



**CENTER FOR
INTERNATIONAL
PRIVATE
ENTERPRISE**

Update on Key Activities March 2007

OF SPECIAL NOTE

Romania – For the third consecutive year, CIPE Romania Director Camelia Bulat has been selected by Romania's *Success* magazine as one of Romania's 100 most influential women. We extend our congratulations to Ms. Bulat.

GLOBAL/KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

Jean Rogers participated in a panel discussion with Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) country representatives that focused on how to engage the private sector in compact consultations. This was part of a larger training program for MCC representatives.

CIPE Senior Program Officer John Zemko represented CIPE at the Community of Democracies meeting in Bamako, Mali. The conference focused on the relationship between democracy and development. About 100 participants attended the event, including Malian government officials, international donors, and international NGOs. CIPE's partner in Guatemala, CIEN, led a discussion on the relationship between sustainable development and democracy, citing key threats to democratic advancement.

John D. Sullivan spoke at a State Department conference, "Creating Partnerships for Economic Empowerment in Strategic Regions."

In their latest column in the *International Business Times*, John D. Sullivan and Alex Shkolnikov discuss recent corporate governance surveys of banks in the Middle East and North Africa. The surveys show that corporate governance mechanisms in the banking sector are fairly sound throughout the region, though there are still areas for improvement. This and past articles are available at www.ibtimes.com/columns.

CIPE held a roundtable, "Measuring Integrity and Improving Governance," with Nathaniel Heller, co-founder of Global Integrity, and Bradley Parks, development policy officer at the Millennium Challenge Corporation. The video recording and accompanying PowerPoint presentation are available at: www.cipe.org/programs/roundtables/webevents/030107.php

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

- "Overcoming Obstacles: How Women Are Rebuilding Bosnia," by Gayle Tzemach
- "A Closer Look at the Progress of Reform in Georgia," by Ana Doldize

AFRICA

Ethiopia – The Ethiopian Economics Association (EEA) completed Ethiopia's National Business Agenda paper, based on the policy concerns of businesspeople across country. With CIPE support, EEA and local chambers held focus group meetings last year in 15 cities across Ethiopia, to allow businesspeople to identify and prioritize policy issues that affect business. EEA compiled these issues into the National Business Agenda for Ethiopia, which the business community will take to the Government to advocate for policy reform.

Kenya – The Inter Region Economic Network (IREN) hosted its fifth Eastern Africa Media Training in Nairobi, Kenya. This year the training expanded its reach to include not only journalists from Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda, but also journalists from Burundi, Ethiopia, Rwanda, and Sudan. The training, “Turning African People into a Resource,” addressed: technology, fighting disease, education reform, policy harmonization, and intra-African trade. IREN has been hosting these events since 2003 to build the capacity of African journalists in economic reporting and to expose them to principles of the free market.

South Africa – The Center for Development Enterprise (CDE) held an advocacy workshop for youth entrepreneurs from Soweto Township, South Africa. The training was held in Johannesburg and was facilitated by CIPE consultant Fred Whiting. Twenty-five young entrepreneurs and business association members attended the training, which addressed the key components of advocacy, including the advocacy process and its importance to business associations. CDE’s training included discussion on developing a national business agenda.

ASIA

China – CIPE held two business association training events in China. CIPE Afghanistan Chief of Party Mark McCord and Mike Olson led a business association training program in Wenzhou, China in conjunction with CIPE partner the Institute for Civil Society Development. The program covered China-specific information for business association development, with a special emphasis on developing the business-government relationship. John Callebaut joined McCord and Olson in Shanghai, where they hosted a one-day training session with business associations.

Indonesia – CIPE worked with the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KADIN) to host a business association advocacy training in Jakarta. The program, led by Fred Whiting, used group participation activities and advocacy role playing to demonstrate the importance of advocacy for the business community. One participant commented, “I’ve heard about advocacy for 15 years and yesterday I finally understood what it really is.”

