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ON SME NEWS, EVENTS, & PROGRAMS

ISSUE: 1-15 May 2023

Australia

Announcing a new Industry Growth Program

As part of the 2023-24 May Budget, the Australian Government announced a new \$392.4 million Industry Growth Program for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and startups. This new initiative will launch in late 2023. It will provide advice and matched grant funding for SMEs and startups to commercialize their ideas and grow their businesses.

Innovative SMEs and startups play a crucial role in the economy, but many have difficulty bringing their ideas to market. The Industry Growth Program will support early-stage businesses in their most challenging development phase. Projects in the priority areas of the National Reconstruction Fund will be eligible for the Industry Growth Program includes renewables and low emissions technologies, medical science, transport, value-add in the agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors, value-add in resources, defense capability, Enabling capabilities.

We anticipate the program will have these key design features:

- directly contracted experienced advisers to guide SMEs and startups on commercialization and early-stage business growth
- an additional source of industry advice, leveraging sector expertise from not-for-profit industry bodies
- a new independent committee to give recommendations on projects to receive grant funding
- an Executive Director to manage and oversee program advisers, and share expertise
- a Centre of Expertise to build real-world commercialization capability within our department and broader Australian Public Service.

Closing the Entrepreneurs' Programme

As part of this announcement, the Entrepreneurs' Programme has now closed. All applications submitted to the Entrepreneurs' Programme prior to the closure will be assessed and honoured if eligible. All existing grant agreements will be honoured, and recipients may finish their projects as agreed.

Closing the Entrepreneurs' Programme enables funding to be better targeted to support SMEs through the new Industry Growth Program. The needs of SMEs have continued to evolve since the Entrepreneurs' Programme started in 2014. The new program builds on the successful elements of the Accelerating Commercialisation component of the Entrepreneurs' Programme.

A range of support for businesses remains available at business.gov.au. A further \$39.6 million is allocated in the 2023-24 Budget to maintain the Single Business Service, which operates the business.gov.au website and Contact Centre (13 28 46)..

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Bulgaria

EIF and UniCredit sign agreements to channel €1 billion to small businesses across seven countries in Central and Eastern Europe

The European Investment Fund (EIF), part of the EIB Group, is providing UniCredit Group with two guarantees worth €370 million to boost investment made by small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs) across seven EU countries, including Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia. The transactions are backed by InvestEU, the European Union's long-term funding programme to support sustainable investment, innovation and job creation in Europe aiming to mobilise at least €372 billion in investments for EU policy priorities by 2027.

The EIF guarantees backed by InvestEU will enable UniCredit to provide loans on favourable conditions to 2 500 SMEs and small mid-caps across Europe and mobilise investment of around €1 billion into the real economy. The resources will primarily go towards investment contributing to the twin green and digital transition, but also to boost the cultural, educational and social sectors.

As part of UniCredit's green lending strategy, loans will also be provided to housing associations and individuals for their own renewable energy and energy efficiency investments in residential buildings, as well as to promote the development of sustainable mobility.

"The excellent relationship between the EIB Group and UniCredit Group is key to reaching as many small businesses as possible across Central and Eastern Europe, ensuring they have the resources needed to invest in a brighter, more sustainable, and innovative future," said Chair of the EIF Gelsomina Vigliotti. *"This operation once again shows the EIF's commitment to facilitating access to finance for Europe's 23 million SMEs, which represent 99% of all businesses and provide around three-quarters of all jobs in the European Union."*

European Commissioner for Economy Paolo Gentiloni said: *"InvestEU is a key instrument for supporting SMEs and small mid-caps across Europe. Thanks to this agreement, businesses in Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia will be able to accelerate their transition towards a greener and more digital economy, for instance with investments in the energy efficiency of residential buildings. We are proud to provide the necessary support to businesses in these countries to achieve this goal and create jobs."*

UniCredit CEO Andrea Orcel added: *"Providing sustainable finance to fuel social investments and innovation is a critical aspect of our pledge to improve the social aspect of environmental, social and governance in any way we can. In the last ten years, our work with EIB Group has enabled easier access to financing for more than 12 000 small and mid-sized businesses in Central and Eastern Europe."*

Our firm presence and local networks in the region meant that we, in strategic partnership with the EIF and the EIB Group, received the region's biggest allocation of InvestEU guarantee capacity. This will enable us to provide even more for clients as we continuously strive to fulfil our purpose of empowering communities to progress."

