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FUNDING AWARD FOR BHF GENERIC MEDICINES FACTORY PROJECT IN AFGHANISTAN

The Deutsche Investitions-und Entwicklungsgesellschaft mbH (DEG), a member of the Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW) banking group, has informed the BHF that it will support the shipment of production machinery for the BHF's project to build a generic medicines factory in Kabul, Afghanistan. The shipment is being carried out by Deutsche Post World Net (DPWN), which is organizing the logistics and transportation of the equipment and machinery to Kabul. The equipment will actually be delivered by DHL, a subsidiary of Deutsche Post, the German Postal Service.



War torn Kabul badly needs its own medicines production capacity

This important award was made under the DEG's Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Program to the partnership that is sponsoring the generic medicines project. The partnership includes the BHF, the European Generic Medicines Association (EGA) and DPWN. DEG is one of the largest European development finance institutions for long-term project and company financing. It invests in profitable projects that contribute to sustainable development in all sectors of the economy, including agriculture, infrastructure, manufacturing and services.

The DEG shares the BHF's objective of establishing and expanding private enterprise structures in developing and transition countries, for sustainable economic growth and a lasting improvement in the living conditions of the local population.

This funding award is a key development in making this project a success. The result will be an Afghan-owned generic medicines company that will produce much-needed medicines for the Afghan market.

The project will produce a better standard of living for Afghans, local jobs, and improved availability of medicines for the Afghan public. It is a good example of companies, non-profit organizations and public authorities working together within a PPP-framework for a worthwhile goal.

"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 GENERIC MEDICINES PROJECT PRESENTED AS CASE STUDY

The BHF's project for a generic medicines production plant in Afghanistan was presented as a case study at a conference on "Perspective Public-Private Partnerships" co-organised by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) (Germany) and the Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft und Arbeit. It was hosted by Deutsche Post World Net (DPWN) at its headquarters in Bonn on March 8, 2005. Dr. Monika Wulf-Mathies, DPWN's Managing Director for Corporate Public Policy and Sustainability, presented the project in her speech entitled "Public-Private Partnerships at Deutsche Post World Net – Activities and Perspectives" as a challenging example of a successful and promising PPP-venture.

US INSTITUTE OF PEACE TRAINING COURSE TO INCLUDE A BHF MODULE ON "WORKING WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR"

The BHF will contribute to a training program sponsored by the US Institute of Peace (USIP) in Washington, beginning in April. The BHF will conduct a training module on "Working with the Private Sector," as part of USIP's regular training program on "Working Effectively in Post Conflict Reconstruction and Humanitarian Situations," which is offered for officials from international organizations, NGOs, military services and government agencies. The overall program is designed "to enhance the skills needed to work together more productively in complex environments of conflict and reconstruction." This will be the first time the course has included a specific section on working with business. BHF continues to work toward introduction of its training modules on "Working with the Private Sector" in programs for international civil servants, humanitarian and development workers, and others working in post-conflict environments. Attracting private sector investment to such areas is a key element of reconstruction and stabilization, and training in how to work with business can enhance the international community's ability to do this.

BHF TO HOST ICC MEETING IN GENEVA

The BHF will host a meeting of the Commission on Business in Society of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) on April 12 at the BHF headquarters in Geneva. The Commission on Business in Society is the ICC's principal body examining issues of Corporate Social Responsibility, and meets semi-annually at the ICC's world headquarters in Paris. It is composed of senior executives of major multinational corporations, as well as representatives from the ICC's national component organizations. This will be the first occasion for the Commission to meet in Geneva, and will occur at a time when CSR issues are being discussed in several Geneva-based forums, including the UN's Commission on Human Rights, the International Standards Organization, and the International Labor Organization. The BHF has been represented in the Commission since it was established.

MISSIONS TO AFGHANISTAN AND TO BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

The BHF sent a representative to Bosnia in February for discussions of possible cooperative programs with a number of international and private organizations. This was a follow-up to the report on the potential for private investment in Bosnia, which the BHF produced based on its study of the situation, at the request of the UNDP office in Bosnia. The BHF will also dispatch a two-person mission to Afghanistan in early April to review projects there, with the support of the BHF field office in Kabul.



BHF-organized Afghan Investors Meeting in Kabul, June 2004

KEYNOTE SPEECHES IN KUWAIT AND ISTANBUL

BHF President John Maresca was invited recently to give keynote speeches at business conferences in Kuwait and Istanbul. In Kuwait Maresca spoke on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), and described how this broad business trend is evolving and changing the way businesses approach their work. Maresca also related CSR to the origins and current programs of the BHF. In Istanbul, at a conference on new security issues for business sponsored by the Turkish business association TUSIAD and Bogazici University, Maresca spoke on how the private sector can help to address the root causes of terrorism by supporting investment in least developed countries and post-conflict societies. This is important for job creation and economic stimulus, and is the unique role of businesses, since governments cannot create private enterprises. After his presentation, Maresca was interviewed for Turkish television and the economic newspaper *Referans*, the leading Turkish business paper. The text of this interview can be found among the articles listed in the Documentation section of the BHF website.

BHF DEPARTURES AND ARRIVALS

The BHF welcomes on board Ms. May Mi Than Tun as our new Project Assistant. May Mi will handle Communications and Special Projects.

THE BUSINESS HUMANITARIAN FORUM

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CONTACT BHF

BHF personnel are available for speaking engagements or presentations on subjects related to the work of the BHF, on a mutually-convenient basis.

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

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.

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.