Regional – The Association of Development Finance Institutions in Asia and the Pacific (ADFIAP) hosted a corporate governance training seminar for 25 DFI staff in Sabah, Malaysia. ADFIAP’s training program will train a corps of corporate governance compliance officers in development finance institutions across Asia.

CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

Romania – The second Balkan Conference of Women’s Business Associations was held in Bucharest, Romania. Thirty participants from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Greece, Kosovo, Macedonia, Serbia, Romania, and Turkey attended the event. The goal of the conference was to conduct a strategic planning session and to produce a structured Coalition of Balkan Women Business Associations with a clear working plan for 2007. Participants selected the board, president, secretary, and committee chairs, and assigned responsibilities to each of the four committees. Another aspect of the conference was related to the topic of women in corporate boards, identified by participants as a major advocacy issue in each of the coalition’s countries.

EURASIA

Russia – The Altai regional coalition of business associations, created under the current USAID-funded SME Policy Advocacy project, presented its Regional Business Agenda (RBA) to the public. The RBA analyzes the state of SMEs in the region and outlines measures that could improve the regional business climate, and is part of a larger effort to create regional advocacy platforms in Russia. Representatives of 12 regional media outlets attended the presentation.

Ukraine – Experts from the Ukrainian Center for Independent Political Research (UCIPR), CIPE partner under the current Political Party Training for Economic Reform project, held a focus group and series of interviews with political parties in the city of Khmelnytsky. The purpose of the focus group was to assess the

current relationship between local SMEs and political parties represented in the regional administration, and to explore ways to increase cooperation between the two groups. UCIPR experts gathered information on the development of economic programs by the parties, analyzed their relationship with the business community, and introduced the idea of holding a workshop for political parties on economic reform and development of economic programs.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Haiti – CIPE's Haiti office conducted a strategic planning seminar with banking associations in Haiti. Nine out of the 10 banking associations in Haiti participated in this seminar. Pierre Marie Boisson, the general manager of the largest micro-credit bank in Haiti, Sogesol, remarked, "This session was very stimulating and it raised some very useful discussions about the future role of the APB (Professional Banking Association). CIPE was able to bring many innovative ideas, especially in terms of the service that the APB could bring to the community in general and potential new sources of revenues, that are useful for the APB. The importance of the role that the APB could play to improve governance was particularly useful."

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

Bahrain – CIPE partnered with Transparency International to sponsor a workshop to promote business principles for countering bribery. The workshop included participants from Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, and Saudi Arabia representing the private, public, and civil society sectors. One of the main themes that emerged from discussions was the importance of corporate governance as a mechanism for countering bribery and the challenge posed by the lack of accountable and transparent political governance structures.

Egypt – CIPE's taskforce on education for entrepreneurship reached an agreement with the Chairman of the Education for Employment Foundation to use the Efhm website (CIPE's Arabic portal for entrepreneurs) as the basic tool to develop a full curriculum on entrepreneurship for students of ages 14-17. The Efhm network comprises businesspeople, schools, teachers, and parents. Business leaders teach students business principles and techniques based on their life experiences.

Iraq – CIPE partner Iraqi Industrial Assemblage (IIA) held a seminar to discuss Iraq's gas and oil investment law. The seminar was attended by a number of IIA members representing various segments of the Iraqi industrial sector. Attendees discussed the various features of the new law and how it would benefit the development of the oil industry and in turn, how it would affect the industrial sector.

Iraq – The South Center for Economic Development in Iraq co-founded the Agency for Training and Local Development in Basra. The agency was launched with an event attended by government officials – including the Basra Province Governor, general directors of governmental offices, and directors of economic think tanks. The agency is a non-governmental and not-for-profit organization that aims to provide information, training, and consultancy to central authorities, state and private sector institutions, and international organizations in the areas of development, economic and institutional reforms, and increasing participation in the decision-making process.

