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Launch of 7th EMPRETEC WOMEN IN BUSINESS AWARDS



UNCTAD is launching its **7th EMPRETEC WOMEN IN BUSINESS AWARDS (E-WBA) 2020**. It will take place during the World Investment Forum in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates from 6 to 10 December 2020.

The awards provide international recognition to exceptional Empretec's women entrepreneurs, whose successful businesses and achievements contribute to the national and global economies as well as to their communities.

The 7th edition features an important novelty with the introduction, in addition to the 1st main prize, of three special award categories to recognize successful women entrepreneurs in **circular economy**, **sustainable agriculture** and those **with inclusive business models empowering women**.

The deadline for nominations is **Friday, 24 January 2020**. UNCTAD will announce the top 10 finalists on **8 March 2020**, during the celebrations for the International Women's Day.

Directors at the XXVI Empretec annual meeting discuss how to strengthen links and strategic partnerships

Thirteen representatives from eleven Empretec centres gathered in Geneva, Switzerland, on 11-13 December 2019 for the XXVI Empretec annual meeting to highlight the major achievements over the past twelve months, and to report on strategic and operational issues related to national Empretec



Participants of the XXVI Empretec Directors meeting (11-13 December 2019) in Geneva, Switzerland.

programmes. Mr. James Zhan, Director of UNCTAD's Division on Investment and Enterprise, welcomed participants and engaged in an interactive discussion with centres to hear what UNCTAD could do to sustain and strengthen Empretec in their respective countries. He called on centres to share success stories that show impact.

Mr. Zhan expressed his commitment to strengthen UNCTAD's support to French-speaking centres, facilitating the adaptation and translation of training material to French, and trainers' upgrading to the most recent version of the Empretec workshop through a dedicated training-of-trainers in French. Ms. Tatiana Krylova, Head, Enterprise Branch, provided an overview of activities, achievements and main highlights of UNCTAD's work on entrepreneurship in 2019 and moderated discussions on strategic issues concerning the Empretec programme, particularly the standardization and roll-out of a new version of the 6-day Empretec Entrepreneurship Training Workshop (ETW) and intra-centre cooperation, with a view to raising the programme's visibility and forming strategic partnerships across the Empretec network. Three external speakers from the World Fair Trade Organization, Blab Switzerland and the Inclusive Business Action Network (IBAN) offered opportunities for Empretec centres to engage in partnerships to pursue inclusive business models.

Empretec programme officially launched in Namibia

On 16 October 2019, the Empretec programme in Namibia was officially launched at the Ministry of Industrialization, Trade, and SME Development in the presence of Deputy Minister, Ms. Lucia Lipumbu and UNDP resident representative Ms. Alka Bhatia.

As part of Namibia's national poverty reduction strategy, UNCTAD is supporting the Government of Namibia through the joint implementation of UNDP's project on Enhancing Entrepreneurship Development in Namibia. The project is aimed at increasing the number of skilled entrepreneurs as one of the means of reducing poverty in the country. The resulting transformational change will unleash the growth potential of micro, small and medium enterprises in the country. It is hoped that this in turn will reduce unemployment, especially amongst women and youth.



Deputy Minister Ms. Lucia Lipumbu (center front) with attendees at the official launching of Empretec programme in Namibia on 16 October 2019

At the event, UNDP resident representative, Ms. Alka Bhatia stated that the programme will target 1,650+ unemployed individuals in Namibia and will give particular attention to skills development activities aimed at eradicating poverty through self-employment of young people, women, and vulnerable groups.

The Deputy Minister of Industrialization, Trade, and SME Development, Ms. Lucia Lipumbu in her speech expressed hope that the Empretec program would stimulate economic growth, generate employment opportunities, create wealth and reduce poverty in the country.

"The aim of the training is to expose local entrepreneurs. I, therefore, urge all Namibians to fully utilize this opportunity by supporting the government's efforts, by attending the training," she said.

