



Graduation ceremony for online course on the interface between competition policy & MSME development

Thursday, 9 February 2023 (09:30 - 11:30), online

Under the United Nations Development Account project on “Global Initiative towards post-Covid-19 resurgence of the MSME sector”, UNCTAD launched the online course on the interface between competition policy & MSME development. The course aims to address member States’ requests for the link between competition and SMEs and the adoption of broader societal/economic objectives in competition policy enforcement.

This course took place from 1 November to 31 December 2022. In total, 67 out of 141 enrolled participants passed the course. As planned, the UNCTAD secretariat organizes this virtual graduation ceremony to congratulate successful participants for their efforts and achievements.

At the event, participants will have the opportunity to meet the trainers that developed the course, share their learning and feedback, connect with peer participants, and continue the discussion about competition policy and MSME development.

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PROGRAMME

- 09:30 - 09:40 **Opening remarks**
- Ms. Teresa Moreira, Head, Competition and Consumer Policies Branch, UNCTAD
- 09:40 – 10: 00 **Keynote speech**
- Dr. Teerawat Charoenrat, Associate Professor of Economics, Director, Centre for Entrepreneurship, Innovation and SME Development (CEISDA) in ASEAN Region, Khon Kaen University, Thailand
- 10:00 – 10:40 **Meet the trainers and experts (5 minutes each)**
- Mr. Thula Kaira, Former Senior Consultant, UNCTAD
 - Dr. Aruna Sharma, Practitioner Dev Economist & Former Secretary Ministry of Information Technology to the Government of India
 - Ms. Carolyne Ariokot, Manager for the Access and Usage pillar, Financial Sector Deepening, Uganda
 - Mr. Vinod Kumar, President, SME Forum, India
 - Dr. Cassey Lee, Senior Fellow, ISEAS, Singapore (TBC)
 - Ms. Rachel Burgess, ESCAP Consultant, Australia
- 10:40 – 10:50 **Q&A with the trainers**
- 10:50 – 11:00 **Congratulations to participants**
- Elizabeth Gachuri, Economic Affairs Officer, Competition and Consumer Policies Branch, UNCTAD
- 11:00 – 11:20 **Testimonials by course participants**
- 11:20 – 11:30 **Wrap-up and closing**

Moderation: Elizabeth Gachuri and Zilu Zhou