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GFI Newsletter: Celebrating Fairness

President Joyce Banda joins our distinguished honorees!

On Tuesday, November 13th, at the historic Howard Theatre in Washington, DC, GFI is especially excited to welcome The Honorable **Joyce Banda**, President of the Republic of Malawi, as a recipient of the 2012 Fairness Award. President Banda will be joining fellow honorees **Ambassador Melanne Vermeer**, and **Ms. Lucy Kanu** by video from Malawi. Please help us celebrate three exceptional leaders from the "grassroots" and the "grasstops" who are making a , lasting impact on the lives of informal and poor communities worldwide.

The 2012 Fairness Award Honorees:

Joyce Banda: President, the Republic of Malawi

Melanne Vermeer: Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues

Lucy Kanu: Founder, Idea Builders Initiative, Nigeria

Presenters:

Jim Vance: CNBC4 Anchor and Fairness Award Master of Ceremonies

Jeanne Shaheen: United States Senator for New Hampshire

John Podesta: Chair and Counselor of the Center for American Progress

Special Performance by: **Sweet Honey in the Rock**

The Howard Theatre - Washington, DC

Tuesday, November 13, 2012 - 7:00p to 8:30pm

Purchase your tickets today -- fewer than 75 still available!

[BUY NOW](#) or go to **www.fairnessaward.org/tickets**

GFI to release cross-country examination of informality

GFI Founder and President **Karen Tramontano** will present GFI's report, ***Informality in Emerging Markets: A Cross-Country Examination***, on November 8, 2012 in Newport, Rhode Island.

Speaking at the Pell Center for International Relations and Public Policy of Salve Regina University, Ms. Tramontano will highlight the need for policy makers, multilateral organizations, and grant makers to understand and address informality if we hope to create truly sustainable and inclusive markets and end the cycle of poverty that stymies so many developing countries.

The report examines the causes and effects of informality in 15 countries in Africa, Asia, Central and South America, and Europe. Primary findings include:

- The causes of informality vary among countries, but in all cases workers either are excluded involuntarily from the formal labor market or choose to opt out because of ineffective regulatory frameworks
- Nations with large and persistent numbers of informal workers and enterprises are far more likely to stagnate or decline economically, and in the rare cases where both informality and GDP rise, the gap between rich and poor rises steeply, resulting in social and political instability and often upheaval
- Countries with high numbers of informal workers tend to have the lowest ratings for ease of doing business and the highest levels for corruption, thus discouraging the foreign investment and trade relations that most effectively grow economies and decrease poverty
- Some of the long-term effects of informality—such as further marginalization of already powerless groups, reduced competitiveness, and erosion of the rule of law—serve to reduce the impact of foreign assistance and limit the reach of donor dollar to the intended recipients

Despite some positive short-term effects—such as job creation and income generation for a rapidly expanding labor force—informality is both a cause and effect of long-term economic instability. The factors contributing to informality—such as ineffective regulations, high registration costs, corruption, and inadequate jobs and education—limit growth and undermine economic and social development. Most troubling, however, is that informality is self-perpetuating. That is, it increases poverty rates and income inequality and becomes more difficult to correct the longer it goes on.

With more than 50% of non-agricultural workers and up to 65% of agricultural workers operating informally in developing countries, a majority of the population lives and works in a separate track, excluded from the structures and opportunities that bring workers, governments, and the private sector together for vibrant and transparent economic growth. **GFI's study offers strategies for engaging these crucial players to develop country-specific plans for integrating informal workers into effective frameworks -- ensuring rights and protections for**

workers, competitiveness and dynamism in the private sector, increased participation and revenues for governments, and more effective use of foreign aid.

Before founding GFI, Karen Tramontano served as Deputy Chief of Staff to President Clinton and counselor to two Chiefs of Staff on issues including international trade, transatlantic relations, and economic and financial issues involving the U.S. Treasury and Commerce Departments. Ms. Tramontano played a major role in shaping policy, spearheading the successful White House initiative to bring the Child Labor Convention into law and leading the team that developed the Comprehensive Steel Plan to rationalize global steel production.

Established by an Act of Congress in 1996, the Pell Center promotes the primary objectives of the late Senator Claiborne Pell's decades of public service: enhancing international dialogue to achieve a more peaceful world and preparing individuals for an informed and active role in local, national, and world affairs.

"Poverty and Development: The Role of the Informal Economy in Changing People's Lives"

Karen Tramontano

[Pell Center for International Relations and Public Policy, Salve Regina University](#)

Newport, RI

November 8, 2012

GFI and partners begin work in Tunisia

The political environment in Tunisia has clearly changed in the past year. In 2009 only nine political parties participated in elections, with the former ruling party, the Constitutional Democratic Party (RCD, now dissolved) taking over 89% of the vote. In stark contrast in 2012, the number of licensed parties has reached 150.

Walking in a poor neighborhood in the north of Tunis with local partner the Tunisian Association for Management and Social Stability (TAMSS), GFI's Program Director found the Tunisians to be quite open about the challenges facing their country. Noting improvements in transparency but the decline of public services like trash collection, they shared their perception that the new government is not reorganizing quickly enough. Many feel the country is in limbo and wonder when it will achieve a coherent policy to improve education, innovation, and the economy.

Tunisians also recognize the tremendous opportunity in this time of transition, as they now have the freedom to define their country's destiny. Tunisians know the barriers to economic success and the problems faced by small, local entrepreneurs under current regulations. With the goal of gathering this information and helping the Tunisian government, international organizations, and civil society develop effective policies, GFI will jump start its **Tunisia Inclusive Labor Initiative**

with a survey of informal workers. Understanding the incentives and barriers to formalization will move Tunisia toward inclusive economic growth.

"The only prosperous, sustainable economy is an inclusive economy."

Hillary Clinton
U.S. Secretary of State
2010 Fairness Award Honoree

Fairness Award 2012

Tuesday, November 13th, 2012
6:00 to 7:00 Honoree Reception
7:00 to 8:30 Awards Ceremony



The Howard Theatre
620 T Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

RSVP today:

JOIN US AT THE 2012 FAIRNESS AWARD

TICKETS:

Please RSVP by calling 202-898-9022, or email us at rsvp@fairnessaward.org.



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