

MASME WORLD SME NEWS



WASME **EDITORIAL**

India's Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2023 & Implications to SMEs

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READERS' REVIEW



Got World SME publication thus far and the articles have been very insightful. They have been packed with good information that is useful to an entrepreneur looking to get started or someone who is looking to build their brand.

Linda Dillon, Paris, France

This magazine is full of articles with inspiring stories that are based on successful businessmen, and businesswomen. And the contents of these business stories are interesting and helpful.

Ahmad Imran, Dhaka, Bangladesh

This is a great magazine very informative! It keeps you up on current events and more awareness on SME worldwide. The magazine does a nice job of covering trends on SME's and new ideas in the marketplace. I recommend for anyone starting out in business who wants a companion source of information and ideas.

Gillian Anyambod, Durban, South Africa

66 If you consider yourself an entrepreneur this is the magazine for you. It's awesome to hear about other entrepreneurs who are doing what you want to do. Also, as a marketer I'm always learning something new from this magazine that I can use in my work life.

Somnath Sharma, Faridabad, India

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Printed & Published by

Dr. Gyan Prakash Agarwal

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(Request form inside)

Connect with us

editor@wasmeinfo.org wasme@wasmeinfo.org 91-120-4216283/6284

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FROM THE DESK OF SECRETARY GENERAL



Dr. Gyan Prakash Agarwal

We welcome our readers to the May edition of WASME newsletter!

WASME envisions a vibrant MSME sector as the primary catalyst for economic growth and aims to promote the expansion and advancement of this sector on a global scale. Our current issue brings to the readers an overview of India's Foreign Trade Policy (2023) and its implications on SMEs.

Sincere congratulations to Mr. Dumisani J. Msibi, Group MD, FINCORP, Eswatini (Swaziland), who was recently presented with the Gold Award by the Association of African Development Finance Institutions (AADFI) for his selfless contributions to the organisation as a member of the Board of Directors and Regional Representative for Southern Africa. In the Guest Article section, we are pleased to present his most important observations on the status of the MSME sector in Eswatini as well as the local financial and economic climate.

Mr. Vijay Kumar, Director General of WASME, discusses his professional path in the crucial area of the growth of the SME sector in India in an exclusive Face to Face conversation. He goes on to discuss WASME's mission, how it has expanded its services to SME businesses worldwide, and how WASME will help SME businesses flourish over the next five years.

Our Entrepreneur of the Month is Mr Anirudh Saraswat, Co-Founder, ORIANA POWER, India's one of the leading solar energy solution provider company that finances, constructs and operates solar projects to their industrial and commercial customers.

In this edition, we familiarise our readers with the MSME sector in Eswatini (Swaziland) in our Country Focus and in Industry Scan, we try to analyse the Mining Sector and the recent trends and technological advancements this sector is witnessing. WASME Updates and UN Scan is regular section that needs to be read for the latest news and activities of WASME.

We hope that readers will learn important new information about important developments in the MSME sector.

Happy reading!

WASME EDITORIAL

India's Foreign Trade Policy 2023 and its Implications on SMEs



Summary of India's Foreign Trade Policy 2023

Mr. Piyush Goyal, the Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, and Textiles, unveiled the Foreign Trade Policy 2023, claiming that it is flexible and open-ended to meet the current state of affairs. He claimed that the policy had been under consideration for some time and had been developed following several stakeholder engagements. India's total exports, which include both services and goods, have already exceeded US\$ 750 billion, and this year they are predicted to reach US\$ 760 billion. In keeping with India's goal of becoming "Atmanirbhar," the new FTP replaces an incentive-based strategy and establishes an environment that is enabling for exporters.

Trade facilitation

The FTP places a strong emphasis on facilitating commerce through technology and digitalization, aims to advance e-commerce, and 'Local goes Global' also emphasizes the inclusive nature of the current strategy. The core components of this ecosystem, as proposed by the policy, include meaningful trade facilitation, accelerating grassroots exports, identifying new growth avenues for exports like merchanting and e-commerce, and promoting use of the Indian Rupee (INR) in settling trade. It also aims to facilitate exports through various schemes and measures. While the FTP usually reflects India's desire to expand its position in global value chains and establish itself as an export centre. As a critical avenue to achieving the \$2 trillion export target in both the vision and policy approach, the Foreign Trade Policy 2023

must expressly highlight enabling support measures for women entrepreneurs. Women's participation is essential to achieving this goal and would be a key item on the agenda for development led by women.

