



Update on Key Activities March 2008

GLOBAL/KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

CIPE Deputy Director for Programs Jean Rogers traveled to New York on March 13 to participate in a meeting on globalization chaired by CIPE board member George Vojta with a cross section of key development organizations. The discussion focused on market and financial institutions to ensure the health of the global system.

Global Program Officer Alex Shkolnikov traveled to Tanzania as a facilitator at the Inter Region Economic Network's sixth annual East Africa Media Training. The program supported the role of the media in conflict resolution while also covering topics such as democratic development, foreign aid, and private sector growth in Africa. Nearly 30 journalists from Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe attended the program. In April, participating journalists will submit articles on development in Africa, building on the topics discussed during the program.

CIPE and the Global Corporate Governance Forum (GCGF) held a workshop on corporate governance, anti-corruption, and business ethics to refine a new focus paper as part of a worldwide effort to strengthen best practices. Held in Paris, France, on March 3, the workshop brought together more than 30 private sector leaders, including CIPE partners from Egypt, Kenya, Lebanon, the Philippines, and Russia. At the workshop, participants discussed corporate governance mechanisms as a private sector anti-corruption tool and business ethics as an underlying set of values and guidelines that helps drive good corporate governance. The proceedings of the workshop will be used in the final CIPE-GCGF publication on these issues. Other publications in the focus series are at www.gcgf.org/ifcext/cgf.nsf/Content/Focus_Notes.

CIPE released and distributed the following publications:

- CIPE's **Anti-Corruption Toolkit** outlines the costs and causes of corruption, and proposes demand- and supply-side ways to fight corruption. It also contains case studies of anti-corruption programs in Bulgaria, Colombia, and Serbia. The toolkit is available on CIPE's website at www.cipe.org/publications/papers/pdf/Anti-CorruptionToolkit0308.pdf.
- "Maghreb Integration and the Four-Sided Development Squeeze," an *Economic Reform Feature Service* article by Jawad Rachami
- "Corporate Governance in the African Context," an *Economic Reform Feature Service* article by Karugor Gatamah
- *Overseas Report News Flash* highlighting the results of CIPE's latest poll of the Iraqi private sector
- An impact update about CIPE's Small and Medium-Sized Enterprise (SME) Policy Advocacy Program in Russia. The flyer details the successes of its 17 regional business coalition partners at the regional and national levels.

AFRICA

Kenya – James Shikwati, director of CIPE partner the Inter Region Economic Network (IREN), was named a 2008 Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum. Mr. Shikwati joins 245 young leaders chosen from around the world for their professional accomplishments, commitment to society, and potential to contribute to shaping the world's future.

Tanzania – CIPE partner the Inter Region Economic Network, based in Nairobi, Kenya, held a three-day workshop for media professionals March 26-28 in Bagamoyo, Tanzania. The program brought together approximately 30 journalists from the greater East Africa region to build their understanding of key development issues and to strengthen their capacity to analyze and report on issues surrounding democratic and market-oriented reform. CIPE Global Program Officer Alex Shkolnikov delivered a presentation on the role of business in a democratic society.

ASIA

Philippines – The Institute of Corporate Directors (ICD) presented an award to the Chairman of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Corporation (PLDT) citing its accomplishment in leading the 2007 Corporate Governance Scorecard for Listed Corporations. PLDT is the largest telecommunications company in the Philippines. ICD Chairman Dr. Jesus Estanislao and senior ICD fellows encouraged PLDT to take the lead in the historic initiative of reviewing all corporate governance practices of regulators such as the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Philippine Stock Exchange.

Philippines – The Institute for Solidarity in Asia (ISA) had eight Public Governance System partners move into the next stage of its four-part system: four completed PGS Initiation (Sorsogon Province, Masbate City, Bayawan City, Philippine Navy), three will be declared PGS-Compliant (Iriga City, Tagaytay City, Accounting Profession), and one will be declared PGS-Proficient (Iloilo City). On March 14, ISA took part in a PGS working session for the Philippine National Police Academy. The academy's PGS team organized the working session to get the cadets and alumni to articulate their commitments to the academy's Road Map, which designates the plans and goals associated with its governance.