Lebanon – The Lebanese Transparency Association (LTA) and the Lebanon Corporate Governance Task Force (LCGTF) held a workshop in partnership with Byblos Bank to promote the application of the recently launched Lebanese Code of Corporate Governance for SMEs and FOEs. The workshop was attended by owners and directors of SMEs and FOEs, as well as Corporate Account Managers from Byblos Bank. Gerard Zovighian (Chairman of LCGTF, Vice-Chairman of LTA, Board Member of Transparency International) and Nassib Ghobril (Head of Byblos Bank's Economic Research and Analysis Department, and an LTA Board Member) presented the benefits of corporate governance to the participants. Dr. Nasser Saidi (Director of the Hawkama Institute for Corporate Governance in Dubai, former chairman of LCGTF and board member of Byblos Bank) discussed the principles of corporate governance, and Nada Abu Samra (lawyer and co-author of the code) gave a detailed presentation of the Lebanese Code of Corporate Governance.

Palestinian Territories – The Center for Private Sector Development held a conference on economic and business conditions in East Jerusalem. The conference was attended by more than 200 participants, many of whom were among the political and business elite in Jerusalem and neighboring communities. Former Prime Minister Ahmed Qrei spoke at the event. Al-Jazeera and other television stations covered the event, and *Al-Quds* daily newspaper published a report on the conference and the full text of the presentations. For the first time ever, it has been proposed that a local body be formed to overlook the full spectrum of socio-economic needs in East Jerusalem.

Regional – CIPE held a business association management training program for North Africa in Tunisia. CIPE Deputy Director of Programs Jean Rogers and Program Officer Shirin Sahani conducted the program, which included 22 participants from business associations and think tanks representing the private sectors in Algeria, Morocco, and Tunisia. The program focused on building the organizational and advocacy capacity of organizations in order to assist them in building a unified and credible voice for business. The program strengthened the advocacy network among participants and was complemented by the launch of CIPE's French language website and the first of four French publications.

Regional – CIPE Program Officer Rich Kraemer attended the MENA-OECD Investment Program Steering Group Meeting in Paris, France. The meeting assessed the OECD's current program and developed recommendations on how to proceed. Representatives from MENA and OECD countries as well as international organizations like CIPE attended the event. For more information about the program, please visit www.oecd.org/mena/investment.

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan – In cooperation with the Afghan Ministry of Interior, the Afghanistan International Chamber of Commerce (AICC) co-sponsored a security summit, "Cooperation Conference between the Private Sector and Security Organizations," attended by 450 participants. The conference invited the Ministry of Interior and security organizations to publicly respond to a policy paper drafted and submitted by AICC. The policy paper contained 14 policy recommendations for increasing the number of police forces, equipping and training these forces, and giving them fair compensation to minimize opportunities for corruption.

Afghanistan – AICC conducted its seventh networking event to bring together private sector, government, and international stakeholders to receive informative briefings and develop new relationships in support of economic development, international trade, and business partnerships. USAID Afghanistan Mission Director Leon "Skip" Waskin provided the keynote address, highlighting the importance of the private sector in the development of a democratic market economy in Afghanistan. The event was attended by 300 participants and media representatives.

Afghanistan – The Afghan Women's Business Federation (AWBF) received an invitation from USAID in Ghazni province to open a branch office as part of the existing women's center in Ghazni City. The new branch will receive financial support from the local provincial reconstruction team. Additionally, in the past three months AWBF has added seven more association members from the provinces (Herat, Kandahar, and Uruzgan, and two associations each from Bamyan and Parwan) representing a total of 242 women. AWBF currently has 44 association members representing 13,676 constituents.

Bangladesh – CIPE Chief of Party for Afghanistan Mark McCord worked with the advocacy team of the Bangladesh Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BWCCI). The week-long technical assistance workshops covered the basics and finer points of running an advocacy campaign, as well as the development of National Business Agendas and coalition-building tips.

Pakistan – CIPE Pakistan organized a focus group in Karachi to discuss association governance and outline key values. Eighteen representatives from chambers and sectoral associations from all over Pakistan attended the discussion. Both managing committee members and senior staff of chambers and associations were able to candidly discuss the governance issues of business associations in Pakistan. The focus group was jointly moderated by Moin M. Fudda, Country Director of CIPE Pakistan; and Asad Ali Shah, Council Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants Pakistan.