



Update on Key Activities July 2010

HIGHLIGHTS

New York, NY – The New York Post ran an op-ed by pollster Craig Charney and CIPE Afghanistan Country Director Mohammed Nasib on Saturday, July 24. www.nypost.com/f/print/news/opinion/opedcolumnists/booming_afghan_biz_bMM19EoG0AN6xUkn3cMH2O. Visit the CIPE Web site to find the full survey and launch event at www.cipe.org.

Poland – On the tenth anniversary of the founding of the Community of Democracies, 80 official delegations gathered in Krakow, Poland July 2-4 to reaffirm their commitment to democracy at the High Level Democracy Meeting (HLDM). Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton delivered a speech on the need to protect civil society as a key part of supporting democracy around the world (www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2010/07/143952.htm). The Community of Democracies also launched the Corporate Democracy Forum as a new pillar in the effort to support democratic development. Solidarity Leader Lech Wałęsa, Polish Telecommunications Company CEO Maciej Witucki, the American Chamber of Commerce President Roman Rewald, and CIPE Executive Director John D. Sullivan have all endorsed the initiative (http://community-democracies.org/images/stories/cdf_PR.pdf). CIPE was represented by John D. Sullivan and Congressional and Governmental Relationships director Gregg Willhauck. For more information on the Krakow meeting, see www.community-democracies.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=154&Itemid=70&lang=en

Yemen – On June 17, CIPE held the inaugural screening of a new film on corruption in Yemen, which was produced by Yemeni film director Khadija Al Salami. In the week following the launch, six articles were published highlighting the film and the need for all stakeholders to address corruption in Yemen, and the film was prominently featured in electronic media as well. The 45-minute documentary film illustrates the impact of corruption on the Yemeni economy and investment climate. CIPE and its partners will continue to use the film as an educational and awareness-raising tool.

GLOBAL PROGRAMS/COMMUNICATIONS/KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

CIPE released and distributed the following publications:

- *Economic Reform Feature Service* article “Youth Entrepreneurship and Leadership in Sri Lanka” by Lochana Yasath Wijesinghe. The author talks about Sri Lanka’s high unemployment rate among youth, challenges to young entrepreneurs, and opportunities to improve the business climate and stimulate private enterprise. This article is a second place winner in the 2009 CIPE Youth Essay Competition in the Entrepreneurship and Leadership category. Read the article at www.cipe.org/featureservice/?p=447
- *Economic Reform Feature Service* article “Urgency and Legitimacy: Tensions in Rebuilding the Legal Structure for Business in Post-Conflict Countries” by Wade Channell of the U.S. Agency for International Development. This article discusses the importance of rebuilding commercial sectors in post-conflict economies, risks that come with urgent lawmaking, and the need for private sector input in post conflict lawmaking. Read the article at www.cipe.org/featureservice/?p=455

Washington, DC – U.S. Department of State, in partnership with CIPE and other organizations, launched the inaugural Democracy Photo Challenge. The contest asks people around the world to complete the phrase “Democracy is...” through digital photos submitted online. The UN in New York will exhibit winning photos in September.

Washington, DC – On Thursday, July 15 Middle East and North Africa Program Coordinator Karina Bakleh, Latin America and the Caribbean Program Office Martin Friedl, Global Program Officer Eric Hontz, Central and Eastern Europe Program Office Natalia Otel-Belan, and South Asia Program Officer Marc Schleifer graduated from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce’s Institute for Organization Management (IOM) program. The IOM graduate recognition is the standard for professional development and training in association, chamber, and nonprofit industries. It is awarded to those who have completed a comprehensive course of study in nonprofit management.

Thailand – CIPE Director for Policy Reform Aleksandr Shkolnikov and Asia Program Officer John Morrell travelled to Thailand for meetings with the National Anti-Corruption Commission, the Institute of Directors, Thai Chamber of Commerce, Joint Foreign Chambers of Commerce, Siemens, PricewaterhouseCoopers, and other organizations involved in anti-corruption work in the country. On July 29, Shkolnikov led a technical session on collective action approaches to fighting corruption, which drew 35 people representing the private sector and public officials involved in developing the

national anti-corruption strategy. The government delegation was led by Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Finance Sathit Limpongpan and Commissioner of the National Anti-Corruption Commission Professor Pakdee Pothisiri.

