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FEDN

Free Enterprise & Democracy Network



Member Ryan Evangelista provides an update to CIPE on the Philippines' response to COVID-19.

May 2020

To our FEDN members, we hope this email finds you well and that you are safe. These uncertain times present formidable challenges. They also present unique opportunities to fortify our social bonds and, with hopeful resolution, face those challenges together. In an effort to understand the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on your work and in your communities, CIPE has created a brief **5-minute** survey. We ask you to take a moment to answer our questions so we can identify ways to provide assistance. The survey will

remain open until May 22, 2020. Thank you to the members who have already provided valuable insight, and we look forward to additional responses.

[Start the Survey >](#)

FEDN Member News

Camelia Bulat — Bob Harris and FEDN member Camelia Bulat co-authored an [article](#) titled "Advocacy during a pandemic: Global perspectives." This article offers insight and tips for advocacy programs during COVID-19, including but not limited to communication strategies, identifying stakeholder needs, and collaboration within an organization and with other organizations.

Ryan Evangelista — Ryan Evangelista of CIPE who is based in the Philippines, spoke about challenges citizens encounter during the Philippines' response to COVID-19. These include government crackdowns leading to mass arrests and police violence. Evangelista posted a [blog](#) on CIPE's website detailing developments in the Philippines.

Rainer Heufers — Rainer Heufers of the Center for Indonesian Policy Studies (CIPS) wrote an article titled "Open Markets Are the Best Antidote Against the COVID-19 Crisis" highlighting topics Heufers spoke about at the request of the Jakarta city government. Heufers' talk focused on Indonesia's food trade and made the case for lifting import restrictions on scarce items to decrease costs. Heufers' work with CIPS, such as an ongoing [food price index](#), advances the benefits of free and open trade in Indonesia.

Grace Nzou — Grace Nzou of Niusline Media in Kenya provided an overview of communications tools that may be especially useful to businesses and associations during the pandemic. "Communication fatigue" have become common, as organizations compete over the shrinking attention spans of their targets. Grace addressed this new reality by sharing some [best practices](#) to sustain audience attention, with a particular focus on webinar strategy.

CIPE News

CIPE Executive Director Andrew Wilson published an [article in Diplomatic Courier](#) highlighting the “Six Essential Themes For An Economic Recovery Roadmap” including: Restarting economics; diversifying supply chains; combating corruption; authoritarianism and challenges to democracies; economic challenges for women and marginalized groups; chamber and association responses and strategies; and meeting the moment.

CIPE and the Egyptian Center for Economic Studies (ECES) held the first two sessions of its Public Policy Excellence Program, a program for up-and-coming government and private sector leaders. Topics included understanding financial statements, income statements, balance sheets, cash flow statements, feasibility studies, market research, and effective decision-making processes. CIPE and its partner network the Egypt Tomorrow Economic Forum also conducted a [virtual interview](#) with Ibrahim Nagi, ETEF member and the owner and CEO of Desouky & Soda Restaurant Chain to understand challenges facing the food and beverage industry in the current economic climate.

Announcements

CIPE is calling on civil society organizations and business member organizations in sub-Saharan Africa to [submit concept notes](#) for projects in Africa focused on mitigating corruption and enhancing business accountability. Submissions are accepted until May 25, and CIPE will select one or more concept notes for development into a grant of up to \$20,000 USD.

CIPE's Anti-Corruption and Governance Center (ACGC) is conducting a survey of CIPE partners on their experiences and perceptions around COVID-19 and governance. ACGC will use the survey to communicate with donors, design new programs, and learn more about COVID-19's impact. ACGC will ensure that survey responses will remain confidential and stored in secure files, any shared stories will be anonymized. The survey will remain open until May 29, 2020. [Here is the link to participate.](#)

Good Reads & Resources

- The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace released a [report titled “Civil Society and the Coronavirus: Dynamism Despite Disruption”](#) detailing insights and examples from members of the Carnegie Endowment's Civic Research Network. Some of the highlights are activism during COVID-19, fighting disinformation, and how citizens can engage locally and nationally during COVID-19.

- The Public Policy Implementation Center for Equity and Growth (CIPPEC) is directing research resources toward studying COVID-19's economic impacts in Argentina. These include opportunities and challenges posed by [teleworking](#) and [policy suggestions](#) to protect the poor, [women](#), and other marginalized groups such as informal workers and business owners. CIPPEC applied a [regional perspective](#) to its studies to reach an understanding of how other countries in Latin America are responding to COVID-19.

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)

CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL PRIVATE ENTERPRISE

1211 Connecticut Avenue NW, Suite 700

Washington, DC 20036

P: 202.721.9200 | F: 202.280.1000

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