In addition to the launching event, UNCTAD also organized three Empretec training workshops in October 2019 in Windhoek, Namibia, benefitting 96 Namibian entrepreneurs. The overall assessment for the workshops had a satisfactory rate (fair/good/excellent) of 100%. All other items had assessment ratings of 80% and above, showing that participants were very satisfied with the workshop.

Photo Exhibition on Entrepreneurship for Migrants and Refugees

UNCTAD, in collaboration with the IOM and UNHCR, organized a photo exhibition on migrant and refugee entrepreneurship to celebrate the Global Entrepreneurship Week. The competition featured photographic contributions from all over the world showing the pictures of migrant and refugee entrepreneurs in their host countries.

In the spirit of delivering as One UN, this initiative builds on the ongoing tripartite partnership that led to the joint UNCTAD, IOM, UNHCR Policy Guide on Entrepreneurship for Migrants and Refugees, launched during the World Investment Forum in Geneva in October 2018. The guide is available at:

https://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/diae2018d2_en.pdf.

The opening of the exhibition featured addresses from, among others, Thana Faroq a refugee from Yemen now living in the Netherlands, who authored the "Resilience" photo, as well as a French artist and sculptor Romain Langlois whose sculpture displayed in the Ariana park was created in collaboration with twenty migrants and refugees in France.

Quito's economic promotion agency Conquito holds its first Empretec workshop in collaboration with the UNHCR

The first Empretec training workshop organized by Conquito - Quito's economic development agency and UNCTAD's Empretec counterpart in Ecuador - in collaboration with UNHCR was held in Quito Ecuador, on 18-23 November 2019. It included 34 participants (15 men and 19 women), of which 26 migrants and refugees from Venezuela, Colombia, Cuba and Haiti. In the final evaluation, 97% of participants rated the workshop as excellent. Some comments included:

«This course was one of the best I have received in my life, very complete and demanding»

«Excellent workshop, congratulations for the lessons I learned, this is knowledge that I really needed to improve my business»

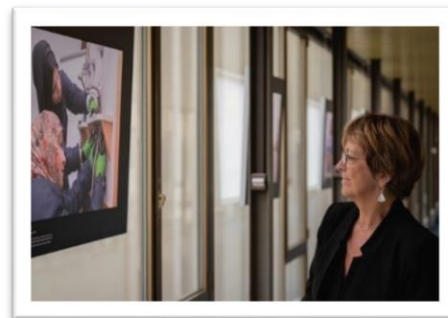
«Empretec opens the doors to the future, thanks for sharing these tools for entrepreneurs and improving the world»

«I feel lucky for this wonderful opportunity. Thanks to the sponsors and the facilitators for giving us this opportunity for personal and professional growth»

More Empretec Training Workshops take place in Angola

Three new Empretec Entrepreneurship Training Workshops (ETWs No. 8, 9 and 10) took place in Luanda during the month of November (4-9, 18-23, and 25-30 November 2019), under the framework of the EU-UNCTAD joint Programme of Support for Angola: Train for Trade II.

Since the inception of the programme in Angola, Empretec has trained over 230 entrepreneurs from various economic sectors. During the workshops, local trainee trainers continued their progress toward their certification as Empretec National Trainers, under the supervision of international trainers from Brazil and Mozambique. On 9 December 2019, two Angolan trainers received their certification as Empretec National Trainers, at a ceremony held at the Ministry of Commerce.



Ms. Isabelle Durant, Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD, looking at displays of the Photo Exhibition (Palais des Nations, Geneva, 18-26 November 2019)



Empretec workshop participants taking a break during Conquito's training workshop,



Ms. Dionisia Sebastião receives her Empretec National Trainer's certificate in the presence of Mr. Amadeu Leitão Nunes,

First East African Regional Dialogue on Migration, Entrepreneurship and Development in Refugee Hosting Cities takes place in Uganda

UNCTAD and UN-Habitat, in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), organized a first East African Regional Dialogue on Migration, Entrepreneurship and Development in Refugee Hosting Cities from 22-23 October 2019 in Entebbe, Uganda. The workshop provided a platform for the exchange of experiences and ideas between a diverse group of participants, including local authorities, civil society, private sector, international organizations and development partners, to discuss challenges and best practices in responding to the rapid influx of populations into their respective urban areas.

