



**CENTER FOR  
INTERNATIONAL  
PRIVATE  
ENTERPRISE**

---

Update on Key Activities  
June 2006

**GLOBAL**

The American Enterprise Institute held a meeting on "Civil Society, Foreign Aid and the War on Terror," and CIPE Executive Director John Sullivan was one of the commentators. The main speakers included A. Lawrence Chickering, research fellow at the Hoover Institution; P. Edward Haley of Claremont McKenna College; and Emily Vargas-Baron of the RISE Institute. Materials and video link can be found at: [http://www.aei.org/events/eventID.1335,filter.all,type.past/event\\_detail.asp#](http://www.aei.org/events/eventID.1335,filter.all,type.past/event_detail.asp#)

The UNDP sponsored a forum on "Responsible Investing" in Vienna for Central and Eastern European and Eurasian countries. The event was co-sponsored by the U.S. Chamber's Business Civic Leadership Center and CIPE, along with Booz Allen Hamilton and the UN Global Compact. The forum was designed "to promote corporate social responsibility and facilitate multi-stakeholder partnerships in Southeast Europe, the new EU member states, and the Commonwealth of Independent States." Steven Jordan and John Sullivan moderated sessions, and CIPE partners from Ukraine, Russia, and Bulgaria participated.

Susan Cote-Freeman (Transparency International), CIPE Executive Director John Sullivan, and CIPE Program Officer Alex Shkolnikov moderated the first week of a World Bank e-discussion on corruption. Topics included: (1) the effects of corruption on the business environment and competitiveness and (2) private sector approaches to fighting corruption. The multi-week discussion is titled "Towards a More Systematic Fight against Corruption: The Role of the Private Sector." The World Bank Institute is sponsoring the program in partnership with the United Nations Global Compact and the Zicklin Center for Business Ethics Research at the Wharton School of Business.

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

- "An Institutional Reform Approach to Corporate Social Responsibility" by Aleksandr Shkolnikov, Program Officer, CIPE
- "Building Free Markets in Latin America: Engaging the Disenfranchised and Creating Wealth" by Álvaro Vargas Llosa, Senior Fellow and Director, The Center on Global Prosperity at the Independent Institute

The following roundtables were held, and transcripts will be made available on CIPE's website:

- "Democratic and Economic Transition in Serbia: Capturing Lessons Learned" with Boris Begovic, Vice President of the Center for Liberal-Democratic Studies (CLDS)

**AFRICA**

**Ethiopia** – As part of the Ethiopian National Business Agenda project, the Ethiopian Chamber of Commerce and the Ethiopian Economics Associations held focus group meetings in Shasheme, Addis Ababa, and Awassa, Ethiopia. Representatives discussed obstacles to economic growth faced by local business. The meetings are the first step in working to prepare a national business agenda for the country.

**Kenya** – IREN held an official launch of the *African Executive* in Tanzania on June 13, presided over by James Shikwati, CEO of the African Executive. The event attracted over 40 businesspeople, representatives of the media, and students. IREN also held an official launch of the *African Executive* in Uganda.

## ASIA

**China** – CIPE partner the China Center for Public Economics at Beijing University hosted a successful symposium on public finance reform. Senior Program Officer John Callebaut delivered one of the opening presentations. The symposium touched on the most important issues in China's public finance system. Topics included tax reforms, the structure of government expenditures, central and local government relationships, local government fiscal difficulties, healthcare, social security, rural education, private enterprise development, elections, rural public goods provision, democracy in budgeting, and gender equality. CCPE hosted more than 200 public finance officials, local government officials, scholars, and entrepreneurs from across China and abroad.

The symposium featured nearly 70 papers, 3 roundtables, and 6 keynote speakers, including presentations by Nobel Laureate James Mirrlees and noted Berkeley economist Alan Auerbach. The conference garnered media attention from many of China's most prominent news outlets, including the English-language *China Daily*, *Economic Daily*, *Shanghai Economic and Financial Journal*, *People's Daily*, and *Economic and Financial Daily*, as well as many internet sites. The participants commented that the event was one of the best conferences held in China in recent years, and rated the topics, speakers, and discussants highly. CCPE is following up with a summary article that will be distributed to policymakers, and will publish a book through Peking University Press with select articles from the conference later this year.

**Indonesia** – CIPE partner Indonesia Business Links held a training workshop on business ethics. This year, IBL's programs work to combat facilitation payments in light of Indonesia's tough new anti-corruption laws.

