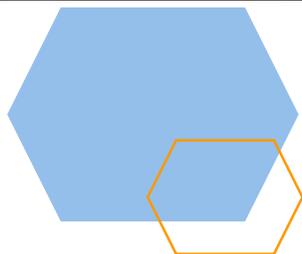


Volume 176



CONTENTS

WORLD SME
UPDATE

STARTUP UPDATE

EVENTS UPDATE

WASME UPDATE

WASME SME UPDATE

FORTNIGHTLY E- BULLETIN FOR GLOBAL UPDATE
ON SME NEWS, EVENTS, & PROGRAMS

ISSUE: 1-15 February 2023

ALBANIA

Investment Council Puts Forward Recommendations for Facilitating the SMEs Transitioning to Alternative Energy Sources

The Investment Council (IC) holds a plenary meeting to discuss the SMEs' challenges to transition to alternative energy sources chaired by the Minister of Finance and Economy, Ms Delina Ibrahimaj, with the special participation of the EBRD's Managing Director for Policy Strategy and Delivery, Mr Christoph Denk. The meeting was attended by the majority of IC members and around 40 observers representing the public and private sector and development agencies.

During her speech, Minister Ibrahimaj said that despite the global crisis, our country has shown resilience and flexibility, with the government taking adequate measures to accommodate new challenges. Green transitioning and investments in renewable energy at all business levels are common challenges and objectives, and stronger collaboration should be built for mutual initiatives in this direction. Albania is a country that produces electricity from renewable sources, and the Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy has taken several measures to diversify the supply of electricity. Taking into consideration that Albanian companies rely mainly on electricity, Minister Ibrahimaj said that the government has subsidized and will continue to subsidize the price of electricity for the majority of businesses. Finally, Minister Ibrahimaj emphasized the need for improving communication and strengthening cooperation with chambers of commerce and business associations.

IC Secretariat delivered a brief presentation with key findings and proposals to stimulate the dialogue on the SMEs' challenges for investing in alternative energy sources, with a focus on a) the quality of energy supply and factors influencing decision-making on alternative investment and b) awareness about access to finance. The Secretariat's rationale was elaborated based on information collected from pertinent desk research, focus group meetings in Tirana and regions with 47 participants, direct meetings with 15 partners, and a questionnaire with 75 companies. The study highlights the need for prioritizing interventions to address the entrepreneurs' uncertainties within the dynamics of the energy market and the Green Agenda.

During the open discussion session, the business representatives (Woman Economic Chamber, FIAA/Voltalia, Amcham, Chamber of Commerce of Tirana, Confindustria Albania, FIX Pro, Lufra) expressed their concerns about the current energy challenges and put forward several suggestions, such as the need for:

- The establishment of working groups between public institutions and chambers of commerce to stimulate awareness and knowledge among the private sector,
- Faster decision-making from public/financing institutions to facilitate the time business need for accessing finance,
- Incentives for the companies which invest in new technology to reduce energy consumption,
- Improved collaboration with the cadastre office to resolve critical issues with land titles and expropriation,

- Regulatory framework for the battery-based storage of energy,
- VAT exemption for imported photovoltaic equipment,
- Clear incentives at the EU standards for improving the distribution network.

The participants acknowledged the support given to date by the government in terms of mitigating the price of the energy while committed to be more proactive on the provision of comments on the draft laws published in the public consultation platform.

READ

BAHRAIN

Batelco signs a partnership agreement with the Bahrain Society for the Development of Small and Medium Enterprises

Batelco, part of the Beyon Group, and Bahrain Society for Small and Medium Enterprises Development signed a partnership agreement during a meeting held at Batelco's headquarters in Hamala. The agreement was signed by the President of the Association, MP Ahmed Sabah Al-Salloum, and Abdullah Danesh, General Manager of the Commercial Sector at Batelco.

As part of the agreement, Batelco will offer exclusive offers to entrepreneurs, business owners and business incubators affiliated with the association, by providing special prices for mobile, broadband and hardware packages, in addition to allocating a dedicated contact point for service and support for service provision. The point of contact will also provide training on communications solutions and technology to members on a regular basis.

Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Bahrain Society for the Development of Small and Medium Enterprises, Representative Ahmed Sabah Al Salloum, praised the great efforts made by Batelco and the continuous support it provides to small and medium enterprises and the economic sector in Bahrain in general.

