



NEWSLETTER

HONORARY CO-CHAIRS:

MR. GEORGE F. RUSSELL, JR. AND THE HONORABLE JOHN C. WHITEHEAD

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

[Ethan Allen Company To Donate Machinery](#)

[Afghan Entrepreneur Ms Sima Tabib Addresses USIP Seminar in Kabul](#)

[First Meeting of Management Board of Generic Medicines Company in Kabul](#)

[UN Secretary General Sends Congratulatory Message](#)

[OPIC Takes Special Note of BHF Generic Medicines Project](#)

[WHO Commends BHF-Swiss Red Cross Swaziland AIDS Project](#)

[BHF President Advocates "Encouraged Entrepreneurship" at Hilton Humanitarian Conference](#)

[BHF President Participates in Consultation with UN Rapporteur on Business and Human Rights](#)

[BHF Staff Speaking Engagements](#)

[BHF Staff Changes](#)

[BHF To Cooperate in Forthcoming 2006 Aid and Trade Event in Geneva](#)



*Season's Greetings
From all of us at the B.H.F.*

ETHAN ALLEN COMPANY TO DONATE MACHINERY FOR PRODUCTION OF FURNITURE IN AFGHANISTAN

The well-known American furniture company Ethan Allen has agreed to donate to the BHF the machinery for a furniture production factory in Kabul. The factory, which will be owned by a joint venture in which an Afghan woman entrepreneur is a principal partner with TFI International and EnterpriseWorks/VITA, a US non-profit, has been refurbished just outside the Afghan capital, and will be ready to begin production shortly. The Ethan Allen donation will be handed over by the BHF to the furniture company as soon as possible. The furniture to be produced will be marketed as part of a program to supply much-needed fully-furnished pre-fabricated homes for the Afghan population. There is a major requirement for housing and furniture in Afghanistan following more than twenty years of war and economic stagnation. More information on Ethan Allen can be found on their website, at www.ethanallen.com



"The Objective of the Business Humanitarian Forum is to bring the resources, energy and creativity of the private sector to bear on the world's humanitarian problems, for economic development, human security and well-being."

AFGHAN ENTREPRENEUR MS SIMA TABIB ADDRESSES USIP SEMINAR IN KABUL

In keeping with its on-going cooperation with the US Institute of Peace (USIP), the BHF arranged for one of its Afghan partners, entrepreneur Ms. Sima Tabib, to address a USIP seminar in Kabul on September 21. The seminar was designed to encourage Afghan women entrepreneurs by providing them with briefings and orientation on starting businesses in the current situation in the country. Ms. Tabib is a partner in the Afghan-American Furniture Company, which is receiving a donation of equipment from the US furniture company Ethan Allen.



FIRST MEETING OF MANAGEMENT BOARD OF GENERIC MEDICINES COMPANY IN KABUL

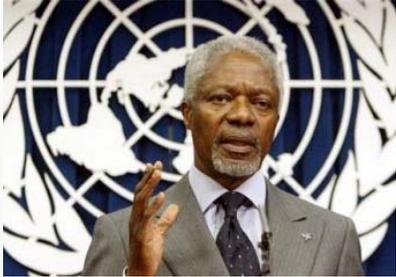


The Management Board of Baz International Pharmaceutical Company (BIPC) held its first meeting in Kabul on September 29, chaired by Emily Talmon-l'Armée, the BHF's Head of Operations. BIPC is the generic medicines company being built near Kabul on the basis of a partnership among BHF, UNDP, EGA and Dr. Karim Baz. The meeting was held at UNDP headquarters in Kabul, and reviewed progress in the construction of the BIPC factory, installation of

production machinery, marketing issues and options for future development and expansion. Participating in the meeting were, left to right, Ms. Talmon-l'Armée (Chair), Mr. Rory O'Riordan, CEO of Clonmel Healthcare of Ireland and Vice President of the European Generic medicines Association (EGA), Mr. Frederick Lyons, UNDP Country Director for Afghanistan, and Dr. Karim Baz, CEO of BIPC.