**Philippines** – The Institute for Solidarity in Asia (ISA) hosted a nine-person Solidarity Mission to Tagbilaran. The mission looked into the gains of the city's PGS since its inception one year ago. The city's PGS team took note of the suggestions the observers made to institutionalize the PGS in the city. Tagbilaran is another of ISA's first batch of cities to go through the Public Governance System and be declared compliant.

## CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

**Kosovo** – On June 22, CIPE Partner Riinvest Institute organized a "Transparency and Corporate Governance Seminar" to launch a debate on transparency of publicly-owned enterprises in Kosovo and their contribution to anti-corruption policies. 40 seminar participants included representatives of civil society, UNMIK media, international financial institutions, local business associations and chambers of commerce, board members of publicly-owned enterprises, and trade unions. High officials in attendance included the Deputy Prime Minister of Kosovo, the Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Economy and Finance, and the Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Trade and Industry.

**Romania** – On June 12-13, CIPE Romania organized three sessions for testing IOM Romania courses. Thirty-five participants representing chambers of commerce and business associations attended the Pilot Project. The main role of the Pilot Project was to test the concept, the approach, the level of information, and the degree of interaction expected by the future participants. Extensive feedback was received at the end of each session. Five chambers of commerce offered to formalize a partnership with CIPE Romania and host the IOM courses on their premises.

## EURASIA

**Ukraine** – On June 5, CIPE partners the Institute for Competitive Society (ICS) and the Ukrainian Center for Independent Political Research (UCIPR) held a conference with representatives of the business community, political parties, and think tanks. The conference attracted over 160 participants, including representatives from 22 media outlets. Speakers at the conference included representatives from major political parties - Party of the Regions, Blok Timoshenko, and Our Ukraine – and the business community and political analysts from Ukrainian think tanks. The conference participants discussed proactive ways to engage in public-private cooperation following the March 2006 elections. Seven TV and five radio programs aired episodes about the conference.

**Azerbaijan** – CIPE partner Entrepreneurship Development Foundation organized two focus groups that centered on women's business issues and youth business issues. Each group gathered on average six participants, including businesspeople, respected development experts, and media representatives and yielded recommendations on how to improve the business climate for these key groups in Azerbaijan.

**Belarus** – CIPE partner Minsk Union of Entrepreneurs and Employers Director Mr. Vladimir Karyagin participated in the 4th Annual Council Meeting of the Heads of Chambers of Commerce of CIS states. Mr. Karyagin distributed materials relating to the National Business Platform of the Belarusian business community, developed with CIPE support, to all participants, including the former Russian Prime Minister and current President of the Russian Chamber of Commerce and Industry Mr. Evgeny Primakov.

**Kazakhstan** – On June 29, an international conference titled "Advocacy on the National and Regional Level" took place in Almaty. The Almaty Association of Entrepreneurs (AAE) organized the conference with CIPE support and cooperation with the Congress of Business Associations of Central Asia and the Forum of Entrepreneurs of Kazakhstan. Over 40 participants attended, including business association leaders from all five Central Asian republics and Russia. The conference has been developed to share advocacy experiences and best practices on the national and local levels and to develop close cooperation between associations in Central Asia and its neighbors.

**Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan** – Program Officer Kipp Efinger traveled to Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan to meet with current partners and conduct program development work.

## **LATIN AMERICA**

**Ecuador** – *Tribuna Liberal*, the Ecuadorian Institute for Political Economy's (IEEP's) weekly television program, continued to tackle key economic issues such as "Judicial Chaos and Free Trade."

**Colombia** – Confecámaras held a three-day workshop on "Corporate Governance Training for Consultants" in Bogota. 22 senior consultants from important Colombian companies were selected to participate in the 40-hour workshop, which was co-sponsored by the Andean Development Corporation (CAF).

**Guatemala** – CIPE Senior Program Officer for Latin American and the Caribbean John Zemko attended the conference "Informal Economy: A Look at Indigenous Markets" in Guatemala City. This conference was organized by CIPE partner the National Economic Research Center (CIEN) and was attended by more than 150 people including three legislators, the President of the Economic Commission of the Guatemalan Congress, public officials, business leaders, informal entrepreneurs, and journalists from the most important media outlets in the country.

