



**CENTER FOR
INTERNATIONAL
PRIVATE
ENTERPRISE**

Update on Key Activities January 2006

OF SPECIAL NOTE:

Pakistan – On January 19, CIPE officially launched its Pakistan Field Office. Over 300 representatives of the Pakistani business community attended the event. Pakistan's Minister of Commerce Humayun Akhtar Kahn gave the keynote address and stated his commitment to initiate dialogue with the business community on revising the Pakistani Chamber system. Also in attendance were the Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan, the Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan, and U.S. Consul General – Pakistan Mary H. Witt. CIPE Executive Director John D. Sullivan, Senior Program Officer Andrew Wilson, and Country Director Moin Fudda were pleased to see the enthusiasm demonstrated by Pakistan's business community about CIPE's new office.

GLOBAL

CIPE Deputy Director Jean Rogers and Program Officer Alex Shkolnikov represented CIPE at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's federation relations event on January 31. The event was an informational session for small business associations, during which CIPE staff discussed CIPE's mission and ways that CIPE could benefit associations.

A roundtable discussion with Dr. Kamal Field Al-Basri, Executive Director of the Iraq Institute for Economic Reform, titled "*The Iraqi Economy: The Challenges and the Strategy*," was held at CIPE's Washington, D.C. office on Friday, January 7th. Dr. Field discussed the prospects for economic reconstruction in Iraq. He noted that economic reforms cannot be implemented in a vacuum, as they require a functional government as well as civil society groups that offer concrete reform proposals and work with policymakers to bring those reforms to life. Over 40 participants attended the event, representing various Washington-area think tanks and government agencies.

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

- The winter 2006 edition of the *Overseas Report* features articles on the Ukrainian conference on the business and economic priorities of the country, a conference in China that attracted 2,000 entrepreneurs, the Center for Entrepreneurship and Economic Development's win of the Templeton Freedom Prize for Initiative in Public Relations, the banking sector in Iraq, and businesswomen in the Balkans. The center spread focuses on the opening of CIPE's new field office in Karachi, Pakistan.
- "Business Ethics: The Essential Component of Corporate Governance" by John D. Sullivan and Alex Shkolnikov discusses the current need for firms to develop strong codes of ethics to guide the behavior of board members, managers, and employees. Although the concern with ethics has always been a part of doing business, business leaders today are beginning to think about ethics as a set of principles and guides of behavior rather than a set of rigid rules.
- "Effecting Corporate Governance Reforms in Asia and the Pacific: The ADFIAP Corporate Governance Rating System," by Octavio B. Peralta, Secretary General, Association of Development Financing Institutions in Asia and the Pacific (ADFIAP) describes ADFIAP's new

initiative, which introduced a corporate governance rating systems in organization's member banks and other financial institutions.

AFRICA

Ethiopia - The Addis Ababa Chamber of Commerce (AACC) held a Chamber Forum on its regularly scheduled radio program "Voice of the Addis Chamber." The 30-minute program is broadcast twice a week and holds discussions with government officials, the private sector, as well as the wider public.

Ghana - The Private Enterprise Foundation (PEF) presented its position paper on the Contract Act to the Ministry of Justice, Attorney General, and the Parliamentary Select Committee on Constitutional and Legal Affairs. PEF strives to promote dialogue between the private and public sector in Ghana.

Kenya - The Inter-Region Economic Network published its online magazine *African Executive: Your Business Partner*, which analyses business trends in Africa. The latest issue, *The Africa You Don't See*, highlights the continent's stock markets and investment potential. To read the magazine, visit www.africanexecutive.com

ASIA

China – CIPE partner the China-Review Information Technology Company, in conjunction with the Unirule Institute of Economics, hosted a symposium on January 21 in Beijing. Unirule's Professor Zhang Shuguang discussed "China's Macroeconomy." Approximately 30 entrepreneurs, scholars, and government officials attended the event.

