

Webinar: Report and Research Funding Launch

Cultivating Small and Medium-Sized Firms: Entrepreneurship Development, Gender, and Technology in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Ethiopia and Senegal

Date: 11 May 2021

Time: 8:00AM - 9:30AM EDT / 3:00PM – 4:30PM TRT

The webinar will present the findings of a report examining the strategies to promote the development of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). There is a growing dialogue in most countries in the world on the importance of three interlinked areas of policy emphasis. The first of these is promoting the development of SMEs as a means of stimulating economic growth, increasing employment opportunities, and encouraging more inclusive development. The second is bolstering information and communication technologies and integrating a focus on digitalization within economic policies. The third is emphasizing the empowerment of women to contribute to entrepreneurship development and greater equity in societies.

The report presents strategies that Bangladesh, Cambodia, Ethiopia and Senegal have adopted on these three fronts, and describes their efforts in building entrepreneurship ecosystems. It draws out the main challenges that the four countries have encountered in promoting development in these areas, and explores approaches to address them. The research is based on in-depth online interviews with entrepreneurs and experts promoting SME development in the four focal countries, and analysis of publications and online resources bearing on these themes.

The presentation will discuss the report's main findings together with perspectives from invited panel discussants. The webinar will conclude with an introduction to an action research program designed to deepen research and practice.

AGENDA

8:00 Joshua Setipa, *UN Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries*
Expectations of the UN Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries on
programming promoting SME development

8:05 Halla Thorsteinsdóttir, *University of Toronto and Small Globe Inc:*
Cultivating SME development: A comparisons of four case study countries

8:20 Panel discussion: Practitioner Insights

Participants:

Tina Jabeen, *Startup Bangladesh*
Hussein Hassen, *The Entrepreneurship Development Centre (EDC)*
Abdoul Aziz Sy, *Impact Hub Dakar*
Chema Triki, *Tony Blair Institute for Global Change*
Dr. Van Munin Chhieng, *Khmer Enterprise*

9:05 All participants discussion

9:15 Naser Faruqui, *International Development Research Centre*
Research agenda and next steps

9:25 Joshua Setipa, Concluding Remarks.