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7th Empretec Global Summit



The 7th Empretec Global Summit was organized virtually by UNCTAD, on 20 April 2021. The Summit discussed how the post-COVID-19 resurgence of the MSME sector can be supported and facilitated by the Empretec programme.

The economic recession originating from the COVID-19 pandemic has taken a heavy toll on entrepreneurs, start-ups and MSMEs worldwide. With more than two-thirds of the global population employed by MSMEs, the pandemic has shown how fundamental the role of micro and small businesses is in social and economic development. Concerted efforts to enhance an enabling environment, mobilize efficient tools and quick supportive action are critical to enable MSMEs to recover quickly in the post COVID-19 scenario.

The Empretec Global Summit is an annual event which was first launched by UNCTAD in 2014 during the Global Entrepreneurship Congress. This year's Summit was organized with the support of the UN project titled "Global initiative towards the post-COVID-19 resurgence of the MSME sector", launched in March 2020 as part of the UN Framework for the immediate socio-economic response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The event brought together high-level policy makers, including from Empretec hosting institutions, directors of national Empretec centers and Empretec graduates, as well as other entrepreneurs and key stakeholders from the private and public sectors. Participants engaged in an interactive dialogue on the most effective practices implemented or envisaged to support MSMEs and to seize the moment to enhance their role and impact on sustainable and inclusive growth in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and in the post COVID 19 resurgence. Success stories of Empretec graduates during COVID 19 were presented with a view to sharing experiences on how the behavior-based Empretec methodology contributed to their business' transformation and adaptation during the crisis.

The video of the Summit can be viewed at: [7th Empretec Global Summit](#)

MSME Day: Small businesses key to an inclusive and sustainable recovery

The MSME Day 2021 virtual event took place on 28 June 2021 and focused on placing MSMEs at the centre of resilient, inclusive and sustainable recovery and growth. Achieving the SDGs, and an economy that is greener and more equitable, requires resilient and flourishing MSMEs everywhere. A live panel discussion with entrepreneurs from Argentina, Ghana, Indonesia, Kenya, and Senegal shared insights on how MSMEs contribute to an inclusive and sustainable recovery. In high-level plenary segments, leaders from government, international organizations, business support organizations, and the private sector shared priorities to support MSMEs on this path. The event was hosted by the International Trade Centre, together with the Permanent Mission of Argentina to the United Nations in New York, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), the International Council for Small Business (ICSB), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

For more information, please visit UNCTAD's event web page: <https://unctad.org/meeting/msmes-key-inclusive-and-sustainable-recovery>

Empretec Training-of-Trainers (TOT) workshops

During the first half of the year, UNCTAD organized several Empretec virtual workshops for trainers nominated by various Empretec centres from different regions.

Three online TOT sessions on Empretec for low-literacy groups of entrepreneurs and on Farming-as-a-Business were organized between February and June 2021.

In addition, between 26 and 30 April, an online TOT workshop for francophone Empretec trainers, led by an international master trainer from Benin, was successfully attended by 10 participants, 3 of whom were women, from 4 countries.

Uganda - Empretec training workshops for migrant, refugee, and local entrepreneurs

The UNCTAD workshops were organized in cooperation with the Office of the Prime Minister, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), from 15 to 20 February, and 3 to 8 May 2021 in Kampala, Uganda.

The workshops are part of UNCTAD's assistance to strengthen the capacity of Uganda to formulate and implement inclusive entrepreneurship policies and programmes for ensuring socio-economic integration of migrants and refugees in local economies. Capacity-building for migrant and refugee entrepreneurs is important for improving their entrepreneurial mindset and enabling them to more effectively access finance, technology, business networks and markets in the host country. Under the framework of the Development Account Tranche 11 project "Promoting Refugee and Migrant Entrepreneurship in East Africa, the Andean region and the Middle East", entrepreneurship training workshops, based on UNCTAD's Empretec behavioural approach, targeted mixed groups of local, migrant and refugee entrepreneurs.

The workshops' methodology provided participants with practical tools to critically assess and improve their entrepreneurship competencies, eventually equipping them with the mindset and motivation necessary to bring about concrete and measurable changes in their own business.

Four in-person Empretec training workshops in Luanda, Angola

A series of four Empretec Entrepreneurship Training Workshop (ETW) were organized in Luanda, Angola, from January through April 2021 as part of the training activities under the EU-UNCTAD Joint Programme for Angola: Train for Trade II, financed by the European Union.

