



Update on Key Activities November 2007

OF SPECIAL NOTE

MENA Regional – CIPE participated as one of the Steering Committee Members of the OECD MENA Investment Task Force meeting held in Cairo, Egypt. The meeting reviewed progress in advancing policy reforms in corporate governance, tax policy, investment policy frameworks, and related themes. CIPE Executive Director John D. Sullivan spoke on the private sector panel to discuss the crucial role of the private sector in advocating for a reform agenda. The task force will add corporate social responsibility (CSR) as a key theme by fostering the development of a new regional center on CSR in Egypt.

Egypt – CIPE Egypt held its first one-day conference on CSR. The conference was attended by over 150 participants, including representatives of Egypt's private sector, representatives from multinational companies (Shell, Pfizer, and Microsoft), regulatory bodies, civil society organizations, and media institutions. Randa Al-Zoghbi, CIPE Egypt program director, emphasized that concepts of citizenship apply to individuals as well as corporations and that corporate citizenship goes beyond charity.

Iraq – On November 15, CIPE hosted a reception and ceremony in Arbil to present the Kurdistan Business Agenda (KBA). A group of Kurdistan's private sector representatives presented the KBA to Osman Hassan, Minister of Planning; Nimrud Baito, Minister of Tourism; Mohammed Raouf, Minister of Trade; and Imad Sayfour, Minister of Housing; all representing the Kurdistan Regional Government. The Minister of Planning received the KBA warmly and encouraged the private sector's positive efforts towards economic development and reform. CIPE program officer Suhaib Albarzinji thanked all the stakeholders who participated in the KBA project and asked the private and public sectors to work together, adopt the agenda, and implement the needed reforms. The KBA addresses the challenges faced in 11 different sectors and articulates policy recommendations.

GLOBAL/KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

CIPE's Global Youth Program turned its focus to Afghanistan as the Center for Policy Priorities, a Kabul-based think tank, held the first Young Afghan Professionals Summit in partnership with CIPE. Over 100 young professionals from Kabul, Afghanistan's provinces, and abroad attended the three-day event to discuss development challenges, public policy issues, and possible solutions. CIPE Global Program Officer Sarah Siegel and CIPE Afghanistan staff attended the event.

YouTube – CIPE has launched a new CIPE Forum program on YouTube, which will feature interviews with leading reformers around the world. The first interview is with Hernando de Soto, whose work on the informal sector and the fundamental importance of property rights to democratic development is known worldwide. To see the interview, visit YouTube at www.youtube.com/cipeforum.

Deputy Director Jean Rogers presented a paper on the role of chambers in democracy at a conference of chamber professionals in Hamburg, Germany. The presentation focused on CIPE's work around the world, especially in transitioning economies; applying the concepts of new institutional economics to the internal development of chambers; and chambers' contribution to democratic and market reform.

CIPE released and distributed the following publications:

- “Sustainable Education in the United States: How Private Interests Can Serve the Public Good,” an Economic Reform Feature Service article by Caroline McDermott, second place winner of CIPE’s youth essay competition in the category of ‘Educational Reform and Employment Opportunities’
- “Responsible Citizenship in a Post-Conflict Context,” an Economic Reform Feature Service article by Pie-Pacifique Kabalira-Uwase, who received an honorable mention in CIPE’s youth essay competition in the category of ‘Citizenship in a Democratic Society’
- “The Practice of Public Policy Dialogue in Botswana, 1988-2007,” a Reform Case Study by Elias M. Dewah, managing director of Dewah and Dewah and Associates and former executive director of the Botswana Confederation of Commerce, Industry, and Manpower
- CIPE’s Arabic *Economic Reform Journal* issue No. 19, focusing on corporate citizenship, anti-corruption initiatives, and corporate governance

AFRICA

Kenya – Senior Program Officer for the Middle East and Africa Abdulwahab Alkebsi and Program Officer Suzanne Cutler visited with CIPE partners the Center for Corporate Governance, the Kenya Association of Manufacturers, the National Informal Sector Coalition (NISCO), IREN, and [former CIPE partner] the Institute of Economic Affairs to discuss project progress and plan CIPE’s ongoing strategy in Kenya. CIPE and NISCO met with the Minister of Labour on November 15 to discuss informal sector policy.

