



ANNOUNCEMENTS

We have already expanded the distribution list of this digest to include EU, OSCE officials who showed the interest in it. We encourage your suggestions on other national contacts which you think would be helpful to your activities. Please, email relevant electronic addresses to a.bakuradze@lancaster.ac.uk

We highly appreciate contributions to the Monthly Digest and encourage all national schemes to offer their brief updates. We also see the digest as a medium for sharing the best ideas across the network.

Developments of the Georgian Scheme

In May, there has been arranged a visit of the IABP's Secretary-General to Georgia. Members of the Steering Committee were nominated from the MPs, which expressed their agreement and enthusiasm in embarking on the national scheme.

The British Embassy and the IABP has hosted a reception of companies and representatives of the Parliament of Georgia, engaged in the process. In fact, the British Embassy set the establishment of the scheme as one of their annual targets.

The USAID (United States Agency for International Development) and the Information and Research Division of the Parliament are to undertake the survey of members' perception of their needs for presentation to the first formal meeting of the Steering Group, which is scheduled for the end of June.

In addition to many businesses, the IABP developed partnership linkages with other stakeholders, such as National Democratic Institute, Transparency International, American Chamber of Commerce, LINKS, CHCA, Georgian Young Lawyers Association; Regional Environmental Centre for Caucasus. The process has been discussed in details and coordinated with the Head of the Delegation of the European Commission to Georgia. American Chamber of Commerce offered full support in arrangement of a gathering of the major business associations operating in Georgia.

Ideas on IABP's role

The IABP could well be the link or liaison with the MEPs, giving opportunities to cross information on the different schemes, so that, they could choose the country and company they would like to be attached to. (eg: in 17 years only 5 MEPs have been on attachments in Ciculo's companies.)

Regular biennial organization of meetings in the European Parliament, (Brussels), with the MEPs, would be a good opportunity to meet and present them the Schemes and companies. The IABP could promote attachments of the European parliament senior officials in different Schemes.

The IABP could also channel attachments of national MPs in different countries and organizations. It could keep us posted in any changes made in the staff, addresses, e-mails, telephone and fax numbers of all members.

*Contribution from Yolanda Barberá
Circulo de Empresarios, Madrid*

The New Zealand Business and Parliament Trust has had a busy May and has an even busier June coming up. The Trust held its first parliamentary seminar for the year for corporate members. 42 senior managers participated in an intensive one-day programme in Parliament, designed to improve the business community's understanding of how government is exercised through Parliament.

Later in the month the first President's Dinner, hosted by Parliament's Speaker, included the Prime Minister, Rt Hon Helen Clark, and the leader of the United Future NZ Party, Hon Peter Dunne, together with seven chief executives, the Trust's chairman and the Trust's executive director. The aim of these dinners is to enable the Speaker, as president of the Trust, to thank corporate members for their continuing support of the Trust and to outline something of the Trust's developments.

The European Parliament has asked the IABP to establish a Board of MEPs

to actively encourage MEPs from the enlargement countries to apply for programmes with the existing national schemes. The Board will monitor applications and make recommendations of MEPs to the IABP which will facilitate their attachment through the national schemes. National schemes are asked to nominate MEPs who have had experience of their programmes as potential Board members. We will be seeking to establish a board as representative as possible of political groupings within the Parliament. It is suggested that the President should act as the Chairman to emphasise the non-party nature of the Board.

The existing IABP programmes for officials who service the Parliamentary Committees is to be made a module of the leadership programme being established by the Parliament following the Election in June. This is the direct result of feedback from those officials who have undertaken the programmes with national schemes and the wish of the Parliament's Secretary General to make the 'learning experiences' an obligatory part of the Parliament's high flyers programme. This provides the companies in membership of the national schemes with the opportunity of having MEPs or officials from these emerging markets in the accession countries. It will also provide opportunities for attachment when there are fewer national parliamentarians because of elections, in addition to strengthening the relationship and activity with the European Parliament.

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Also during this month, the Trust has held briefings with some of the 16 members of Parliament who this year are undertaking five-to-ten day Business Study Programmes with a corporate member of the Trust.

In June the Trust's first Business Seminar of the year will be held in one of the country's top energy companies, Genesis Power Limited. To date 20 MPs have enrolled for the seminar which aims introduce them to the work of Genesis Power and to discuss the future of energy supply in New Zealand.

Later in June, the Governor of the Reserve Bank, Dr Alan Bollard, will be the Trust's guest speaker at this year's MPs' Business Briefing to be held in Parliament on 25 June. He will address MPs and corporate members on the subject of modern monetary policy and it is expected that over 60 MPs (half of the MPs in Parliament) will attend this annual event."

*Contribution from Lindsay McCallum
Executive Director, New Zealand Business & Parliament Trust*



Reception for companies, hosted by the British Ambassador to Georgia Donald McLaren