## **MIDDLE EAST/NORTH AFRICA**

**Egypt** – CIPE's Egypt office held a panel discussion on the topic of corporate governance applications and challenges in banks. The goal of the panel discussion was to focus on enhancing governance in the banking sector in Egypt. The event was attended by over 150 Egyptian bankers and media representatives. The Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Egypt and the Deputy Chairman of Bank Misr presented recommendations for applying Basel Committee standards. Additionally, Ms. Elizabeth Moore, former Managing Director of Moody's Investors Service Financial Institutions Group, discussed challenges to instituting corporate governance and presented case studies from the banking sector in India, Turkey, and the U.S.

**Egypt** – CIPE and the Ahrām Center for Political and Strategic Studies held a one-day workshop on political parties and issues related to economic transition in Egypt. The workshop was attended by 80 participants representing an array of political parties.

**Egypt** – CIPE Arabic quarterly *Economic Reform Journal* (ERJ) issue # 16 was published and distributed. This issue of *ERJ* featured articles on constitutional issues, including the process of changing and amending constitutions in different countries such as Chile, Bahrain, Kenya, and Indonesia; an interview with the Egyptian Minister of Trade and Industry; interviews with leaders of the business community on the need to

amend the Constitution as it relates to the private sector; and articles written by businessmen and representatives of political parties. *ERJ #16* is can be accessed online at [www.cipe-arabia.org](http://www.cipe-arabia.org).

**Iraq** – CIPE partner the Iraqi Institute for Economic Reform (IIER) aired a new episode of the Iraq Business Talk Television *Iqtisadna or Our Economy* on June 13th titled "Investment in the Oil Sector."

**Iraq** – CIPE partner the Iraqi Business Women Association (IBWA) held a seminar on "Privatization" on June 22nd, 2006 in Babylon Province. 100 IBWA members and businesspeople attended and the event was covered by Iraqia and Hurra Satellite Channels.

**Lebanon** – On June 13, the Lebanese Transparency Association unveiled the first Lebanese Code of Corporate Governance. Drafted with CIPE support and input from the Lebanon Corporate Governance Task Force, the Code is designed to promote those principles and practices beneficial to the governance of joint stock companies, as well as other forms of businesses and non-profit associations. Approximately 60 representatives of major private sector stakeholder associations attended the Code's launch event, where Minister of Economy and Trade Sami Haddad spoke in recognition and support of the Code. The Code is available at: [http://www.transparency-lebanon.org/Code\\_SME/Code\\_SME.htm](http://www.transparency-lebanon.org/Code_SME/Code_SME.htm)

**Oman** – CIPE partner the International Research Foundation (IRF) held a conference titled "Challenges and Opportunities in Economic Liberalization" on June 4, 2006 in Muscat, Oman. Over 100 participants attended the event, which tackled issues of economic reform including the size of government, free trade, legal structure, credit regulation, labor regulation, and business regulation. Representatives of the IRF, OECD, OCIPED, Fraser Institute, and the Omani Ministry of Commerce and Industry spoke at the conference.

**Turkey** – On June 14, the Corporate Governance Association of Turkey held an Anatolian corporate governance seminar in Trabzon. 30 directors of local firms attended to listen to practitioners from Pricewaterhouse Coopers and the Istanbul-based Prime Capital Group speak about the fundamental values of corporate governance principles and how they enhance business and local economies.

## **SOUTH ASIA**

**Afghanistan** – AICC held its first "Business Networking Event," which over 120 people attended including a number of international stakeholders and government officials. The keynote speaker was NYU professor Dr. Ishaq Naderi, who is also senior economic advisor to President Hamid Karzai. Among his notable statements was, "The government can't build an economy. In fact, those that have tried have failed miserably. The private sector builds the economy and government should support its efforts."

**Afghanistan** – The second CIPE/World Bank-sponsored Business and Economics Journalism Training Program was held. This is an intermediate-level program following on the heels of a previously delivered basic course. The journalism students were provided with concepts, vocabulary, and practical application exercises to build capacity for accurate and insightful reporting of business and economic issues. There were 15 graduates, and there is much demand for an advanced course.

**Pakistan** – Hammad Siddiqui, CIPE Pakistan Program Consultant, organized a meeting with the President of the Pakistan Software Houses Association and Mr. Basheer Chowdry, Member of CIPE's Project Advisory Committee, to finalize the draft recommendations drawn from the CIPE-PASHA Business Policy Roundtable held in early May 2006. While finalizing the recommendations, feedback received from stakeholders was also considered and incorporated. These recommendations have now been sent to the Governor State Bank of Pakistan to provide a basis to develop terms of reference for SBP Taskforce, which will take these recommendations forward with the government of Pakistan and other stakeholders.