Indonesia – CIPE partner Indonesia Business Links hosted its second workshop on Anti-Corruption and Corporate Governance in Surabaya on January 18. Mr. Lambok Halomongan Hutauruk from the government's Commission of Corruption Eradication (KPK) was the keynote speaker at the full-day event, which attracted 43 participants from both the private sector and local and regional governments. The group had particular success in designing a local case study focusing on problems with the local market infrastructure.

Philippines - More than 70 participants made commitments to transform Sorsogon City into a "progressive gateway to the South by 2015" during a Public Governance System Working Session held by CIPE partner Institute for Solidarity in Asia (ISA). Sorsogon City's partnership with ISA for the project was highlighted during Mayor Sally Lee's weekly local television program on January 14.

CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

Romania - CIPE Romania distributed 700 copies of the 4th edition of the "Women of Success" CD to 25 women business associations in Romanian and the Balkan region. The associations will disseminate the CD to their members, women leaders of other associations, local and national government officials, and media. The goal of the "Women of Success" CD among is to provide public recognition for successful businesswomen who own or manage a business, to create additional opportunities for cooperation among women in the Balkan region, and to build awareness about the CIPE Romania regional project.

Romania - On December 17, CIPE Romania organized an e-conference to further refine the strategy of the future Regional Coalition of Businesswomen Associations. The e-conference brought together representatives of associations from both Romania and the region: Association of Women Entrepreneurs in Romania, Association of Business Women and Top Managers in Brasov, Association of Women Entrepreneurs in Romania (Galati Branch), International Association of Professional and Business Women in Bulgaria, and Women Entrepreneurs Association in Turkey (Kagider).

EURASIA

Afghanistan - CIPE Program Manager Besmellah Khuram met with Ministry of Education officials to formally agree on the expansion of CIPE's Empresa entrepreneurship program to ten more Kabul high schools. Ministry officials also agreed to integrate CIPE's advanced entrepreneurial curriculum into the five high schools that initiated the Empresa program last year.

Afghanistan - On January 19, CIPE Chief of Party Mark McCord led the third University Entrepreneurial Leadership Program class, focusing on advocacy and anti-corruption. Students participated in role-play activities, where teams of business association executives identified and advocated their members' positions to government officials. This exercise was followed by general discussions on corruption with emphasis on its forms and effects.

Afghanistan - On January 21, Afghanistan International Chamber of Commerce (AICC) partner the Afghan Business Council – Dubai (ABC) had its inaugural ceremony in Dubai, U.A.E. Working with the AICC, the ABC seeks to promote investment and trade in Afghanistan. A day-long event was designed to assess and promote the current investment climate in Afghanistan; panel speakers included AICC Chairman Azaraksh Hafizi and CEO Hamidullah Farooqi. Together with Afghan Ministers of Commerce and Finance, these and other panelists addressed both opportunities and obstacles to investing in Afghanistan, with particular emphasis on financing and legal issues facing Afghan businesses and potential foreign investors.

Afghanistan - On January 23, CIPE Executive Director John D. Sullivan and Senior Program Officer Andrew Wilson arrived in Kabul for a 5-day management visit. They met with local partners – AICC and the Afghan Women's Business Federation - to discuss program development, as well as with participants of the NED-funded programs Empresa and the University Leadership Program.

Belarus - CIPE partner Analytical Center "Strategy" unveiled a 35-point draft National Business Agenda to an audience of Belarusian businesspeople at a board meeting of CIPE's partner organization the Minsk Union of Entrepreneurs and Employers (MUEE). The Agenda focuses on 5 major issues identified by entrepreneurs as preventing business development: (1) taxation; (2) licensing; (3) inspections and fines; (4) registration and liquidation; (5) access to information and lack of government transparency.