Nigeria – CIPE partner the Nigerian Chamber of Commerce of Mines, Industry, and Agriculture (NACCIMA) and CIPE consultant Wumi Gbadamosi attended a National Assembly session at which President Umaru Yar’Adua presented the 2008 National Budget. With CIPE support, NACCIMA is representing the private sector on issues and laws currently under review. NACCIMA representatives attend National Assembly debates and parliamentary committee meetings, and make presentations during public hearings.

Nigeria – CIPE partner the Nigerian Association of Small Scale Industrialists (NASSI) met with the Deputy Governor of Ekiti State Sikiru Tae Lawal and presented him with the NASSI Strategic Plan for Grassroots Poverty Alleviation and Job Creation. The Deputy Governor called on small and medium-sized businesses to take advantage of the funds the government has allocated to support the sector.

Regional – CIPE partner the Inter Regional Economic Network held its fifth annual Africa Resource Bank conference. The conference brings together representatives of civil society, international organizations, and the government to “promote ideas that will enhance economic freedom and wealth creation in Africa.” CIPE’s Abdulwahab Alkebsi attended the event, which was held in Tanzania November 11-14.

ASIA

Indonesia – Senior Program Officer for Asia John Callebaut delivered opening remarks at the Indonesian Institute of Corporate Directors (IICD) conference on November 29 in Jakarta. At the conference, IICD released the results of its most recent corporate governance scorecard rating project.

Philippines – The work of the Institute for Solidarity in Asia (ISA) with cities and professions was highlighted on October 25 during the National Competitiveness Summit, attended by close to 1,000 business leaders. ISA’s work figured prominently into the report of two committees – governance and human resources – that made status reports on their effort to improve the country’s competitiveness ranking. The summit was part of the three-day national convention of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry. President Gloria Arroyo was the keynote speaker.

Regional – The Association of Development Financing Institutions in Asia and the Pacific (ADFIAP) published “Corporate Governance for Sustainability Program (CG4SP) for Development Banks in Asia and the Pacific: A Training Guide” with support from CIPE. The guide will serve as a reference tool with information on the clear link between corporate governance and sustainable development. It will also encourage ADFIAP member banks to further their governance-sustainability framework.

CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

Romania – On November 19-22, CIPE Romania Program Director Camelia Bulat traveled to Sarajevo to meet with leaders of eight business associations, chambers of commerce, and think tanks. She conducted diagnostic and training needs assessments of these entities.

Romania – On November 23 and 27, CIPE Romania organized two advocacy seminars in cooperation with Spiru Haret University in Bucharest. Over 120 students from the faculties of financial management, marketing and international business, and international relations and European studies learned about Romania's legislative process and public consultation procedures. Global Program Officer Sarah Siegel participated in the second workshop, and was interviewed by TVRM, a private television network.

Serbia – The Center for Liberal-Democratic Studies in Serbia publicized the results of its CIPE-funded project "Corruption in Serbia: Five Years Later" at a widely attended conference. Conference attendees included Serbian Ministers of Justice, Internal Affairs, Economy, and Finance; the Deputy Prime Minister; the heads of the Serbian tax and customs administrations; the ambassadors of the United States and the Netherlands; and heads of missions of the OSCE and the World Bank. The conference received wide coverage in the Serbian media, including prime-time news coverage on all six national TV stations.

EURASIA

Albania, Montenegro, and Serbia – CIPE Program Officer Natalia Otel Belan visited CIPE partners in the three countries to discuss project progress and further develop CIPE's strategy in the region.

Kazakhstan – CIPE partner the Kazakhstan Forum of Entrepreneurs held a seminar with 35 representatives of business associations from all regions of Kazakhstan to gather feedback on the newly established Expert Councils work to implement the Law on Entrepreneurship. Nine television stations and six newspapers covered the event. CIPE Program Officer Elena Suhir and CIPE partner Jaroslav Romanchuk provided opening remarks.

Kyrgyzstan – CIPE partner the Bishkek Business Club (BBC) launched the National Alliance of Business Associations (NABA) to represent the united voice of business in Kyrgyzstan with the first NABA conference on November 13. CIPE Program Officer Elena Suhir gave opening remarks together with BBC President Emil Umetaliev.

Russia – On November 19-23, Global Program Officer Aleksandr Shkolnikov and CIPE Russia staff conducted pilot training sessions for business association leaders. The training events are affiliated with the newly formed International Institute for Management of Business Associations (IIMBA) in Russia, and were held at the St. Petersburg Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Turkmenistan – CIPE Program Officer Elena Suhir traveled to Turkmenistan to meet with CIPE partner the Union of Economists as well as Junior Achievement, UNDP, and other organizations to develop CIPE strategy in the country.