AFRICA

Cote d'Ivoire – As a result of CIPE's four-day training program with the National Federation of Ivorian Artisans of Cote d'Ivoire (FENAPCI) from June 28 – July 1, at least ten member associations held follow-up meetings to share and discuss the lessons learned from the training program with their members and to discuss action items such as revising or creating bylaws, setting dates for elections, and providing improved member services. Among the FENAPCI member associations that participated were the Artisans of Bas Sassandra, the Cooperative of Macrame Artisans, the Association of Women Artisans of Cote d'Ivoire, and The Butchers Association. On July 1, U.S. Ambassador to Cote d'Ivoire Wanda Nesbitt spoke at the closing ceremony for CIPE's four-day training program with FENAPCI. Her remarks can be found here: <http://abidjan.usembassy.gov/ambremarksfenapci07012010.html>

Ethiopia – CIPE Africa Program Officer Lars Benson visited Adama and Mekelle to meet with business associations and non-governmental organizations including the Adama Women's Entrepreneur Association, Awash Milk and Milk Producers Association, Ye'ewuket Ber Saving and Credit Association, Bright Africa Youth Association, and the Mekelle and Tigray Chambers of Commerce and Sectoral Associations, to assess the impact of the first year of a CIPE program to empower associations on capacity-building, advocacy and public private dialogue.

Kenya – CIPE partner the Kenya Association of Manufacturers (KAM) Nyanza and Western Chapters launched its Regional Business Agenda (RBA) publication. CIPE has supported KAM in the development of RBAs in each of the four regions where KAM has a presence. As a result of the publication, the local government has committed to taking action on a few key issues outlined in the RBA, including relocating street vendors, zoning bicycle taxis, and re-routing public transport. The Provincial Commissioner also recommitted to follow up on the dwindling fortunes of Kisumu Against Crime, a public-private sector partnership established to curb crime.

Nigeria – Enugu Coalition of Business and Professional Association's (ECOBPA) advocacy team on insecurity was able to meet with Nigeria's National Inspector General of Police Ogonnaya Onovo to share their policy paper and discuss ways the private sector can improve Nigeria's deteriorating security situation in these regions. The advocacy visit was aired on the National Television Authority Network Service, reaching a national audience of 30 million people. In an article in the Nigerian newspaper, This Day, three days later, the Inspector General echoed ECOBPA's policy concerns and suggestions when he said, "The issue of bribery among police officers has reached an alarming level especially as the road blocks are now being mounted for bribe collection. I will soon remove the road blocks because the objective for which they were introduced has been defeated."

ASIA

China – The Siyuan Merger and Bankruptcy Consultancy organized a seminar in the city of Hangzhou at which it presented the findings of its research on the political transformations of Mongolia and South Korea. The aim is to apply the democratization experiences of other Asian countries to China.

Indonesia – On July 16, Indonesia Business Links (IBL) met with the Anti-Bribery Business Community, led by the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, to discuss the possibility of initiating a broad national campaign to promote public awareness of anti-corruption issues. Additionally, IBL is compiling a book of case studies on business ethics. IBL plans to publish the book at the end of August.

Philippines – The Institute for Corporate Directors (ICD) released the results of its corporate governance survey of insurance companies. This was the first time ICD conducted scorecards tailored to specific industries. The average score for insurance companies was 33 percent, far below the average scores for commercial banks (84 percent) and government-owned firms (57 percent), the two other company categories for which customized scorecards were conducted. ICD and CIPE are currently discussing and evaluating these results.

Philippines – Staff from the Institute for Solidarity in Asia (ISA) met with planning officials from the Philippine Navy to discuss the Navy's progress in ISA's performance governance system (PGS). Implementing the Navy's PGS program is the Center for Naval Leadership and Excellence (CNLE), which has devised – with ISA guidance – its own rating system that allows the Navy to quantify and score various policy initiatives based on strategic impact. ISA believes that the work of the CNLE office can serve as a potential model for other central government agencies. In addition to its meetings with the Navy, ISA also met with planning officials from the Departments of Education, Public Works, and Health.

CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

Armenia – On July 15 the Business Advocacy Network held a strategy development workshop in Yerevan. Eighteen workshop participants discussed guidelines for cooperation among network members, and a strategy for conducting effective advocacy. After discussion, all members unanimously approved the agreed-upon guidelines. The workshop was facilitated by CIPE partner in Armenia the Association for Foreign Investment and Cooperation.

Moldova – On July 15-16, the Moldovan Parliament adopted two legislative amendments proposed by the business community in the 2010 National Business Agenda. Both amendments create a friendlier climate for small business development. The first amendment partially liberalizes the procedure of value-added tax registration and the second eliminates the cross-subsidization in agribusiness created by the law on wine production.

