

EXCHANGE – The Magazine for International Business and Diplomacy

Issue 1 – September 2010



THE INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS AND DIPLOMATIC EXCHANGE (IBDE) is a not-for-profit organisation whose primary aim is *to enhance global business and diplomatic partnership* through facilitating dialogue between business and the diplomatic corps - to their mutual advantage.

Diplomacy and commerce have travelled the same routes for centuries, and in the era of globalisation there is much still to be gained through this close association. Diplomacy opens channels of communication, paving the way for transparent as well as profitable foreign investment. Whether in the form of a treaty or a contract, established norms of international law are the foundation stones for business and diplomatic relations.

In today's increasingly interconnected global economy a principal aim for most diplomatic missions is to champion economic development and trade relations: foreign services, governments and businesses need each other's special expertise to be effective in the global market place. On the one hand, diplomats must master the working of the business world in order to become fine 'Business Diplomats', and on the other, global companies must acquire diplomatic expertise to be able to forecast and plan for international crises so as to adjust their trading activities when they occur. They also need to know how to operate appropriately within diverse cultural and societal environments with an adequate knowledge of international politics to underpin their competence in international business.

IBDE is a 'just in time' organisation, responding and adapting its services to the expressed needs of its membership, in particular the smaller nations, thus enabling them to have an impact beyond their current sphere of influence.

On this introductory issue we are seeking papers/articles on the following topics: The list of topics below is merely suggestive of the range of topics appropriate for the 1st Issue.

- Why global businesses need to acquire diplomatic skills?
- Why political diplomats need to understand how the business world operates?
- The role of international businesses in fostering good governance and democracy
- The impact of political and diplomatic disputes in international business activity
- International trade, investment and diplomacy
- Articles on international trade agreements their impact and implementation
- The responsibilities of multinational companies in the developing world
- Articles covering international standards of business behaviour and diplomacy: how to cultivate and reinforce corporate ethics and credibility.
- Analysis of various governance systems and working cultures that differ from Western capitalism.
- Examination of International law and principles of treaty making (soft and hard law); regulation by international organisations (particularly as they affect international business), international arbitration, mediation and judicial settlements.
- Assessment of the functioning of intergovernmental bodies, such as the World Trade Organisation, IMF, World Bank, the International Labour Organisation, plus other diverse global trading blocks

Please bear in mind that the maximum length is 1000 words. We require authors to forward a passport-size picture with their profile, which will be shown alongside the publication. We also ask that you provide a short biography.

Style: Journalistic

Language English

Please send your work at exchange@ibde.org by **20 August 2010**.

Please note that IBDE is a non-profit organisation and as such cannot offer financial incentives.

Publisher:

International Business and Diplomatic Exchange www.ibde.org