Representing different sectors and levels of government from eight African countries comprising countries Central African Republic, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia, the participants exchanged their views and developed concrete action points to harness economic and entrepreneurship opportunities arising from new or increased migrant populations.

From the discussions, it emerged that, with global migration at an all-time high and East Africa being amongst the world's most impacted region due to protracted conflicts and climate change impacts, more and more migrants, internally displaced people (IDPs), and refugees are moving to urban areas to find improved livelihood opportunities, safety and services. However, rapid and unplanned population movements along with inadequate funding challenge local authorities who are responsible for providing services such as education, health, infrastructure and housing to migrants and permanent residents alike.

To address the tensions that result from these population permutations and discrepancies in resource allocation, workshop organizers and participants discussed ways to improve social cohesion between migrants and host communities and increase access to services for all, including by promoting entrepreneurship at the city level.

During the workshop, UNCTAD organized an interactive training session to present the UNCTAD/IOM/UNHCR *Policy Guide on Entrepreneurship for Migrants and Refugees*, and shared best practices for increasing entrepreneurship opportunities that can facilitate livelihood generation for both migrant and host communities, while UN-Habitat provided inputs on how to plan, govern and finance sustainable urban growth that will develop inclusive and welcoming cities.

NEWS FROM THE EMPRETEC NETWORK:

ETHIOPIA:

As part of strengthening one of its key service pillars facilitating access to finance, the Entrepreneurship Development Centre (EDC) of Ethiopia announced its newest initiative to promote and support emerging entrepreneurs, the *EthioSpur Business Plan Competition*. The EthioSpur Business Plan Competition is designed to provide passionate entrepreneurs with the opportunity to expand and scale-up their business. The competition is open to any existing business, no matter how big or small, and is a great opportunity for entrepreneurs to chart new beginnings and spur their business success even further.

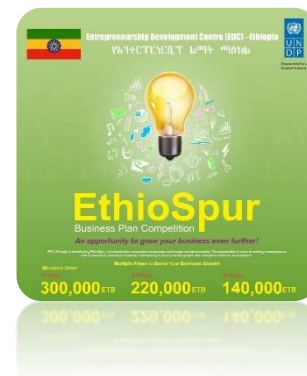
The winners will be announced in March 2020 during an awards event. Please visit www.edcethiopia.org for additional information.

JORDAN:

1) The Business Development Center (BDC) Empretec National Center in Jordan expanded its Empretec Programme to reach out to young people from different parts of Jordan to support the culture of self-employment and create productive projects in different employment sectors. The BDC initiated a one-stop programme that provides capacity-building and includes the Introduction to Social



UNCTAD representative, Ms. Fulvia Farinelli, stands with the East African Regional Dialogue on Migration, Entrepreneurship and Development in Refugee Hosting Cities workshop participants in Entebbe on 23 October 2019.



Entrepreneurship and Ideation Workshop, the Entrepreneurship Capacity Building of Entrepreneurial Competencies Programme and the Business Planning and Business Canvas Programme.

The capacity-building phase is followed by a technical support phase of the programme that includes the preparation of a feasibility study. Once the feasibility studies are completed, the applicants will select the participating commercial and Islamic banks to submit their applications for a concessional loan with a grace period of one year, from JOD 5,000 to JOD 30,000 with no contribution or guarantee amount requested and 7 years payback period.

The BDC will continue to support young entrepreneurs with refresher days, mentorship, business linkages and business incubation services. From October until December 2019 BDC organized and conducted 9 workshops for 250 young people in Irbid, Amman, Jerash, Tafileh, Madaba, Maan, Ajloun and Kerak.



Young participants in the BDC Empretec workshop.

2) His Majesty King Abdullah II, accompanied by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Al Hussein bin Abdullah II, with the presence of the Prime Minister Omar Al Razzaz and the Royal Hashemite Court Chief Yousef Issawi visited the Empretec programme at the BDC's office where they met with the beneficiaries and were very impressed by the programme's impact and outcomes.

