



Update on Key Activities June 2007

OF SPECIAL NOTE

Nicaragua – The Superior Council of Private Enterprise (COSEP) publicly announced its launch of six sectoral working groups to implement its National Business Agenda. The event featured presentations by President Daniel Ortega and Vice President Jaime Morales Carazo. Approximately 150 leaders representing the public and private sectors attended the event. The six working groups will form the core of COSEP's implementation strategy for the National Business Agenda.

The Washington Times printed **CIPE Chairman Greg Lebedev's** op-ed, "Don't Give Up on Democracy" on Thursday, June 28. Mr. Lebedev says that "of course, we learned long ago – and again in Iraq – that democracy does not spring fully formed from America's mind. Rather, it best grows locally and slowly as it embraces and adapts and arranges the essential ingredients of a free society to fit the prevailing political, cultural and economic environment." In the article, Mr. Lebedev builds a strong case for the continued support of the National Endowment for Democracy and its affiliated institutions. For the full text of the article, visit *The Washington Times* at www.washingtontimes.com/article/20070628/COMMENTARY/106280006.

GLOBAL/KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

CIPE held its 2007 staff retreat in June. Both Washington, D.C. staff and field staff were able to participate, via live streaming over the Internet. Executive Director John D. Sullivan opened the retreat with a discussion of CIPE's strategic direction. Board Member Lt. Gen. Dan Christman, USA (Ret.) spoke about leadership, values, and the strategic direction of the Chamber's International Division. Other sessions addressed CIPE partner success stories, CIPE's vision statement, and CIPE's communications strategy.

CIPE hosted a number of roundtables and seminars in June:

- June 12 – Congressman Alcee Hastings and Ambassador John Herbst spoke on post-conflict reconstruction at a half-day seminar on Capitol Hill. The roundtable discussion identified ways to meet citizens' short-term needs while maintaining a focus on long-term institutional priorities and stressed the need to engage local civil society organizations early in the reform process.
- June 13 – CIPE, the Federal City Council, and the Center for the Study of Democracy (Bulgaria) hosted a roundtable discussion on building public-private partnerships and the experience of Bulgaria. The roundtable featured Mayor of Sofia Boyko Borissov as well as Kenneth Sparks, CIPE Board Member; John D. Sullivan, CIPE Executive Director; John Hill, CEO of the Federal City Council; and Dr. Ognian Shentov, Chairman of the Center for the Study of Democracy.
- June 14 – Sam Mitchell, President of the Liberian Business Association (LIBA) and Maureen Shaw, VP of administration of LIBA and director of Women Empowerment in Business, spoke on the role of business in consolidating Liberia's democracy.
- June 14 – USAID and CIPE hosted another inter-agency *Doing Business* roundtable. Joe Lowther of Emerging Markets Group discussed labor flexibility issues and legal reform, using examples from Croatia.

John D. Sullivan and Alex Shkolnikov discussed the negative impact that bribery has on business in their article in the *International Business Times*. Contrary to popular belief, business is often a victim of bribery. To combat this problem, Transparent Agents and Contracting Entities (TRACE) has designed a new anti-bribery tool, the BRIBELine. Exposing extortion is one way of fighting it, and this tool may become an effective way of identifying corruption-prone areas and reducing the probability that companies will become victims of extortion. This and other columns are available at www.ibtimes.com/columns.

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

- "Ethical Leadership at Work," by Alan Boeckmann, Chairman and CEO, Fluor Corporation and Board Member, Partnering Against Corruption Initiative
- "Expanding Business Opportunities through International Arbitration," by David Baron, Partner, McDermott, Will & Emery LLP and Adjunct Professor of International Law, American University

AFRICA

Ghana – The Institute for Economic Affairs held workshops June 8-10 for members of Parliament and political party activists, and June 22-24 for regional political party leaders. The workshop assisted Ghana's political parties to establish economic platforms and inform them of the challenges facing the private sector. The workshop addressed several topics including: small businesses, consumer associations, corporate citizenship, the role of institutions in a market economy, and private sector development. The program is working to facilitate cooperation between business associations and the major political parties in Ghana.