Kazakhstan - The Almaty Association of Entrepreneurs and Forum of Entrepreneurs of Kazakhstan conducted a roundtable discussion on Kazakhstan's WTO accession potential and its effect on small- and medium-sized enterprises. Participants included representatives of 22 business associations, 34 small businesses, 4 international organizations, the Ministry of Economy and Budget Planning, the Customs Committee of the Ministry of Finance, the Department of Customs Control of Almaty, and the Institute of Economy of the Ministry of Education and Science. The roundtable was covered by 7 TV channels, 14 newspapers, 2 magazines, and 3 internet news sites.

Pakistan - A team of CIPE representatives headed by Executive Director John D. Sullivan visited Islamabad and held meetings with the USAID Country Director, U.S. Ambassador, United Nations Development Programme Assistant Country Director, Asian Development Bank Country Head, and Dr. Salman Shah, Federal Minister and Advisor to the Prime Minister on Finance and Economic Affairs. All the officials were pleased with CIPE's decision to open field office in Pakistan and assured their full support.

Pakistan - On January 21, the CIPE team, together with President of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry, visited Muzaffargarh, capital of Azad Kashmir and location of the devastating earthquake that killed approximately 70% of the population. The CIPE team visited earthquake-affected areas including a campsite where 2,000 people have been accommodated. They also visited a school set up in tents by local NGOs in collaboration with foreign donors.

Russia - The Kamchatka Regional Coalition of Business Associations held a roundtable on the "Development of Legislative Support to Provide Access for SMEs to Finance and Municipal Property" in

Petropavlovsk-Kamchatski City. 28 representatives of small businesses, business associations, and NGOs took part in the event. Based on the discussion, the coalition members agreed to develop amendments to the city law "On Procedures of Leasing Municipal Non-residential Premises in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatski City" and to draft a proposal on micro-credit systems for small business.

Ukraine- On January 16, CIPE partner the Institute for Competitive Society (ICS) held a roundtable on "Business Development Priorities and Political Parties Programs" in Poltava. The roundtable attracted about 40 participants (including representatives of 9 political parties) and was dedicated to developing a joined strategy of regional business associations to work with regional political parties in the run-up to March 2006 elections.

LATIN AMERICA

Ecuador – *Tribuna Liberal*, the Ecuadorian Institute of Political Economy's (IEEP) weekly television program, addressed the following topics in January: the increase in left-leaning governments in Latin America, the prospects for the upcoming elections in Mexico, Peru and Ecuador this year, and the role of science and technology in promoting economic growth.

Ecuador - IEEP's weekly radio program continued to address the major challenges facing Latin America, including efforts to obtain public support for the Free Trade Agreement with the US, the issue "Does Free Trade Help the Poor?," and labor reform in Ecuador. The guest on the episode addressing labor reform was Pedro de la Cruz, Ecuador's former Minister of Labor.

Guatemala - Staff from the National Economic Research Center (CIEN) participated in a radio program about the informal economy in Guatemala. The program was aired on Radio Punto at the end of one of the most popular news programs in the country.

Venezuela - The Center for the Dissemination of Economic Knowledge's (CEDICE) informal sector project results were featured on two media programs: on *Globovision TV Network* and *Radio Caracas*, CEDICE Coordinator Isabel Pereira discussed CEDICE's studies on the informal sector.

MIDDLE EAST/NORTH AFRICA

Regional - The Union of Arab banks held a meeting on January 6 with the Central Banks of Jordan, Egypt, Qatar, Oman, and Yemen to discuss UAB's regional survey on corporate governance and workshops to promote the survey and to raise awareness about corporate governance in MENA banks.

Egypt - CIPE, Cairo University, and Misr International University completed a program on business journalism for students of the two universities. Misr International University and visiting professor, Dr. Shaun Schaffer, have arranged a student exchange program between MIU and Oklahoma State University to teach the program in fall 2006.

Iraq - CIPE partner the Iraqi Center for Women's Rehabilitation and Employment held a three-day entrepreneurship training program from January 5-7, 2006 in Baghdad. Presentations were made on topics including strategic planning, marketing, management, code of market ethics, and strategic planning. The trainees also worked in groups to draft business development projects.