EURASIA

Azerbaijan – Jhale Hajiyeva from Azerbaijan Microfinance Association, who participates in CIPE's regional Training of Trainers program, delivered a presentation on the role of membership organizations in Azerbaijan. Her presentation took place at CIPE-supported conference on Development of Small Business in Azerbaijan organized by Entrepreneurship Development Foundation.

Kazakhstan – The Kazakhstan Institute of Directors has completed updates and a translation into Kazakh of the Russian-language textbook, "Corporate Governance: The Kazakhstan Context." The textbook combines theoretical approaches with practical applications for Kazakhstan and is designed for use by university professors as well as business students at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Kyrgyzstan – Despite challenging conditions, Kyrgyzstan's Coordination Council continued work on improving the country's business environment. The Coordination Council, organized and spearheaded by CIPE partner Bishkek Business Club, delivered three draft decrees to Kyrgyzstan's Interim Government on simplifying customs procedures and supporting entrepreneurs with property damaged during the April 2010 unrest.

Russia – The St. Petersburg-based International Institute for Organization Management (IOM) held a Year III training session for its second group of business association and chamber of commerce professionals on July 5- 9 at the St. Petersburg Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The 15 participants represented associations and chambers from the city of St. Petersburg, the Leningrad, Novgorod, and Pskov regions, and Kazakhstan. The session covered issues such as policy advocacy, coalition building, business ethics, reducing corruption, and fundraising. CIPE Russia Deputy Director Alexander Raevsky and Russia Program Officer Natalia Titova from CIPE's Moscow office were among the trainers for the program. The IOM was founded in 2008, and is based on the U.S. Chamber's Institute for Organization Management.

Ukraine – On July 19, the Property and Freedom Institute carried out a regional training seminar on "Ukraine and the WTO: New Issues and Possibilities for Business Associations" in Simferopol. The seminar was carried out under CIPE's project "Strengthening Business Associations' Capacity as a Watchdog over Ukraine's International Commitments." The 25 participants included representatives of regional business associations and chamber of commerce, as well media, from Simferopol, Sevastopol, Kerch and Evpatoria. The seminar was organized together with the Crimean Chamber of Commerce, and covered membership in World Trade Organization (WTO), new issues and possibilities for business associations, the structure and decision-making process of the WTO, the experience of Lithuanian business associations after WTO accession, and measures for trade protection and dispute resolution in the WTO.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Argentina – The Center for Financial Stability (CEF), in conjunction with the Argentine Council for International Relations (CARI), held a seminar on Argentina's participation in the G20. The seminar, "Argentina in the G20: An Historic Opportunity," drew an audience of 30 people that included legislators, diplomats, and members of the business community. The purpose of the seminar was to provide a forum for reflection and debate about the participation of Argentina in the G20, and the conclusions and compromises that arose from the G20 Leaders Meeting. CEF is working to better understand the fiscal policies in other G20 countries so that it can apply that knowledge to its work with the legislature in monitoring Argentina's public pension fund, a CIPE-sponsored initiative.

Paraguay – CIPE partner Fundación Paraguaya (FP) hosted a workshop for enterprising women. The 75 participants are members of the Oportunet Network, an organization that works to encourage entrepreneurship for women living in rural cities. The workshop, held at FP's Escuela Agrícola San Francisco, was held over a two day period with activities, lectures, and discussions of technical tools required for entrepreneurship. CIPE is working with Fundación Paraguaya to develop public awareness of entrepreneurship and the value of entrepreneurial qualities and competencies in building a well-functioning democratic society.

Peru – Instituto Invertir received 2,738 applications for its CIPE-supported 2010 *EmprendeAhora* (formerly *LíderAcción*) program – a 10 percent increase in applications from 2009. Invertir will now hold an aptitude exam at 28 university locations throughout the country for all 2,738 applicants before narrowing the pool down to the final 130 program participants.

Venezuela – The Center for the Dissemination of Economic Knowledge (CEDICE) hosted a roundtable discussion entitled "Communist Venezuela? Constitutional or Unconstitutional?" It was moderated by expert economists Isabel Pereira, Juan Jose Molina, and Victor Maldonado, who discussed the new Law on Communes and the communist model. The speakers addressed the issues of private property and government regulation in their discussion. The event was covered by several media outlets, including *El Universal* (http://english.eluniversal.com/2010/07/22/en_eco_esp_venezuelan-think-tan_22A4230891.shtml) and *El Carabobeño* (www.el-carabobeno.com/p_pag_not.aspx?art=a220710e08&id=t220710-e08).