Kenya – The National Informal Sector Coalition (NISCO) participated in the National Taxpayers Association (NTA) Governing Council Consultative Meeting to discuss the establishment of a national secretariat and pilot District Taxpayers Associations. NISCO was invited to join NTA because of its growing importance as the representative of Kenya's SMEs, which make up the vast majority of the country's businesses. Through its involvement with NTA, NISCO will play an important role in monitoring tax collection and the use of tax revenues. NISCO was formed following CIPE's one-week professional and organizational development workshop for 40 *jua kali* (informal sector) association leaders in Nairobi in November 2004.

Mozambique – CIPE co-sponsored the launch of the new Institute of Directors (IOD) of Mozambique at a conference in Maputo. The IOD is "a body that will fight for professional and ethical behavior among Mozambican business leaders," AllAfrica.com reports. The IOD represents directors and senior managers in the private and public sectors in advocating for public policies that "create an environment for innovation and development," and operates through the Governance and Development Support Institute. Read more in the AllAfrica.com article: allafrica.com/stories/200706271016.html.

Zambia – Eugene Chandi, Finance Director of CIPE partner IOD Zambia, was featured on three radio programs on Radio Phoenix, Zambia. The radio programs are part of a series of seven on economic topics. Mr. Chandi discussed the role played by SMEs in Zambia's economy. S.K. Gulati, IOD Board Member, gave a comparative analysis of the role this sector plays in other economies. With CIPE support, IOD drafted a Corporate Governance Code for Zambia's SME sector. The code is set to be published in the coming months.

ASIA

Regional – Senior Program Officer John Callebaut participated in a roundtable at the OECD conference on Corporate Governance in Singapore. He also traveled to Jakarta where he met with CIPE partners, including Indonesia Business Links (IBL). Mr. Callebaut engaged in a strategic planning session discussing IBL's goals and strategies in preparation for IBL's General Meeting held July 10. The General Meeting was a strategic planning session for the stakeholders of Promoting Business Ethics in Indonesia, and evaluated contributions from stakeholders for the future of IBL through 2011.

CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

Bosnia and Herzegovina – Eldar Dizdarevic, head of CIPE partner the Association for Improving Business Environment and Transparency (UPTE), was a guest on a popular television program, *60 Minutes*. He discussed UPTE's work in promoting better business organizations within the country. Currently, UPTE is finalizing the creation of a database of SMEs and SME business associations in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Bulgaria – CIPE partner the Center for the Study of Democracy (CSD) met with a division of the Bulgarian Ministry of Finance responsible for public-private partnerships to discuss what CSD had learned during its study-visit to the U.S. in early June. At the meeting, CSD provided specific recommendations on how to adapt U.S. experience with public-private partnerships for implementation in Bulgaria. The participants agreed to hold a follow-up session at the ministry in July 2007 with a larger group of officials and experts. A roundtable between businesses, local authorities, and the national government will be held in September, during which attendees will discuss how to implement models for public-private partnership.

Romania – Bogdan Olteanu, President of Romania's Chamber of Deputies (the lower house of Parliament), invited former CIPE partner The Advocacy Academy to open an office at the House of Parliament. The Advocacy Academy will support Parliament in organizing public hearings and public debates to improve dialogue and cooperation with civil society as part of Parliament's strategy to increase transparency.

Romania – Carmen Stanila, CIPE Romania Deputy Director, participated in a public hearing on constitutional reform in Bucharest on June 6. Witnesses presenting testimony during the hearing included four deputies of Parliament and other representatives of civil society. The hearing was organized by The Advocacy Academy, the Pro Democracy Association, and the Professional Journalists' Society.

Romania – Camelia Bulat, CIPE Romania Program Director, participated in the first Central and East European Regional Rule of Law: Judicial Reforms and the EU Accession symposium. The symposium was organized in Sofia by the Bulgarian Institute for Legal Initiatives Foundation, the East West Institute, and the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative, and was held June 14-16. The conference addressed the most pressing issues related to the rule of law in the region. Ms. Bulat delivered a presentation on business advocacy and rule of law in a panel on the legal environment for business in Central and Eastern Europe and the role of business in legal reform.

EURASIA

Kyrgyzstan – In late May, Prime Minister Almazbek Atambayev met with the local business community at the Kyrgyz Government House. Among the private sector representatives was CIPE partner Uluk Kydyraliyev, Executive Director of the Bishkek Business Club. Participants submitted a new draft tax code and other documents concerning cooperation between state institutions and business. The documents call on the Kyrgyz Government to develop mechanisms to enable business involvement in drafting economic policy. The Prime Minister assured the business representatives that the new government will create favorable conditions for entrepreneurship, stressing that in Kyrgyzstan, it will be entrepreneurs – rather than oil and gas – who will be the catalyst to move the country forward.