Respecting the current COVID-19 rules on social distancing in presential meetings, the Empretec workshops trained more than 80 Angolan entrepreneurs, providing each with a certificate of completion at the end of the course. For the first time, a team of two certified Angolan national UNCTAD-Empretec trainers



National certified Empretec trainers and trainee trainers deliver ETW No. 11 from 4 to 9 January 2021 in Luanda, Angola.

conducted the 6-day training workshops, with the collaboration of two other local trainee trainers. The team of Angolan trainers was supervised, via remote connection, by UNCTAD-Empretec certified international master trainers from Brazil and Mozambique.

National Entrepreneurship Strategy for Angola: Meeting of the Working Group Leaders

The working group leaders of the different National Entrepreneurship Strategy (NES) pillars met on 22 June 2021 in Luanda, Angola, with the facilitation of UNCTAD and the national MSMEs agency, INAPEM (Instituto Nacional de Apoio as Micro, Pequenas e Médias Empresas). The participants discussed the next steps in the process of developing a NES for Angola and the roles of the national working groups and their leaders.

The meeting agreed on the next steps in the NES development process and the contribution of the different actors in facilitating the analytical and drafting processes. Later in the year, the working group leaders will identify and recruit members for their respective groups. The working groups are then expected to meet several times to expand the existing analysis of the entrepreneurship ecosystem in Angola and start drafting the NES.

Two in-person Empretec training workshops take place in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia



The first of the Saudi Arabia ETW workshops was held at Executives Hotel, Riyadh, from June 5th until June 10th, 2021.

The first 6-day ETW was held in Riyadh, from 5 to 10 June 2021, in the presence of 24 participants. Most trainees had some current personal or family business starting up or ongoing. Many of them were employed, and only several were dedicated to their own business on a full-time basis. The age of participants varied with a few in their early twenties and the oldest in the late fifties (24-59).

The participants represented various industries in Saudi Arabia including construction and real estate, food wholesale, consultancy, art and design, technology, and food & beverage. In total, 23 participants successfully completed the workshop and received their certificate.

The second ETW workshop took place again in Riyadh, from 19 to 24 June. In total, 22 entrepreneurs from different business sectors completed the workshop and received their certificate.

The overall expectations of the group were met, and there was a lot of appreciation and positive feedback from the participants concerning their personal learnings from the workshops. Overall, 52% of participants rated the workshops as "Excellent" and 42% as "Good". The usefulness of the workshops for running a business was rated at 64% for "Excellent" and 22% for "Good".



E6DM-2 (ETW17) was held at Crown Plaza (digital City), Riyadh, from June 19th until June 24th, 2021, in the presence of 22 participants on the first day.

UNCTAD-UNITAR webinars on blue, green, fintech and "agri-preneurship"

In response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) joined efforts to host a series of webinars on the impact of the crisis on entrepreneurship. The webinars focused on what is needed to enhance the role of entrepreneurs and MSMEs in resilient and inclusive post-Covid-19 recovery. The initiative was aimed at providing insights to policy makers and MSMEs to better understand and navigate this unprecedented situation and is part of the Global Initiative towards Post-Covid-19 MSME sector resurgence. The webinars targeted four distinct themes: green, agriculture, fintech and blue economy entrepreneurship.

Green entrepreneurship

The first of the webinars took place on 25 February 2021 and focused on "green" entrepreneurship. Some 260 entrepreneurs, policy makers, academics and practitioners shared their views and experiences on the challenges and opportunities green entrepreneurs face in the current global crisis.

Participants noted that green economy had to operate on business models that placed innovation, technology, and circularity at the centre, instead of focusing just on economies of scale. In this connection, it was highlighted that innovation zones with reduced compliance requirements could unlock the potential of entrepreneurship for sustainable development.

Agriculture entrepreneurship

On 25 March 2021, about 200 entrepreneurs, policy makers, academics and practitioners shared their views and experiences on the challenges and opportunities entrepreneurs in agriculture face in the current global crisis and how to ensure green, sustainable, inclusive and resilient recovery.

The participants underlined the importance of technology in agricultural value chains and noted that they play a key role in enhancing the protection of biodiversity and fighting against climate change. Upgrading skills and competences at every level of the value chains and providing value-adding facilities for stored produces was deemed crucial.

The discussants also noted that providing timely, targeted, and useful data would allow farmers to maximize their outputs and that the entire chain of intermediaries in the food production system would gain in efficiency. In this connection, the technology available and used by farmers aimed at increasing skills, competencies and awareness of the importance of sustainable agricultural value-chains is key.

Fintech

On 22 April 2021, about 250 entrepreneurs, policy makers and academics met online to discuss challenges MSMEs face in accessing finance, especially during Covid-19 pandemic.

