



THE BHF NEWSLETTER

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THE BUSINESS HUMANITARIAN FORUM ASSOCIATION

HONORARY CO-CHAIRS: GEORGE F. RUSSELL, JR. AND JOHN C. WHITEHEAD

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Season's Greetings

From all of us at the BHF

Joint BHF- ICC Meeting held on “The Private Sector and the MDGs: Role, Impact and Opportunities”

Following the third UN Private Sector Forum on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which recently took place in New York, the BHF and the International Chamber of Commerce held a joint meeting on The Private Sector and the MDGs: Role, Impact and Opportunities on December 9 in Geneva.

This well attended and highly useful event allowed senior representatives from companies, UN agencies, non-profit organizations and academia to review the outcomes of the UN Private Sector Forum, to discuss positive contributions as well as shortcomings with regard to private sector involvement in achieving the MDGs, and to highlight further opportunities and mechanisms for companies to engage in and accelerate this process.

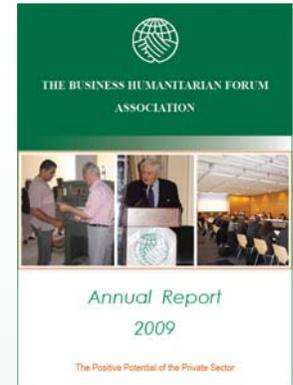
The first session of the meeting featured keynote addresses providing cutting edge input on the meeting topic and notably discussing development opportunities and hurdles in poor areas through inclusive business models, cross-sector partnerships or promotion of sustainable entrepreneurship. The second session provided a platform showcasing concrete and inspiring projects undertaken on the ground by international companies and leading NGOs. The report of this meeting will be made available on our website in January.



Attendees at workshop on The Private Sector and the MDGs.

BHF Begins its Second Decade

2009 marked the 10th anniversary of the Business Humanitarian Forum, with 2010 beginning our second decade. We are pleased to have achieved this milestone for our organization and to have contributed over the years towards improving conditions for people living in post-conflict and developing countries. You can read more about our organization's continued focus on encouraging responsible public and private entrepreneurship for sustainable development, learn about our activities and events carried out last year and find out about the recipient of the 2009 Russell-Whitehead Business Humanitarian Award in our latest [Annual Report](#).



Upcoming Workshop on “Company Responsibilities in Countries with Human Rights Challenges” in early February

In order to continue a constructive dialogue on business and human rights, the BHF and The Conference Board's European Council on Corporate Responsibility and Sustainability will hold their third workshop on Company Responsibilities in Countries with Human Rights Challenges in early February 2011, this time in collaboration with the Swiss Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA).

This two-day workshop, which has received the kind support of the FDFA, will consist of a combination of general policy discussions and practical case studies on business responsibilities with regard to human rights against the backdrop of the report of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Business and Human Rights: “Guiding Principles for the Implementation of the Protect, Respect and Remedy Framework”.

Furthermore, the workshop will also feature a session on due diligence concerns in conflict situations and with regard to the supply chain in conflict minerals, provide sector-specific experiences on implementing the proposed UN framework and will allow participants to discuss options for follow-up measures and mechanisms to the current mandate.

While this event is by invitation only, please contact Ms. Raksha Vasudevan at rvasudevan@bhforum.org in case you would like to obtain further information.

BHF Staff News

Since our last Newsletter, the BHF has welcomed two new staff members to its Geneva team, Mr. Ruwan Samaranayake from the UK and Ms. Raksha Vasudevan from Canada. Both have been active as Project Assistants on the latest and upcoming BHF events.

Support For The BHF

Another fulfilling year of BHF projects encouraging cross-sector cooperation for economic and human development in poor countries will shortly come to a close.

With your sustained interest and support for this worthwhile endeavor, we plan to build upon these activities in 2011 and to further scale up the reach and impact of our work.

We very much appreciate any contribution you can make for the BHF and its work through a year-end, tax-deductible donation.

You may either send a check to the following address: BHF, 7-9 Ch. de Balxert, 1219 Châtelineau (GE), Switzerland or make a donation via bank transfer: UBS SA; IBAN CH09 0024 0240 2448 3360V; SWIFT Code (BIC): UBSWCHZH80A

Thank you in advance for your generosity and best wishes for the holiday season and the New Year!

John King, BHF Director