

# Corporate Registers Forum MEMBERS NEWSLETTER

December 2017

## Welcome from the President

Welcome to our last edition of the member's newsletter for 2017. I hope you have enjoyed being part of the CRF community this year and have benefited from reading our newsletters, attending our forum in Hong Kong, exchanging information and experiences with other CRF members, and participating in technical workshops.

Corporate registries play an important role in enabling businesses and economic activity. In this edition, we explore the World Bank 15th annual Doing Business report. The 2018 report 'Doing Business 2018: Reforming to create jobs' aims to help readers understand how regulations affect business activity. Congratulations to the CRF member countries that have maintained or improved their rankings in terms of ease of doing business, and ease of starting a business. Well done to New Zealand which is leading on both lists.



Also in this edition, we hear from our newest CRF members, Kenya (welcomed to CRF in our September newsletter) and Namibia.

Please join me in welcoming Namibia to the CRF community.

I look forward to 2018 bringing many of us together again at the 15th annual CRF conference, to be held in Botswana on 21-25 May 2018. Please mark these dates in your calendar to avoid missing out on this exciting event.

In mentioning our annual conferences, we extend congratulations to Macedonia, selected as our conference hosts for the 2019. We'll look forward to hearing more from our 2019 host.



Our CRF Executive Committee meets by teleconference regularly. As we plan ahead for the next year we welcome your early thoughts on any areas you'd like us to focus on in the coming year. Feel free to share any ideas with us via the email below.

As always, this newsletter aims to keep you informed and touch on issues that are of interest to you.

If you have any feedback, ideas or suggestions for next quarter's newsletter please contact us at [corporateregistersforum@gmail.com](mailto:corporateregistersforum@gmail.com).

## New Member Profile - Kenya

The Government of Kenya identified enterprise development and investment through modern corporate laws as vital for the country's socio-economic growth. These reforms were aimed at enhancing and promoting the ease of doing business in Kenya and to make the business sector competitive by streamlining and automating the business registration processes. It is from the foregoing that Business Registration Service was established.

Business Registration Service (BRS) is established under the Business Registration Service Act, 2015 as a semi-autonomous body under the Office of the Attorney General and Department of Justice. Its mandate includes: the general implementation of policies, laws and other matters relating to the registration of companies, partnership and firms, individuals and corporations carrying on business under a business name, bankruptcy, hire purchase and security rights.

The Business Registration Service is mandated therefore to oversee the operations of the Companies Registry, Movable Property Security Rights Registry (Collateral Registry), Official Receiver's Registry and the Hire Purchase Registry.

BRS is governed by a Board of Directors and headed by a Director-General who is the Chief Executive Officer of the Service.



Business Registration Service has its headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya's capital and has provides services in various counties in Kenya under the umbrella of Kenya's one stop service centres "Huduma Centres". As a service, we pride ourselves with the recently established online platforms the e-business and e-collateral registry that enables the public to access our services online.

As a member of the International Community, we are keen on adopting and implementing international best practices and global trends to ensure quality delivery of services. Corporate Registers Forum is a platform we strongly believe will assist towards achieving the same.



Companies Registry, Kenya.

## New Member Profile - Namibia

The Republic of Namibia is a beautiful country in Southern Africa with a population of 2,324,388 people. The capital and biggest city is Windhoek. Namibia is member of the United Nations (UN), Southern African Development Community (SADC), the African Union (AU) and the Commonwealth of Nations as well as a new member of CRF!

In 2016, the Government of Namibia, through the Ministry of Industrialisation, Trade and SME Development (MITSMED) established the Business and Intellectual Property Authority (BIPA) by an Act of Parliament; BIPA Act, (Act Number 8 of 2016), as a fully-fledged state-owned agency. BIPA currently serves Namibia's citizens out of three offices, employing some 85 staff members.

Mr. Tileinge Sacharias Andima is the Chief Executive Officer of BIPA and Registrar of Businesses and Intellectual Property Rights. He has been at the forefront of the institutionalisation of BIPA, as well as initiated the automation of Business and Trademarks registration systems. Prior to his appointment as the CEO of BIPA, Tileinge was serving as the Registrar of Businesses and Intellectual Property Rights with MITSMED.

The prime objective of BIPA is to foster economic growth and development in order to raise income and promote investment and employment and the efficient protection and administration of business and intellectual property in Namibia.

Key priorities are:

- to facilitate, streamline, simplify, harmonise and expedite Business and Intellectual Property procedures, registrations, filings and searches; and to keep and administer the registers with regard thereto;
- the consolidation of various offices and officials involved in the registration and administration of business and intellectual properties.
- to promote the conducting and use of business and intellectual properties in Namibia.

BIPA is excited about Namibia being a member of CRF. We are looking forward to be part of this forum to exchange ideas, learn from experiences and best practices of other members of CRF.

Find us online at:

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Mr. Tileinge Sacharias Andima,  
CEO, Business and Intellectual  
Property Authority.

## The World Bank's Doing Business Report Now Published

The [Doing Business 2018 report](#) was published by the World Bank on October 31, 2017. This Doing Business Report is the 15th in a series of annual reports which provide quantitative measures of business regulation in 11 areas that are central to how the private sector functions.