Abdulla Danish, General Manager Commercial Sector at Batelco, stated: "Batelco pays great attention to the small and medium-sized enterprises sector, which is an important pillar in Bahrain's economy, and we are pleased to sign this agreement with the Bahrain Society for Small and Medium Enterprises Development."

He added, "We recognize the important role played by the enterprise sector in the Kingdom, and we are keen to develop the corporate growth process and increase the effectiveness of small and medium enterprises by providing them with the best solutions and services. Batelco is committed to digitally empowering these organizations, helping them to take advantage of the latest emerging technologies to enhance and expand their operations."

It is worth noting that the Bahrain Society for the Development of Small and Medium Enterprises was founded in 2012 under the chairmanship of Ahmed Sabah Al-Salloum

and the honorary presidency of Farouk Yousef Al-Moayyed, which mainly aims to support Bahrain's economic vision 2030. The Society is also honoured to manage and own 4 incubators out of about 19 in Bahrain, which are (Prosky, Alwani Center for Small Enterprises Development, Bahrain Gate, Gulf Gate Medical Complex), in addition to that the Gulf Gate Medical Complex is the first medical incubator of its kind in the Middle East

[READ](#)

COLAMBIA

National government issues decree 0142 on public purchases

The National Government issued Decree 0142 through which access to the public procurement system is promoted for cooperatives and other entities of the solidarity economy, in addition to incorporating social and environmental criteria in the contracting processes of state entities and includes the title of community enterprise.

In the case of cooperatives, this regulatory decree of the entrepreneurship law fully consolidates the legal approach and the advocacy effort of CONFECOOP as a union that represents the country's cooperatives, in addition to generating legal security and opportunities for organizations of a cooperative nature. , it is special those of production and work.

Article 2 of this norm, referring to the Annual Procurement Plan, ratifies the condition of any type of cooperative or solidarity economy entity, of being Mipyme, thus facilitating the conditions to access public procurement, in the understanding that state entities They must plan their contracting in a way that promotes the division of contracting processes into batches or segments in which the participation of MSMEs is facilitated.

In the same way, in article 3, emphasis is placed on the need to eliminate obstacles that could limit the participation of MSMEs in the contracting processes within the framework of the "Inclusive Business Fairs", ratifying the status of cooperatives as MSMEs.

For CONFECOOP, this standard constitutes an important element so that cooperatives that, due to their characteristics, are classified as MSMEs, can better access the public procurement scheme, while also being an incentive for the promotion and promotion of cooperatives in the real sector, a fundamental condition to consolidate the form of cooperative business as an option to generate income and decent jobs.

[READ](#)

INDIA

Union Budget to give a boost to exports and manufacturing

Union Budget 2023-24 has a slew of measures to give boost to exports and help accelerated growth of manufacturing in the country. The indirect tax simplification and rationalization has a clear export-oriented focus. Following are highlights for export and manufacturing Sector:

The Department of Commerce's recommendation on lab grown diamond (LGD) has been accepted whereby the research grant of Rs. 242 crore over a period of 5 years to IIT Madras has been approved. This will enable indigenization of the manufacturing process of LGD. Further, reduction of duty on LGD seeds from 5% to 0% has also been accepted which will result in reducing the cost of production of LGD growers and make our LGD exports globally competitive. The recommendation of the Department of Commerce for creating separate HS Codes for LGD has also been accepted. It would enable tracking the international trade in lab grown diamonds.

Custom duty on articles of precious metals such as gold, silver and platinum has been increased from 20% to 25% thereby increasing the duty differential to 10% over gold/silver/platinum bars. This will boost domestic manufacturing in the sector and result in import substitution. Custom duty on imitation jewellery has been enhanced from 20% to 25%. This will discourage cheap imports from China and encourage domestic manufacturing.

The reduction in import duty of fish meal from 15% to 5% will make the shrimp industry more competitive in the country and boost exports. The fish meal constitutes 40% of the cost of production of shrimps. This will also prevent incidence of juvenile fishing which is used for fish meal in domestic production and will thereby improve our marine fish stock availability.

The recommendation of Department of Commerce for increase in import duty on compound rubber from 10% to 25% has been agreed to. This will reduce the import of compound rubber in the country and boost demand and prices for natural rubber produced in the country. This will go a long way in supporting our natural rubber farmers and further increasing its production in the country.

