



CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL  
PRIVATE ENTERPRISE



FEDN

Free Enterprise & Democracy Network



Protest against military coup in Myanmar. Photo by Cgil Nazinole

February 2021

## FEDN Event: Economic Informality – Crisis, Recovery, and Collective Action

CIPE and the [Free Enterprise & Democracy Network](#) are hosting *Economic Informality – Crisis, Recovery, and Collective Action*, a roundtable discussion on economic informality.

FEDN Network members Marina Stadthagen, Slim Othmani, and Ruslan Stefanov will offer their expertise as lead discussants.

The informal sector comprises a large portion of many developing and emerging economies. This event will investigate: how health and economic shocks impact the informal sector, reforms to address informality during recovery, promising and innovative solutions to overcome the challenges in dealing with informality, and opportunities for collective action to increase opportunity for the informal sector and encourage formality.



*Market in Lilongwe. Photo by Neil Springer*

---

## FEDN Member News

**Barun Mitra** [participated](#) in an online panel discussion on “Human Rights and Individual Liberty.” The panel was organized by the Legal Aid Clinic, Department of Law, Malappuram Centre, Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) and highlighted topics including human rights and the role of the economy in society.

**Julia Pomares**, Executive Director of CIPE partner CIPPEC, contributed to an [article](#) highlighting the significant number of think tanks in Argentina. Of the 262 think tanks in Argentina, CIPPEC ranks fourth in the best think tanks in the region. Julia explained how think tanks helped shape and formulate policy responses to COVID-19 and how they should continue to forge new paths in policymaking.

**Marcela Prieto** wrote an [article](#) expressing her thoughts about the attacks on the

U.S. Capitol, and the responsibility of the Biden administration to restore trust in institutions. While populism has chipped away at institutional capacity and trust, it remains important to rebuild institutional, honesty, and fact-based decision making to reinvigorate institutions.

**Cynthia Gabriel** contributed to an [article](#) about political literacy and awareness of political funding in Malaysia. Cynthia explained that the understanding of public political funding is low, even in urban areas such as Petaling Jaya and Kuala Lumpur.

---

## CIPE News



- CIPE and its partner the Federation of Egyptian Industries (FEI) released an [interactive SMART National Business Agenda \(SNBA\) website](#) available in both English and Arabic. The site provides up-to-date information on 19 policy issues impacting Egypt's business environment across 17 sectors. Users can also access information on reforms and measurements of government responsiveness and accountability.
- To continue advancing CIPE's previous experience working with youth as future civic, political, and business leaders, supporting youth advocacy campaigns, and entrepreneurship training, the CIPE Youth Leadership Program is [facilitating a four-month non-residential program](#). The program will increase the visibility of economic issues affecting youth as a critical piece to post-pandemic recovery and create a platform for young people to amplify their voices and ideas. Program participants must be between 18-25 years of age at the time of application and preference is given to applicants from non-OECD countries.



# Announcements



Search ...

MENU

## Free Enterprise & Democracy Network

Bringing private sector voices into global discourse on democracy



### Latest Features

Stay up to date on the latest news, insights, and resources from our experts.

READ MORE >

- The FEDN Secretariat at CIPE has **officially launched** a website dedicated to increasing understanding and awareness of the Free Enterprise & Democracy Network: <https://fedn.cipe.org>. The site highlights expertise within the network and shares resources that support democratic and market reform. On this new site, you will find the latest news, insights, and accomplishments of members, a membership directory, and a dedicated space for members to provide key updates and suggestions to the Secretariat.
- Stefan Schirmer of the Center for Development and Enterprise (CDE) is beginning a project funded by the Atlas Network and the local office of the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, seeking to empower the voice of small businesses in South Africa. The aim is for CDE to work with a select group of small business associations to improve the efficacy of their advocacy work and to facilitate engagement with local and provincial officials and policymakers. As part of this project, they are looking to commission an international expert to write a critical issue brief. The brief will examine five case studies from around the world. The case studies will feature successful small business advocacy interventions, with an emphasis on other development economies, especially in Africa.

The ideal candidate will have a good grasp of small business advocacy and can provide an objective sense of what has worked in the past and the reasons why. While the candidate does not need to have strong knowledge of South Africa, they should be able to approach the problem in a context where small business problems receive vocal attention, but little tangible action.

If interested, please contact Adam Goldstein at [agoldstein@cipe.org](mailto:agoldstein@cipe.org) or Kim Bettcher at [kbettcher@cipe.org](mailto:kbettcher@cipe.org).

- The University of Pennsylvania recognized CIPE Partner in Argentina, Centro de Implementación de Políticas Públicas para la Equidad y el Crecimiento (CIPPEC), in its [latest global go to think tank report](#). The University of Pennsylvania ranked CIPPEC 88th worldwide and far higher on its regional sub-lists.

---

## Resources & Insights



*Democratizing Globalization: A Conversation with Andrew Wilson*

- During an interview for the FEDN *Democratizing Globalization* series, CIPE Executive Director Andrew Wilson discusses questions around economic development and democracy. Watch parts [one](#) and [two](#) of the interview on CIPE's YouTube channel.
- In the article [China's Inequality Will Lead It to a Stark Choice](#), Branko Milanovic investigates inequality in China, describes how corruption is lucrative for high-ranking members of the ruling party but imposes costs on everyone else, and advocates for anticorruption reforms to lessen inequality and its potential for destabilization.
- In [Autocrats Have a Playbook – Now Democrats Need One Too](#), Christopher Sabatini and Ryan Berg explain that autocracies have a set of tools and strategies they resort to when under threat. Democrats must look inward to strengthen their own democracies and formulate a set of tools to play “offense” as well.
- David Kenner describes how coffee shop culture is altering Saudi Arabia's urban centers by creating new public spaces. In [Saudi Arabia's Coffee Craze](#), Kenner explains that new coffee shop owners must navigate inefficient bureaucracies and

social regulations to open community spaces, but that their popularity also demonstrates how community spaces can create a more vibrant urban life.

- In [How to Live With Authoritarians](#) Karen Stenner and Jessica Stern argue that events or developments destabilizing to the social order can trigger authoritarian politics, citing a study that finds that in many developed democracies, about 1/3 of the population is predisposed toward authoritarianism. In order to mitigate authoritarian tendencies, leaders should promote policies through a conciliatory lens that avoids exacerbating political and social differences.

*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))*

**CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL PRIVATE ENTERPRISE**

1211 Connecticut Avenue NW, Suite 700

Washington, DC 20036

P: 202.721.9200 | F: 202.280.1000

*Copyright © 2020 Center for International Private Enterprise. All rights reserved.*

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).