

Africa Active Projects 2004

NED Funded Programs in Africa

ETHIOPIA

CIPE support is making it possible for the **Addis Ababa Chamber of Commerce (AACC)** to produce a radio program known as "Voice of the Addis Chamber" twice a week to generate public discourse on business issues. Radio represents a powerful medium in Africa. This program has featured the following topics: Business News, Women in Business, Science and Technology News, Trade & Investment Opportunities, and HIV/AIDS prevention information. AACC's radio programs are promoting increased participation by the business community in policy advocacy and advancing public debate over issues that affect Ethiopia's political and economic development.

Addis Ababa Chamber of Commerce (AACC)

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GHANA

The Private Enterprise Foundation (PEF) has launched an initiative to review all key parliamentary bills that affect the private sector. PEF is working with its member associations to review draft legislation, analyze the issues, and craft professional policy position papers. PEF members present these papers in meetings with parliamentary and other committees, offering informed analysis of the issues and presenting workable solutions to ensure competition and fair practices in the business environment. PEF is reaching out to the wider public by disseminating private sector perspectives through PEF's bi-annual publication, the Enterprise Forum, and its website (www.pefghana.org). By fostering stakeholder participation in the legislative process, PEF is strengthening the democratic transition in Ghana.

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MOZAMBIQUE

The Industrial Association of Mozambique (AIMO), which represents 4 sectoral associations and over 100 individual members in the industrial and agro-processing sectors, is opening the policy formulation process to input from private sector associations. Through CIPE support, AIMO is strengthening its information gathering and analysis capacity and in order to provide business and economic information to its members, provide more informed grassroots input to the policy process, and use a process-oriented approach to guide the government in developing economic and industrial policies that are workable and sustainable. AIMO disseminates its research and business and economic information through quarterly newsletters, policy position papers, and its website. Through these efforts, AIMO is strengthening private sector participation in the ongoing economic and democratic transformation in Mozambique.

Associação Industrial de Moçambique / Industrial Association of Mozambique (AIMO)

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NIGERIA

Under a 2000 CIPE grant, the **Nigerian Association of Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines & Agriculture (NACCIMA)** created an accreditation program, adapted from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce accreditation program, to build the capacity of business associations Nigeria. Now in full implementation, the accreditation program provides regular auditing services to business associations to help them determine how well they are fulfilling their public policy advocacy role and meeting the needs of their members. Under this project, NACCIMA is providing hands-on technical assistance to 10 local chambers/business associations in the process of self-evaluation, strategic planning, and self-improvement that will allow them to be accredited by NACCIMA at the end of a 1 to 2 year period. NACCIMA is actively publicizing this initiative to encourage participation in the accreditation program and to broaden public understanding of the role of business associations in a democratic society.

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SENEGAL

The **National Union of Merchants and Industrialists of Senegal (UNACOIS)** – a business association representing 100,000 members including shopkeepers, petty traders, and small-scale industrialists – is developing a web-based communications program linking its regional offices to keep its members informed and to solicit input on public policy issues. CIPE is also providing technical assistance to UNACOIS in the areas of business association management and advocacy techniques. This grassroots communications program is helping to build the institutional capacity of business associations in Senegal to become more effective advocates for democratic and market reforms and to use modern technology to share information.

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The Employers Association (CNP) in Senegal is producing a radio program that improves public understanding of the market economy and the role of business associations in a democratic setting. The broadcasts are designed to express the views of the business community, to educate the public on business and other social issues, to provide business and management information to small- and medium-sized businesses and entrepreneurs; and to provide a forum where entrepreneurs, small business owners, business associations, civil society groups, and government representatives can share ideas and information on pertinent issues affecting business and investment in the country.

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UGANDA

Through its “Decentralizing Advocacy” project, the **Federation of Uganda Employers (FUE)** is establishing a small regional office in Western Region to improve service delivery to its members, build its membership base, and strengthen district advocacy. The regional office will organize local employers into district committees and create a regional chapter of FUE, with a Regional Committee elected from representatives of the district committees. The committees will advocate for business friendly policies and regulations to stimulate local investment and attract outside investment. The National Office will provide technical and financial support to the regional office until it expands into a fully staffed office and becomes self-sustaining.

