



Leveraging ICT for Women Entrepreneurship in Papua New Guinea

BACKGROUND

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 women entrepreneurs and trainers in Papua New Guinea, the Digital Transformation Center (DTC-PNG), ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, and APCICT/ESCAP are co-organizing a Training of Trainers on "Women ICT Frontier Initiative (WIFI)" on 20 October 2020 – 3 November 2020.

OBJECTIVES

The training aims to increase, understand and appreciate the enabling role of digital technologies, the gaps and barriers that constrain women from using ICTs in their businesses, and the need for gender-responsive policies and programmes to support ICT-empowered women entrepreneurs. Specific objectives of the training are:

- Underscore the importance of ICT capacity development for women entrepreneurs to key stakeholders including government officials, training institutions, civil society groups, women entrepreneur associations.
- Enhance awareness on the potential of ICTs as empowering tools in narrowing the gender divide; understand the women-specific barriers to access and use of ICTs.
- Deepen understanding of how ICTs can accelerate women's economic empowerment and, more specifically, help address the challenges facing women entrepreneurs; increase knowledge of the various opportunities that digital technologies can offer in catalyzing women's entrepreneurship.
- Expand the pool of national resource persons who can support the ICT capacity development of women entrepreneurs.

FACILITATOR

Dr. Faheem Hussain, Clinical Assistant Professor, School for the Future of Innovation in Society, Arizona State University

MODALITY

The virtual training will consist of pre-recorded sessions, presentations and interactive sessions. The participants will be engaged in a discussion and group exercises.

PARTICIPANT PROFILE

The training will be attended by representative from women entrepreneurs' associations, civil service training organizations, academia and training institutions, and potential trainers.

CERTIFICATION

A certificate of completion will be issued to participants who meet the passing requirement.

CONTACTS

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Training schedule (PNG time)

Date/time	Description
<p>Tuesday 20 October 2:00PM-3:30PM (90 minutes)</p>	<p>Opening Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Welcome Remarks by DTC-PNG, ITU, APCICT</i> <p>Introduction, ICT and women economic empowerment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Dr. Faheem Hussain</i>
<p>Thursday 22 October 2:00PM-3:00PM (60 minutes)</p>	<p>Session 2</p> <p>Women Entrepreneurship in Papua New Guinea</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Dr. Faheem Hussain</i>
<p>Tuesday 27 October 2:00PM-3:00PM (60 minutes)</p>	<p>Session 3</p> <p>ICT applications and tools in managing MSMEs/SMEs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Dr. Faheem Hussain</i>
<p>Tuesday 3 November 2:00PM-3:30PM (90 minutes)</p>	<p>Session 4</p> <p>Presentation and evaluation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Dr. Faheem Hussain</i> <p>Closing</p>