



# THE BHF NEWSLETTER

December 2011 Volume 9 Issue 2

THE BUSINESS HUMANITARIAN FORUM ASSOCIATION

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

## IN THIS ISSUE:

(Click headline below for full text)

[BHF Holds 2nd Anti-Corruption Workshop with Transparency International](#)

[BHF and The Evian Group @ IMD Convene Joint Roundtable Discussion on Bottom Up Entrepreneurship for Democracy and Development](#)

[2012 BHF Conference and Award Ceremony to be held on March 16th: save the date!](#)



*Season's Greetings*

*From all of us at the BHF*

## BHF Holds 2nd Anti-Corruption Workshop with Transparency International



Following the successful launch of their first joint anti-corruption workshop last year, the Business Humanitarian Forum and the Swiss Chapter of Transparency International continued their cooperation by hosting a second workshop on “The Challenges of Implementing Best International Anti-Corruption Standards” which took place in Geneva on October 6th 2011.

The goal was to inform attendees of latest developments in the field of anti-corruption and to strengthen the dialogue on best practices for internationally active companies.

Featuring a variety of presentations by expert speakers, ranging from general policy discussions to practical case studies, the workshop brought together some 50 senior representatives from companies, but also from governments, UN agencies, non-profit organizations and academia to engage in a constructive and often quite frank dialogue on anti-corruption regimes of corporations and how they can be improved.

The wide participation by company representatives and very active partaking by all attendees were again proof of the usefulness of such a gathering. The organizing partners therefore intend to continue their cooperation on this topic and, in addition, to launch a new initiative to provide a forum for private sector anti-corruption practitioners throughout Switzerland.

To register your interest, please send an email to BHF Deputy Director Mr. Dotta at [rdotta@bhforum.org](mailto:rdotta@bhforum.org)

To consult the full report of the workshop, please click [here](#).

## **BHF and The Evian Group @ IMD Convene Joint Roundtable Discussion on Bottom Up Entrepreneurship for Democracy and Development**

**O**n November 3, the BHF and The Evian Group @ IMD invited stakeholders of both organizations to a roundtable discussion with Professor Iqbal Qadir on Bottom Up Entrepreneurship for Democracy and Development at IMD in Lausanne.

Joining Professor Qadir on the discussion panel were IMD Professor Salvatore Cantale, IMD Executive-in-Residence Nadine B. Hack, and John Maresca, Rector of the UN-mandated University for Peace and President of the BHF Association Council. BHF Director John King welcomed attendees on behalf of the BHF and the event was moderated by Jean-Pierre Lehmann, Professor of International Political Economy at IMD and Founding Director of the Evian Group.

Mr. Qadir is Professor of the Practice of Development and Entrepreneurship as well as Founder and Director of the Legatum Center for Development and Entrepreneurship at MIT. He is also the founder of a company that provides mobile phone access to rural areas in Bangladesh. For two decades, he has been advocating for the critical role of entrepreneurship and innovations in creating prosperity in low-income countries. By improving connectivity, mobile phones make people more productive and increase their purchasing power, thereby contributing to greater prosperity, according to Professor Qadir. “The mobile phone is a weapon against poverty and a means of prosperity,” he said.

According to Mr. Qadir, starting technology-based businesses in low-income countries can create jobs, raise incomes and disperse political and economic power.

“Aid to governments in poor countries has empowered the authorities instead of citizens, and this has given rise to corruption and stagnation. The dispersion of power and resources is an important indicator of progress, and technology empowers citizens,” said Professor Qadir.

“The idea that business should only do well and not do good should be discarded. And entrepreneurship has to be an important part of the answer,” said Professor Lehmann.

Mr. Maresca added that investment instruments which take into account responsible and sustainable

corporate practices are becoming more widespread and are increasingly driving markets, because positive recognition in these areas increases the value of company shares.

John King, BHF Director John King echoed Professor Quadir's sentiments. "The BHF has always believed that private entrepreneurship is the essential engine of poverty alleviation," King said.

## **2012 BHF Conference and Award Ceremony to be held on March 16th: save the date!**

**T**he BHF is organizing a special conference on March 16th on the topic of "Harnessing the Positive Potential of the Private Sector for Development" which will feature a number of high caliber speakers and culminate in the ceremony for the 2012 Russell-Whitehead Business Humanitarian Award.

The Russell-Whitehead Business Humanitarian Award is presented periodically to an outstanding individual or organization that has contributed in a significant way to facilitate private sector efforts to bring sustainable investment, job creation and economic development where they are needed most.

Further details on the event will be provided early next year. Please save the date!