



ANNOUNCEMENT

We will appreciate if each of the scheme periodically supply us with brief information on developments as well as photos, as we are short of this sort of material.

MEP Board

In the last issue, we asked the national schemes to nominate the candidates for the MEP Board. In September, there will be series of activities and meetings arranged in Brussels to commence the project. It is crucially important to have a list of just nominees by September 14th. If you have any queries, please, contact FRHC.



New Theory to Strengthen IABP's Practice

Special Advisor to the Secretary General Archil Bakuradze in fulfilment of his MBA degree at the Lancaster University Management School has completed his research project. The title of the paper is "Jazz of Business and Politics: Soft Systems View on the International Association of Business and Parliament".

The paper tries to capture experiences of the national schemes as well as to describe the business and parliament concept through synthesising various theories existing in management discipline. This offers a methodological basis, which has highlighted the powers and fresh view on the purpose of the IABP.

Business and Parliament should have "a common theme, common language and at the same time, a big freedom to maximise mutual learning through creativity and to thrive from reinventing themselves afresh".

This paper will act as a resource for member schemes, according to FRHC, and will be posted on the renewed web-site.

Virtual Telephone Conference

As was agreed at the Helsinki Board Meeting, we are to hold a virtual Board Meeting. The IABP will conduct a telephone conferencing session at 10:00 AM London time on Monday, October 11th, 2004. Is this a convenient time for all the Board members? We will highly appreciate participation of all schemes. The agenda needs to be set and approved two weeks ahead as well as all relevant materials distributed to enable Members of the Board to get acquainted with the issues. Please, contact FRHC at frhc@iabp.org to confirm if this time is convenient.

Web-Site Update

As you can recall the IABP plans significant update of the web-site. We are keen to make it more dynamic and use effectively as a means of informing and communicating with national schemes. NZBPT and INAW have agreed with the IABP upgrade their web-sites by integrating them into this project. If other national schemes find it desirable, we are ready, at the later stage, to extend this service to all interested schemes. The IABP plans to make the web-site available in different languages. If you have any suggestions about design or content of the web-site, please, contact us at archil@iabp.org.

Annual Report

For the end of 2004 the IABP plans to publish the annual report, which will highlight the activities of the national scheme and reflect the principles, approach and ethos of the network. This will serve as good promotional material for each of the national schemes. Could you let us have copies of your case studies and feedback from your business and parliamentary participants? We welcome your questions, ideas and suggestions for additional material.

Parliamentary Resources

We are responding to the immediate need to support consideration of, and increase transparency of the tax code review in Georgia. For this the IABP will organise a series of programmes, including a "Committee of Inquiry". We are going to provide resources for MPs from the experience of other countries. Would it be possible for your national Parliaments to respond to the interest of their Georgian peers and send very brief overview of history, evolution, principles and main parameters of their tax code and generally fiscal policy? We will be contacting national schemes about this shortly.

Update of Georgian Business and Parliament Scheme

The Coordinating Group, chaired by the Speaker of the Georgian Parliament, approved the six month action plan (see attached), which includes study programmes, round-tables, European fellowships, SME programmes as well as provision of resources and information. Due to the need to support tax code reviews, the IABP in partnership with National Democratic Institute, Transparency International Georgia, Bearing Point (USAID contractor) and Georgian Tax Payers Union, will host two day seminar for MPs in the format of a 'committee of inquiry'. All activities in September will be geared towards the tax code. Themes for October and November are Trade and Investment and Small Business respectively. The EU Rapid Reaction Mechanism has signed a grant agreement with the IABP for implementation of the Georgian Business and Parliament Scheme project.



Parliamentary Pairing Programme

There will be an opportunity to organise meetings and joint activities for MPs, where the participants will have the right to be 'paired' with a parliamentarian from other country with similar responsibilities and interests. The pairing programme will be supported with a moderator to ensure that the linkages are made and the effectiveness of the network monitored, focusing on email contact facilitated through the IABP web site which will be translated into appropriate language and sent on. There will be the possibility of inter-change through the programme.

This scheme is going to be tested in the Georgian programme as a follow up of visits of MPs from European national parliaments within the "Peer-to-Peer Support" element of the EU-funded project. We welcome interest and questions of our national schemes.