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Kazakhstan

Kazakh Prime Minister Reaffirms Support for Midsize Businesses

A wide range of issues of development of the manufacturing industry was discussed at the meeting of Prime Minister Alikhan Smailov with representatives of medium-sized businesses.

The discussion was attended by entrepreneurs from Astana, Almaty and Shymkent, Atameken, as well as ministers, deputy akims of cities and heads of quasi-public sector responsible for promotion of business initiatives and state support.

In March, at the opening of the first session of the 8th Parliament, the head of state noted that the country needs a "new wave" of entrepreneurs capable of taking responsibility for economic progress. *"It is the medium business that has high expectations, which should become the core of this progress, the growth driver of the manufacturing sector with the production of competitive products and the provision of a wide range of services,"* Alikhan Smailov emphasized.

During the meeting, participants discussed issues of access to finance, increasing output, import substitution and development of new production niches, implementation of state support programs, public procurement, taxation, certification, development of industrial zones and industrial parks, innovation, exports, job creation, training of specialists and a number of other issues.

Deputy Prime Minister – Minister of Trade and Integration Serik Zhumangarin, Industry and Infrastructural Development Marat Karabayev, Science and Higher Education Sayasat Nurbek, Healthcare Azhar Giniyat made comments on key problematic issues.

Prime Minister stressed that state agencies will be instructed to work with the business community to address all voiced questions. In his speech he noted that, according to world practice, medium-sized businesses are most adapted to constantly changing market conditions. This makes it a major player in economic development. In this regard, the most developed countries actively encourage small businesses to expand and strengthen their position in the global market.

"Here we do not need to go far for examples. Companies such as Samsung, Toyota or Hyundai also started out as small and medium-sized enterprises, and today we know them as successful world leaders. In turn, I want to assure you that the government will continue to take all necessary measures to create a favorable environment and comprehensive support for business," Alikhan Smailov said.

The Head of Government added that a new Tax Code that would reduce the burden and simplify tax administration procedures was being developed.

In addition, in order to further protect the rights of entrepreneurs it is being introduced regulation "from scratch", which will abolish 10 thousand unreasonable requirements for business and automate procedures in all spheres of state control.

"This will allow from the new year, after the end of the moratorium on inspections of business, all schedules of inspections will be formed on the basis of automated risk management systems, eliminating the human factor. This will reduce the number of inspections and increase the effectiveness of state control," Prime Minister said.

He also added that on behalf of the President a new model of public-private partnership had been developed to facilitate access to public resources and infrastructure. At the local level will also continue to support the allocation of land, infrastructure and other issues within the competence of the akimats.

"The akimats have set specific KPIs for attracting investment in fixed capital and creating new jobs. At the same time today corporate income taxes from SMEs are transferred to the local budget level, so the akimats are interested in expanding the private sector. I want to emphasize once again that the Government is also always open to dialogue with the business and is ready to support projects that contribute to its development," Alikhan Smailov concluded.

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The Islamic corporation for the development of the private sector and leasing group sign Kazakhstan Tenge-denominated deal in equivalent of us\$5 million to boost SMEs in Kazakhstan

Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector (ICD) and JSC "Leasing Group" (LG) signed an agreement in relation to the Kazakhstan Tenge (KZT) denominated line of finance facility (LoF) equivalent of US\$5 million to support private sector businesses, especially small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), in Kazakhstan. It is symbolic that the LoF agreement was signed on the sidelines of the IsDB Group Private Sector Forum held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia during 11th – 13th May 2023.

ICD, rated 'A+' by Fitch Ratings, established its second sukuk programme in June 2021, which is a multicurrency programme dedicated to local currency issuance. This is part of ICD's resource mobilization program to support the ICD's LoF operations in Kazakhstan and develop the private sector in the country. Institutional investors in Kazakhstan have expressed preliminary interest to participate in the first tranche of the Kazakhstan Tenge (KZT) Sukuk issuance. The proceeds of the Sukuk will be deployed to extend LoF's to financial institutions (FIs) and non-banking financial institutions (NBFIs) operating in Kazakhstan for the development of the private sector. Both deployment and repayments will be denominated in KZT.

This transaction (ICD's local currency Sukuk issuance and LoF operation) is the first of its kind for ICD and can be replicated in other member countries, giving ICD the capability of funding in local currency. Consequently, the successful implementation and closing of this transaction will pave the way for ICD to expand its reach in its member countries.

The LoF agreement was signed by Eng. Hani Salem Sonbol, the Acting Chief Executive Officer of ICD, and Mr. Arsen Subbotin, Chairman of the Management Board of LG. The funds will be used by LG to provide Shari'ah-compliant financing in the national currency of Kazakhstan to eligible private sector enterprises across various sectors of the economy.

