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## Update on Key Activities January 2008

### GLOBAL/KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

CIPE Executive Director John D. Sullivan spoke at the UN General Assembly's informal review session on the Monterrey Consensus, "Mobilizing Domestic Financial Resources for Development." The review session was one of a number of programs being sponsored by the United Nation's Financing for Development Office in anticipation of the November 2008 formal review of the Monterrey Consensus in Doha. More information is available on the UN's website, [www.un.org/esa/ffd/index.htm](http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/index.htm).

USAID's Advisory Committee on Voluntary Foreign Aid held a public meeting on "Democratic Governance and Economic Growth" featuring a keynote address by USAID Administrator Henrietta H. Fore. The February 28 meeting was chaired by CIPE Executive Director John D. Sullivan. Read the reports on USAID's website at [www.usaid.gov/about\\_usaid/acvfa](http://www.usaid.gov/about_usaid/acvfa).

"An Institutional Reform Approach to Corporate Social Responsibility" by Aleksandr Shkolnikov was reprinted in *Al Alam Al Youm* newspaper – the most highly distributed business daily in Egypt.

CIPE released and distributed the following publications:

- "Middle East and North Africa Reform: Rooted in Economic and Political Ground," a policy paper that investigates the current challenges facing MENA countries.
- "The Challenge of Economic Reform in the Middle East and North Africa," an *Economic Reform Feature Service* article by Anna Nadgrodkiewicz – an abridged version of the above policy paper.
- "The Central Bank of Bosnia and Herzegovina Ten Years On," an *Economic Reform Feature Service* article by Warren Coats.
- An impact update on the successful work of CIPE partner Hernando de Soto and the Institute for Liberty and Democracy in Peru and around the world.

### AFRICA

**Kenya** – James Shikwati, Director of CIPE partner the Inter Region Economic Network (IREN), was featured in a *New York Times* article, "Kenya's Middle Class Feeling Sting of Violence." The article discusses the impact of the post-election crisis on the lives and livelihoods of Kenya's middle class, estimated at approximately four million of Kenya's 37 million people. For the full article, visit: [www.nytimes.com/2008/02/11/world/africa/11kenya.html?pagewanted=1&ei=5070&en=9f0b9af1f5d45faf&ex=1203397200&emc=eta1](http://www.nytimes.com/2008/02/11/world/africa/11kenya.html?pagewanted=1&ei=5070&en=9f0b9af1f5d45faf&ex=1203397200&emc=eta1)

**Kenya** – CIPE partner the Kenya Association of Manufacturers (KAM) has been actively involved in the peace negotiations that resulted in the February 28 agreement between Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki and opposition leader Raila Odinga to end the country's post-election crisis. KAM was part of a private sector group that advised the negotiations, representing a business community that has experienced severe losses in the post-election violence. According to James Shikwati, director of CIPE partner IREN, this agreement must be institutionalized through constitutional changes or the brokered peace could fall apart and lead to a new wave of violence.

**Kenya** – In cooperation with the Kenya Shippers Council, KAM has been working towards restoration of movement for people and goods to Western Kenya and across the border. KAM is advocating for assistance to businesses that were destroyed or damaged during the crisis. In other advocacy efforts, KAM reports success regarding a number of policy issues, including environmental policy development, labor laws, the Standardization Mark, and intellectual property rights. KAM's Coast Chapter is holding seminars for local members to dialogue with government on the impact new laws have on business. CIPE support has allowed KAM to strengthen grassroots business advocacy by opening chapter offices in four regions.

## **ASIA**

**Philippines** – On February 4, the Institute for Solidarity in Asia (ISA) visited San Fernando Pampanga as it celebrated its City Charter Day, with Mayor Oscar Rodriguez giving a public report on the city's accomplishments under the Public Governance System (PGS). The Co-Chair of the city's Multi-Sectoral Governance Council also gave a report on the accomplishments of the private sector as it pursues the city's road map in tandem with public officials. The provincial governor and more than 500 people attended.

**Philippines** – On February 8, Mayor Marides Fernando delivered her State of the City Address to the citizens of Marikina. She highlighted the city's breakthrough results measured with the PGS scorecard. Earlier, Mayor Fernando delivered a module on "Motivation to Make Strategy Everyone's Concern" during the ISA Leadership Forum for the Philippine Navy.

## **CENTRAL and EASTERN EUROPE**

**Moldova** – CIPE partner the Institute for Development and Social Initiatives (IDSI) presented its National Business Agenda initiative to the local business community and government of the Autonomous Gagauz Republic in the south of Moldova. IDSI also conducted diagnostic interviews with business associations around the country, drawing media attention to the National Business Agenda. CIPE Program Officer Natalia Otel Belan attended in support of the initiative.

## **EURASIA**

**Kazakhstan** – On February 14, the President of Kazakhstan issued a moratorium on all inspections of SMEs. This decision was based directly on the advocacy efforts of two CIPE partners, the Almaty Association of Entrepreneurs and the Kazakhstan Forum of Entrepreneurs (KFE), and specifically on the recommendations the organizations provided to the government in January.

**Kazakhstan** – KFE has compiled a National Business Platform outlining the business community's conceptual approach to business development in Kazakhstan and presenting 31 concrete recommendations to improve the investment climate in five key areas. The National Business Platform focuses on macroeconomic issues, including the informal sector, inflation and contraband, administrative barriers and reform, tax policy and administration, customs policy and administration, and the effective development of human resources. KFE Chairman Raimbek Batalov presented the National Business Platform to the appropriate committees of Parliament, federal agencies, and the presidential administration, attracting extensive print and electronic media exposure.