Philippines – ISA organized an investment forum for four of its PGS partners: San Fernando Pampanga, Cebu Leads Foundation, Tagaytay, and Iloilo. Each partner made a status report on its strategic performance under the PGS, and went on to present investment opportunities in their locales. The investment forum ended with the recognition of eight partners who have moved up the governance pathway and with the launch of *Believe: Making Nationhood Happen Everyday*, a book authored by ISA Chair Dr. Jesus Estanislao. Coverage of the event was aired on ABS-CBN news that same evening.

CENTRAL and EASTERN EUROPE

Moldova – March 27-29, Camelia Bulat, program director for CIPE's Balkan Regional Office, traveled to Moldova to participate in a workshop on developing a National Business Agenda, sponsored by CIPE and its local partner the Institute for Development and Social Initiatives. During the workshop, Ms. Bulat presented an overview of the NBA process and the Romanian experience.

Romania – Camelia Bulat has been featured in the fifth edition of *Capital* magazine's "Top 100 Women of Success." The list is edited annually by *Capital*, the most widely read business weekly in Romania, and features profiles of 100 prominent women in business, non-governmental organizations, the media, and the arts. Congratulations!

EURASIA

Georgia – CIPE partner the Association of Young Economists of Georgia (AYEG) has released the second issue of its journal *Georgian Business Today* as part of their project "Improving the Business Climate and Information Flow in Georgia." The journal targets the private sector, policymakers, and the public. AYEG has also published the results of a survey on key impediments to doing business, incorporating input from over 1,000 entrepreneurs across all Georgian industries and regions. After the publication of the second issue, demand for the magazine was so high that AYEG established a separate website in order to accommodate traffic from the business community. Due to increased advertising revenues, AYEG has decided to publish the magazine monthly, rather than quarterly as planned. To view *Georgian Business Today*, visit: www.economists.ge/download.html

Kyrgyzstan – On March 27, the Bishkek Business Club (BBC) hosted the National Alliance of Business Associations (NABA) coordination meeting to discuss inspections. The meeting brought together members of NABA from Bishkek, including the American Chamber of Commerce; the Congress of Business Associations; the Association of Real-Estate Realtors; the Association of Traders, Service Providers, and Markets; and others. As a result of the meeting, NABA members agreed to appeal to the government for a moratorium on inspections later this year.

Russia – CIPE Moscow staff conducted the pilot training session of the International Institute for Management of Business Associations (IIMBA) at the St. Petersburg Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The event was attended by 25 business association professionals from St. Petersburg and the Leningrad and Kaliningrad regions. The training program covered association management, public policy advocacy, and anti-corruption strategies.

Ukraine – The Ukrainian Center for International Integration (UCII) held a seminar in Kyiv, “Integration into the Global Economy: Perspectives and Challenges for Ukrainian SMEs,” with the goal of raising awareness of the steps needed for Ukraine to integrate into the global economy. Approximately 200 SME owners, government representatives, and journalists attended the event, while experts from the UN, the Ministry of Economy, the Manufacturer’s League, and the Ukrainian Parliament (Rada) addressed integration issues. In addition, a documentary film – produced by UCII and CIPE – was shown at the event.

Ukraine – On March 19, UCII held a seminar that focused on the new roles business associations will assume once Ukraine formally enters the WTO. Most attendees evaluated the effectiveness of business associations as ‘neutral,’ most likely because nearly 60 percent of respondents reported that there is still not enough information on the experience, objectives, and tasks of Ukrainian and foreign business associations. As a result of the conference, UCII found that there is significant demand for legal and economic consulting and greater access to information about the work of business associations.

LATIN AMERICA and the CARIBBEAN

Guatemala – CIPE partner the National Economic Research Center (CIEN) held several events in Quetzaltenango as part of its project to reduce the informal sector in Guatemala. CIEN held a workshop with businesspeople from the informal sector to discuss security, education, government regulations, and taxes. In addition, it hosted a conference at Mesoamerican University to address the challenges of competitiveness for informal businesses in Guatemala. A workshop for businesspeople from the formal sector and a similar conference were convened at Rafaél Landívar University. CIEN’s team attracted significant media coverage of the events by participating in several television, radio, and newspaper interviews during their time in Quetzaltenango.

