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CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL
PRIVATE ENTERPRISE



FEDN

Free Enterprise & Democracy Network



Ukraine youth work on anti-corruption. Source: [UNDP Ukraine](#)

December 2020

Celebrating International Anti-Corruption Day

December 9th marked the [United Nation's International Anti-Corruption day](#), in which the UN Development Program raises awareness of the socio-economic consequences of corruption, their statement (in part) reads:

“Corruption is also fueling distrust of leaders and institutions – and depleting valuable resources for financing development and recovery. We are seeing the impacts of corruption being felt in service delivery, procurement processes, and the management of funds, economic stimulus packages and social protection measures.”

To advance CIPE’s anti-corruption work, CIPE launched a new publication that showcases our collective work and experience: [**Strengthening Ethical Conduct & Business Integrity: A Guide for Companies in Emerging Markets.**](#)

The publication will serve as a resource for businesses in emerging markets that might be struggling with compliance issues amid increasing concerns about corruption and inequality. CIPE has distilled lessons learned from thousands of programs into a guide to mitigate corruption.



We hope the FEDN network makes good use of this exciting new guidebook!

FEDN Member News

Toki Mabogunje participated in a webinar, “Repositioning SMEs for growth in the new normal”, highlighting the importance of support for small businesses impacted by COVID-19. In an [article](#) about the webinar, Toki discusses the significant role small to medium enterprises (SMEs) play in Nigeria, accounting for about 75% of employment in the country. Toki also co-hosted the [Africa Business Ethics Conference](#), a "business-community-led global forum for convening a broad stakeholder group" working on the "complex and peculiar challenges posed by corruption."

Ruslan Stefanov and Martin Vladimirov co-authored a report, "[Deals in the Dark](#)" which analyzes Russian corrosive capital in Argentina and Bolivia. Their report is the fifth in the [Sharp Power and Democratic Resilience Series](#). The series examines how authoritarian regimes "manipulate the political landscape and censor independent expression within democratic settings." The report then highlights how civil society can respond.

Jehan Ara, P@SHA President and The Nest I/O Founder, contributed to an [article](#) discussing The Nest I/O's virtual technology and entrepreneurship conference, 021Disrupt. Held from November 30th – December 5th, the conference hosted over 5,000 entrepreneurs and innovators in Pakistan. The conference provides a chance for participants to expand their horizons through discussion, panels, round-tables and investor meet-ups.

Ryan Evangelista served as a moderator for the virtual edition of the [National Export Congress 2020](#) (NEC 2020). The theme, "Digitalization Boost: Invigorating Exports in the New Normal" recommends exporters digitally alter various aspects of their businesses due to hardships brought on by COVID-19. The event focuses on how exporters can use digital tools to "adapt to a more socially distant future." Although business has been heavily disrupted, digital tools can help mitigate these challenges.

CIPE News

- CIPE's Anti-Corruption and Governance Center (ACGC)'s rapid response work in Ecuador was cited in a Carnegie Endowment for International Peace [report](#). The report highlights open government efforts triggered by COVID-19. CIPE and its local partners have worked to reform procurement systems as local demand for goods and services fluctuates. FEDN member Abigail Bellow co-authored the report.
- CIPE and CIPE's partner in Nepal, the Samriddhi Foundation, are working to strengthen the Provincial Government Accountability Teams (PGATs) in order to help civil society organizations inform local decision-making. CIPE and Samriddhi aim

to create provincial-level platforms for community leaders in the private and public sectors.

- CIPE Egypt Program Director Randa Al Zoghbi was a panelist at the Civil Society 20 (C20 Summit) for a session titled [“Enabling Digital and Financial Inclusion for Post COVID-19 Economic Resiliency.”](#) Al Zoghbi highlighted the importance of preparedness measures and the cashless economy initiative and civil society’s role in equitable economic recovery at the national and international levels. The session also highlighted the links between democratic institutions and a thriving private sector.

Announcements



Source: [NED.org](https://ned.org).

- The National Endowment for Democracy (NED) [issued a statement](#) for International Human Rights day (12/10). The statement reads: *“International Human Rights Day is observed by the international community every year on December 10. It commemorates the day in 1948 when the United Nations General Assembly adopted the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#). NED is dedicated to fostering the growth of a wide range of democratic institutions abroad, including political parties, trade unions, free markets and business organizations, as well as the many elements of a vibrant civil society that ensure human rights, an independent media, and the rule of law. We are proud to stand with grantees all around the world who are working to improve human rights conditions in their countries.”*
- The *Diplomatic Courier* released their list of [2020's best books](#), including: *Putin's People*, *A short History of Russia* and *Shadow Commander: Soleimani, the U.S. and Iran's Global Ambition*. The selections focus on burning issues influencing international relations, authoritarianism, corruption, and everything in-between.

Good Reads & Resources



Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg testifying on Capitol Hill, July 2020. Source: Graeme Jennings / Pool / Reuters

- In the January/February 2021 edition of *Foreign Affairs*, Francis Fukuyama, Barak Richman, and Ashish Goel published [*How to Save Democracy from Technology: Ending Big Tech's Information Monopoly*](#), exploring how only a few technology companies have the power to influence political communication and solutions to this dilemma.
- Ryan C. Berg and Lauri Tahtinen write in their *Foreign Policy* article [*2021 could be the year of free trade*](#) that the United States “draws invaluable strength from a prosperous, integrated, and largely democratic hemisphere” but that they will need to swiftly intensify their trade activity within the hemisphere to counter malign Chinese activity.
- Patrick Quirk and Daniel Twining wrote a Brookings Institute brief, [*A Democracy Assistance Agenda for the Biden Administration*](#), that outlines the importance of democracy assistance, why it is a strategic priority for democracies, and how democracies can leverage democracy assistance to meet threats and mitigate them.
- Alexander Langlois writes in a *Diplomatic Courier* article, [*Why We Must Reject Vaccine Nationalism*](#), that the distribution of the COVID vaccine should occur based on need rather than ability to pay. Langlois adds that the incoming Biden administration should reengage with the World Health Organization and foster cooperation and a multilateral approach to vaccinations.

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

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