Kyrgyzstan – On June 19, former general producer of the KOORT TV station Omurbek Sataev conducted a workshop on the basics of media management as part of a joint project between CIPE and the Institute for Public Policy. The session addressed evaluating media and assessing the manager's role in making it successful. The workshop was useful for young journalists to see a comprehensive view of the function and management of modern media organizations. The workshop also discussed balancing political, business, and public interests. Irina Khaldarova, Deputy Director of the Institute of the Media Commissioner, delivered a session examining how mass media is expanding as a business entity within the larger market of information. She discussed how media organizations must maintain a delicate balance between their own economic sustainability and their influence over popular opinion.

Ukraine – CIPE partner the Institute for a Competitive Society completed a study monitoring the implementation of the law requiring the Ukrainian Government to publish all regulations and requirements electronically. The study's findings were presented at the fourth international conference, "Ukraine and the Freedom of Doing Business," on June 4-8. Over 120 representatives from government, business, and NGOs attended the event. The results of the conference were published in the magazine *Business* (www.business.ua/i750/a23481) and on the official website of the State Committee of Ukraine for Regulatory Policy and Entrepreneurship (www.dkrp.gov.ua/control/uk/publish/article?art_id=54249&cat_id=33070).

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Ecuador – The Ecuadorian Institute for Political Economy (IEEP) hosted former Peruvian congressman Enrique Ghersi on its weekly television program, *Tribuna Liberal*. Mr. Ghersi discussed the importance of the rule of law. IEEP expanded on his thoughts on its weekly radio program, highlighting ways to reform the current financial system.

Regional – The Instituto de Ciencia Política (ICP) printed a new issue of the CIPE-sponsored magazine *Perspectiva*. Issue No.13 focuses on corporate citizenship and analyzes how this topic has emerged as a key issue for the region's business community. Articles from John D. Sullivan, Aleksandr Shkolnikov, Stephen Young, Alex Daniel Barril, Carlos Alberto Montaner, and Egydio Marcos were included in this edition. Issue 13 includes articles on political and economic issues from regional and international experts and was distributed in Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Guatemala, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

Egypt – CIPE Executive Director John D. Sullivan and MENA Senior Program Officer Abdulwahab Alkebsi visited CIPE's Egypt office to discuss current and future programs. During their visit, they met with senior management of the Middle East Partnership Initiative and the USAID Office for Democracy and Governance.

Iraq – CIPE partner the American Society for Kurds (ASK) continues to air episodes of its economically-focused show. Episodes on tourism development, SMEs, universities' role in development, and entrepreneurship were aired in late May on various radio stations in the Kurdish regions, including Howler radio, Zahma Takishan radio, Dinki Badinan radio, Zari Karmanji Sowran radio, and Yaka Kartoo radio.

Tunisia – CIPE partner L'Institut Arabe des Chefs d'Entreprise (IACE) held a national conference on corporate governance and family enterprises on June 20 in Tunis. The conference culminated a series of four workshops and a survey on the state of corporate governance in Tunisia. Approximately 150 representatives from the public, private, and academic sectors participated. IACE highlighted that although Tunisian business owners value corporate governance, they are unsure of incurring the costs associated with greater transparency and accountability. The first of its kind in Tunisia, the conference generated local and regional buzz. Participants from Algeria and Morocco applauded IACE for setting the bar through its methodical approach and for its transparency in making the results of the survey and workshops available on its website and on CDs.

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan – The Aid to Artisans/AfghanMark carpet sales event in Hartford, Connecticut sold 11 carpets valuing \$3,545. This is the second such exhibition held since AfghanMark's launch on February 13, 2007, and represents the label's growth.

Afghanistan – The Afghanistan International Chamber of Commerce (AICC) has had tremendous success with their recent membership drive. Recruiting 4,000 new members and reaching into the provinces, AICC plans to expand their services to accommodate their 5,000 members. AICC's general assembly, held on June 28 in Kabul, attracted 3,800 participants. First Vice President Massoud was the keynote speaker, and other government officials praised AICC for their contributions to Afghanistan's economic progress.