Nicaragua – The Superior Council for Private Enterprise (COSEP) participated in two important meetings with the Nicaraguan National Assembly on March 6. The first meeting involved discussion of the proposed Biofuels Law, which is collectively supported by the country’s National Business Agenda. This meeting marked the beginning of the governmental approval process. A second meeting with the Assembly discussed the Law on Food Security and Sovereignty. As a result of this meeting, COSEP is teaming up with other organizations to create a common position on several articles of the law.

Peru – Knowledge Management Officer Kim Bettcher and Program Officer Martin Friedl conducted field analysis with the Institute for Liberty and Democracy in Lima. CIPE is studying the impact of its informal sector projects of the late 1980s and early 1990s in Peru, and is assessing improvements in the small business environment. CIPE is also analyzing markets operated by former street vendors and compiling success stories in the formalization of property rights.

Regional – CIPE Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean John Zemko recently returned from a program development trip to Paraguay. He has posted a new blog, “[Is Paraguay Waking Up?](#)” on the CIPE Development Blog, sharing his insights on the forthcoming elections. To comment on his report, visit www.cipe.org/blog/?p=620.

MIDDLE EAST/NORTH AFRICA

Egypt – Minority shareholders in Port Said and its neighboring governorates have called for the establishment of an association to protect their rights. The shareholders were inspired by a March 30 corporate governance conference conducted by CIPE in partnership with the Port Said Small and Medium Enterprises Association. The conference, “Protection of Minority Shareholders’ Rights: Is It Ensured by Egyptian Law?” highlighted the significance of protecting minority shareholder rights in the context of strengthening Egypt’s democratic practices and market economy institutions, and explored the effects of existing laws.

Egypt – CIPE Egypt Program Director Randa Al Zoghbi and Program Officer Heba Hafez made a trip to Minia in Upper Egypt to make final arrangements with Al Khashaba Association to start delivering the Egham Civic Education Program. Al Khashaba made arrangements for the program to be delivered in its pilot phase April 18-19 to 90 students and teachers from six government schools in Minia. The program will focus on concepts of active citizenship within a democratic society based on market dynamics. Students ages 13-15 will be working in groups to develop projects that show that will apply the concepts of active citizenship.

Iraq – CIPE sponsored a workshop, “Laws and Procedures Affecting the Investment Environment,” in Baghdad on March 15, organized by the Kurdistan Center for Economic Development. The workshop addressed the creation of new investment incentives and reducing barriers to investment. Representatives from the Iraqi Central Bank, the Iraqi Stock Market Committee, the Iraqi Association for securities dealers, the Iraqi Investment Committee, the U.S. Army Civil Projects Department, and other international organizations attended. By the end of the workshop, participants had solidified a set of recommendations for investment policy reform. Moreover, Dr. Kamal Basri, chairman of the Iraqi Institute for Economic Reform, proposed the establishment of an economic parliament. The event was covered by Al-Hurra and Beladi Satellite channels, and *Al-Sabah* and *Al-Taa’khy* newspapers.

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan – CIPE conducted its first economics training seminar for members of the Afghan Parliament, focusing on the differences between a free market and centrally planned economies. The event was attended by 24 members of parliament, nine staff members, and two parliamentary advisors.

Afghanistan – The Afghanistan Ministry of Education approved CIPE’s high school entrepreneurial curriculum, *Tashabos*, for 2008. The course will be taught in 22 high schools this year – 15 in Kabul, two in Bamyan, and two in Parwan Province. Students in 10th and 11th grade will use a newly redesigned *Tashabos* textbook that is more relevant to the local environment. The advanced curriculum has been completely redesigned to better complement the concepts taught in the beginner’s curriculum.

Bangladesh – CIPE partner the Bangladesh Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry held a very successful seminar on strengthening the capacity of women entrepreneurs. The seminar was well attended, with over 150 participants and 60 media representatives. The seminar raised policy issues affecting women entrepreneurs to encourage greater national-level debate on possible policy changes to ameliorate the current situation of businesswomen. Bangladesh Finance Advisor Dr. Atiur Rahman attended the event and expressed his intention to follow up on the recommendations.

Bangladesh – CIPE partner the Bangladesh Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BWCCI) has been granted affiliation status by the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Bangladesh’s main trade body). For six years, BWCCI had not been recognized by the federation. BWCCI raised the issue a recent seminar with the government’s Finance Advisor, who then compelled the federation to recognize BWCCI.