



Gender Entrepreneurship Markets

*Third Quarter Edition
Africa Newsletter : July 2005*

Warm greetings from the International Finance Corporation's Gender Entrepreneurship Markets team!

This is our third quarterly newsletter designed to keep businesswomen in touch with key events, relevant research and, most importantly, each other!

We provide brief descriptions of news, events and online resources that will involve, inspire and inform you and others like you. Wherever possible and appropriate, we provide a link to further detail.

This issue's highlights include [news](#) of IFC and World Bank Group activities (including the launch of the Gender & Growth Assessment in Uganda and our role in supporting the launch of the South African Women Entrepreneurs Network, SAWEN), [news](#) reports from other sources (including the African Women's Development Fund award from the Sigrid Rausing Trust and implications of the appointment of a woman as Deputy President of South Africa), upcoming [events](#) around the globe (including the African Development Bank's seminar on supporting African Women in Business in September and the Global Summit Of Black Women Business Leaders in October) and [links](#) to useful web sites (including OECD tip sheets providing information on the gender dimensions of 17 different sectors).

Our regular [Spotlight](#) this issue falls on the Pan African Women Invent & Innovate Awards Ceremony, Exhibition and Conference to be held in Accra in September. IFC GEM is sponsoring and co-hosting this Pan African event which will to celebrate and promote women's entrepreneurship in Africa.

This newsletter aims to share helpful news and information with women entrepreneurs around the world. If you or your business association have an event you would like to make known, have a success story to share, or would like to tell us what you would like to read more about, please [email us](mailto:GEM-newsletter@ifc.org) (GEM-newsletter@ifc.org). This newsletter is for YOU and we want to get you involved.

NEWS

News from IFC GEM and the World Bank Group

Uganda's Minister of State for Investment Launches the GEM Gender and Growth Assessment, Holds Advocacy Workshops for Ugandan Women

More than 120 Ugandan women and men attended the launch of the GEM Gender and Growth Assessment for Uganda in Kampala on May 18. The Assessment suggested that Uganda can grow faster by unleashing the economic power of women through speeding up the current process of removing barriers to business. In formally launching the study the Minister of State



for Investment emphasized “looking at ways to improve the investment climate to help women as well as men engage productively in the formal economy is not only the right thing to do, it makes sound business sense. Unleashing the full economic potential of women will benefit all Ugandans.” Following the launch, IFC GEM and Uganda's Council for Economic Empowerment for Women of Africa organized a 2-day workshop for key women's business and advocacy groups and government contacts. The workshop provided an excellent opportunity to strengthen dialogue and understanding between women's business associations and government representatives while also encouraging the participants to engage in needed gender reforms. The participants formed a Gender Coalition to take forward the report's recommendations. Additional key results of the report include the integration of the report's recommendations into the country's Medium Term Competitiveness Strategy and the National Gender Strategy as well as the redrafting of the Companies Act in line with world best practice.

Thabo Mbeki makes a Stand for South African Women at the launch of the South African Women Entrepreneurs Network



The South African Women's Entrepreneurs Network (SAWEN) was launched at an inaugural Annual General Meeting from 11th – 12th May in Johannesburg, South Africa. In his keynote address, President Thabo Mbeki reiterated the importance of gender equity in the fight against poverty, and invited SAWEN to attend the next Presidential Working Group on Women's Empowerment. Over 1000

women entrepreneurs and supporters were at the meeting, which was also attended by Lindiwe Hendricks, Deputy Minister of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and Mmabatho Matiwane, Head of the DTI Women Empowerment and Gender unit.

SAWEN is a national network that facilitates and monitors the socio-economic advancement of women entrepreneurs. It was set up over 3 years with technical assistance from the IFC's Africa Project Development Facility (APDF). [read more](#)

SPOTLIGHT ON

Inspirational Entrepreneur - Zoe Dean Smith, Gone Rural, Swaziland

Zoe Dean-Smith the Managing Director of Gone Rural, was a key speaker at a workshop in April organized by the IFC's Grassroots Business Organizations. Her organization is one of Swaziland's top three producers of handmade products and the country's most successful handcraft business. It provides rural women who would otherwise have few employment options with an income that greatly improves their quality of life and expands opportunities for their children.



Today Gone Rural works with 772 rural women in 14 groups in the rural areas of Swaziland, and it employs 22 staff in at the workshop in Malkerns. The women create high-quality tableware, floor mats, baskets and clay pots that are exported to about 525 retail outlets worldwide. In 2004, Gone Rural won a World Bank Development Marketplace award of US\$10,000 to facilitate HIV/AIDS workshops for their 772 women.