Digital Economy

Exports from e-commerce are given a boost by the new section on "Promoting Cross Border Trade in the Digital Economy." It does so by taking a number of steps, such as extending all FTP benefits to e-commerce exports, raising the value cap for exports made through couriers to INR 1,000,000 per consignment, promoting e-commerce through postal routes, and implementing outreach and handholding programmes to encourage e-commerce exports. The policy suggests developing E-Commerce Export Hubs (ECEHs), which would serve as a hub for advantageous business infrastructure and facilities for cross-border e-commerce operations. These hubs would connect to the nearby logistical hubs and use their services, as well as offer the required infrastructure for exports. By engaging in outreach initiatives and implementing capacity-building measures in collaboration with other government agencies and knowledge partners, the government intends to raise awareness.





Key Highlights

- The sales targets **\$2 trillion** exports by 2030
- Expanding rupee as a global currency
- Establishing India as a trade hub
- Bringing up schemes like Amnesty for faster export applications
- ◆ 50% reduction in threshold for recognition of star trade houses

SWOT analysis of factors affecting SMEs in India

Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Threats
Export Promotion	Limited Awareness	E-commerce Expansion	Global Economic Uncertainty
Market Diversification	Infrastructure Challenges	Government Support	Tariff and Non-tariff Barriers
Simplified Procedures	Regulatory Compliance	Emerging Markets	Currency Fluctuations
Access to Finance	Limited Resources	Collaboration & Networking	Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Protection
Skill Development	Competition from Large Corporations	Technology Adoption	Lack of Export Readiness

FTP's provisions to support SMEs in India

India's Foreign Trade Policy aims to put "Dak Niryat Kendras" into operation so they can work in a hub-and-spoke model with Foreign Post Offices (FPOs) to facilitate cross-border e-commerce and to enable artisans, weavers, craftsmen, MSMEs in the hinterland and land-locked regions to reach international markets and retain higher profit margins. With MSMEs, it is essential to actively promote gender mainstreaming across all of the FTP's composite aspects in order to support women business owners in their efforts to grow their clientele and engage in international trade. The FTP 2023 takes an inclusive approach to digitally enabled

cross-border commerce and aims to include small firms in India's exports.

The section on "Developing Districts as Export Hubs" of "Local Goes Global" and "Vocal for Local" seeks to encourage districts of the country to become export hubs by identifying products and services with export potential in the district by District Export Promotion Committees (DEPCs) and creating District Export Action Plans for each district. A larger number of exporters can be onboarded by districtlevel export identification and outreach initiatives like buyer-seller meetings, trade shows, and workshops. The process of selecting and prioritising two to three items or services from the districts with high potential can help boost competition and innovation. These district-level initiatives can raise awareness and assist local vendors in reachina larger markets, particularly MSMEs, by producing for the international market.

Four new "Towns of Export Excellence" (TEE) have been designated by the FTP in an effort to advance along the value chain and enter new markets. The 39 existing towns of export excellence are joined by these four new TEEs. New towns include:

Towns of Export Excellence in product category



Apparel Faridabad



HandicraftsMoradabad



Handmade Carpet and Dari Mirzapuur





FTP new eco-system creation for strengthening India's SME sector

Trade Facilitation

The FTP has specific goals for its main objective, which is to facilitate trade. The latter include reducing application fees for medium, small, and micro-enterprise (MSME) exporters for the advance authorization (AA) and export promotion of capital goods (EPCG) schemes, redesigning e-Certificate of Origin (COO), and paperless filing of export obligation discharge applications. There is no question about the advantages of switching to digital methods for quicker on-border processing of products. India has ratified the international Trade Facilitation Agreement of the World Trade Organisation.

Merchanting, E-commerce and Greater Use of Indian Rupee

An innovative component of the FTP is merchanting. According to the FTP, "merchanting trade involving shipment of goods from one foreign country to another without touching Indian ports; involving an Indian intermediary is allowed subject to compliance with RBI (Reserve Bank of India) guidelines, except for goods/items in the CITES and SCOMET list." One prominent feature of the FTP has been to promote "Invoicing, payment, and settlement of exports and imports in INR. According to rules published by the RBI, such transactions will be carried out using Special Rupee Vostro Accounts (SRVA), maintained by exporters and importers in licensed Indian banks and their counterpart institutions in partner countries.

