



IN THIS ISSUE:

[Business Humanitarian Award Presented at New York Ceremony](#)

[Meeting on Bosnia Wood Products Sector](#)

[BHF Supports Afghan Participation at Swiss Investment Forum](#)

[Maresca in Consulting Role on Investment in Azerbaijan](#)

[Presentation on Afghan Generic Medicines Project at Meeting of International Generic Pharmaceutical Alliance \(IGPA\)](#)

[Annual Report for 2005](#)

[BHF to Host Joint Training Workshop in Geneva](#)

[Staff Activities](#)

Business Humanitarian Award Presented At New York Ceremony

The chief executive officer of Ethan Allen Interiors, Farooq Kathwari, received the 2006 Business Humanitarian Award at a presentation ceremony on June 21 in New York. The presentation took place under the BHF's sponsorship at the headquarters of the United States Council for International Business (USCIB) George F. Russell, Jr. and John C. Whitehead, the BHF's Honorary Co-Chairs, presented the Award.



Mr. Russell (left) and Mr. Whitehead (center) present the Business Humanitarian Award to Mr. Kathwari

Mr. Kathwari has long been involved in humanitarian activities, and has been particularly active sponsoring

dialogue between Indians and Pakistanis seeking a peaceful solution to the dispute over Kashmir. He has been a leader of many organizations devoted to resolving humanitarian issues, and has received numerous awards as a result of his activities.

“Farooq Kathwari exemplifies the humanitarian spirit in business,” said BHF President John Maresca. “His activities show the enormous positive potential of business, and business leaders, in helping to resolve humanitarian problems.”

USCIB representatives said they were delighted to support the event honoring Mr. Kathwari. “Farooq Kathwari recognizes the private sector's responsibility to work toward improving the lives of others,” said Thomas Niles, Vice Chair of USCIB and a member of the BHF Advisory Board. “It is terrific that he's being recognized for his contributions. I hope other CEOs will follow his example.”

Click [here](#) to see a photo album.

Meeting on Bosnia Wood Products Sector

The BHF organized a Contact Group Meeting in Geneva on May 11 on Developing Business Partnerships in the Bosnian Wood Processing Sector . The event received strong support from the Swiss Import Promotion Programme (SIPPO), the Swiss Organization for Facilitating Investments (SOFI), the Center for Development and Cooperation (CDC) at Berne University, USAID’s Cluster Competitiveness Activity in Sarajevo, and the Embassy of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) in Berne.

The meeting brought together some 40 representatives of private companies and organizations from BiH and other Western European countries, with the goal of encouraging and facilitating foreign investment and business partnerships between companies from Switzerland, Germany, Italy and Austria on the one side and Bosnia on other.

Click [here](#) to access the full meeting report.



Bosnian Ambs. Pasalic and Kalmeta, and BHF President, open Bosnia Wood Sector Meeting



Bosnian Wood Sector Meeting at BHF

BHF Supports Afghan Participation at Swiss Investment Forum

The BHF’s Zurich representative and Afghan Program Manager, Brigitte Scherrer, assisted the Afghanistan Investment Support Agency (AISA), Afghanistan’s “one-stop shop for investors”, in its participation in the first Swiss Invest Forum June 12–13, at the Kongresshaus in Zurich. The event was sponsored by the Swiss Organisation for Facilitating Investments (SOFI), with the aim of showcasing opportunities for investment in areas with improving framework conditions, developing infrastructure and cost-effective production. Ms. Scherer assisted AISA Vice President Suleman Fatimie in establishing an information booth and informing interested visitors about investment and business opportunities in Afghanistan. Visitors showed great interest in hearing about the market potential and investment conditions in Afghanistan.

Maresca in Consulting Role on Investment in Azerbaijan

BHF President Maresca visited Baku, Azerbaijan July 2-8 as part of an international team advising the Center for Economic Reform (CER) of the Ministry of Economic Development on developing recommendations to attract investment to the non-energy related sectors of the Azerbaijan economy. This capacity building program was jointly sponsored by CER and the UNDP office in Baku. Drawing on his long involvement in issues of corporate responsibility and good governance, Maresca focused on the relationship between good governance and a country's ability to attract foreign investment. Other team members addressed specific economic sectors that should be attractive for foreign direct investment.



Maresca (left) with Center for Economic Reform Director Vaqif Rustamov (second from left) and his team members

Presentation on Afghan Generic Medicines Project at Meeting of International Generic Pharmaceutical Alliance (IGPA)

On June 20, Head of Operations Emily Talmon-l'Armée made a presentation on the BHF's Afghan generic medicines project at the IGPA's annual conference in Monaco. Ms. Talmon-l'Armée explained the role in the project of the European Generic medicines Association, via its "Access to Medicines" program, and summarized the dire health situation in Afghanistan which the project is intended to address. The presentation, entitled "*Partnering With the Generic Medicines Industry on Humanitarian Business Projects*," was well received by an audience of over 350 participants from the generic medicines industry worldwide. Ms. Talmon-l'Armée stressed the interest of the BHF to work in partnership with generic medicines companies on this or similar projects, either on the basis of philanthropic donations or equity investments, as a way of addressing the need for medicines in developing countries around the world.

Annual Report for 2005

The BHF's Annual Report for 2005 has been published, and is available at the BHF website, http://www.bhforum.org/pdf/2005_Annual_Report.pdf

BHF to Host Joint Training Workshop in Geneva

The BHF, together with the UN University for Peace (UPeace) and the U.S. Institute of Peace (USIP), will hold a one-day joint training workshop in Geneva on September 26th. The focus of the workshop, which is by invitation only, will be on “Public-Private Partnerships in Peacebuilding”. The workshop is designed to develop participants’ skills in creating such partnerships as a way to improve the synergy of the various organizations engaged in building stability in post-conflict areas and in creating the conditions for economic regeneration. Invitees include members of the UN community of organizations in Geneva, NGOs and other non-profit organizations, and private business.

Other Staff Activities

Mission to Afghanistan

In early June, Ms. Talmon-l’Armée traveled to Afghanistan for a two week mission, including chairing the second meeting of the Board of Baz International Pharmaceuticals Company (BIPC), the BHF’s generic medicines project, at the UNDP office in Kabul. Ms. Talmon-l’Armée and the BHF’s Afghanistan Representative, Ms. Jacqueline Baroukzai oversaw a technical mission to repair and bring the BIPC machinery on-line. It is anticipated that the remainder of the production machinery will be in place by the end of July and the full production line will be operational by September.



Engs. Shekarabi and Araghi preparing operation of generic medicines manufacturing machines

Conference in Stuttgart

Project Officer Roberto Dotta participated in an event on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) near Stuttgart, Germany, June 19-20, at which participants presented their organizations’ CSR concepts and how they contribute to economic advancement in developing countries.



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