"This transaction is a testament to our successful partnership with Leasing Group, which will be instrumental in supporting private sector development in Kazakhstan through this landmark local-currency denominated Line of Financing (LOF) funded by the ICD's KZT-denominated Sukuk Programme. We are delighted that the ICD's KZT-denominated Sukuk will contribute to the development of the capital markets, while the underlying LOF facility to Leasing Group will support the private sector and promote Islamic finance / financial inclusion in the country," said Eng. Hani Salem Sonbol.

"We appreciate ICD's support and line of finance, which will enable us to continue providing much-needed support to private sector businesses in Kazakhstan, especially SMEs" said Mr. Arsen Subbotin.

This LoF reinforces ICD's commitment to promoting private sector development in its member countries and supporting Islamic finance worldwide, and Leasing Group's dedication to economic growth and fostering financial inclusion in Kazakhstan. With this line of finance, ICD and Leasing Group are providing a boost to private sector businesses in Kazakhstan, particularly SMEs, which have a crucial role to play in the country's growth and development.

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Namibia

Bank Windhoek disburses N\$50 million for ESME support

Since March 2023, Bank Windhoek has disbursed N\$50 million to support the Namibian Government's Small-Medium Enterprise (SME) Economic Recovery Loan Scheme launched in February. The news was shared on Tuesday, 9 May 2023, by Bank Windhoek's Executive Officer of Business Banking, Leon Koch, who encouraged eligible SMEs to approach the Bank for assistance.

"As a connector of positive change, we support the development of SMEs because they play a crucial role in the Namibian economy through value creation in various sectors and also assisting in reducing unemployment," said Koch.

The SME Economic Recovery Loan Scheme is an initiative the Namibian Government introduced in partnership with several local banking institutions, including Bank Windhoek and the Bank of Namibia. *"It aims to stimulate economic growth and job creation by providing additional funding to SME businesses to enable them to continue to pay their operational expenses and to retain and pay their employees, also referred to as working capital,"* he said.

Koch added that through this scheme, Bank Windhoek would extend loans to qualifying SMEs at the Prime Lending Rate of less than 0.5 percent. He explained that the obligation to pay the interest and capital on these loans is deferred for six months from the day of signing the agreement.

He also emphasised that the critical qualifying criteria for Bank Windhoek are that the SME customer should have an existing relationship with Bank Windhoek through lending or transactional banking. *"They should also be a registered business entity with the Business and Intellectual Property Authority (BIPA), including a sole proprietorship. The customers should also have a maximum annual turnover not exceeding sixty million Namibia dollars per annum,"* he said.

Koch also said that to qualify for assistance, the applicant should not have previously participated or have any existing SME Economic Recovery Loan with Bank Windhoek or any other financial institution.

The economic slowdown experienced since 2016 severely impacted Businesses and SME businesses specifically. The Government created the scheme to assist SMEs during challenging financial situations.

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UK

UK strikes biggest trade deal since Brexit to join major free trade bloc in Indo-Pacific

The UK will join the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), a vast free trade area of 11 countries spanning the Indo-Pacific, the Prime Minister has announced today [Friday 31March].

The historic agreement follows two years of intense negotiations by the Department for Business and Trade and puts the UK at the heart of a dynamic group of economies, as the first European member and first new member since CPTPP was created. We would not have been able to join as a member of the EU, demonstrating how the UK is seizing the opportunities of our new post-Brexit trade freedoms to drive jobs and growth across the country.

The bloc is home to more 500 million people and will be worth 15% of global GDP once the UK joins. It is estimated that joining will boost the UK economy by £1.8 billion in the long run, with wages also forecast to rise by £800 million compared to 2019 levels.

Being part of CPTPP will support jobs and economic growth across the country, with every nation and region expected to benefit. More than 99 percent of UK goods exports to CPTPP countries will now be eligible for zero tariffs, including key UK exports such as cheese, cars, chocolate, machinery, gin and whisky.

Total UK exports to CPTPP countries were already worth £60.5 billion in the 12 months to the end of September 2022 and are set to grow under CPTPP. Our leading services industry will also benefit from reduced red tape and greater access to growing Pacific markets with an appetite for high-quality UK products and services.