The participants noted how fintech was at the heart of any enterprise's operation, as it directly relates to how consumers borrow, spend, and share money. Fintech has opened opportunities for entrepreneurs to leverage technology to deliver services more efficiently and was key in delivering technology for financial inclusion.

However, fintech was experiencing fragmentation in the structure of the markets for database platforms and tools trying the match entrepreneurs with impact investors. This fragmentation has led to inefficiencies, duplication, and additional paperwork for entrepreneurs.

In this connection, the importance of financial literacy and education was highlighted, in addition to establishing regulatory "sandboxes" which provide space for MSMEs to experiment, fail quickly, and validate the application of innovative ideas.

Blue Entrepreneurship

In this context, about 150 entrepreneurs, policy makers, academics and practitioners discussed the role of entrepreneurs in the "blue," or ocean-based economies during a "Blue Economy" Webinar that took place on 27 May 2021.

The participants noted that the rapidly evolving ocean economy represents a tremendous opportunity for growth for island and ocean-bordering countries. The sectors of aquaculture, ocean renewable energy, seabed mining, marine biotech and desalination are growing. Climate change is forcing people in the coastal areas to adapt, and innovation around ocean engineering and automation in offshore and floating factories will change the structure of the ocean labour market. In this connection, MSMEs have an important role to play in supporting larger companies.

E-Learning Course on Policymaking: Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Development

Bridging gaps between theory and practice is essential in achieving Sustainable Development Goals. Given this background, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) launched on 8 July 2021, an e-learning course on Policymaking: Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Development.

The development of this tool is part of the project "Global Initiative towards post-Covid-19 resurgence of the MSME sector" financed by the UN Development Account and implemented by UNCTAD in cooperation with various UN Regional Commissions and DESA. The same project has also contributed to several other initiatives including the 7th Empretec Global Summit, various Empretec TOT workshops as well as the UNCTAD-UNITAR series of webinars referenced above. The objective of this E-Learning Course is to ultimately strengthen the capacity and resilience of micro, small and medium-size enterprises (MSMEs) in developing countries and economies in transition, to mitigate the economic and social impact of the global Covid-19 crisis. It is part of the UN Framework for the immediate socio-economic response to COVID-19.

The governments of South Africa, Uganda and Seychelles participated in a virtual session to promote a better understanding of the importance of facilitating entrepreneurship for sustainable development. They highlighted the different policy objectives of South Africa with focus on Youth Entrepreneurship, the National Entrepreneurship Strategy of Uganda on migrant and refugee entrepreneurs, and that of Seychelles on marine biotechnology sector.

The participants talked about the development of their respective entrepreneurship strategies and shared the lessons learned. They also discussed the use of e-learning tools, such as the e-learning course on "Policymaking: Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Development," which focuses on building the capacity of public officials on entrepreneurship policy in different ministries, and especially inter-ministerial collaboration.

Empretec training videos on Personal Entrepreneurial Competencies

A series of ten 20-minute videos was prepared by a group of Empretec international master trainers and finalized in April 2021. The videos will be used, both as a learning tool during Empretec workshops and as promotional material by Empretec centres. Based on the rich Empretec experience worldwide, this video programme aims to develop personal entrepreneurial competencies using behavioral approach to help individuals become successful entrepreneurs. The Empretec methodology was developed based on research of David McClelland, a psychologist and Harvard University professor who developed a method of assessing individual differences in a person's desire to achieve excellence. He recognized competence and motivation as key in achieving goals and something that can be trained and developed. The Empretec programme has identified 10 such competencies that are important for entrepreneurial success.

Each video discusses one personal entrepreneurial competency and provides a plan for further development. The videos should be watched in sequence as each video builds upon the previous material.

News from Empretec Centres:

ARGENTINA

This year, Empretec Argentina developed a plan of conducting its activities 100% virtually with the aim of assisting Argentine entrepreneurs and SMEs during the post-Covid scenario.

To assist the SMEs sector, one of the most affected by the crisis, Empretec Argentina developed a series of free virtual training workshops to provide specific tools to Argentine companies and enterprises. From April to June 2021, more than 500 entrepreneurs were trained on topics such as CANVAS, sustainability, costs, innovation, digital marketing, branding, and others. All workshops were designed by Empretec certified trainers, based on the Empretec Programme and its 10 Personal Entrepreneurial Competences.

To provide a complete and multiplatform experience, Empretec Argentina has also launched its brand-new virtual Campus at www.campus.empretec.org.ar which allows for interaction between trainers and trainees, as well as for exchanging content and knowledge. In addition, the new platform includes audiovisual materials, documents, presentations, and other interactive tools as well as forums and blogs.