MAURITIUS:

The highlight of 2019 for Empretec Mauritius was the launching of the Entrepreneurship Training Workshop (ETW) aimed at low-literate participants with limited access to finance and resources. The project was entitled "Empowering Vulnerable Women and Youth Working in the Informal Sector".

The target group was women and youth (low income, marginalized, stigmatized and vulnerable) from the informal economy, aged between 15 and 45 years. The ETW was adapted to transform 33 beneficiaries into self-confident persons believing in their chances to succeed in business for the better socio-economic development of their families.



The major outcome of the programme was that 28 micro-businesses are currently being run under the supervision of National Trainers and Empretec Mauritius mentors.

GUYANA:

In the first quarter of 2020 Empretec Guyana plans to upgrade the Venture Out! Programme for women entrepreneurs which comprises a series of workshops that include Financial Literacy & Statutory Compliance, Organizing for Business Growth and Sustainability (utilizing the Business Canvas), as well as Effective Marketing and Communication. It is also expected that the Venture Out! Programme will be restructured, in accordance with the Empretec Methodology, as a women-focused entrepreneurship and business capacity building/growth programme that can be completed over a 2-3 year period in collaboration with a private company from the banking sector in Guyana. For more information please visit: <http://empretecguyana.org/VOFM.html>.

TANZANIA:

Two Empretec workshops were organized in Moshi, Tanzania, on 2-7 December and 9-14 December 2019, as part of UNCTAD's assistance to vanilla farmers in collaboration with the Kilimanjaro Women Information Exchange and Community Organization (KWIECO) and the Kilimanjaro Vanilla Farmers' Association. 57 farmers successfully completed the workshops and will receive further technical advice on the production of organic vanilla beans as an alternative source of income for their households, when have been negatively affected by the decreasing prices of coffee and bananas. A larger group of 200 farmers received capacity-building activities through UNCTAD's Farming-as-a-Business workshops between October and November 2019.



Vanilla farmers at the end of an Empretec workshop in Moshi, Tanzania (9-14 December 2019)

BOOKS:

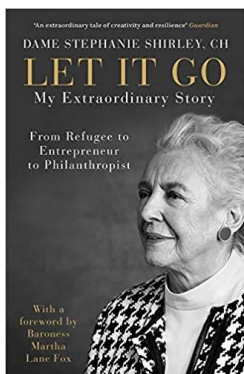
Let It Go: My Extraordinary Story - From Refugee to Entrepreneur to Philanthropist by Stephanie Shirley

A moving memoir from a woman who made a fortune in a man's world and then gave it all away...

In 1962, Stephanie Shirley created a software company when the concept of software barely existed, and the field was dominated by men. Shirley employed a generation of women in technology, giving them unheard of freedom to choose their own hours and manage their own workloads, including working from home. The business thrived and Shirley gradually transferred ownership to her staff, creating 70 millionaires in the process.

Let It Go explores Shirley's successful career as a women entrepreneur as well as her dramatic personal story including her arrival in England as an unaccompanied minor refugee during World War II, and the tragic loss of her only child who suffered severely from autism.

Today, Dame Stephanie Shirley is one of Britain's leading philanthropists, devoting most of her time, energy and wealth to charities. In *Let It Go*, Dame Shirley tells her inspirational story and explains why giving her wealth away - letting it go - has brought her infinitely more happiness and fulfilment than acquiring it in the first place.



TO READ:

Get to Know the Female Entrepreneurs Who Are Reshaping the Business World

<https://www.entrepreneur.com/slideshow/339393>

The potential of refugee entrepreneurs is huge. But they need our help by Philippe Legrain, The Guardian Online,

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/apr/11/the-potential-of-refugee-entrepreneurs-is-huge-but-they-need-our-help>

Refugees make great entrepreneurs and workers by Paul Blow, The Economist Online,

<https://www.economist.com/business/2019/11/21/refugees-make-great-entrepreneurs-and-workers>



Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year 2020
from all of us at the
UNCTAD Empretec Team!

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