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said: *We are at our heart an open and free-trading nation, and this deal demonstrates the real economic benefits of our post-Brexit freedoms. As part of CPTPP, the UK is now in a prime position in the global economy to seize opportunities for new jobs, growth and innovation.*

Joining the CPTPP trade bloc puts the UK at the centre of a dynamic and growing group of Pacific economies, as the first new nation and first European country to join. British businesses will now enjoy unparalleled access to markets from Europe to the south Pacific. Negotiations to join the CPTPP, which began in June 2021, concluded after an intensive round of talks in Vietnam earlier this month, with representatives from all member countries agreeing to the UK's accession.

The agreement protects the UK's vital industries and entities, including agriculture and the National Health Service, and upholds our high animal welfare and food safety standards. Dairy farmers will benefit from lower tariffs on exports of products like cheese and butter to Canada, Chile, Japan and Mexico, building on the £23.9 million of dairy products we exported to these countries in 2022.

Business and Trade Secretary Kemi Badenoch said:

This is an important moment for the UK. Our accession to CPTPP sends a powerful signal that the UK is open for business and using our post-Brexit freedoms to reach out to new markets around the world and grow our economy. Joining CPTPP will support jobs and create opportunities for companies of all sizes and in all parts of the UK. It is about giving British businesses improved access to the countries that will be gateway to the wider Indo-Pacific region which is projected to make up the majority of global growth in the future.

Membership is a gateway to the wider Indo-Pacific region, which has 60% of the world's population and is set to account for the majority (54%) of global economic growth and around half of the world's billion middle-class consumers in the decades ahead. CPTPP was created to grow and as a member, we will help shape its development and fight unfair and coercive trading practices. As more economies join the bloc, UK businesses will benefit from access to new markets.

Additional benefits of UK accession to CPTPP include:

Boosting services: The UK is the world's second largest services provider and services accounted for 43% of our trade with CPTPP members last year. Joining the bloc will slash red tape – UK firms will not be required to establish a local office or be resident to supply a service and will be able to operate on a par with local firms.

Increased flexibility: Modern 'rules of origin' could make British businesses more competitive by allowing them to trade more freely across the bloc. For example, UK car manufacturers could sell car engines tariff-free to a car maker in the bloc who could then sell those cars tariff-free to any member country. This is currently not possible under all the bilateral trade agreements the UK has in place with CPTPP members and will help exporters diversify their supply chains and create new export opportunities.

Pro-investment: Investment between the UK and CPTPP countries is expected to increase as the agreement contains provisions to limit barriers and encourage more inward investment. Inward investment stocks to the UK from CPTPP countries were worth £182 billion in 2021.

Cutting-edge: Remotely delivered services from the UK to CPTPP were worth £20.5 billion in 2020. CPTPP sets modern rules for digital trade across all sectors of the economy and will support UK businesses of all sizes to seek new opportunities in CPTPP markets.

New markets: Joining means we will have a Free Trade Agreement with Malaysia for the first time, giving businesses far more access to an economy worth £271 billion in GDP in 2021. Tariffs of around 80% will be eliminated on UK exports of whisky and 30% on UK exports of cars, helping the UK get a larger share of the market.

The UK and CPTPP members will now take the final legal and administrative steps required for the UK to formally sign in 2023.

Matthew Fell, CBI Interim Director-General, said: *Joining CPTPP is a real milestone for the UK and for British industry. Not only does the agreement provide greater access to a group of fast growth economies representing 14% of global GDP and over 500 million consumers, but membership reinforces the UK's commitment to building partnerships in an increasingly fragmented world. CPTPP countries and business need to work together to future proof the rules-based trading system and stimulate growth with a focus on digital, services and resilient supply chains.*

Saif Malik, CEO UK and Regional Head, Client Coverage, UK & Europe at Standard Chartered, said: *The benefits of UK accession for British businesses are clear: modern data and digital standards, significant tariff reductions and enhanced access to some of the world's most dynamic markets. As a global trade bank with a strong network across much of the CPTPP, we welcome the UK Government's success in agreeing accession to one of the world's largest free trade areas.*

Anishka Jelich, Director of Public Affairs, Pernod Ricard UK said: *CPTPP is a big opportunity for our Scotch whisky business. Five of our top 20 export markets are CPTPP members. We expect tariff cuts and smoother access to some of the world's fastest growing economies to increase exports and secure jobs and investment in the UK, with sales doubling in some markets.*

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Australia

Start-ups urge Australia to ditch 'risk-averse' approach to lithium battery investment

Renewable startups are urging state and federal governments to take greater risks by investing in small-to-medium sized renewable battery companies and prevent Australia missing out on the lithium boom.

