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PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT SIGNED IN BONN

The BHF signed a key agreement in Bonn on June 14 which will provide for the transportation of the equipment for the generic medicines factory in Kabul, Afghanistan, that the BHF is building in partnership with the European Generic medicines Association (EGA), the United Nations Development Program, and an Afghan medical doctor and entrepreneur. The agreement is for a two year public-private partnership for this purpose that will include the BHF, the EGA, Deutsche Post World Net (DPWN) and its subsidiary, DHL, and the Deutsche Investitions- und Entwicklungsgesellschaft (DEG), a German bank. The arrangement falls under the DEG's program for support of such public-private development projects and is paid from public funds of the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development.

The agreement provides the funding for the shipment of a full factory of generic medicines production equipment to Afghanistan. This equipment will be installed in the plant that is currently under construction in Kabul to house the generic medicines production company. The signing ceremony at DPWN headquarters was attended by responsible officials from all the partner organizations, and was filmed as part of a TV documentary on the project. (See [BHF Press Release](#))



From left; Mrs. Petra Rosignol, DPWN; Mr. Rory O'Riordan, President, EGA; Mr. Rolf Gerber, First Vice President, DEG; and Mr. John Maresca, BHF President.



Two views of the pharmaceutical factory building under construction in Kabul, April 2005.

"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."

BHF AND SWISS RED CROSS RENEW AGREEMENT TO SUPPORT HIV/AIDS CLINIC PROJECT IN AFRICA



Swazi Red Cross HIV/AIDS Health Clinic in Swaziland, supported by the Swiss Red Cross.

The BHF and the Swiss Red Cross (SRC) signed an agreement in Geneva on June 17, extending their cooperation in support of the Mahwalala HIV/AIDS clinic project in Swaziland. The extension will ensure cooperation between the two organizations as the clinic moves from the renovation phase into operations. Meanwhile, this BHF-SRC project has received a generous grant from the Oak Foundation, which will complete much of the financing needed for the clinic's renovation. The Mawhalala clinic is owned by the Swaziland Baphalali Red Cross. When the renovation is complete it will be recognized by the Swazi government as a treatment facility for HIV/AIDS, thus ensuring access to support from The Global Fund. The conversion of the clinic has been a joint project of the BHF and the SRC, in partnership with the Swazi Red Cross. Swaziland has the highest percentage of HIV/AIDS infection in the world. ([See BHF Press Release](#))

AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH UNITAR ON PROGRAM TO RESOLVE LOCAL CONFLICTS IN ENERGY-PRODUCING REGIONS

On April 15 the BHF signed an agreement with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, under which the BHF will carry out a program jointly with UNITAR's Decentralized Cooperation Program, designed to assist energy companies to resolve local disputes and enhance development in areas where they are producing oil and gas. The program is already active in Gabon and the Niger Delta area of Nigeria, and will be offered in other regions where there are development needs and local problems relating to energy projects. The agreement was signed by Marcel Boisard, UNITAR Executive Director, and John Maresca, BHF President.



Mr. Boisard (left) and Mr. Maresca signing agreement.

ICC MEETING AT THE BHF

On April 12, the BHF hosted a meeting at its headquarters in Geneva of the Commission on Business in Society of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC). The Commission is the ICC body that oversees developments in the field of corporate social responsibility (CSR). It is composed of senior executives of companies that are members of the ICC, as well as representatives of the ICC's national component organizations. The meeting, which was attended by Mrs. Maria Livanos Cattai, Secretary General of the ICC, included briefings and discussions on CSR issues currently under discussion in Geneva-based bodies such as the UN Commission on Human Rights, and the International Standards Organization (ISO).



ICC Commission Meeting in Geneva, April 12, 2005.

BHF MEETINGS WITH UNECE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY AND SENIOR ECE STAFF ON RELATIONS WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR

At the invitation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the BHF met with the organization's Executive Secretary, Mrs. Brigita Schmognerova, on May 10 and subsequently with representatives of the UNECE senior staff, to discuss how the BHF might be able to assist the UNECE in improving its working relations with the private sector. The BHF has proposed a program to help respond to this challenge and hopes to begin implementation of this work in the fall of 2005.

BHF PRESIDENT ADDRESSES UNGA HEARINGS ON THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

LATE ITEM — BHF President John J. Maresca, was invited to present a statement on June 24 to the United Nations General Assembly Interactive Hearings on the Millennium Development Goals. Click [HERE](#) for the text of the speech.

BHF PROVIDES TRAINING MODULE ON “WORKING WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR” IN WASHINGTON PROGRAM

The BHF was selected to provide a training “module” on working with the private sector for a periodic training program conducted by the U.S. Institute of Peace, a semi-autonomous branch of the U.S. Government. The program, conducted at a training facility near Washington, regularly includes U.S. and other national officials, as well as international civil servants and representatives of NGOs. It is oriented toward persons who will serve in post-conflict situations. The first such BHF effort was in April, and the second is scheduled for July. Similar BHF training “modules” have been used in United Nations training programs in Geneva, and are available for a variety of situations elsewhere.

MISSION TO AFGHANISTAN

Emily Talmon-l'Armee, Head of Operations, and Brigitte Scherrer, Project Manager, visited Afghanistan on a two-week mission in April to review progress on several projects in the country. The BHF's Generic Medicines Project is proceeding apace, and the BHF mission was able to review other private sector economic development projects as well. Meetings were held with donor agencies to discuss possible future cooperation. The BHF is sending another mission to Afghanistan at the end of June, to ensure the safe arrival of the equipment for the Generic Medicines Project (see lead news item), and to manage the process of filming a documentary on the project.



Ms. Scherrer (front left) and Mrs. Talmon-l'Armee (front right), with BHF Kabul office staff.

BHF WEBSITE USAGE GROWS

The BHF website, recently modernized and updated, has been experiencing a steady rate of growth in the number of hits and unique visitors over the past several months. An average of more than 25,000 “hits” and over 1,000 unique visitors per month have been registered at the website since the beginning of the year. This growth rate is evidence of the increasing awareness of the BHF’s unique approach to sustainable private sector economic development in post-conflict and least developed areas.



The BHF Website Homepage, www.bhforum.org

STAFF DEPARTURES AND ARRIVALS

Karri Goeldner has left her position as the BHF representative in Afghanistan, but remains on the BHF consultant roster. She has been replaced in Afghanistan by Jacqueline Baroukzai. Also, Patrick Hernusi has replaced May Mi Than Tun as Project Assistant.



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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.