The budget has identified financial sector as a priority sector. Measures to enhance business activities in GIFT IFSC, comprehensive review of existing financial sector regulations and support for digital payments will promote India's financial services exports in the long run.

Integrated development of at least 50 tourism destinations and measures related to enhancement of tourist's experience will provide impetus to foreign tourist arrival in India which will enhance tourism service exports.

Leveraging India's demographic dividend, 30 International Skill India Centres announced in the budget will help in making Indian professionals globally competitive and will foster growth of services exports through various modes.

Reduction of Customs duty on components of mobile phones, lithium-based batteries, open cells for TV panels etc. would go a long way in integrating into global value chain and enhancing India's exports of these products.

Customs duty exemption has been provided for capital goods for manufacture of lithium – ion cells for batteries used in EVs. This would help the automobile sector in maintaining its global competitiveness.

The focus on improving the quality and productivity of Shree Anna (Millets) through R&D grant to Indian Institute of Millet Research will help in positioning India as global leader in millet production and exports.

[READ](#)

KUWAIT

[NBK First Bank in Kuwait to Introduce SWIFT g4C Service](#)

National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) always seeks to provide the best and most advanced banking services. In this context, NBK announces introducing the SWIFT g4C service for tracking incoming international payments, which enables customers to know the details of incoming transfers since origination from the sending bank outside Kuwait, through intermediary banks, until reaching NBK.

The new service enables beneficiaries to track international incoming payments for individuals, corporates, and SMEs, by inquiring about them and verify their details before they are deposited to their accounts.

The SWIFT g4C service for tracking incoming international payments will make cross-border payments quicker and easier as well as enhance their security and reduce related risks, in view of the early detection of useful information that helps in making business decisions in the event that an incoming international transfer is validated and details matched.

Customers can also utilize this service to communicate with the bank using the official channels or contacting the account officer for companies and SMEs and sending Transaction Reference to obtain all the details of their incoming payment quickly and easily.

On this occasion, Mr. Mohammed Al-Kharafi, General Manager, Head of Group Operations at National Bank of Kuwait, said: "At NBK, we always seek to provide the most advanced digital services to our customers, in line with our commitment to the continuous development of our digital agenda and our tremendous technological infrastructure gives us the edge and leadership in this regard."

“The new service allows customers to better manage their liquidity, and helps them to make more accurate decisions regarding their financial transactions,” he noted. “NBK always strives to be closer to its customers, so the support team will be available around the clock to assist customers in providing the required information and benefitting from this service by contacting the bank using the official channels or contacting the dedicated account officer for companies and SMEs,” Al-Kharafi added.

Commenting on launching the new service, Mr. Abdullah Al-Mutawaa, AGM- Group Operations at NBK said: “NBK puts meeting customers’ needs at the heart of its operations, investing its enormous digital capabilities to provide the best-in-class products and services with the aim of offering customers an exceptional banking experience that is on par with the latest and most advanced international levels.”

“The new service also enhances security by providing capabilities and tools to control payments, and to generate daily reports on the transactions,” he pointed out.

On his part, Mr. Onur Ozan, Head of Middle East, Turkey and Northern Africa at SWIFT said: “The SWIFT g4C service for tracking incoming international payments tracking will enhance liquidity forecasting and reconciliation for NBK’s customers, enabling them to see when a payment is on its way and when it will arrive. This opens up a realm of new opportunities for businesses to cut costs, manage risks and reduce friction.”

NBK is also the first bank to introduce the latest technologies in instant payments and transfers in Kuwait, including (SWIFT gpi) service for tracking payments on its digital channels: NBK Mobile Banking, NBK Online Banking and NBK Online Corporate Banking, enabling customers to check the status of their transfers online in quick and secure way.

[READ](#)

KENIA

MyCredit and Oikocredit US\$ 2.6 million partnership to fund SMEs in Kenya

Social impact investor Oikocredit has approved a loan facility of US\$ 2.6 million (KES 325 million) to MyCredit Limited. MyCredit is a non-bank financial institution in Nairobi, Kenya with over 10,000 customers. Through this new partnership with Oikocredit, MyCredit will fulfil its mission to support businesses and local communities to achieve greater financial freedom through tailor-made loans to small and medium enterprises (SMEs), professionals and civil servants.

