta, GA; Binghamton, NY; Colorado Springs, CO; Rapid City, SD; Kalamazoo, MI; and Northern Kentucky.

CIPE held several staff roundtable discussions and trainings in August:

- Dr. Muhamet Mustafa, president of the Riinvest Institute in Kosovo, and Teferi Asfaw, acting deputy secretary general of the Addis Ababa Chamber of Commerce and Sectoral Associations in Ethiopia, discussed program development, assessing project impact, and dealing with local realities.
- Executive Director John D. Sullivan engaged staff on the topic of corporate governance. Following his presentation, Senior Program Officer Andrew Wilson, Senior Program Officer John Zemko, and Program Officer Rich Kraemer discussed CIPE's successful corporate governance initiatives in Romania, Colombia, and Lebanon.
- Knowledge Management Officer Kim Bettcher gave a presentation on the function of legislative advisory services. Senior Program Officer John Zemko, Deputy Director Steve Rogers, and Program Officer Brooke Millis shared their personal experiences in designing, managing, and evaluating legislative advisory service projects.

A new *International Business Times* column by John D. Sullivan and Aleksandr Shkolnikov, "The Global Dangers of Domestic Regulation," discusses the recent trend of growing domestic regulation around the world. Read this and other columns by Sullivan and Shkolnikov at www.ibtimes.com/columns/.

Two CIPE articles were reprinted in the latest Spanish-language *Perspectiva* magazine. Issue 13, with a special focus on corporate citizenship, features "The Business Case for Corporate Citizenship" by John D. Sullivan and Alex Shkolnikov, and "From Ethical Business to Economic Development and Social Progress" – an interview with Stephen Young, global executive director of the Caux Round Table. The English versions of the articles can be found at www.cipe.org/publications/papers/pdf/IP0410.pdf and www.cipe.org/publications/fs/pdf/011707.pdf.

The following Feature Service articles were released and posted on CIPE's website:

- "Mixed Perceptions of Corporate Social Responsibility: Experiences of Indonesia" by Yanti Koestoer, executive director of CIPE partner Indonesia Business Links
- "Rebuilding Kosovo: Overcoming Challenges to Institutional Reform" by Muhamet Mustafa, president of CIPE partner Riinvest Institute for Development Research

AFRICA

Ghana – CIPE partner the Private Enterprise Foundation held a two-day corporate governance workshop for Boards of Directors Tema, Ghana. The workshop, attended by 30 participants, focused on the importance of accountability and transparency in the conduct of business affairs.

Kenya – In response to a proposed media law that would compel journalists to disclose their sources, CIPE partner the Inter Region Economic Network (IREN) featured the article, "Press Freedom is Key to Economic Growth." The article poses that "openness has always been a path to development in contrast to isolation that breeds stagnation... Shielding the country from information adversely affects its growth." CIPE supports IREN's annual journalist training workshop and weekly online magazine *The African Executive*, which features articles and letters to the editor on democratic and market-oriented reform issues. Read the full article at www.africanexecutive.com/modules/magazine/articles.php?article=2483&magazine=136.

Nigeria – CIPE partner the Nigerian Association of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture (NACCIMA) worked with both the public and private sectors to improve policy dialogue in Nigeria. NACCIMA convened its Government Chamber Relations Committee to discuss methods for cultivating dialogue between the chamber and the Nigerian Government on policy that affects the private sector. With CIPE support, NACCIMA is representing Nigeria's private sector on laws currently under review by the National Assembly.

ASIA

Philippines – The Institute for Solidarity in Asia (ISA) continues to expand its Public Governance System (PGS) program. Former Bulacan Governor Josie de la Cruz has committed Bulacan as one of the first Public Governance System (PGS) provinces in cooperation with the province's new governor. The Vice Governor of Sarangani province has also committed to the program. The two provinces, six cities, and one national public institution underwent orientation for the PGS program for a six-month initiation process that will culminate in a public roll-out of the governance plans in February 2008. ISA fellows and associates took part in the program, which included interaction with leaders of PGS-proficient cities.

Philippines – On August 30, three cities, three sectoral organizations, and three national public institutions reported on their accomplishments with the PGS and laid out steps they will take to advance in the Governance Pathway in the next six months to one year. The public report was given at the 2007 Public Governance Forum, attended by more than 300 people from diverse organizations and sectors at various stages of the Governance Pathway. CIPE's John Callebaut made closing statements, along with the Dutch Embassy's Anita van Haar de Conijn and the Chairman of the League of Cities.

Regional – CIPE Senior Program Officer John Callebaut and Knowledge Management Officer Kim Bettcher traveled to Manila, Philippines and Jakarta, Indonesia.

CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

Bulgaria – CIPE partner the Center for the Study of Democracy (CSD) met with the Ministry of Finance Unit on Public-Private Partnerships to discuss promoting public-private partnerships in Bulgaria. The meeting included Boryana Pencheva, who heads the EU Funds Directorate as well as the Unit on Public-Private Partnerships. CSD staff will be included in working groups to draft legislation on public-private partnerships, and will hold a conference with the ministry in September to present their recommendations.

Romania – The case study “Building a Successful Non-Profit Organization: The TRACE Experience” was translated into Romanian and shared with CIPE partners, business associations, and chambers of commerce. The case study, a good example of how to build a successful organization, was also shared with the women’s business organizations that are members of the Balkan Coalition.

