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CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL  
PRIVATE ENTERPRISE



FEDN

Free Enterprise & Democracy Network

August 2020



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## New Member Introductions

The FEDN community welcomes five new members!

**Abigail Bellows** is a Nonresident Scholar at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and an independent consultant specializing in Anti-Corruption, U.S. Foreign Policy, and Civil Society Engagement. Abigail is especially interested in collective action and collaboration to strengthen accountable governance.

**Cynthia Gabriel** is an Analytical Chemist and Lawyer and is a co-founder of the Centre to Combat Corruption and Cronyism, of which she is the Executive Director.

Cynthia is an expert in the Human Rights, Democracy, and Anti-Corruption fields. Cynthia is especially interested in Corporate Fraud and Liability.

**Milos Nikolic** is the President and Co-Founder of Libertarian Club Libek and the Editor-in-Chief of Talas. Milos is experienced in the development and implementation of different educational programs for students and activists, the strategic planning and implementation for media content planning, and analyzing the domestic, regional, and global political affairs trends of the day. Milos is interested in messaging and education on markets and democracy, media trends and digital transformation, and developing new business models.

**Mark Oxley** is the owner and managing director of Latilla Investments. Mark holds an M.B.A. with distinction from the University of Zimbabwe. As a consultant, Mark worked for the Institute of Directors Zimbabwe, for the American Business Association of Zimbabwe, and on the development of a National Code of Corporate Governance for Zimbabwe. Mark offers business analysis, marketing, strategic management, and business development interests and competencies.

**Achamelesh Ashenafi Ademe** is the President of the Addis Ababa Women Entrepreneurs Association and Ambassador for the Women Initiative in Africa. Achamelesh has worked in community development at the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Ministry of Agriculture as a women affairs expert, and at Sasakawa 2000 as a post-harvest expert. Achamelesh is also a member of the Board of Directors for the Ethiopia and Addis Ababa Chamber of Commerce.

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## FEDN Member News

**Jesus Estanislao, Philippines** – Jesus Estanislao is launching his new book, *Governance of the Philippines: The US Colonial Period 1898-1946* on Friday, August 21st. At the [virtual event](#), Estanislao will highlight governance lessons gleaned from public sector reforms since the colonial period. The event features a roundtable discussion exploring the book's key themes and governance lessons.

**Haroune Sidatt, Mauritania** – Haroune Sidatt published a blog on CIPE's website, titled "Finding Resilience in the Sahel during the COVID-19 Pandemic." The blog explores the pandemic's economic, security, and political impact on the Sahel, which encompasses Mali, Mauritania, Burkina Faso, Chad, and Niger. While the pandemic "dominates government agendas" jihadist groups proliferate and use existing and

new economic struggles and false narratives to attract new members and challenge governments. To read the full blog, click [here](#).

**Branko Radulovic, Serbia** – Branko Radulovic, Professor at the University of Belgrade, [endorsed](#) the construction of the “Komarnica” hydro power plant near the Nevidio Canyon. Radulovic suggests that Montenegro would receive a substantial energy capacity increase. Radulovic argues that “Komarnica” is essential to meeting increasing energy demands.

**Rainer Heufers, Indonesia** – Rainer Heufers, Executive Director of the Center for Indonesian Policy Studies (CIPS) [offered insight](#) to an article discussing restrictions on food trade and the Indonesian healthcare system. Reiner argues that Indonesia should carefully plan its economic policies to navigate through the pandemic – particularly around the investment environment and infrastructure. Heufers adds that instead of applying 13 percent of the national recovery budget toward internal health capacity development, Indonesia would benefit from foreign investment and building long-term capacity.

**Roberto Steiner, Colombia** – Roberto Steiner, co-director of the Bank of the Republic, [offered commentary](#) to an article discussing the need for increased and more effective tax collection in Colombia. Steiner suggests that Colombia should look toward privatizing some state assets to cut expenses alongside tax reform to pay down Colombia's very high debt.

**Luis Rubio, Mexico** – Luis Rubio, chairman of the Center for Research for Development, [published an article](#) discussing how Mexico's recession is political, rather than a result of the pandemic. Rubio explains that Mexico's ruling party is inflexible and as a result, is struggling to navigate the rapidly changing problems during the pandemic. Rather than setting unrealistic goals, it would be more impactful to set more manageable development targets.

CIPE hosted an event titled [“How Can Collective Action Support Ethical Companies? A Perspective from the Clear Wave Initiative from Lithuania with Ieva Lapeikiene.”](#)

Lapeikiene leads the collective action initiative “Clear Wave” and supervises executive trainings at the Baltic Management Institute. The event focuses on ethical business practices and promotion for local communities. Clear Wave is a resource for businesses that seek to exchange knowledge and best practices on how to improve their business integrity.

CIPE’s Anti-Corruption and Governance Center held three separate feedback workshops to discuss a new training tool aimed at supporting aid workers in volatile environments. Participants assessed draft training tools and highlighted areas for improvement and ranged from USAID, Relief International, Oxfam, and the World Resources Institute, to name a few of several institutions

CIPE’s Asia Team and its Center for Women’s Economic Empowerment (CWEE) completed a round of virtual coalition meetings for the Papua New Guinea Women’s Business Agenda. During these meetings, coalition members discussed forming a steering committee and finalized the Memorandum of Understanding for the coalition.

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## Announcements

The National Endowment for Democracy (NED) is accepting applicants to the [Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellows](#) program for democracy activists, scholars and journalists. The fellowship offers applicants the opportunity to work for five months in residence at the NED to conduct independent research on democracy in a country or region. This work also provides an opportunity for practitioners to improve strategies and techniques for democracy building and for scholars to conduct independent research for publication. NED also published a joint-statement criticizing China’s role in undermining Hong Kong’s pro-democracy movement. The statement highlights China’s imposed national security law and other human rights violations. You can read the full statement [here](#).

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## Good Reads & Resources

- The July 2020 edition of the [Journal of Democracy](#) asks “What are Liberal Democracy’s Real Vulnerabilities? Will the Pandemic Change the Future of Protest? And, How do Some of the World’s Worst Regimes Hold on to Power?” Topics range from Whatsapp and Democracy in Nigeria, China’s messaging during COVID-19, Russia’s promotion of illiberalism, and ponders the future of Liberal Democracy.
- *Foreign Affairs* published an article by Michael Woldemariam titled [“Nile Be Dammed, Toxic Water Politics Threaten Democracy and Regional Stability”](#) exploring Ethiopia’s \$4.5 billion USD hydroelectric project. While Ethiopia would benefit from an increased energy capacity, the dam project would threaten

freshwater supplies in Egypt. Woldermarion explores the political and economic tensions surrounding this project.

- In Adhy Aman's article for *The Diplomat*, Aman explores elections during a pandemic in Mongolia, Malaysia, Japan, Singapore, and South Korea. Although elections during challenging times prove difficult, they are possible. To read Aman's full analysis, click [here](#).
- *The Brookings Institute* published an [issue brief](#) exploring Facebook and Google's role in democracy. Search algorithms control who sees what news and when. The brief argues that as such an important part of our technological infrastructure, governments should treat powerful websites as regulated utilities.

*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](mailto:kbettcher@cipe.org); [agoldstein@cipe.org](mailto:agoldstein@cipe.org))*

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