With this investment, MyCredit will continue to improve access to capital for SMEs in a fast, convenient and affordable way. The institution has disbursed 15,500 loans to customers across Kenya with a total value of KES 6.08 billion in the last six years. Over that period, MyCredit has opened 15 branches and created 158 jobs.

This new funding deal contributes to Oikocredit's mission to provide loans to organisations active in the financial inclusion sector and improve lives for low-income households throughout Kenya.

George Mbira, MyCredit's CEO said: "The secured funding will support MyCredit's strategic plan to offer affordable and medium-term financing of up to a maximum of three years to its SME customers who are in trading businesses. Through this partnership, the SMEs will be able to create more job opportunities in the communities within which they operate.

At MyCredit, we are excited to build a truly pan-African business in the next 10 years, opening branches in all 47 counties and commercial centres to reach and develop missing middle enterprises."

Michael Kariah, Oikocredit's Investment Officer East and Southern Africa said: "This transaction enables Oikocredit and MyCredit to work together to provide funding to support SMEs in Kenya and further extend our social impact. SMEs are one of the main pillars of economic growth as they have a multiplier effect of supporting many households through the creation of sustainable jobs. Our funding and capacity-building support will enable the company to make further progress in key impact areas while expanding the outreach to more underserved SMEs in the country.

[READ](#)

NAMIBIA

Ministry of Finance and Public Enterprises, Bank of Namibia Revive SME Economic Recovery Loan Scheme

Through its reinstated SME Economic Recovery Loan Scheme, the Ministry of Finance and Public Enterprises and the Bank of Namibia last week upheld commitment towards supporting Small and Medium Enterprises effectively to guarantee economic revival by availing N\$ 500 million towards the scheme for eligible enterprises.

The loan scheme has been designed to assist Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to withstand the prevailing economic challenges by providing working capital and liquidity to aid them in managing their cashflows and cover certain costs. As a result, they will continue operating and covering their expenditures while restructuring their operating models to future-proof their businesses. This will promote economic development and reduce unemployment and income inequality in Namibia.

In collaboration with the participating banks, the Ministry of Finance and Public Enterprises and the Bank of Namibia reformed the former Covid-19 SME Loan

to accommodate SMEs that struggled to meet the qualifying criteria and expanded the reach so that business owners are aware of the facility and can participate meaningfully

The revised features of the scheme will enable SMEs to qualify for loans ranging from N\$ 50 000 (Fifty thousand Namibia dollars) up to NS 10 000 000 (Ten million Namibia dollars). The obligation to pay interest and capital on these loans will be deferred for six months from the date of the first drawdown. The loans are granted at the prevailing prime lending rate minus 50 basis points.

Interested SMEs should have an annual turnover not exceeding NS 60 000 000 (sixty million Namibia dollars) and should be able to continue operations in the foreseeable future by demonstrating solvency. Entities (including sole proprietorships) should be registered with BIPA and, where it is a regulatory requirement, registered with the national tax authority, Namibia Revenue Agency (NamRa). Enterprises that wish to be assisted through the scheme should ensure that they have no existing business recovery loans in place with any other financial institution.

As business models are being upended, the Governor of the Bank of Namibia urged businesspeople to access financing provided through the scheme while also reconsidering and rethinking their business models to develop viable opportunities for the future. "It makes sense to begin planning now to capitalize on potential opportunities, especially in developing sectors such as green hydrogen, oil and rare-earth metals. Sectors of strategic importance, such as non-renewable and renewable energy, should prioritise local suppliers and the development of local competencies across value chains."

Deputy Minister of Finance and Public Enterprises, Maureen Hinda-Mbuende, extended her acknowledgment to the partners in the operationalization of the scheme who made it more responsive to the SME sector needs. "The overarching objective of the new scheme is to lend a helping hand to those critical but struggling businesses in our economy. This sector has adjusted the sails in response to the headwinds faced, and our businesspeople have shown tenacity and perseverance".

Participating banks in this scheme are FNB Namibia, Bank Windhoek, Standard Bank and Nedbank. Interested SMEs are therefore encouraged to engage their respective banks for more information on credit terms and conditions. Participating banks will receive applications and do credit assessments at their discretion.

