

BHF Newsletter

E-News for Friends of the BHF: November 2004

Honorary Co-Chairmen

George F. Russell, Jr.

The Honorable John C. Whitehead

The Business Humanitarian Forum brings the resources, energy and creativity of the private sector to bear on the world's most pressing humanitarian problems, promoting economic development, human security and well-being.

HEADLINES

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- Grant from SDC for office in Kabul
- BHF Meets with MTN Vice President
- BHF to Co-sponsor Balkans Conference in Brussels
- BHF and ICC to Co-sponsor Conference in Paris on Business and Conflict
- BHF Discusses its Proposed Training Program on "Working with the Private Sector"
- BHF President Lectures Training Courses of Afghan Diplomats and North Korean Officials at CASIN
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See full texts below:

Afghanistan Generic Medicines Plant Under Construction

The Afghan generic medicines factory that the BHF is sponsoring with the support of the European Generic medicines Association (EGA) is currently under construction near Kabul, with an expected opening in the spring of 2005. DHL, the express delivery company, has undertaken to manage delivery to Kabul of the machinery which will equip this factory. This machinery is a major donation from the American generic medicines company Teva Pharmaceuticals USA. In addition to managing the shipment, DHL will fund a portion of the costs of delivery as a social responsibility contribution. Together, these donations are significant demonstrations of the many ways in which private sector companies and business associations can contribute to the economic development of societies in need. Afghanistan will benefit in multiple ways from the creation of this medicine-producing facility, and the BHF once again expresses its appreciation for these corporate contributions.

The BHF is now actively pursuing possibilities for additional funding to cover the remaining costs for the shipment of equipment, and is contacting a number of foundations, companies and associations for this purpose. We are confident that these funds can be found, and that the generic medicines plant will be completed on schedule. Those interested in contributing to this effort should contact the BHF at

bhinfo@bhforum.org

At the invitation of the quarterly Journal of Generic Medicines, the BHF has contributed a status report on this project, to be published in the next edition of the Journal.

Grant from SDC for office in Kabul

The BHF has received a grant from the Swiss Development Corporation (SDC), an entity of the Swiss Government, to establish a branch office in Kabul, Afghanistan. The office, staffed by one local contract employee, has been opened, and is the BHF's operational base in Afghanistan. It is already being used by BHF representatives on temporary assignment there.

BHF Meets with MTN Vice President

BHF officials met with Robert Hanson, Vice President of MTN, on October 5 in Geneva to discuss progress in a joint project concept for mobile telecommunications facilities for remote regions of Afghanistan. This project concept has now been presented to the Ministry of Communications in Kabul.

BHF to Co-sponsor Balkans Conference in Brussels

The BHF has agreed with Forum Europe to co-sponsor another in a series of conferences and workshops to encourage private sector investment in the post-conflict regions of the Balkans. This event will be held in Brussels on December 7, and will focus on how national economies in the region have developed since the end of the conflicts there. It will seek to convey the message that the Balkans are now an attractive region for investment, and that investment will help to stabilize what is still a potentially volatile area. A BHF representative will chair one of the conference's panels.

BHF and ICC to Co-sponsor Conference in Paris on Business and Conflict

The BHF has agreed with the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) to co-sponsor a conference on "Business and Conflict", to be held in Paris April 15, 2005. This general subject is currently the focus of considerable attention, with at least two recent books addressing related issues. The conference will cover the potential role of business in conflict prevention, the effects on businesses when conflict arises, and the role of business in post-conflict reconstruction. This will be the second conference co-sponsored by the BHF and the ICC. The first was on "Building Cooperation in Africa; Business Investment and Humanitarian Challenges", on December 6, 2001.

BHF Discusses its Proposed Training Program on "Working with the Private Sector"

On October 21 BHF officials held meetings in Geneva with possible co-sponsors for its proposed training program on "Working with the Private Sector". The program, designed

for UN officials who are interested in developing cooperative projects with private sector firms and organizations, is available for presentation in Geneva or elsewhere, and will be in the form of a 2 or 3 day training module. This training course will also be offered in countries where there is a significant presence of international officials, and where more effective cooperation with the private sector is desirable.

BHF President Lectures Training Courses of Afghan Diplomats and North Korean Officials at CASIN

BHF President Maresca was invited to make presentations at two training courses held in September by the Centre for Applied Science in Negotiation (CASIN) in Geneva. These courses were for diplomats and civil servants from Afghanistan and North Korea, and were intended to orient these officials toward international activities in general.

Staff Departures and Arrivals

Emily Alvarez, Eleonore Kopera, Eric Chung-Lim and Stephanie Warner have left the BHF staff in Geneva to pursue other opportunities. The BHF wishes them all well in their future undertakings.

At the same time, BHF welcomes as new employees, consultants and associates Emily Talmon, Karri Goeldner, Roberto Dotta, Dan O'Brien and Reza Morshedi.

Contact BHF

BHF personnel are available for speaking assignments on subjects related to the work of the BHF, on a mutually-convenient basis.

For further information on the BHF, please visit our website, at <http://www.bhforum.org/>

For inquiries and comments please contact the BHF at bhinfo@bhforum.org or by mail at:

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The Business Humanitarian Forum is a non-profit association registered under the laws of Switzerland. We welcome your support, which will help us to continue our work.

The Business Humanitarian Forum was established in 1999. Founders: Peter Bell, Jean Freymond, John Imle, John Maresca, Sadako Ogata, Vladimir Petrovsky, Jane and George Russell, Cornelio Sommaruga, John Whitehead and Robert Zoellick.