**Kyrgyzstan** – On February 5, CIPE partner the Bishkek Business Club helped launch the first newsletter of the newly established National Alliance of Business Associations (NABA) of Kyrgyzstan. The five-page newsletter summarizes NABA objectives, lists its members, and encourages the business community to support its activities. View the newsletter on NABA's new website, [www.naba.org.kg](http://www.naba.org.kg).

**Russia** – Under the USAID-funded SME Policy Advocacy Project, eight regional coalitions of business associations have finalized the development of their Anti-corruption Regional Business Agendas. The purpose of the agendas is to create and implement anti-corruption mechanisms based on the improvement of statutory acts and the development of moral incentives for anti-corruption behavior in the private sector. Nine additional business coalitions, representing nine more Russian regions, are set to present their agendas in the summer of 2008.

## **LATIN AMERICA and the CARIBBEAN**

**Guatemala** – CIPE partner the National Economic Research Center (CIEN) held a seminar with more than 25 entrepreneurs in Guastatoya. CIEN presented information on the informal economy and the National Business Agenda. Attendees discussed the country's deficient educational system, low consumer demand in poor areas, opportunities for tourism, and assistance for women to create businesses.

**Jamaica** – CIPE Senior Program Officer John Zemko visited leading Jamaican business associations to conduct an initial assessment of their capabilities. Through the association governance project funded by USAID, CIPE has been asked by the local mission to provide assistance to these associations to conduct advocacy programs for business and economic reform in support of the new government. CIPE met with chairmen and general managers of the Jamaica Chamber of Commerce, the Jamaica Exporters Association, and the Private Sector Organization of Jamaica.

## **MIDDLE EAST/NORTH AFRICA**

**Algeria** – Program Officer for North Africa Shirin Sahani traveled to Algeria to get a better understanding of Algeria's business environment and the challenges and opportunities faced by companies. She met with entrepreneurs and a number of private sector associations, as well as public agencies like the National Agency to Support Young Entrepreneurs, representatives of the U.S. Embassy and the Middle East Partnership Initiative, and the International Finance Corporation. Ms. Sahani encountered an interest in building organizational and advocacy capacity and advancing the implementation of corporate governance principles.

**Egypt** – As part of CIPE's global youth leadership program, CIPE Egypt conducted a seminar on Egyptian youth civil engagement. The seminar, held at Misr International University, attracted more than 50 students. It addressed key issues revealed in a survey on trends for youth engagement in civil society activities. The survey showed that while 90 percent of youth believe that engagement with civil society activities is important, less than 40 percent actually participate themselves. Students discussed means of civil participation in an open debate.

**Iraq** – CIPE released its third "Survey of the Iraqi Private Sector: Business Attitudes towards Political and Economic Reconstruction" at a roundtable on February 29. CIPE Program Officer for Iraq Suhaib Albarzinji presented the results of the December 2007 poll gauging business attitudes towards the country's economic and political future. Among other findings, the survey indicated that an overwhelming majority of businesspeople feel that security is better now than in the previous year. More information about the roundtable, including streaming video and other resources, are available on CIPE's website.

**Oman** – Program Officer Shirin Sahani implemented a workshop focused on building a corporate governance taskforce in Oman. The workshop was held on February 16 in cooperation with the Omani Economic Association. Stakeholders from the public, private, civil society, and academic sectors attended the workshop, and a preliminary working group was established to develop an action plan. This group will work in cooperation with the taskforce for listed companies currently being considered by the Capital Markets Authority.

**Tunisia** – CIPE partner L'Institute Arabe des Chefs d'Entreprise (IACE) held a meeting of its corporate governance advisory council to consider plans for a new program sponsored by the Middle East Partnership Initiative. CIPE Executive Director John D. Sullivan, Senior Program Officer for the Middle East and Africa Abdulwahab Alkebsi, and program officers Danya Greenfield and Shirin Sahani all participated in the program. A focus group meeting was held the following day with key IACE members.

**Yemen** – CIPE partner the Yemeni Polling Center held a three-day training workshop in Sana'a in February. The workshop, "Building Survey Capacities," provided business associations and chambers of commerce with basic survey and polling tools to better assess the needs of their members. CIPE Executive Director John D. Sullivan conducted a session on the importance of polls and polling methods. The workshop was also attended by CIPE Senior Program Officer Abdulwahab Alkebsi.

## **SOUTH ASIA**

**Afghanistan** – CIPE staff met with Afghanistan's head of the Economic Commission of Parliament and with the chairman of the Afghanistan International Chamber of Commerce to discuss the development of a business caucus within Parliament. CIPE is also developing an economic education program for legislators.

**Afghanistan** – CIPE Program Officer for Eurasia Kipp Efinger traveled to Kabul to review CIPE's Afghanistan projects. He met with several graduates of CIPE's high school entrepreneurship course, *Tashabus*, to see how they were able to implement the lessons. The students reported that they were able to help their families expand businesses or open new ones.

**Nepal** – CIPE Program Officer for South Asia Brooke Millis traveled to Nepal. She met with CIPE partner the Nepal Press Institute to review progress on the CIPE-sponsored economic journalism program, and explored potential future partnerships.

**Pakistan** – The governor of the State Bank of Pakistan chaired the first meeting of a consultative group for microfinance development in Pakistan, a result of CIPE's business policy roundtable on microfinance held in 2007.