[READ](#)

SINGAPORE

Roundup of Budget 2023: key points to note for S'porean businesses

The Singapore Budget 2023 was announced by Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Lawrence Wong on 14 February, with media such as the state-funded Straits Times praising it as a progressive and generous national budget.

Support for SMEs to be increased

S\$150 million is also to be set aside for the SME Co-Investment Fund. The fund itself is intended to help promising startups from Singapore get the funding support that they need. An additional S\$300 million of private investments will also be used to support these SMEs.

Under this programme, the government provides additional funding for startups in conjunction with private sector investments, and thus far, around 60 local companies have received investments from this fund.

According to DPM Wong, the total revenues of these companies have since more than doubled, with more than half of them developing new capabilities or expanding beyond Singapore.

These results were obtained with the investment of S\$1 billion from the government into Heliconia Capital, an investment firm that focuses on growth-oriented Singapore companies and a subsidiary of Temasek Holdings.

[READ](#)



ABU DHABI'S HUB71

Abu Dhabi's Hub71 unveils new ecosystem to support Web3 start-ups

Abu Dhabi global technology hub Hub71 has unveiled a specialist ecosystem to hasten the growth of Web3 start-ups.

Hub71+ Digital Assets will give Web3 start-ups access to all stakeholders, such as venture capital companies, customers, technology providers, blockchain platforms and the regulator, the Abu Dhabi Global Market. "Just like we built a global tech ecosystem, we wanted to start creating sub hubs that focus on specific sectors," said Peter Abou Hachem, head of strategy and product at Hub71.

"Our anchor partners for the new ecosystem are Hub71, ADGM and First Abu Dhabi Bank. In the ecosystem, start-ups will also have market access in the form of customers or corporations, VCs [venture capital firms] that invest in Web3, blockchain platforms, technology providers like Amazon Web Services and Mastercard, and digital asset exchanges like MidChains and Binance that will facilitate the trading and custody of digital assets."

Venture capital funds will initially offer \$2 billion worth of investment, with plans to further grow the investor network for digital assets.

FAB will identify Web3 startups, entrepreneurs and breakthrough technologies to help it reimagine financial services in the metaverse, according to Hub71.

Web3 is the emerging third generation of the World Wide Web, with blockchain, decentralisation, openness and greater user utility among its core components.

Its market size is expected to be valued at about \$6.2 billion in 2023 and grow at a compound annual rate of 44.6 per cent from 2023 to 2030, according to Market Research Future.

Hub71, backed by the Abu Dhabi government and sovereign wealth fund Mubadala Investment Company, has more than 200 start-ups that raised more than \$1 billion in funding from 30 VCs and generated close to \$800 million in revenue since its launch in 2019.

The highest amount raised by a start-up after joining Hub71 stands at \$1.9 million, while the average funding is \$463,000. The ecosystem will support start-ups at the concept stage, as well as those that are seeking to scale up. "We look at how experienced and qualified the founders are, [their] product market fit and fund-raising by the start-up. We leverage insights from our partners to know which start-ups can be regulated," he said.

Once accepted into the ecosystem after the vetting process, the start-ups will have access to the partners, including technical professionals, to support growth. They will also be eligible for Hub71's \$150,000 government grant that can be used to reduce a start-up's operational costs, such as those linked to hiring lawyers, building a website or leasing office space or housing for employees in Abu Dhabi, Mr Hachem said.

Dedicated venture capital firms will help start-ups raise funds in line with the way the industry works in Web3, while technical engineers will support them to build on the blockchain infrastructure.

“We have seen a lot of Web3 companies come to Abu Dhabi from Singapore, Hong Kong, Switzerland and Miami,” he said. “Hub71+ Digital Assets signifies that Abu Dhabi is open to disruptive businesses driving forward change and transformation on a global level,” Ahmad Ali Alwan, deputy chief executive of Hub71, said.

The selected start-ups can also use Hub71’s global partnerships with similar centres to help in their expansion. “Any new technology requires all the right stakeholders to be together. We aim to bring them together to de-risk the industry and discuss its future,” Mr Hachem said. All new technology faces challenges when it comes to adoption, ranging from a lack of talent required to build the platform to regulation failing to keep up, he said. “Having the regulator on board offers reassurance to any investor that start-ups are vetted from a regulatory perspective.”