EURASIA

Azerbaijan and Georgia – CIPE Program Officer Natalia Otel Belan was in Baku and Tbilisi to assess current projects and develop new partnerships. In Baku she met with several organizations interested in working with CIPE and discussed their project ideas. In Tbilisi she visited two new partners, the New Economic School of Georgia and the Association of Young Economists, to discuss implementation plans for their upcoming projects.

Kyrgyzstan – CIPE partner the Bishkek Business Club (BBC) conducted a roundtable discussion on the new National Business Agenda in Osh. In partnership with the International Business Council and the Congress of Business Associations, the roundtable attracted the most active business associations in Kyrgyzstan. BBC also took part in the discussion of an action plan facilitating entry from the informal economy into the formal one.

Kyrgyzstan – CIPE partner the Institute for Public Policy has completed two interactive training modules for its upcoming Economic Journalism School. The training will cover the fundamentals of free market economics, including the best ways to report on social-economic conflicts. The trainings will educate journalists in identifying political and economic models and their advantages and disadvantages.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Chile – The Center for Corporate Governance conducted a seminar on the importance of corporate governance for the development of capital markets. The event was attended by more than 90 people, including senators, congresspeople, the Superintendent of Banks, and other authorities. The event speakers included: President of the Center for Corporate Governance Sergio Undurraga; Minister of Finance Andrés Velasco; Deputy General Counsel for Legal Policy and Administrative Practice of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission Alexander F. Cohen; and two Chilean congressmen, Rodrigo Alvarez and Jorge Burgos.

Colombia – Fedesarrollo published the 32nd brief their CIPE-sponsored policy series, Politics and Economics: Analysis of the Legislative Situation. The brief, “Fiscal Problems and the Independent Commission,” discusses the creation of an independent commission to oversee fiscal matters and analyzes some of the recommendations that the commission has made to the government. The brief will also be distributed in hard copy to the magistrates of the judiciary and to all national legislators.

Regional – The CIPE-sponsored magazine *Perspectiva* participated in the University of Rosario’s book fair in Bogotá, Colombia. Marcela Prieto, editor of *Perspectiva*, was interviewed on the radio program of the Center for Latin American Development (CADAL), which is broadcast throughout Argentina. The interview focused on the latest issue of the magazine, which features corporate citizenship.

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

Iraq – CIPE held a workshop for business association and chamber of commerce executives and board members in Sulaymaniyah. The three-day workshop focused on association governance, membership development, non-dues income, public relations, public policy advocacy, and strategic planning. Over 36 participants attended, representing associations from Baghdad, Arbil, Dahuk, Kirkuk, Samarra, Sulaymaniyah, and the Anbar region. The event was featured on several Kurdish satellite channels.

Palestinian Territories – The Center for Private Sector Development held a public policy roundtable on the options for the territories' power supply. The event provided 32 stakeholders an opportunity to voice concerns and seek solutions to continued limitations to the power supply. Representatives of the Palestinian Power Authority, Jerusalem Electric, and An-Najah University Energy Studies Center participated as panelists. Discussion highlighted the need to modernize the power infrastructure, promulgate the proposed electricity law, and establish an electric power council.

Regional/Maghreb – CIPE published the third issue of its French journal on economic reform, *Perspectives des Reformes Économiques*. This issue focused on corporate governance, with articles from local authors as well as French translations of CIPE Feature Service articles. It is posted on CIPE's French-language website, www.cipe.org/francais. The publication and website are part of CIPE's efforts to support the voice of business in the Maghreb and complement a business association management training program held earlier this year for private sector organizations from Algeria, Morocco, and Tunisia.

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan – The Afghan Women's Business Federation (AWBF) opened branch offices in Bamyan and Jalalabad. The opening celebration in Bamyan attracted more than 50 participants representing the government, NGOs, and the private sector. The Jalalabad office will provide services for the three member associations AWBF already has in Jalalabad. The new office will soon begin business training throughout Nangharhar province, offering women entrepreneurs courses on business development and design.

Afghanistan – AWBF had a successful showing at the Afghanistan International Carpet Fair. Nine carpet associations had booths exhibiting 600 square meters of carpets under AWBF's AfghanMark brand. The associations sold over \$3,000 worth of merchandise and received six orders for export to the United States.

Pakistan – CIPE Pakistan held a roundtable discussion on microfinance outreach and enterprise financing, led by the State Bank of Pakistan Governor Dr. Shamshad Aktar. The event was attended by 75 representatives of the banking and financial industry, business, and international organizations. Recommendations produced by the roundtable participants are posted on CIPE's website for comment. The State Bank of Pakistan agreed to move all finalized recommendations through a consultative process and develop a suitable implementation plan.

Pakistan – CIPE Pakistan met with the Director General of Trade Organizations to discuss the ongoing registration of business associations. The Director General noted that registration applications were being evaluated according to the new Trade Organisations Ordinance, to which CIPE Pakistan contributed significantly in its development. Incomplete applications are being returned with requests for the required documents so registration certificates can be issued by September 30.

Pakistan – CIPE partner the Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry reports that since the beginning of their Women Entrepreneurship Development Initiative in July, women's chamber membership has increased from seven to 67. This success led a seminar on access to microfinance for women entrepreneurs. Seventy-five women attended, many noting that this was the first opportunity they have had to learn about financing and networking with other women entrepreneurs.