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REGIONAL

CIPE has launched a website for business associations in Africa, the **Africa Virtual Business Association Network (AVBAN, www.avban.org)**. AVBAN allows African business associations to exchange ideas and information on economic development issues and business association best practices in governance, management, and advocacy. The website includes a comprehensive and searchable directory of over 450 African business associations with an online registration feature; a template-based Website builder that permits business associations to build their own website; training documents for building capacity of business association staff and leaders; and case studies of best practices. AVBAN provides tools to help associations promote good governance of their associations and their countries, hold governments accountable to their constituents, and demand an economic environment that will increase efficiency and productivity. By creating a strong business association network across Africa, AVBAN is contributing to the free flow of ideas and experience that can ensure that private business takes its rightful place as the engine of economic growth in Africa.

As a follow up to its **Leadership Development Programs** for African Women (Chicago 2000 and Botswana 2002), CIPE held a three-day leadership development program for women in Entebbe, Uganda in May of 2003. The Leadership Program is a continuation of CIPE’s strategy to promote the inclusion of African women in the process of democratization by enhancing their leadership skills so that they can become strong advocates for democratic and economic reform. Approximately thirty African women leaders from Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda participated in the program.

Michigan State University (MSU) has been involved in the development of the Mali market information system over a period of 14 years and has been involved in similar initiatives in Zambia and Mozambique. Through CIPE support, MSU is documenting the success story of Malian business and farmer associations in advocating for economic reforms in the 1990s, which shaped the creation of a successful market information system. This project also directly assists similar efforts that are underway in Zambia and Mozambique and produces best practices material that will be relevant to most African countries that are undergoing similar democratic and economic transitions.

CIPE co-sponsored the second **Pan African Consultative Forum on Corporate Governance**, held in Nairobi, Kenya from July 21 to 22. Other sponsors included the Global Corporate Governance Forum of the World Bank, the International Finance Corporation, the Africa Capital Markets Forum, and the OECD. The theme of the forum was “Corporate Governance for Economic Performance and Sustainable Development”. The objectives of the Forum were to review progress and achievements in implementing good corporate governance practices in the African context; to exchange experiences and foster cooperation among local organizations leading the reform effort; and to encourage a more efficient use of resources for technical assistance and capacity building. The forum drew 180 delegates from 41 countries from all parts of Africa and from all sectors - the private sector, government, academia, trade unions and NGOs. Key conclusions and recommendations from the forum concerned putting priority on corporate governance reforms in the financial sector; strengthening initiatives to set up national corporate governance task forces; supporting training courses for directors of state-owned enterprises; disseminating information on corporate governance initiatives; recognizing the vital role that can be played by investor associations; ensuring that the needs and views of Africa are expressed in the forthcoming global policy dialogue to review the OECD Principles of Corporate Governance; and working in collaboration with NEPAD (The New Partnership for Africa’s Development) to promote good corporate governance in parallel with reforms for improved public and economic governance.

USAID Funded Programs in Africa

TANZANIA

CIPE is working in collaboration with Pact on a USAID-funded **Tanzania Advocacy Partnership Program (TAPP)** to help business associations better represent the interests of their members to government officials. This program, which includes business association management and advocacy training programs in six target regions of Tanzania, has improved participants' skills in strategic planning, membership development, and advocacy to help them design and implement their own advocacy campaigns in each target region. Through increased advocacy efforts, TAPP participants are building public/private partnerships and strengthening the democratic process and the ability of the business community in Tanzania to become a better advocate for economic reform.

IFC Funded Programs in Africa

In Africa, CIPE has 2 major initiatives it is implementing in collaboration with **IFC**. The first, in Nigeria, involves supporting evidence-based policy and institutional dialogue, through technical assistance to the Human Rights Law Service (HURILAWS). Hurilaws is heading the Institutional and Regulatory Reform Working Group, one of four working groups that are formulating and advocating for reforms that will enhance Nigeria's competitiveness. The second, in Mali, involves building the capacity of a wide range of business associations through a Business Association Management training program designed to strengthen management, governance, and advocacy. In addition, CIPE is working directly to strengthen the capacity of a small business association that represents 30,000 small business members, many of them tradesmen.