The new ecosystem will help start-ups and digital assets to benefit from ADGM’s diverse ecosystem and progressive regulatory environment, according to Dhafer Al Mheiri, chief executive of the free zone. Hub71 also plans to soon unveil specialised ecosystems for health technology and life sciences, and climate technology. “We align our focus sectors with the Abu Dhabi Executive Office and the wider economic vision,” Mr Hachem said.

Hub71+ Digital Assets will contribute to supporting the UAE Digital Economy Strategy, which aims to double the contribution of the digital economy to non-oil gross domestic product to more than 20 per cent within 10 years, according to the tech hub. It also provided no less than 2,500 hours of mentorship to startups, alongside organising 15 investor and industry meets, and 40-plus workshops. KSUM Chief Executive Officer Anoop Ambika said 2022 marked a fruitful year for the agency with a “notable rise” in the stature of the state’s startup ecosystem.

[READ](#)

WORLD’S FIRST CULTIVATED TENDERLOIN STEAK

Swiss Start-Up Mirai Foods Debuts the World’s First Cultivated Tenderloin Steak

Mirai Foods, the Switzerland-based food tech startup working on cultivated meat, says it has achieved a breakthrough with the first tenderloin steak grown from cells. Mirai Food’s achievement comes by way of a natural cell process that allows for tissue cultivation that can mimic conventional meat. It’s dubbed the tech, which it’s filed three patents on, “Fibration Technology.”

Cultivated filet

“Other types of meat can already be produced in the lab,” Christoph Mayr, CEO and co-founder of Mirai Foods, said in a statement. “A fillet steak is the ultimate challenge: it consists of different cell types, which — if combined correctly — result in a complex meat structure,” Mayr says.

“This structuring process is technologically challenging, making steaks extremely difficult to produce. That’s why Mirai Foods is taking an important step towards sustainable meat with the first cultivated beef tenderloin steak.”

The steak was made in Mirai Foods’ in-house developed bioreactor, dubbed “The Rocket”. Mirai says the steak is made with long, fully mature cultivated muscle fibers, which are then combined by enzymes and supplemented with cultivated fat tissue. The process requires five days in a bioreactor, Mirai says, and then “a tenderloin centerpiece is complete, from which steaks of almost any thickness can be cut.”

“We have filed three international patents for this key technology,” Suman Das, CSO and co-founder of Mirai Foods, said. “We can deliver a real alternative to conventional meat: Using our technology, one can prepare and eat a real steak — and know that no animal had to die for it and the climate is not harmed. Nutrition is a huge lever for greater climate protection and animal welfare: demand for meat is expected to double by 2050; conventional methods of meat production cannot meet this demand at all, and certainly not in a sustainable way.”

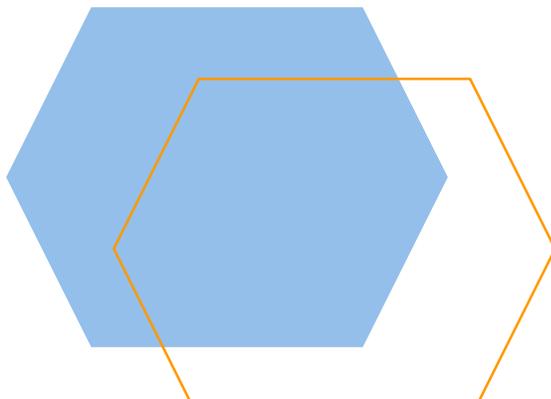
Whole-cut cultivated meat

Mirai is building on the industry’s increasing efforts to produce whole cuts of meat through cultivation; the majority of products thus far have more resembled mince for use in burgers and nuggets. But in 2023 alone, U.K.-based BSF Enterprises debuted a whole-cultivated pork loin, and researchers in Japan say they’ve also developed a whole-cut steak from cultured cells.

According to Mirai, it’s also one of just a few cultivated meat companies in the world capable of making the meat without the use of genetic engineering — a controversial tech most known for its link with seeds engineered to withstand heavy applications of herbicides. GMOs are heavily restricted in the E.U., and Mirai says the absence of the tech in its meat is geared toward the preferences of European consumers “while maintaining the highest standards of taste, quality, and health.”

Mirai Foods’ tenderloin debut comes as Zürich-based food and meat producer Angst AG has joined the company along with several other investors. Angst AG is expected to bring Mirai’s cultivated meat into its range of offerings once the tech has earned regulatory approval. Mirai, which launched in 2019, has raised more than \$5 million in funding in a 2021 Seed round.

