National Training on Women ICT Frontier Initiative (WIFI)

4-5 July 2019, Vientiane, Lao PDR

Concept Note

Women's entrepreneurship is a force for positive social transformation. The success of women entrepreneurs generates ripple effects such as increased household savings, investment in children's health and education, job creation and significant increases in national GDP. While the Asia-Pacific region has closed some of the gender gaps in health and education, women tend to still be more excluded than men from economic opportunities, whether by restricted entry into the labor force, lower wages, the burden of unpaid domestic labor, vulnerability in dangerous occupations, or lower access to finance and credit. Women entrepreneurs also continue to face disadvantages resulting from their lack of access and capacity to use information and communication technologies.

Information and communications technology (ICT) is an enabler for socio-economic development, participation and empowerment. The *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* recognizes ICT as valuable tools for facilitating the efforts towards achieving the *Sustainable Development Goals* (SDGs) and their targets. SDG 5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls) has targets that address drivers of gender inequality and violence against women, and ensures their full and effective participation in society. It also has a specific target to "enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women" (SDG 5, target 5.b).

It is in this context that the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for ICT for Development (APCICT), a regional institute of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), embarked on the programme called "Women ICT Frontier Initiative" (WIFI). The WIFI programme aims to promote women's entrepreneurship in Asia and the Pacific through ICT capacity development. It will support women to become economically productive, through entrepreneurship that is enabled by ICT.

In an effort to strengthen the capacities of policymakers in Loa PDR, the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications and the United Nations Asian and Pacific Training Centre for ICT for Development are co-organizing **National Training on "Women ICT Frontier Initiative (WIFI): An Enabling Environment for Women Entrepreneurs"** on 4-5 July 2019 in Vientiane.

OBJECTIVES

The training aims to:

- Introduce the WIFI programme and the importance of ICT capacity development for women entrepreneurs to key stakeholders including government officials, training institutions, civil society groups, women entrepreneur associations;
- Enhance understanding of the importance of women entrepreneurship and ICT capacity development;
- Increase stakeholder buy-in, strengthen engagement and ownership of WIFI national focal partners; and
- Expand the pool of national resource persons who can deliver the WIFI modules to policymakers.

PARTICIPANTS

The training will be attended by the following:

- Officials from the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications;
- Representatives from relevant ministries, academia and training institutions;
- Representatives from civil society organizations and women's entrepreneur associations;
- Potential trainers comprising of government officials and civil servants from various ministries, agencies and civil service training organizations

CONTACTS

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AGENDA

Day 1

Time	Description
09:00 – 09:30	*Registration*
09:30 – 10:00	**Opening Session** ▪ Welcome Remarks and Presentation on APCICT by **Mr. Kiyoung Ko**, Director, APCICT/ESCAP ▪ Welcome Remarks by **MPT**
10:00 – 11:00	**Session 1: Government, ICT, and Women's Empowerment and Entrepreneurship** This session will provide an overview of the policy module and present the key concepts relevant to policy making for ICT-enabled women entrepreneurship. This includes gender, sustainable development and gender mainstreaming.
11:00 – 11:20	*Tea/Coffee Break*
11:20 – 12:30	**Session 2: The ICT Opportunity for Women's Empowerment** This session will look at the interfaces between ICTs and women's empowerment. Specifically, the session will review the role of ICTs in gender and describe and examine case studies where ICTs have been effectively used to enable women's empowerment.
12:30 – 14:00	*Lunch Break*
14:00 – 15:30	**Session 3: Gender Mainstreaming** Session 3 presents key concepts in gender mainstreaming. Concepts to be discussed include: a definition of gender mainstreaming, gender analysis, gender audit, gender budgeting and stages of Gender Mainstreaming.
15:30 – 16:00	*Tea Break*
16:00 – 17:30	**Session 4: Towards Gender-Sensitive Policy-Making for Women Entrepreneurship** Session 4 will provide a discussion on what constitutes a gender sensitive government and gender sensitive policy making and implementation with a special focus on women's entrepreneurship.

Facilitator: Dr. Usha Reddy
Rapporteur: Ms. Nuankae Wongthawatchai

Day 2

Time	Description
09:00 – 09:30	*Registration*
09:30 – 11:00	**Session 5: Towards Gender-Sensitive Policy-Making for Women Entrepreneurship** Session 5 continues with a discussion on gender-sensitive policy making and implementation with a special focus on women's entrepreneurship
11:00 – 11:30	*Tea/Coffee Break*
11:20 – 12:30	**Session 6: Using ICTs for Gender Sensitive Policy Making for Women Entrepreneurs** Continuing from Session 5, an examination of case studies along with a group discussion will be a major part of the session.
12:30 – 14:00	*Lunch Break*
14:00 – 15:30	**Session 7: Situation Analysis** The facilitator will engage the policy makers in an exercise to arrive at an action plan for ICT policy of women entrepreneurs. The exercise will be based on a template and a design provided by the resource person/facilitator.
15:30 – 16:00	*Tea Break*
16:00 – 17:00	**Session 7: Situation Analysis** Continuing from Session 7.
17:00-17:30	**Closing Session** • **Evaluation** • **Closing Remarks**

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