A video interview with Ms. Pereira and Mr. Molina is posted on the Dailymotion video site (www.dailymotion.com/video/xe405a_cedice_news).

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

Algeria – CIPE completed a month long regional assessment of Algerian business associations as part of its Algeria 2009 program to identify business associations representing small and medium-sized enterprises outside of the capital. In addition to Algiers, the assessment took place in Oran, Annaba and Ghardaia and included meetings with business associations, economic think tanks, political and economic leaders, and reform-oriented non-governmental organizations. The goal of the assessment is to target active business associations for a training program on advocacy and capacity building, as well as identify major issues in the associational and business environment.

Egypt – In an effort to gauge the common understanding of concepts of public governance and how it relates to corporate governance and democracy, CIPE Egypt organized a roundtable on public governance. The roundtable was facilitated by the former Vice President of Egypt Capital Market Authority Alaa Amer and Vice President of the Arab-African Research Center Abdul Ghaffar Shokr. Amer emphasized the role of governments in maintaining political participation, assuring transparency in the upholding of laws, and providing equal opportunities for all citizens. Participants discussed the importance of implementing governance in associations, organizations, and political parties and also discussed various obstacles in implementing governance standards.

Iraq – On June 26, CIPE and the Iraqi Society for Consumer Rights Defense organized and led the closing ceremony for the Najaf Provincial Business Agenda (PBA). The PBA, a culmination of consensus built over the course of a year with the private sector, articulates the major issues hindering economic development in priority sectors of Najaf and offers recommendations for policy changes. It is the first time in Najaf that the private sector has agreed on solutions for change and identified cooperation with local policymakers as essential for reform. At the closing ceremony, the agenda was presented to the Provincial Council Chairman. Eight media outlets covered the event.

Lebanon – The Lebanese Transparency Association (LTA), together with the Lebanon Anti-Bribery Network (LABN), held a conference in Beirut on July 7 to launch “You’re Being Audited” guidebook, a new CIPE-supported LABN anti-bribery resource for businesses. The event also served as a venue to release the findings of LABN’s “2010 Survey Results on Administrative Corruption in Lebanon” and to present policy reform recommendations to combat corruption in four key sectors of Lebanon: the construction sector, the electricity sector, small and medium-sized enterprises, and the taxation system. CIPE Middle East and Africa Regional Director Abdulwahab Alkebsi provided opening remarks to a diverse audience that included over 50 representatives from the private and public sectors, as well as civil society and media.

Yemen – On July 1, the Yemeni Businessmen Club (YBC) organized a seminar with the Sana’a Chamber of Commerce to raise awareness of the benefits of corporate governance and introduce to the Guidelines for Corporate Governance in Yemen, which were developed by CIPE and YBC and released on March 29, 2010. Ayman Saleh, former executive director of CIPE partner the Egyptian Junior Business Association, facilitated the session in Sana’a. This workshop is part of a three-year CIPE initiative supported by MEPI.

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan – On July 5, staff from the CIPE Kabul office conducted a training session entitled “Good Democratic Governance” for 27 legislative aides and senior staff members from Afghanistan’s upper house of parliament, the Mishrano Jirga. The session focused on the importance of good governance and its linkages to economic growth.

Afghanistan – On July 20, 2010 the Federation of Afghanistan Craftsmen and Traders (FACT) organized a discussion on improving the business environment in Nangahar Province. The discussion was attended by senior provincial government officials, academics from Nangahar University, and members of FACT. The event was held as part of a CIPE technical assistance grant to build the capacity of business associations in Afghanistan.

Pakistan – CIPE Pakistan Senior Program Manager Hammad Siddiqui visited the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry to review its progress in establishing an Information Resource Center for its members through a small grant from CIPE. The facility is expected to start operations towards the end of July. During his visit, Siddiqui also conducted a session on effective policy advocacy attended by eight board members and three staff of the chamber.

Pakistan – CIPE Pakistan conducted the first training of trainers program for its new initiative to provide business and entrepreneurship courses to secondary students. Fifteen instructors attended the four-day program. The program will adapt the curriculum from CIPE’s Tashabos program in Afghanistan to a more compact and intense program in Pakistan. CIPE Pakistan will begin conducting the courses in schools operated by The Citizens Foundation, which manages 502 primary and 158 secondary schools in Pakistan. The Business Recorder ran an article on the training program: www.brecorder.com/index.php?id=1083032&currPageNo=4&query=&search=&term=&supDate

For more information on CIPE events, please contact Caroline Scullin at 202-721-9200 or cscullin@cipe.org.