



**CENTER FOR
INTERNATIONAL
PRIVATE
ENTERPRISE**

Update on Key Activities September 2006

SPECIAL NOTE – RUSSIA

The Federal Registration Service in Russia granted CIPE's Moscow office registration in accordance with the new NGO law. CIPE Moscow is the first representative office of an American NGO granted registration.

GLOBAL

Executive Director John D. Sullivan, Global Program Officer Aleksandr Shkolnikov, and Knowledge Management Officer Kim Bettcher attended the 10th Annual Conference of the International Society of New Institutional Economics in Boulder, where they presented a paper capturing the role of business associations in generating market-enhancing reforms in transitioning economies.

The Department of State, USAID, and CIPE sponsored a presentation on the 2007 Doing Business indicators. Speakers included Under Secretary Josette Shiner, Simeon Djankov of the World Bank, Jay Smith of USAID, Amb. Jose Brito from Cape Verde, and Michael Gadbow of GE. The Doing Business project reports on the business environment, transactions costs, and investment projections worldwide.

John D. Sullivan addressed multilateral initiatives for business' role in emerging markets at the "Business Civic Leadership Forum: Strengthening Social and Economic Partnerships for Emerging Markets," which was organized by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and held in New York, NY.

Aleksandr Shkolnikov attended the 23rd Pan Pacific Congress in San Francisco, CA, where he spoke at the plenary session on the "Housing Revolution: Property Rights and Global Housing Finance," focusing on the role of private property rights in generating growth and development in emerging markets.

In their column on the *International Business Times* news website, John D. Sullivan and Aleksandr Shkolnikov discussed the Doing Business 2007 report, the lessons learned from the coup in Thailand, and the fact that economic and political liberalization can be a powerful tool in transforming troubling attitudes emerging in Muslim nations. The articles are available at <http://www.ibtimes.com/columns/>

CIPE held an Economic Reform Roundtable "Arbitration Procedures in International Transactions" with David Baron, a partner at McDermott Will & Emery LLP. Mr. Baron discussed international arbitration procedures and their effectiveness, focusing on the role chambers of commerce play in the arbitration process and the ways in which businesses can benefit from this type of dispute resolution.

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

- "Business' Vision for the Future of the Philippines," adapted from a speech made by President of the Management Association of the Philippines (MAP) Evelyn R. Singson at the Institute for Solidarity in Asia's "Mahal Ko ang Pilipinas" conference on August 30
- "Economic and Political Rights at the U.N.: A Guide for U.S. Policymakers" by Helle C. Dale of the Heritage Foundation, originally published as *Backgrounder 1964* by the Heritage Foundation
- A case study detailing the work of the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Bangladesh, "Advancing Reform and Opportunity in Bangladesh Through Private Initiative, 1999-2005"

AFRICA

CIPE D.C. – On September 21, the CIPE Africa team hosted a delegation of civic leaders from Africa. The delegation visited the U.S. as part of the U.S. Political Process for Newly Elected Leaders. Africa program staff presented CIPE's corporate governance and advocacy initiatives in the Africa region, stressing the importance of dialogue between government and the private sector. The delegation included mayors, members of parliament, councilors, house of representative members, ministry directors, and political party deputies from 11 countries from all parts of Africa.

East Africa – In cooperation with the Government of Canada and African private sector institutions, CIPE partner the Kenya Manufacturers Association (KAM) co-hosted the Canadian Council on Africa's "Business Mission to East Africa" from September 18-26. The delegation visited Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda, and Tanzania to gain exposure to the business environment of each country, as well as country-specific investment opportunities.

Kenya – The Inter Region Economic Network (IREN) continued to publish its online magazine, *The African Executive*. One article, "*No Economic Freedom: No Democracy!*" by Josephat Juma argues that the survival of democracy in Africa is contingent upon free enterprise.

Mozambique – CIPE partner Associação Comercial e Industrial de Sofala (ACIS) released its "Combating Business Participation in Corruption" toolkit. The toolkit was developed to assist Mozambique's private sector in its fight against corruption. It details the following: ways to use existing legislation to combat corruption, useful contacts, an employee code of ethics, a supplier code of ethics, a code of business principles, and case studies for training and discussion.

ASIA

Indonesia – CIPE partner Indonesia Business Links published its book *Tools for Managing Ethical Dilemmas*. It is the second edition of IBL's important anti-corruption publication. The bilingual book addresses the corruption that Indonesians face in their daily lives and in business transactions, and through case studies considers the factors that allow corruption to continue.

EURASIA

Kyrgyzstan – Bishkek Business Club member Omurbek Abdurahmanov produced a television show on the topic of state vs. private pensions. The discussion highlighted the weakness of the state system and speakers agreed that the Government should support the development of alternative pension funds.

Ukraine – CIPE partners the Institute for Competitive Society (ICS) and the Ukrainian Center for Independent Political Research (UCIPR) participated in a hearing held at the Parliament by the Parliamentary Committee on Entrepreneurship Development and Regulatory Policy. Over 60 participants, including MPs, representatives of federal and regional administrations, and business association representatives, discussed amendments to the draft law "On State Oversight of Entrepreneurship in Ukraine," which was developed at several focus groups held by ICS and UCIPR. The Committee will present the amendments at the parliamentary session on the draft law scheduled for November.

LATIN AMERICA

Argentina – CIPPEC presented its new book, *To Each, His Own: The Role of Congress in the National Budgeting Process*. After a brief introduction by CIPPEC, researchers Miguel Braun and Gerardo Uña, as well as Congressmen Lamberto, Tate, and De Narváez discussed their proposals to create a Congressional Budget Office.

Bolivia – CIPE's partner Fundación Milenio held an event to release its research findings on the effects of natural gas exports on the Bolivian economy. Milenio's study shows that Bolivia's modest economic growth will be offset by deteriorating income distribution and an increase in poverty.