The Doing Business Report scores focuses on regulation that affects small and medium size enterprise operating in the largest business city of an economy. The Doing Business Report has evolved from focusing on the efficiency of regulatory processes to also measure the quality of business regulation and fees across 190 jurisdictions.

The Ease of Doing Business rankings rank 190 economies based on 11 dimensions of regulation affecting the life of a business. It is very exciting to see some of the CRF members ranked in the top 10! Congratulations to New Zealand (rank one), Singapore (rank two), Hong Kong SAR (rank five), United Kingdom (rank seven), and Macedonia (rank 10).

One of the 11 dimensions which determines an economy's Easy of Doing Business ranking is the Easy of Starting a Business. This dimension takes into account the number of procedures, the time and cost for small to medium companies to start up and operate in the economy's largest business city. The CRF is proud that our members have made it to the top 3 places in the Ease of Starting a Business ranking. The members are New Zealand, Canada and Hong Kong SAR.

The report also covers preliminary data gathered and shared by business registries in 190 economies. The report outlines the different ways in which some economies have increased the transparency of their business registry over the past decade (e.g. by publishing their data online).

You can look forward to hearing more about the 2018 report from the World Bank at our next CRF Conference in Botswana in May 2018.

## 2018 Corporate Registers Forum Conference

The Companies and Intellectual Property Authority (CIPA), a body corporate responsible for company and business name registration and maintaining the corporate registry in Botswana, has won the rights to host the annual CRF conference for 2018.

The CRF Conference shall be hosted in Gaborone, Botswana at the Gaborone International Convention Centre (GICC) from the 21st to the 25th of May 2018.

The theme for the CRF Botswana 2018 Conference is 'Corporate Registries, A Critical Vehicle for Global Economic Growth'.

The theme is inspired by the need to evolve corporate registries in various jurisdictions and have a more meaningful, direct and indirect contribution to the economic development of the respective countries.

To ensure a successful event, all member jurisdictions are encouraged to send delegates.

More information about the Conference and registration can be found on our website at [www.crf2018.org.bw](http://www.crf2018.org.bw).

We look forward to hosting you in 2018.

## Online Scams - How the SSM BizTrust Can Assist

In recent years, online scams have reached an all-time level. Some of us who have bought goods online would have encountered online sales gimmicks which seem too good to be true. While some of us may have had the foresight to reject such gimmicks, there may be others out there without such intuition and as a result of which were scammed. This is a predicament found throughout the world and Malaysia has not been spared either. So to curb or reduce such scams from happening in Malaysia, the Companies Commission of Malaysia (SSM) introduced its latest product called the "SSM BizTrust" on 20th July 2017.

The SSM BizTrust is a standard that can be obtained by online business entities via SSM which certifies that the business entity has complied with the characteristics of the trust principle and criteria that have been established including registration of a particular business, online security and privacy. The SSM BizTrust was developed with the aim of increasing and gaining consumer confidence when conducting online transactions.

For further information, please visit the SSM BizTrust Portal at <https://biztrust.ssm.com.my/>.

## Introducing Louise Smyth - Chief Executive, Companies House & the Registrar of Companies for England and Wales.

I have recently been appointed as the Chief Executive for Companies House and the Registrar of Companies for England and Wales. I have worked with Companies House for many years and knew that they have a great reputation in the UK and internationally, so when Tim Moss decided to move on I couldn't resist the opportunity to lead such an exciting organisation.

My background is mostly in the UK's International Patent office (IPO) where I carried out a wide variety of roles. I was the Director for Human Resources, Director of IT for a short stint before finally becoming the Chief Operating Officer responsible for all Corporate Services in the IPO.

Since starting at Companies House I have been busy getting to know the team and understanding the big priorities and issues. It is obvious why Companies House is held in high regard, because the people who work here are committed to providing excellent services for our customers, they really want to be the best registry in the World.



Louise Smyth, Chief Executive, Companies House

I am going to build on this with an organisational transformation programme that will drive Companies House to become a fully digital organisation to deliver excellence in company registration and search. A key priority for me will be providing excellent digital services internally so that people have the best tools they need to do their jobs as well as continuing to develop our customer facing services.

We will continue to strive for a register that is up to date and accurate and will carry on with the transparency agenda for which Companies House has become renowned for.

I want to continue the UK's strong relationship with CRF and its members. I am very pleased to be part of the Executive Committee and I am looking forward to meeting many of you at next year's conference in Botswana.

## Interested in hosting a CRF Technical Workshop?

The CRF welcomes applications from member jurisdictions interested in hosting a CRF technical workshop. All members jurisdictions are eligible to apply.

As a host nation, you will have the opportunity to put together an exciting, interesting and engaging programme while raising the profile of your registry.

Interested member jurisdictions please email [corporateregistersforum@gmail.com](mailto:corporateregistersforum@gmail.com).

## Upcoming Corporate Register Events

### IACA Annual Forum 2018, United States of America

More information to come.

### 15th Annual CRF Conference - Macedonia 2019

More information to come.

## Want to contribute to our next newsletter?

If you have any feedback, ideas or suggestions for next quarter's newsletter please contact:

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