A recent report by consulting firm the McKinsey Global Institute estimated that surging demand for lithium-ion batteries would see the sector grow from \$126 billion to almost \$600 billion by the end of the decade.

The federal government in February began consultation on its National Battery Framework Issues paper to help develop a roadmap for investing in Australia's fledgling battery manufacturing industry.

In its submission, Sicon Battery Technologies (SBT) identified obstacles to creating a domestic manufacturing industry. It said that while Australia possessed the relevant resources and technical expertise, its "institutions" were taking a "risk-averse approach". "Governments (federal and state) should be more willing to take a risk and accept that some of their grant recipients will fail," the next-generation battery materials company said. "Invest in everything. We should be proud to invest in competitors and competing technologies."

SBT said grant application rules needed overhauling to consider the needs of startup, small and medium-sized companies, particularly the requirement that applicants secure capital before applying for government funding.

The company also suggested hiring startup experts to help Australian universities successfully commercialise their technology.

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Qatar

UNWTO launches startup contest to support women entrepreneurs in Qatar and beyond.

The United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) has announced a new initiative aimed at promoting and supporting women-led startups in the tourism industry in the Middle East.

The organisation launched an entrepreneurial competition to bring awareness to the vitality of innovation as a relevant factor for tourism development among women in Qatar and the wider Middle East region.

In a recent interview with The Peninsula, Luis Nicolás Barrios, the Regional Manager of Innovation, Education, and Investments at UNWTO, explained that the organisation's latest initiative is the first of its kind with a regional scope.

Its primary objective is to identify and support new and relevant entrepreneurial ventures led by women in various economic sectors that are closely linked to tourism.

"Middle East is our latest initiative in this format, and first with regional scope, with the goal to map and support new and relevant entrepreneurial efforts led by women in a range of economic sectors directly connected with tourism," he told the local news.

Since its inception in 2018, UNWTO's innovation and digital transformation agenda has hosted close to 23 startup competitions across more than 150 countries..

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Egypt

Khazenly startup launches 'Across-Borders' to help Egyptian merchants expand abroad

Khaznely, a leading company in the field of digital warehousing, processing and delivery services, has announced the launch of its latest service "Across Borders", which provides Egyptian merchants with complete solutions to expand in new markets. The service provides full logistical support that includes shipping abroad, dealing with returns and all local supplies, in addition to providing all necessary certificates, documents and permits to work in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in cooperation with a group of local banks and electronic payment companies in line with the Egyptian state's strategy to increase exports and foreign exchange.

The launch of the service from Khazenly comes within the framework of the company's strategy to expand its business and push the e-commerce sector in Egypt, as the company provides integrated logistical solutions and services to merchants in order to help them develop their business. The service will have a significant impact on Egyptian exports, especially in the sectors of textiles, clothing, fashion, cosmetics, light, electronics and home supplies, which the company will focus on during the first phase of launching the service. This step is in line with Khazenly's keenness on making Egyptian products available outside the local market, which can enhance their competitiveness and contribute to the growth of the Egyptian economy.

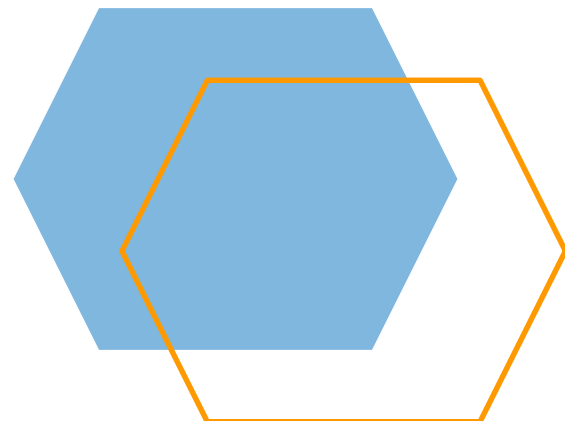
“We always aim to enable local merchants and manufacturers in Egypt to develop their business and commercial activities. Their success is our success, so we constantly strive to provide a range of innovative solutions that provide them with unprecedented growth opportunities. Therefore, we launched the “Across Borders” service, through which they can sell their products, complete all their commercial transactions in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and be able to receive payments in foreign currency,” said Osama El-Gamaly, CCO and co-founder of Khaznely.

Explaining Khaznely’s vision, El Gamaly added: “We look forward to seeing this service grow Egyptian exports and the total proceeds of foreign exchange flows, which is in line with the priorities of the Egyptian government in the current period. We plan to expand the service to include more Gulf Cooperation Council countries in the first quarter of 2024, in addition to countries from North Africa in the future.”