Zoe has been the organization's tireless champion, advertising its work internationally and helping secure orders with companies such as the Conran UK stores in Paris and London. While in Washington DC, she also met with senior World Bank officials, including the outgoing President James D. Wolfensohn to discuss her work and raise awareness about the devastating effects of HIV/AIDS in Swaziland.

Global Summit of Women in Mexico Promotes Wider Economic Participation



Nine hundred twenty five delegates from 75 nations joined the fifteenth annual Global Summit of Women in Mexico City to exchange ideas and strategies on starting and expanding a business enterprise. For fifteen years, the Summit has celebrated women's leadership by bringing together women leaders from around the world. Mexico's President Vicente Fox welcomed the record crowd that gathered at the opening ceremony of this year's summit on June 23. The 2005 summit held workshops on micro-enterprise, innovative marketing techniques and leadership development, as part of an ongoing effort to assist the next crop of women entrepreneurs. At the ministerial roundtable preceding the summit, IFC director Rachel

Kyte shared some examples of the World Bank Group's experience in developing public-private partnerships to promote women's economic participation. [read more](#)

MORE NEWS

Women's participation and equal opportunity rank as action point for Bending the Arc for Africa

On 4th July, business leaders, international organizations and policy makers met in London as part of a long-term consultative process examining how the private sector can forge valuable partnerships with governments and civil society and mobilize resources to support the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals in Africa. Discussions during *Bending the Arc* draw on African Union (AU) and Nepad MDG consultation programs as well as the Commission for Africa report.



During the meeting, delegates committed themselves to stepping up awareness raising activities and resources through partnerships with like-minded institutions, and engaging stakeholders to mobilize capacity and support for the attainment of the Goals and NEPAD. They noted specifically that businesses should encourage the participation of women by committing to equal opportunities.

Bending the arc is the official platform of the United Nations and NEPAD for addressing the leaders of the G8 on issues of African development. [read more](#)

Woman power for South Africa

Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, South Africa's new deputy president, has risen to a higher political office than any other woman in the country's history.

By appointing her, President Thabo Mbeki has signaled that South Africa could have its first female president after the 2009 elections. Mbeki is on record as saying that he would not mind a woman succeeding him. [Read more >>](http://www.southafrica.info/women/mlambo-ngcuka-230605.htm)
(<http://www.southafrica.info/women/mlambo-ngcuka-230605.htm>)

African Women's Development Fund wins Sigrd Rausing Trust award

Earlier this year, the African Women's Development Fund (AWDF) was awarded £100k for efforts in the area of women's rights. The AWDF is an Africa-wide fundraising and grant-making initiative for African women. It is an Africa-wide philanthropic institution, founded by 3 African Women, to promote social change through the funding of autonomous women's organizations.



Since its inception, over \$4m has been mobilized primarily from private philanthropic foundations like The Ford Foundation, Carnegie Corporation of New York and Comic

Relief (UK). These funds are awarded as grants to women's organizations undertaking innovative and creative development initiatives, as well as to strengthen their capacity to extend resources and support to disadvantaged women on a sustainable basis. [read more](#)

Supporting African Women In Business: For economic and Social leadership

750 delegates converged in Cameroon on 18 – 19 April, to attend this conference organized by the African Development Bank.

The forum provided a platform to formulate recommendations on networking for women business owners and how to provide effective support for the development of women's entrepreneurship. This was also an opportunity for delegates to identify key strategic areas for co-operation and coordination among stakeholders, to raise awareness amongst stakeholders

from around Africa and to challenge the existing mindset about “women and business” in both the public and private sectors. For more information e-mail (l.mokadem@afdb.org)



Inspirational Quote

“No government in South Africa could ever claim to represent the will of the people if it failed to address the central task of the emancipation of women.”

- Thabo Mbeki, President of South Africa, at the launch of the South African Women Entrepreneurs Network.

SPOTLIGHT ON:

The Pan African Women Invent & Innovate Awards Ceremony, Exhibition and Conference

On September 7th – 9th 2005, the International Finance Corporation's Gender Entrepreneurship Markets will be celebrating and promoting women's entrepreneurship in Africa at the International Conference Centre in Accra, Ghana. We invite you to nominate innovative African women in business for awards, as well as to participate in the exhibition and conference at <http://africa.gwiin.info>.

IFC GEM is delighted to sponsor and co-host the inaugural Pan African Women Invent & Innovate Awards Ceremony, Exhibition and Conference. This event is being organized by the Global Women Inventors and Innovators Network, supported by the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (Ghana).

