



THE BHF NEWSLETTER

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BHF Holds Well Received Workshop on Anti-Corruption Initiatives Concerning the Private Sector

On March 16 and following a recent and critically awaited UN Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) conference in Doha, the BHF held a workshop in Geneva on The Relevance of International Anti-Corruption Initiatives for the Private Sector, in partnership with the Swiss Chapter of Transparency International and the International Chamber of Commerce Switzerland.

The workshop informed attendees about latest UNCAC developments as well as the status quo of key international anti-corruption and good governance mechanisms and initiatives which are relevant for the private sector and allowed participants to learn about best global lessons and company practices in this field.

One such outcome was that despite numerous and sometimes overlapping international rules and guidelines, companies need to better integrate anti-corruption measures throughout corporate structures and improve prevention, detection and response mechanisms to cope with potentially difficult situations.



While the workshop was mostly geared toward businesses, there was also participation by key international organizations, NGOs and academics, in consonance with the BHF mandate to encourage pro-active ethical policies and behavior by private and public sectors alike.

The BHF is pleased to report that it has received only positive feedbacks from the 40 senior participants. Given these encouraging signs, we will reflect on the possibility to hold a follow-up event in the mid-term future and inform recipients of our newsletter well ahead of time.

The full report of the workshop can be downloaded [here](#).

High-Caliber Workshops on Climate Change Well Attended

The BHF organized and held two workshops on “First Steps after Copenhagen: The Private Sector's Role in Dealing with Climate Change”, one in Geneva on March 23 at the BHF and a second one on March 25 at *economiesuisse* (largest umbrella organization representing the Swiss economy) in Zurich.

Following the disappointing outcome of the UN Climate Change Conference last December in Copenhagen, the workshops were intended as first steps to restart discussions and build trust among key stakeholders, and to showcase the positive role which the private sector can and should have in dealing with climate change. This role encompasses both the post-Copenhagen process and policy framework but also concerns the ability of companies to address various challenges and lead the way toward a low-carbon economy.



The two workshops were held in partnership with the International Chamber of Commerce Switzerland (ICC), the UN Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP FI) as well as the UN-mandated University for Peace (UPEACE). The events also enjoyed the support of the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN).

The workshops were moderated by BHF's Deputy Director, Rob Dotta, and the Secretary General of ICC Switzerland, Thomas Pletscher (in Zurich).

The mix of a well balanced agenda and high-caliber speakers made it an outstanding and highly informative workshop which received great appreciation from attendees.

Both workshops combined attracted over 100 senior participants and experts from different sectors.

BHF Staff News

The BHF was pleased to welcome on board Ms. Cecilia Serin as a Project Assistant. Joining the BHF in February, Ms. Serin succeeds Ms Ana Aseeva who has joined the staff of the UN Economic Commission for Europe.