UN SECRETARY GENERAL'S CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE ON BIPC

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan has sent a congratulatory message, recognizing the value and innovative nature of the BHF's generic medicines production project in Afghanistan, the BIPC. The text of Mr. Annan's message is as follows:



“ The Afghan people have made great strides in their quest for a brighter future. But they still face many challenges. Few are more deadly than the lack of basic medicines. Too many people, particularly children, are dying in Afghanistan today from eminently preventable and treatable diseases. Now, a partnership of local entrepreneurs, private companies, civil society and the United Nations system is trying to change that. The Baz International Pharmaceutical Company (BIPC), owned and run by Afghans, is being established to help provide safe and effective generic medicines to the Afghan people. I am proud that, through the World Health Organization and the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations system has played its part to make this vision a reality. I wish BIPC every success in its work to save lives and build a better tomorrow. ”

OPIC TAKES SPECIAL NOTE OF BHF GENERIC MEDICINES PROJECT

The Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) has informed the BHF that it will make special mention in its Annual Report for 2005 of the BHF's generic medicines project in Afghanistan. OPIC is providing insurance coverage for the project, which it believes “will directly help to establish a sustainable domestic pharmaceutical factory, providing citizens access to much-needed, affordable and high quality medicines, valuable new technology, and job skills.” OPIC is a development agency of the U.S. government that supports business investments overseas, fosters economic development in new and emerging markets, and helps the private sector to manage the risks associated with investments in foreign countries.

WHO COMMENDS BHF-SWISS RED CROSS SWAZILAND AIDS PROJECT

The World Health Organization (WHO) has commended the rural AIDS treatment clinic in Sigombeni run by the Swaziland Red Cross with support from the Swiss Red Cross (SRC). The Sigombeni Clinic is part of a pilot project in Swaziland to make HIV anti-retroviral treatment (ART) more widely available, which the BHF is carrying out with the SRC. WHO representatives visited the Sigombeni clinic and described it as a “model of excellence.” The WHO also welcomed national plans to use the Sigombeni clinic as a model for decentralization of ART to the clinical level. The next clinic set for upgrading on the Sigombeni model in the SRC-BHF program is at Mawhalala, where work has already begun. Other clinics suitable for such upgrading are currently being identified.

BHF PRESIDENT ADVOCATES “ENCOURAGED ENTREPRENEURSHIP” AT HILTON HUMANITARIAN CONFERENCE

BHf President John Maresca, in an address to the annual Hilton Humanitarian Conference on October 31 in Geneva on “Vulnerable Populations: International Community Responsibilities,” argued that it is necessary to pursue a strategy of “Encouraged Entrepreneurship,” and “Encouraged Investment” in poor countries and post-conflict situations where investors are reluctant to open new businesses. Business development is especially needed in such situations for job creation and economic stimulus, but business people are reluctant to invest, in view of the risks.

Maresca’s statement was part of a panel discussion on “Delivering a Future through the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs),” chaired by former CNN correspondent Ralph Begleiter and also addressed by UN MDG Advisor Jeffrey Sachs.

As he did at the UN General Assembly’s Hearings on the MDGs in June, Maresca warned that, based on the on-the-ground experience of the BHF, “The MDG’s cannot be achieved without the positive engagement of the private sector. . . . Vulnerable populations need sustainable jobs, and these can only be provided through expansion of the local private sector.”

Maresca argued that a new strategy, to complement existing humanitarian efforts, should include the private sector and bring local investment and entrepreneurship into a much more central role, in creative ways. Such a strategy should include financial incentives, training and assistance to local entrepreneurs, as well as aggressive marketing of these programs to ensure they are known, and that local businesspeople can take advantage of them. (the full text of Maresca’s remarks is available at http://www.bhforum.org/pdf/JM_Hilton%20Conf_Speech.pdf)

BHF PRESIDENT PARTICIPATES IN CONSULTATION WITH UN RAPPORTEUR ON BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

BHF President Maresca was invited to participate in a special consultation for representatives of the business community with the UN's Special Rapporteur on Business and Human Rights, Harvard Professor John Ruggie, in Geneva on September 16. Others included in the consultation were representatives of major multinational corporations and business organizations such as the International Chamber of Commerce. Maresca has long been active as a business-based advocate and analyst of corporate social responsibility.