200 participants from across Africa are expected to attend this gathering of inspirational entrepreneurs, thought leaders in the fields of intellectual property rights and international trade, policy makers (including cabinet ministers) and executives from financial institutions. The IFC will be represented at a high level by the Director for Africa Dick Ranken and Director for Social and Environmental Development Rachel Kyte, as well as World Bank Group staff and GEM team members.

The IFC is a global leader in sustainability and is supporting this event as part of our commitment to promoting women's entrepreneurship in Africa.

Each newsletter we spotlight either a women's business association that has developed an innovative idea or process that promotes women's entrepreneurship, or an enterprising woman who has achieved success. If you have a success story to share, please email us (GEM-newsletter@ifc.org) with the details. We look forward to sharing your stories.

EVENTS

Africa Diaspora Investment Forum

12 – 17 September, London, UK: This year's theme is "harnessing the role of the Diaspora in capacity building – roundtable exploring electronic transfer of remittances as an option". The forum will look at the goals and rationale of the Diaspora as an alternative source of Foreign Direct Investment either as personal remittances or remittances for investment in SME's, Real Estate, Capital Markets and so on.

Seminar on Promoting Women Entrepreneurship in Africa

19 – 23 September, Tunis, Tunisia: The African Development Bank is organizing this one-week seminar which aims to bring together senior government officials and representatives of



women entrepreneurs and women entrepreneurs' associations to exchange and consolidate their best practice knowledge on appropriate mechanisms to support mainstreaming women owned small and medium enterprises in Africa. For more Info e-mail afdb@afdb.org

Global Summit of Black Women Business Leaders

28 – 29 October, London, UK: The European Federation of Black Women Business Owners will host black women business leaders from around the world at this summit. This gathering will feature black women at the height of their profession. [read more](#)

Africa Investor Investment Awards



21st November, Johannesburg, South Africa: The Africa Investor Investment Awards will be presented at a gala ceremony alongside the Economist Conferences' Fourth Business Roundtable with the Government of South Africa. The awards recognize and reward the

achievements of the Private Sector in Africa across wide ranging sectors and disciplines and includes an African Business Woman of the Year award. [read more](#)

Donor Committee Conference: Assessing the Business Environment

29 Nov-2 Dec, Cairo, Egypt: The conference will allow participants to share their experiences in the promotion of a business environment that is more enabling of small enterprise development. [read more](#)

Email us (GEM-newsletter@ifc.org) details of your event.

LINKS TO RESOURCES

The African Centre for Gender and Development

The African Centre for Gender and Development (ACGD) is a division within the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA). Established in 1975, the ACGD services national, regional and sub-regional bodies involved in development issues related to gender and the advancement of women. The [website](#) offers information regarding programs and activities as well as access to recent publications. Also available on the site is focused data on gender issues from around the world including information on the twelve critical areas of the Beijing platform for action for the advancement of women issued in 1995 and the recently developed Africa Gender and development Index. For additional information e-mail acw@un.org



OECD Gender Tip sheets

Forty-four tip sheets covering 17 sectors provide information on how and why gender equality is a crucial dimension in all development activities. [read more](#)



Women's Economic Empowerment: Measuring the Global Gender Gap

The World Economic Forum undertook this study to facilitate the work of governments, aid agencies and NGOs by providing a benchmarking tool to assess the size of the gender gap. The report quantifies the size of the gender gap in 58 countries, including all 30 OECD countries and 28 other emerging markets, ranking countries according to the level of advancement of their female population. [read more](#)



BRIDGE

BRIDGE supports gender advocacy and mainstreaming efforts of policymakers and practitioners by bridging the gaps between theory, policy and practice with accessible and diverse gender information. BRIDGE was set up in 1992 as a specialized gender and development research and information service within the [Institute of Development Studies \(IDS\)](#), United Kingdom (UK). This was on the initiative of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD/DAC) Working Party on Gender Equality. [read more](#)



Email us (GEM-newsletter@ifc.org) to suggest a web link.

IFC GEM Website

The [Global Directory of Women's Business Associations](#), a very useful tool for networking, is available on our website, as is a [Reference List](#) of print and web publications related to women and entrepreneurship, archived copies of this newsletter, GEM quick notes series, media releases and more. [read more](#)

CALL FOR CONSULTANT CVs

IFC GEM is looking for women and men experienced in the field of private sector development and gender for future short-term assignments. If you have relevant experience and would like to be included in our database, please email us. (GEM-newsletter@ifc.org)

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