In April, Empretec Argentina launched its new magazine titled *Innovation for SMEs and Entrepreneurs*, a quarterly digital publication aimed at showcasing solutions and innovation tools such as personal cases, reports, articles, and expert opinions.

Finally, this year as well, Empretec Argentina organized the 2nd edition of its program on Foreign Trade which aims to train Argentine companies on how to access foreign markets more easily through strategies and tools for internationalization. This program was specifically directed at agribusiness and knowledge-based economy sectors.

GAMBIA

After a long break without EMPRETEC training due to COVID-19 crisis, Gambia Investment and Export Promotion Agency (GIEPA), conducted an ETW from 7 to 12 June 2021 for 30 youths across the Greater Banjul Area (GBA). The training was conducted in local language that allows local inhabitants engaged in business to develop skills in entrepreneurship. The training lasted six days and participants that fulfilled the conditions and requirements of the training were certified as EMPRETECOS.



Newly admitted Gambian "Empretecocos" proudly show their certificates on the last day of the workshop.

The workshop participants were engaged in different trades that were both innovative and impactful to their communities. The training was supported by GIEPA in collaboration with the Ministry of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration and Employment to enhance the capacity of youths in the Gambia, especially women.

JORDAN

Jordan's Prime Minister Dr. Bisher Al Khasawneh toured Jerash and Ajloun regions on 5 July 2021 accompanied by the Minister of Labour, Minister of Industry and Trade, Minister of Tourism, Minister of Health, and Minister of State for Streamlining and Government Coordination Affairs to visit multiple small businesses and tourism projects supported by the Business Development Center (BDC). BDC is UNCTAD's national hosting institution for Empretec in Jordan.

The Prime Minister began his tour by visiting the Jerash Women's Association, the first association established in the governorate in 1971. The association aims to empower women and youth to take part in Jordan's labour market. The association teaches women and youth handicrafts such as weaving, sewing, embroideries, handicrafts and ceramics.

The Prime Minister directed the Ministers of Tourism and Industry and Trade to help the association market these products in a way that will benefit their producers and contribute to more job opportunities.

He highlighted the important role of small- and medium-sized enterprises in creating job opportunities, especially considering the limited ability of the public sector to provide jobs. The Prime Minister also called on present ministers to help entrepreneurs expand their markets, such as in tourist facilities and major commercial centres.

Dr. Al Khasawneh also visited Beit Khairat Souf of Al Noor Al Mubin Charitable Society, whose building dates back to 1881 and was renovated as a heritage building in 2016. The Society now provides job opportunities to women and young people from the local community through its small cooking academy, providing food to visitors, cooking food popular with tourists and teaching courses in simple handicrafts.



Jordan's Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Dr. Bisher Al Khasawneh visits Jerash Women's Association.



Jordan's Prime Minister, Dr. Al Khasawneh visits Beit Khairat Souf of Al Noor Al Mubin Charitable Society.

He also expressed his appreciation for the women and youth working in these areas, stressing the government's support of their work and its efforts in helping them overcome obstacles they might face.

Finally, the prime minister concluded his tour in Jerash by visiting the Tusker Apparel company in Souf, which has provided approximately 250 job opportunities in the local community. He praised the company's "successful investment model", whose exports during the last six months amounted to nearly JD19 million.

7th World Investment Forum will take place virtually from 18 to 22 October 2021



The 7th World Investment Forum that was originally planned to take place in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, has been moved to virtual format because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

This year's Forum will focus on "Investing in sustainable recovery", addressing today's key challenges facing the global investment-development community. Building forward better will not be possible without reigniting investment, both domestic and international, as an engine of growth. The Forum will specifically tackle the challenges and opportunities arising from the new industrial revolution, the sustainability imperative, the realignment of economic governance, and the efforts for greater economic resilience. The deliberations will be informed by the World Investment Report 2020: International Production beyond the Pandemic, and the World Investment Report 2021: Investing in Sustainable Recovery.

The 7th Forum will feature about 100 high-profile events and networking opportunities, including the World Leaders Investment Summits, Ministerial Round Tables such as on Entrepreneurship, the Investment Promotion Conference, the International Investment Agreements Conference, the Global Sustainable Stock Exchanges dialogue, the Institutional Investors for Sustainable Development Round Table, the Family Business and Sustainable Development Conference, minister-business executive dialogues, multi-stakeholder sessions on special themes, and prestigious UN award ceremonies, as well as the launching of global initiatives for investment in development. The Forum is organized in partnership with over 80 international and regional organizations and entities. A preliminary programme and background information of the Forum is available online.

For further information please visit <https://worldinvestmentforum.unctad.org/>.

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