South Asian Policy Dialogue on Women’s Entrepreneurship

27 November 2013, Federation House, New Delhi, India

TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

930-1000 Registration/Welcome tea
1000-1100 Opening Session:
Welcome Remarks: Ms. Anuradha Goel, Vice Chairperson, SAARC Chamber Women Entrepreneurs Council (SCWEC), India
Opening Remarks: Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director, ESCAP-SSWA
Opening Remarks: Ms. Pramila Acharya Rijal, Chairperson, SAARC Chamber Women Entrepreneurs Council (SCWEC), Kathmandu
Keynote Address: H.E. Ms. Krishna Tirath, Minister of State for Women and Child Development (Independent Charge)
Vote of Thanks: Ms. Madhu Kanoria, Former Vice-Chair, SCWEC India
MC Dr. Manju Kalra Prakash, Assistant Secretary-General, FICCI & Executive Director, FLO

1100-1130 Group Photo and Tea/Coffee Break

1130-1300 Session I: SAARC, regional economic integration and cooperation for promoting women’s entrepreneurship in South Asia
Chairperson/moderator: Ms. Pramila Acharya Rijal, Chairperson, SAARC Chamber Women Entrepreneurs Council, Kathmandu
Panelists:
- Prof. Veena Sikri, Founder President, South Asia Women’s Network (SWAN)
- Ms. Kamela Sidiqui, Chief Executive Officer, Kaweyan Business Development Services, Kabul
- Ms. L. Savithri, Director, SAARC Secretariat (tbc)
- Ms. Selima Ahmad, Founder President, Bangladesh Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry
- Ms. Anuja Narain Agarwal, SCWEC EC Member
- Ms. Janaki Gunawardena, Founder/President, Business and Professional Women, Sri Lanka

Open Discussion

1300-1400 Lunch

1400-1515 Session II: Good practices from the SAARC region on enabling women’s entrepreneurship: Focus on capacity building
Chairperson/moderator: Ms. Selima Ahmad, Founder President, Bangladesh Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Panelists:
- Ms. Rashmi Singh, Executive Director, National Mission for the Empowerment of Women, Government of India
• Ms. Pramila Acharya Rijal, Chairperson, SAARC Chamber Women Entrepreneurs Council, Kathmandu
• Ms. Shamama Arbab, Peshwar Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Pakistan
• Ms. Damchae Baowe, Bhutan Association of Women Entrepreneurs
• Mr. H.P. Kumar, Chairman, National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC), India (tbc)

Open Discussion

1515-1530
Tea/Coffee Break

1530-1645
Session III: Good practices from the SAARC region on enabling women’s entrepreneurship: Focus on access to finance
Chairperson/moderator: Ms. Rashmi Singh, Executive Director, National Mission for the Empowerment of Women, Government of India
Panelists:
• Ms. Aasia Saail Khan, Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry
• Ms. Uma Swaminathan, Managing Director, Regional Rural Distribution Network, Self-Employed Women’s Association, India
• Mr. R.K. Das, General Manager-in-Charge, Regional Office, Delhi, Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) (tbc)
• Ms. Fathimath Sheereen, CEO, Efes Institute of Cakes, Decorations and Arts, Maldives

Open Discussion

1645-1730
Closing Session
Co-Chairs: Ms. Anuradha Goel, Vice-Chairperson, SCWEC and past President FICCI-Flo and Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director, ESCAP-SSWA
Concluding remarks and highlights:
• Ms. Pramila Acharya Rijal, Chairperson, SAARC Chamber Women Entrepreneurs Council, Kathmandu
• Ms. Selima Ahmad, Founder President, Bangladesh Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry
• Ms. Rashmi Singh, Executive Director, National Mission for the Empowerment of Women, Government of India
• Ms. Wanphen Sreshthaputra, Social Affairs Officer, ESCAP-SSWA