



The ESOP Association

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News of Employee Ownership Abounds Overseas

A look at some international news clips show that other countries have begun to pick up the employee ownership debate. In France, legislation was introduced recently to increase employee ownership rates in the country by offering tax breaks to companies and firms that distribute shares to workers. In a country that is on the brink of major employment reforms, this is an encouraging step to see.

India, a country in which the ESOP is not new, is seeing a resurgence and companies are now realizing that ESOPs are key to attracting and retaining talented employees. In a country with one billion people, attracting employees and keeping them is important to the economic development of the companies themselves and will be an integral part of the country becoming a major player in the international marketplace.

Companies in the United Kingdom are now proposing new stock ownership plans and launching employee ownership programs. A new supermarket is making news in the country for the simple fact that employees will be given an ownership stake in the company.

In South Africa, The ESOP Shop, which acts to assist companies in South Africa establish ESOPs, has been working with local companies and universities to bring employee ownership to the forefront and make it an option for all workers in the country. They are trying to create and distribute wealth throughout the country and believe the ESOP is the best way to accomplish this goal.

To view articles on international employee ownership programs, visit the European Federation of Employee Share Ownership which is the umbrella organization for employee owners, companies and all persons, trade unions, experts, researchers, and institutions looking to promote employee ownership and participation in Europe - www.efesonline.org.

Did you
know...

- Approximately 99% of ESOP Association members are private, closely-held companies
- ESOPs exist in large and small companies – 71% of Association members have less than 250 employees
- Average annual sales revenue for ESOP Association members range is approximately \$20 - \$50 million

Information was obtained from the "2005 Company Survey," conducted among ESOP Association members in 2005.

On the
calendar...

May 17 & 18, 2006
29th Annual Conference
Washington, DC

August 10 - 12, 2006
Employee Owner Retreat:
Midwest
Downers Grove, IL

September 20, 2006
8th Annual Repurchase
Obligation Seminar
Chicago, IL

For more information
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For more information, please call The ESOP Association at 202/293-2971 or email media@esopassociation.org.