Ukraine – The Ukrainian Center for international integration (UCII), together with the Cherkassy State Administration organized a regional seminar, "Global Economic Integration: Democratic Perspectives and Economic Challenges for Ukrainian SMEs." The event increased awareness about Ukraine's integration into the global economy, including the WTO, and complements a series of documentary films about WTO integration that are being produced by UCII and broadcast on national television.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Bolivia – Fundacion Milenio published *Water and Power*, a book that analyzes the reversal of the privatization process in Bolivia. The book examines the impact of the "water war" in Cochabamba on public services in Bolivia, in particular the nationalization of sanitation services in the cities of La Paz and El Alto. Milenio will officially launch the book in La Paz on November 14.

Colombia – Fedesarrollo published the 35th brief in their CIPE-sponsored series, *Politics and Economics: Analysis of the Legislative Situation*. The brief discusses proposed reforms for the financial sector in Colombia, and argues that while the bill would foster microcredit lending and an increase in home mortgages, it fails to address a number of key issues.

Uruguay – *Perspectiva* magazine's regional partner the Center for the Opening and Development of Latin America (CADAL) organized a conference on democracy, markets, and transparency in Mercosur in Montevideo. During the event, CADAL presented *Perspectiva* magazine's latest edition, which focuses on the issue of migration. The conference was well attended, including representatives from Uruguay's main political parties, former President Luis Alberto Lacalle, and former presidential candidate Lopez Murphy.

MIDDLE EAST/NORTH AFRICA

Iraq – CIPE Program Officer Suhaib Albarzinji and CIPE Iraq staff attended an entrepreneurship training program organized by the Kurdistan Economic Development Organization (KEDO) in cooperation with Saladdin University in Arbil on November 14. KEDO held additional entrepreneurship training programs throughout the month. CIPE partner the Iraqi Center for Women Rehabilitation and Employment also held several entrepreneurship trainings in November.

Iraq – CIPE partner the Iraqi Economy Development Center (IEDC)-Babil Branch held a seminar, "Means to Develop the Private Sector," November 4 in Hilla city. The seminar was attended by more than 50 participants, including IEDC members, businesspeople, government officials, and U.S. consulate staff. IEDC-Babil also held two other workshops in Hilla, "Recent Means for Financing Projects" (November 6-8), and "Total Quality Management and ISO systems" (November 13-15).

Regional – Program Officer Danya Greenfield recently completed an initial assessment trip to Bahrain, Tunisia, and Yemen to launch a new two-year initiative on corporate governance funded by the Middle East Partnership Initiative of the U.S. State Department.

Regional – CIPE held its second workshop on a corporate governance taskforce in Jordan in cooperation with the Lebanese Corporate Governance Taskforce and Schema of Jordan. CIPE program officers Shirin Sahani, Suhaib Albarzinji, and Danya Greenfield participated in the workshop. The workshop's dialogue resulted in the formation of a core working group that will identify and conduct outreach to other relevant stakeholders to develop an action plan for a national taskforce.

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan – Senior Program Officer Andrew Wilson and Deputy Director Steve Rogers visited CIPE Afghanistan for auditing and strategic planning purposes. While in Kabul, they met with CIPE partners the Afghanistan International Chamber of Commerce and the Center for Policy Priorities.

Pakistan – The State Bank of Pakistan formed a consultative group comprising microfinance stakeholders, including local banks, business leaders, and a British aid agency. The group will meet on a quarterly basis to assess the development of the microfinance sector in Pakistan and provide council to the Central Bank on issues in the microfinance sector.

Pakistan – CIPE published the Urdu translation of the *Code of Corporate Governance* for listed companies.

Pakistan – On November 16, CIPE Pakistan hosted the first Sectoral Business Agenda committee meeting with the Pakistan Software Houses Association (P@SHA). P@SHA finalized the objective of the agenda and established five working groups to look into issue areas the document will address.

Sri Lanka – CIPE partner the Pathfinder Foundation agreed to partner with the Business for Peace Alliance to spread economic information outside of Colombo. Pathfinder's legislative advisory service examines topical issues and works to bring MPs and the business community to the same platform to conduct more efficient advocacy.