



FEDN Member News

Ezekial Gomos of Jos Business School [led](#) an event in early March teaching money management skills to young actors and directors. Artists attending the 14th US Mission in Nigeria sponsored Jos Festival of Drama listened to Gomos' Masterclass lecture "Managing Your Money."

Kwame Owino of the Institute of Economic Affairs [appeared](#) on the Kenyan news show NTVTonight to explain COVID-19' economic costs. Owino offered a wide range of insight, including information on casual workers and public markets.

Laith Al-Qasem of the Innovative Startups and SMEs Fund published an article in

Entrepreneur titled "[Three Myths About The MENA Entrepreneurship Ecosystem](#)", which addressed misconceptions and highlighted success stories of startups in the MENA region.

Rastko Petakovic of Karanovic & Partners was cited in a CEE Legal Matters [article](#) that examined the EU's new foreign investment screening regulation. Petakovic explains that the regulation sets out a platform for cooperation between the member states, and standardization by the Commission.

CIPE News

CIPE Executive Director Andrew Wilson shared a message of solidarity with the CIPE community, its partners, and beneficiaries. Wilson's message explains CIPE's aid to local partners, shared positive examples of partner innovation and problem-solving, warned of authoritarian power-grabs, and reiterated the benefits of a healthy market-based democracy during times of crisis. To read Wilson's message of solidarity in detail, please click [here](#).

On April 7, the Bush Institute [convened](#) four experts on democracy and authoritarianism to discuss the impact the coronavirus is having on political freedom and democratic institutions around the world. The exchange took place electronically, and included Michael Abramowitz, president of Freedom House; Laura Rosenberger, director of the Alliance for Securing Democracy and a German Marshall Fund senior fellow; Mustafa Akyol, a Cato Institute senior fellow and a contributing opinion writer for the New York Times; and Andrew Wilson, executive director of the Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE).

CIPE Africa [issued](#) a tweet asking its followers to "collect innovative & smart ways" that businesses are collaborating to solve the challenges posed by COVID-19 across Africa. CIPE Africa has used this information collection strategy to learn about different practices. One notable practice is the African Legal Network's data hub, which provides practical information on risk management, pandemic support, and legal issues as businesses and civil society grapple with COVID-19.

Announcements

Numerous firms are calling for private sector experts to [collaborate](#) to provide advice for manufacturers to scale up production of ventilators and other materials to combat COVID-19. The CoVent-19 Challenge is an "Open innovation effort" to design and mass-produce a "rapidly deployable" ventilator. Stratasys and Ximedica are sponsoring the challenge. This challenge is focused on beating the COVID-19 peak—although efforts to flatten the curve are helpful, there are still shortfalls in hospital capacity. The private sector can be a useful partner to make up the deficit.

Good Reads and Resources

Karim Shaaban and Bob Harris [published](#) a piece for CIPE illustrating the “Urgency of Transparency.” This piece explains why managers and associations must be transparent as they work on crisis planning and communication. Shaaban and Harris warn that in times of crisis, a “secret society” is destined to fail. Transparency will result in a more effective crisis management program.

The International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) [began](#) a collective action campaign to save micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs). The ICC is leveraging the expertise of its 45 million member companies to circulate a specific list of actionable demands. For the complete call to action, please click [here](#).

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce [released](#) a data-based response toolkit for businesses and workers as they manage the economic fallout from COVID-19. This toolkit offers advice for safe shopping, emphasizes buying locally, and offers a COVID-19 Business Preparedness Checklist.

Bob Harris and Bill Pawlucy of Association Options [published](#) a helpful piece for chambers and associations as they grapple with budget decisions during times of crisis. Harris and Pawlucy offer insight into important budget principles, variables to consider when resetting budgets, strategies to frame information, and concluded with some suggestions for strategies to generate new revenues. Many of the new strategies considers how organizations may leverage data and technology to earn additional revenue. These may include publishing white papers, holding online auctions, and releasing podcasts—to name a few.

Free Enterprise and Democracy Network news informs network members about events, opportunities, and resources related to free enterprise and democracy. Please send suggestions for the newsletter, announcements, and requests to the secretariat (kbettcher@cipe.org; agoldstein@cipe.org)

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