He added that Khaznely provides local and international shipping services to merchants through plans that suit their different budgets and delivery requirements. The company also offers a range of services that help merchants develop their business, including shipping and storing cross-border goods, securing them and protecting them from any damage or loss, receiving and packing.

Moreover, Khaznely supports the Egyptian state’s direction towards digitizing all sectors and transactions in the e-commerce market, which is a promising market in Egypt and the region in light of the continuous technological development that creates a suitable environment for development. This is what drives the company to expand in the Middle East and Africa and enhance its role in advancing economic development.

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Global SME Finance Forum 2023

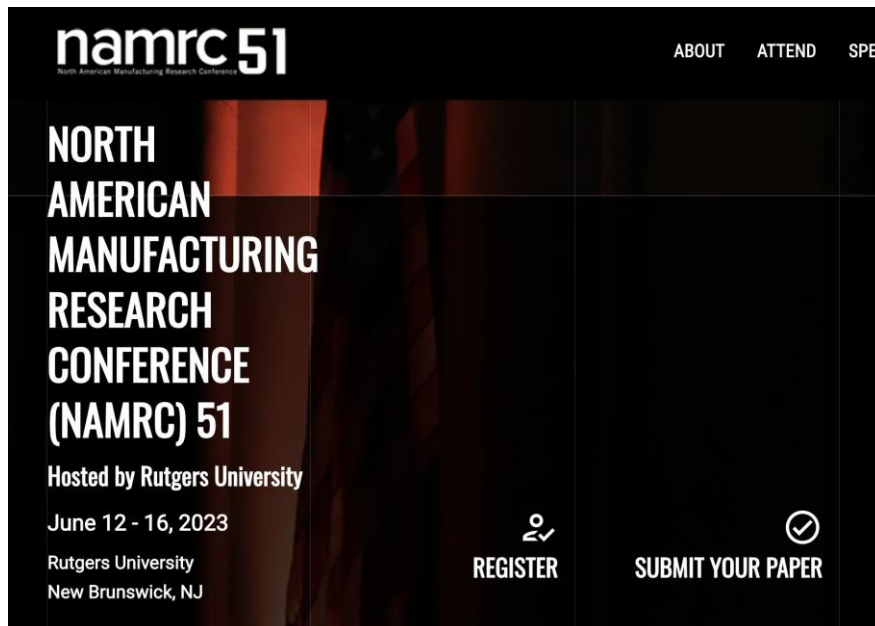


Date: 12 - 14 September 2023

Venue: Mumbai, India

Details: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/global-sme-finance-forum-2023-digital-ecosystems-and-future-of-sme-finance-tickets-627118928597>

NORTH AMERICAN MANUFACTURING RESEARCH CONFERENCE (NAMRC)



Date: June 12 - 16, 2023

Venue: Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ

Details: <https://msec-namrc2023.rutgers.edu/registration>

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.
Permanent Members	Any General member of Associate Member who contributes to the funds of the Organization.
Associate Members	Any Individuals, Enterprises, Corporations, Stakeholders, Research Institutions Large Enterprises, Academicians, Consultants etc. engaged in SME sector.
Associate Membership-Indian Chapter	Indian MSMEs, Entrepreneurs, Corporates, SME Associations, Universities, Training Institute and Individuals who are interested in the growth of SMEs.

Information Assistance	Benifits Enterprise Support	Bussiness Support
Basic business related laws, business legislation, trade regulation, Public policy, Taxation, Available MSME support by different stakeholders.	Expert guidance and assistance for starting new business, improving existing business, Skill development and empowerment, Business matching, International experts search.	Tender information, potential buyer & seller, Marketing linkages, import/export facilitations, financial assistance technology transfer, branding and promotions etc.
Exposure Visit to Global members	Participation & Knowledge Support	Branding Opportunity
Facilitate exposure visit at National & International Organizations, Institutes, Research Centres etc	Participation of WASME National/International conferences and seminars, workshops, training and programmes etc	Sponsorship and volunteering, advertising and programs, newsletters, website, e-bulletins, publications etc.

For more information visit our website: www.wasmeinfo.org or contact

WARNING

We don't entertain cash for any membership activity / event / sponsorship / Exhibitions or other related activities. Cheque in favour of "World Association for Small and Medium Enterprises" payable at Noida / Delhi or NEFT/RTGS.

WORLD ASSOCIATION FOR SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (WASME),



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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