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

IN THIS ISSUE:

(Click headline for full text)

[Successful Third BHF Workshop on “Company Responsibilities in Countries with Human Rights Challenges”](#)

[BHF Director Gives Presentation on Public-Private Partnerships at the Geneva Center for Security Policy](#)

[BHF to Hold Course on Anti-Corruption Jointly with Transparency International](#)

[BHF and The Evian Group @ IMD to Host Joint Roundtable Event on Entrepreneurship and Development](#)

Successful Third BHF Workshop on “Company Responsibilities in Countries with Human Rights Challenges”

With a view towards continuing the BHF-initiated dialogue with different stakeholders on business and human rights issues, the BHF jointly with the Conference Board’s European Council on Corporate Responsibility & Sustainability and in collaboration with the Swiss Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) held a third workshop on Company Responsibilities in Countries with Human Rights Challenges on February 3rd and 4th in Geneva. The event was held against the backdrop of a report by the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Business and Human Rights entitled “Guiding Principles for the Implementation of the UN ‘Protect, Respect and Remedy’ Framework”.

This special workshop, which received financial support from the FDFA, brought together about 60 senior representatives from companies, governments, UN agencies, non-profit organizations and academia to engage in a constructive and lively dialogue about the evolution and future prospects of the UN Framework on business and human rights. While several challenges for implementing the Framework were brought up by attendees, there was general agreement in the audience that the Special Representative’s team had done excellent work thus far and made significant progress in engaging and holding to account not only the private sector but all stakeholders in the debate over human rights responsibilities. In addition, the workshop identified several opportunities and mechanisms to maximize the Framework’s chances for success going forward.



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

BHF Director Gives Presentation on Public-Private Partnerships at the Geneva Center for Security Policy

On May 18, BHF Director John King made a presentation at the Geneva Center for Security Policy for a group of diplomats studying the dynamics of Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs). The presentation focused on the way in which the private sector should be integrated into such partnerships, the value that the private sector can bring to partnership objectives, and the way in which the private sector achieves its goals. The briefing also included practical tips on dealing with the private sector to include how to reconcile the sometimes major differences in points of view between public and private sector actors. The question and answer period focused on the practical modalities of setting up such partnerships, researching potential partners and joint partnership planning activities. The diplomats were primarily from African and Central Asian countries where the need for PPPs is particularly urgent.

BHF to Hold Course on Anti-Corruption Jointly with Transparency International

Following the widely positive feedback to last year's event, the BHF, Transparency International and other partners are currently organizing a special two-day course on anti-corruption geared toward mid-to-senior level representatives of companies based in Switzerland and neighboring Europe. To receive further information in June, please send a simple info request to bhinfo@bhforum.org.

BHF and The Evian Group @ IMD to Host Joint Roundtable Event on Entrepreneurship and Development

BHF is pleased to join [The Evian Group @ IMD](#) for a roundtable on Entrepreneurship and Development with Iqbal Quadir on November 3rd. Iqbal Quadir is an accomplished entrepreneur and founder/director of the Legatum Center for Development and Entrepreneurship at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). He has been a steady promoter of bottom-up entrepreneurship in developing countries and has written about the critical roles of entrepreneurship and innovation in improving economic and political conditions in low-income countries.

As this event is by invitation only, please contact Ms. Vasudevan at rvasudevan@bhforum.org for further information.