Ecuador – *Tribuna Liberal*, the Ecuadorian Institute of Political Economy's weekly television program, invited a number of presidential candidates, including Carlos Sagnay Bastida and Jaime Damerval, to discuss their political agendas and the future of Ecuador.

Venezuela – Staff from the Venezuelan Association of Executives (AVE) were invited to speak on the national radio program *En Contacto* about AVE's corporate governance programs in Venezuela.

MIDDLE EAST/NORTH AFRICA

Egypt – The Egyptian Junior Business Association held its third roundtable on corporate governance in family businesses in Egypt entitled "Steps towards Family Business Transformation and Benefits of Going Public." Discussions included why and how to go public and the formation of board of directors.

Iraq – With the support of CIPE, representatives from more than 20 Iraqi business associations, chambers of commerce, and economic think tanks from all parts of the country convened in Arbil on September 22. During the meeting, participants established the Iraqi Business Council. The Council will represent the Iraqi private sector both inside and outside Iraq, will participate in the research and review of legislation pertaining to commerce and trade, and will contribute to the overall Iraqi economic development process.

Iraq – Iraq Program Officer Suhaib Albarzinji spoke at the "1st Cavalry Division In-Theater Business Transformation Roundtable" organized by the Institute for Defense and Business in Ft. Hood, Texas on September 25-26. He discussed "Fostering Private Sector Economic Institutions" to a group of about 100 officers. The officers will be rotated back into Iraq and will be overseeing economic development projects in Baghdad and elsewhere.

Jordan – CIPE partner Al-Quds Center for Political Studies (Al-Quds) held a one-day workshop on September 9. Al-Quds presented the results of its recent surveys: a Business Barometer Survey and a survey assessing all political parties in Jordan. The Business Barometer Survey gathered private-sector opinions on political, legislative, economic, and social conditions and also assessed the private sector's perceptions of political institutions in Jordan. The other survey assessed 34 political parties in Jordan, considering primarily their programs and their views on current economic and social issues.

Morocco – Senior Program Officer Gene Spiro and Program Officer Shirin Sahani met with senior personnel of the Confederation Generale des Entreprises du Maroc in Casablanca to discuss the organization's ongoing review of strategy and related staffing and organizational changes, and the impact this may have on cooperation with CIPE. CGEM has been partnering with CIPE in recent years on projects focused on corporate governance in Morocco.

Morocco/Tunisia – Program Officer Shirin Sahani met with current partners in Morocco and Tunisia to evaluate project activities and discuss possibilities for future cooperation. She also conducted outreach to other private-sector organizations including women's associations and associations representing small- and medium-sized enterprises and met with senior managers at multinational firms.

Palestine – Program Officer Rich Kramer traveled to Palestine to meet with current and potential partners. The meetings were intended to examine the needs of the Palestinian private sector in its efforts to promote economic reform and to determine how CIPE can shape its strategy to help fulfill those needs.

Qatar – Senior Program Officer Gene Spiro participated in the Conference on Corporate Governance in Doha on September 13-14, which was hosted by the Ministry of Economy and Commerce in partnership with the Qatar Chamber of Commerce, the Qatar Businessmen Association, and Micromedia-Qatar. The conference signaled the start of a series of initiatives to inform the public about the importance of good governance and promoted the drafting of corporate governance codes.

Turkey – As part of its “Fortifying Regional Development” Program, Turkey's Ekonomistler Platformu (EKP) held its first of four Anatolian civil society outreach workshops in the city of Eskisher on September 21 and 22. EKP worked with private sector NGO staff to help it identify institutional strengths and areas for improvement. The workshop concluded with the establishment of inter-NGO community committees to which these subjects and the task of their resolution were assigned.

Yemen – CIPE partner the Yemeni polling center (YPC) held a symposium on September 9 to discuss the barriers to doing business in Yemen. During the symposium, the YPC unveiled the results of its poll "Business Obstacles in Yemen." The poll examines the investment climate of the country and complements a previously conducted poll on the impact bribery and corruption have on investment and the economy. The greatest challenges facing investors are the security situation in the country (cited by nearly 90% of those polled) and financial and administrative corruption (86%).

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan – On September 22, the Afghanistan International Chamber of Commerce (AICC) hosted its monthly networking event at the Kabul Serena Hotel. The event featured remarks by the President of the Afghan Senate and Chairman of the Afghanistan Peace Commission. It was attended by more than 100 international stakeholders and Afghan business leaders.

Afghanistan – On September 14, the AICC opened its sixth branch office in the province of Konduz.

Afghanistan – The Afghanistan Women's Business Federation opened its Training Center. The event featured Minister of Women's Affairs Dr. H. B. Ghazanfar, who stated her Ministry's support for AWBF programs. On September 10, AWBF hosted a meeting of 50 businesswomen from Iran, Tajikistan, and Afghanistan in order to explore joint venture possibilities between women-run companies.

Bangladesh – The Bangladesh Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry hosted a seminar in Barishal on September 2. Over 90 people attended, including government officials, the media, and women entrepreneurs. The mayor stated that due to the overwhelming number of participants, Barishal would create a committee to liaise with women entrepreneurs and encourage the business growth.

Pakistan – On September 14, CIPE Pakistan hosted a Business Policy Roundtable on Economic Journalism. Fifty participants from government, associations, academics, media, and the public attended.

Pakistan – CIPE Pakistan hosted meetings throughout September for the committee that is reviewing the Trade Ordinance 1961 to develop a basic framework under which the new law will be drafted. On September 22, the committee designed the organizational structure for the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry, giving adequate representation to all stakeholders via feedback obtained in meetings held across Pakistan.