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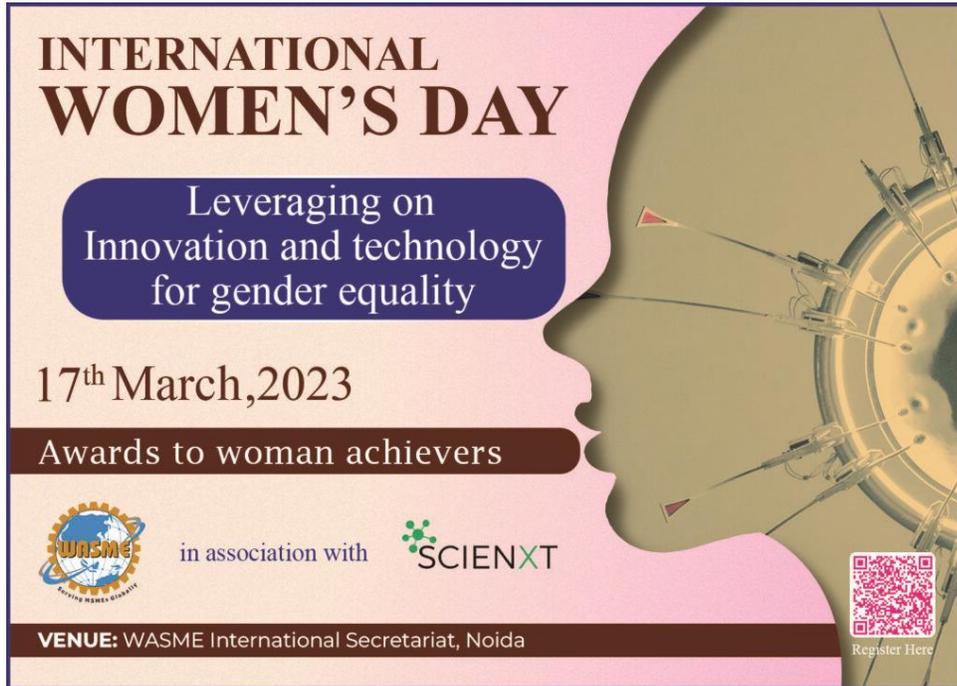
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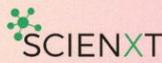


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MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

Since its inception, WASME has been rendering quality services to its members. Our membership offers access to all facilities of WASME including right to participate, access to circulars, literature, documents etc.

Our members support WASME's mission to advance, promote and support SMEs in their respective countries through association and collaboration mechanism with local government bodies, regional authorities, international linkages, civil societies and SMEs.

General Members	Any Government Organizations, Small Business Authorities, Authorities bodies, Financial Institutions, Chambers of Commerce and Industry, SME Associations, Training Institutes, Consultancy Organisations, Technology Providers etc.
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For more information visit our website: www.wasmeinfo.org or contact

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WASME is an International Non-Governmental Organization that has observer and consultative status with many UN agencies, such as UNIDO, UNCTAD, UNICITRAL, WIPO, ILO, ECOSOC, UNESCAP, ITC, and UNESCO. Additionally, WASME has several inter-governmental and international organization affiliations. It has been striving to stimulate, foster, promote, and coordinate international cooperation for the growth & development of MSMEs.

WASME was founded in 1980 with the goal of supporting MSMEs in member countries. We have achieved this through our strong association with local government bodies, regional authorities, international linkages, civil societies, SMEs, etc. We are continuously working to improve our innovative and sustainable framework so that we can better serve MSMEs around the world.

WASME's fortnightly SME e-Bulletin "WORLD SME UPDATE" aims to keep its readers abreast of latest information on various developments taking place in the SME sector around the globe. If you have any news/information on the issues related to Government policies & programmers and latest developments in the SME sector i.e. technology and innovations, success stories, case studies, research and methods, planning and programs, training and developments, finance and management, and marketing that you would like to share with the world SME community, please do send them to us at editor@wasmeinfo.org

We always welcome your valuable feedback/comments on the SME e-Bulletin to further enhance our services on information dissemination. Hence, please send us your valuable guidance as well as meaningful articles as a regular contribution to SME e-Bulletin and our website in the larger interests and benefits of SMEs the world over.

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