BHF STAFF SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Director John King spoke on the role of the private sector in response to the challenges of conflicts and natural disasters at a conference on November 17, in Geneva on "Decent Work in Response to Crises." The conference was jointly hosted by the International Labor Organization and the Geneva Graduate Institute of International Studies.

Mr. King also spoke at a conference hosted by the Folke Bernadotte Academy in Goteborg, Sweden, December 1-2 on "The Role of Economic Actors in Conflict Prevention and Peace Building." Mr. King's presentation was on "Public-Private Sector Relations in Rebuilding Economies."

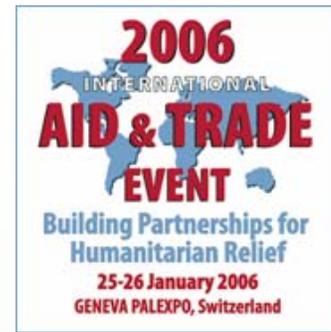
Head of Operations Emily Talmon-l'Armée conducted a BHF training "module" on "Working with the Private Sector" at a training course sponsored by the US Institute of Peace in Annapolis on November 16.

BHF STAFF CHANGES

The BHF bids farewell and good luck to Project Assistant Caitlin Martin, who is returning to the U.S. at the end of the year to continue her graduate studies. We also welcome on board Roberto Dotta, a former part-time Project Assistant, as a full time employee and congratulate him on his promotion to BHF Project Officer.



THE BUSINESS
HUMANITARIAN
FORUM



BHF TO COOPERATE IN FORTHCOMING 2006 AID AND TRADE EVENT IN GENEVA

The BHF will participate in the “Aid and Trade” event at the Palexpo Exposition Hall at Geneva Airport on January 25-26, 2006. BHF President Maresca will act as Chair of the event, and will deliver a keynote address at the opening of the conference. The theme of this year’s event is “Building Partnerships for Humanitarian Relief.” Maresca’s presentation will be on “The Need to Engage Business in Economic Development.”

BHF Head of Operations Emily Talmon-l’Armée will Chair a breakout session on Health & Medical Aid, scheduled for the afternoon of January 25. This panel discussion will serve to highlight the BHF’s health-related work in the field.

The annual “Aid and Trade” conferences in Geneva combine discussion of issues of interest to those involved in international development, with an exposition hall used by international and non-governmental organizations, companies and national delegations to demonstrate or exhibit their products and activities. It is enthusiastically attended by members of the large international community in Geneva, as well as many interested persons and organizational representatives who come especially for the event. Many visitors schedule visits to Geneva to coincide with this event, and plan business meetings around it.

The BHF has often supported and participated in Aid and Trade events. These are now organized by Sustainable Development International, an organization which provides publishing services for businesses, to raise awareness about Corporate Social Responsibility and to influence effective sustainable development policy.

The conference program, plus more information on “Aid and Trade 2006” is available at: www.aidandtrade.org

THE BUSINESS HUMANITARIAN
FORUM

Business Humanitarian Forum
Chemin de Balaxert, 7-9
1219 Châtelaine (Geneva), Switzerland
Phone: +41 (0)22 795 1800
Fax: +41 (0)22 795 1809
E-mail: bhinfo@bhforum.org
Website: www.bhforum.org

CONTACT BHF

BHF personnel are available for speaking engagements or presentations on subjects related to the work of the BHF.

For further information on the BHF, please visit our website, at www.bhforum.org.

For inquiries and comments please contact the BHF at bhinfo@bhforum.org or by mail.

THE BUSINESS HUMANITARIAN
FORUM

is a non-profit association registered under the laws of Switzerland. We welcome your support, which will help us to continue our work.

The BHF was established in 1999. Founders: Peter Bell, Susan Crowley Jean Freymond, John Imle, John Maresca, Sadako Ogata, Vladimir Petrovsky, George Russell, Jane Russell, Cornelio Sommaruga, John Whitehead and Robert Zoellick.