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NEWS FROM THE BIIA BUSINESS INFORMATION FORUM 2006

BIIA held its second Business Information Forum 2006 in Tianjin, China in conjunction with the 3rd FCIB China International Credit and Risk Conference. BIIA Forums are compact, by invitation only international conferences in which diverse issues impacting trade credit and business information are discussed.



The BIIA 2006 was an expanded affair in which for the first time a number of international and local institutions such as the IFC (World Bank Group), the People's Bank of China, MOFCOM and the China Information Industry Association participated. On the agenda were trends in trade credit granting / management and key information issues identified during the last Forum. Professor Patrick O. Connelly, (University South Florida) opened the general discussion by presenting the latest trends in credit management in emerging markets. He focused on the 'Blossoming Credit Culture in China' and commented that the 'Social Credit System' is by far, the greatest experiment in the creation of credit management talent and the accumulation and management of credit information ever attempted.

The IFC presented a summary of regional efforts to improve the credit infrastructure in transition and emerging market countries. Discussed were the results of the World Bank survey on public sector data and concerted effort to improve public sector data availability. The survey was conducted in direct response to the public sector data deficiencies identified in the BIIA Shanghai Forum 2005. In addition to mobilizing the FCIB and the World Bank Group, the issue has now been raised at UNCTAD (Geneva) and at a recent regional IFC conference in Africa. BIIA will work with other institutions to gain sufficient support for an enlarged Forum in 2007.

Atradius presented an important overview about trends in credit insurance and the implications on information leading to a lively discussion on data sharing. For information companies the message was clear: ***They need to create tools that act off their wealth of readily available information. They have to create information systems that not only give their clients access to huge amounts of data, but also add intelligence to credit processes.*** Trade credit managers initiated a discussion of their information needs on SMEs, and BIIA responded with recently established role models of SME credit bureaus in the region.



Contributions from local representatives of credit management, business information and institutions such the People's Bank of China, the China Information Industry Association, and MOFCOM added considerable insights on current challenges and progress in establishing the 'Social Credit System' in China and the implications on information. BIIA expresses its gratitude to all participants in making this Forum 2006 a great success!

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