



PROJECT NOTIFICATION

Reference No.: 119

Date of Issue	9 May 2023
Project Code	23-CL-18-GE-WSP-A
Title	Workshop on Productivity Enhancement for Women Entrepreneurs
Timing	14 August 2023–17 August 2023
Hosting Country(ies)	Singapore
Venue City(ies)	Singapore
Modality	Face-to-face
Implementing Organization(s)	Singapore Productivity Centre (SGPC)
Participating Country(ies)	All Member Countries
Overseas Participants	19
Local Participants	6
Closing Date	19 June 2023
Remarks	Not Applicable

Objectives	Discuss challenges hindering women's entrepreneurship; examine the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the productivity of businesses owned by women; and share effective policies and schemes to support women entrepreneurs in enhancing productivity and sustaining business growth.
Rationale	Women in developing economies tend to lack opportunities for training, preventing them from growing productive businesses. A significant gender gap in the scale and nature of entrepreneurship remains, which was underlined during the COVID-19 pandemic. Effective policy support is crucial to enhance the productivity and business sustainability of women entrepreneurs.
Background	<p>In the last decade, a growing number of women entrepreneurs in the Asia-Pacific has reshaped the business landscape. Some women entrepreneurs successfully overcame obstacles to forge their own entrepreneurial paths. However, the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (2022) reports that on average women are less likely than men to start and succeed in businesses regardless of their interest in entrepreneurship. The issue was exacerbated by the pandemic. Women entrepreneurs suffered greater sales decreases compared with businesses owned by men (International Financial Corporation, 2022).</p> <p>Mitigating negative conditions, narrowing the gender gap, and eliminating factors that hold back women entrepreneurs are crucial. Appropriate policy interventions should be in place to assist women entrepreneurs. This workshop will showcase effective support schemes and policy practices to address challenges and aid women entrepreneurs in enhancing productivity and developing successful businesses.</p>
Topics	The gender gap in entrepreneurship and productivity; Impact of COVID-19 on women entrepreneurs' productivity; Best policies to foster a conducive entrepreneurship environment and facilitate access to finance for women entrepreneurs; and Schemes to enhance women's entrepreneurship skills, develop business models, expand networks, and enhance productivity.
Outcome	Raised awareness of challenges hindering women's entrepreneurship; enhanced knowledge of productivity enhancement for women-owned businesses; fostering a gender-sensitive entrepreneurship regulatory environment; and strengthened women's entrepreneurship policies and support schemes.
Qualifications	Government officials, policy analysts, and professionals of development agencies responsible for creating policies for women's entrepreneurship and/or providing consultancy on productivity enhancement for women entrepreneurs.

Please refer to the implementation procedures circulated with this document for further details.



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Secretary-General