



CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL
PRIVATE ENTERPRISE



FEDN

Free Enterprise & Democracy Network



Voters in Tunisia. Photo credit: [Africa Feeds](#)

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FEDN Member News

FEDN members recently participated in CIPE's expert roundtable examining economic and democratic transitions. The roundtable engaged business leaders in emerging democracies who have knowledge of policy solutions for democratic free-market systems. It is important to invest more in education and introduce concepts on democratic values and highlighting the importance of private sector and civil society participation.

FEDN member **Badri El Meouchi** joined CIPE's first Anti-Corruption & Governance Center's bi-weekly podcast. The topic was corruption in Lebanon. In the [podcast](#), Badri El Meouchi discussed the Lebanese Transparency Association's (LTA) role in a coalition to guarantee government accountability and monitor humanitarian relief and recovery aid; and the negative economic impact as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On October 28-30, FEDN Member **Ali Salman** will moderate a workshop under ILN (Islam and Liberty Network). Focusing on Pakistan, the workshop will explore the foundations of religious, economic, and political freedoms in Islam by researching the principles of liberal democracy, market economy, and civil society in the historical Muslim context.

FEDN member **Kwei-Bo Huang** contributed to an [article](#) about China wanting to reopen code of conduct discussions with several Southeast Asian nations to help prevent mishaps about the South China Sea. Over the years, negotiations have been unsuccessful due to code content that would touch on sovereignty clashes. Kwei-Bo Huang noted that in the spirit of foreign relations, "to negotiate is always better than not negotiating."

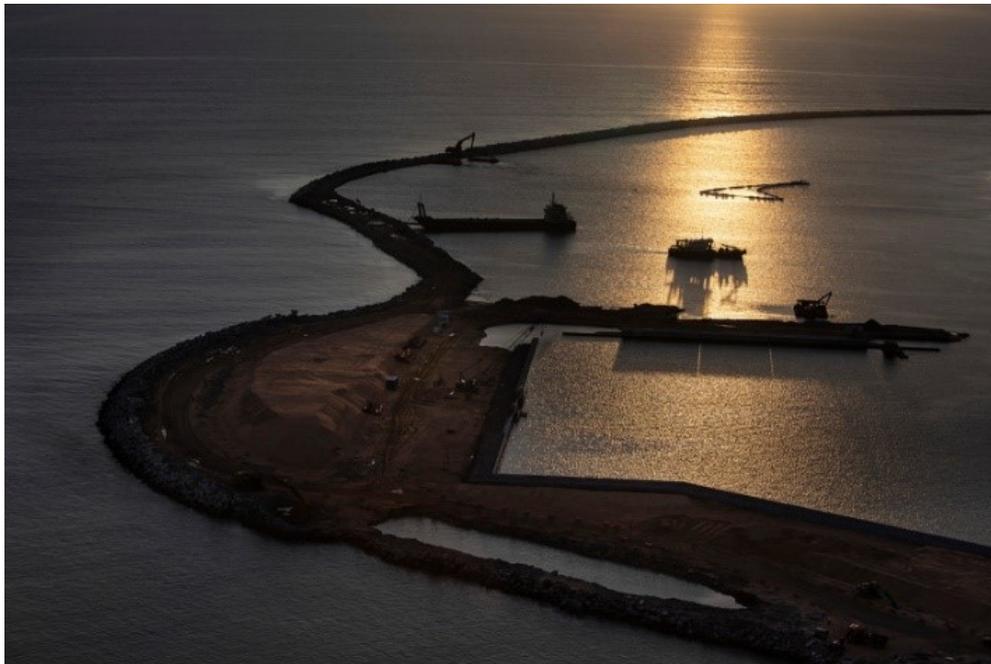
FEDN Member **Kwame Owino** contributed to an [article](#) discussing the benefits of Africa adopting the Chinese model of Import Substitution Industrialization (ISI) and also participated in a webinar discussing similar themes, "*China-African Relations: The Myth, Lies, and Truth.*" Owino noted that with Africa having advantages on the demographic and human resources side, there is a comparative advantage.

CIPE News

- CIPE partner the Egyptian Junior Business Association (EJB) met with the president of the Egypt General Authority for Investment (GAFI) to discuss the business environment in Egypt. CIPE has intensified its support for the EJB's advocacy work, this meeting marks the success of EJB and CIPE's joint advocacy efforts for business reform in Egypt.

- CIPE Ukraine published its [third video](#) in the “Dialogue for Reforms” campaign. Anastasia Baklan – a CIPE communications specialist and Oleg Hetman, an economist, discussed Ukraine’s economic developments and highlighted the importance of national-level public-private dialogue and collaboration.
- CIPE and four of its partners in the Western Balkans held a [launch event](#) to offer their policy papers on Chinese investment in the Western Balkans. Andrew Wilson, CIPE Executive director, joined the event alongside CIPE Program Officer for Europe and Eurasia Martina Hrvolova. Four other local partner corporate capital events will be taking place in Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, and Montenegro.

Good Reads & Resources



The Chinese-funded Colombo Port City project in Colombo, Sri Lanka. Paula Bronstein/Getty Images

- Lee Jones argues in Foreign Policy that [“China’s Belt and Road Initiative is a Mess, Not a Master Plan.”](#) Jones points to the seemingly irrational character of China’s investments – they often lose money and are captured by local agendas – to point out that the Belt and Road Initiative may not be as coherent and as a consequence, sinister, as critics point out.
- Slawomir Sierakowski wrote an article entitled [Belarus Uprising: The Making of a Revolution](#) in the Journal of Democracy October 2020 issue. The essay offers an “eyewitness account” of the ongoing revolution, using reflections from key events to highlight the struggle between people and government. The article ends with a consideration of how Russia may respond if the current regime collapses.

- In [*Capitalism After the Pandemic*](#), Marianna Mazzucato writes that although the pandemic has caused serious economic devastation worldwide, governments should not resort to simply spending money until the economy is repaired. Rather, Mazzucato writes, governments should play an active role in shaping markets “so that they deliver the kind of long-term outcomes that benefit everyone.”
- In [*Liberalism and Its Discontents*](#), Francis Fukuyama explores the challenges to Liberalism from the left and the right of the political spectrum. Although countries including Russia and China intentionally undermine liberalism and democracy, more serious but less obvious threats arise from populists within liberal democracies.