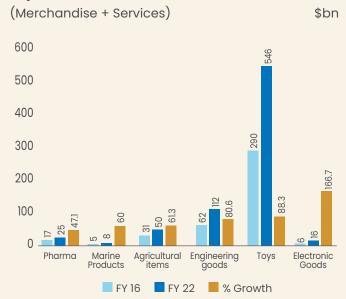
Key Highlights

- Areas which are widely focused are duty remission and tax
- Promotion of EPCG schemes
- Merchandising trade
- Processing time cut to be reduced to 1 day

Streamlining SCOMET Policy

India is emphasising the "export control" system more and more as its cooperation with export control regime nations grows. Stakeholders are more aware of SCOMET (Special Chemicals, Organisms, Materials, Equipment, and Technologies), and the policy regime is being strengthened to implement international treaties and accords that India has signed. A strong export control system in India will enable exporters to access dual-use, high-end goods and technologies while easing the export of SCOMET-controlled commodities and technologies from India.

Export Values



CAGR: Compounded annual growth rate. Data for FY23 & FY30 is estimated Source: DGFT RBI

Amnesty Scheme

In order to help exporters overcome their problems, the government is steadfastly devoted to decreasing litigation and encouraging relationships built on trust. The government is creating a unique one-time Amnesty Scheme under the FTP 2023 to resolve default on Export Obligations, in keeping with the "Vivaad se Vishwaas" strategy, which tried to settle tax disputes amicably. This programme is designed to help exporters who have struggled to fulfil their responsibilities under EPCG and Advance Authorizations and who are suffering from the high



duty and interest charges brought on by pending cases. On payment of all customs charges that were exempted in proportion to unfulfilled Export Obligations, all pending instances of the default in fulfilling Export Obligation (EO) of the authorizations specified may be regularised. Under this arrangement, the maximum amount of interest that can be paid is 100% of the exempted duties.

Grassroots Export

Identifying the potential for exports from districts across India is part of current efforts to improve overall commodities exports. With a strong increase seen in goods exports between FY 21/22 and FY 22/23, the efforts seem to be paying off. Through the creation of districts as export hubs and the creation of district-specific action plans, the new FTP seeks to further reinforce the emphasis. The FTP emphasises the purpose of the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), the institution in charge of overseeing exports and trade, to collaborate with the states and districts to accomplish this goal.



Key Highlights

- ◆ Adding up districts and towns to the list of 41 excellent exploring areas
- Enhancing capacity building and technological services
- Export targets being optimistic
- No cheap access to credit
- Exploring more free trade agreements
- Value limit of exports through courier doubled

Key initiatives under FTP to promote Indian SMEs

In accordance with the Indian Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2023, SMEs from various regions are allowed to enter India by utilising the policy's numerous rules and incentives. Here are a few strategies for SMEs to enter the Indian market:

Market Access

The FTP 2023 may include particular measures for Market Access that ease SMEs' entry. These programmes might include lowered trade restrictions, streamlined customs procedures, and special treatment for SMEs operating in particular industries.

Export Promotion Programmes

The policy may provide export promotion programmes that are specifically geared towards SMEs. To entice SMEs to export their goods and services to India, these programmes may involve financial aid, export subsidies, and incentives.

Trade Fairs and Exhibitions

The FTP 2023 can provide financial assistance to SMEs from various regions so they can attend trade fairs and exhibitions hosted in India. These gatherings give SMEs the chance to display their goods, make connections with potential customers, and build business networks.





Partnering with Indian Businesses

SMEs interested in breaking into the Indian market should look into joint ventures and partnerships with Indian companies. Utilising the skills and resources of both sides, this can entail joint ventures, technological transfers, and strategic alliances.

E-commerce Platforms

Through e-commerce platforms, SMEs in India's expanding digital economy can access the market. SMEs can join with existing Indian e-commerce platforms to sell their goods and reach a larger customer base, or they can open their own online businesses.

Possibilities in a Particular Sector

Opportunities created by the FTP 2023 that are relevant to a given sector can be found by SMEs. The policy can emphasise supporting industries like technology, manufacturing, agribusiness, renewable energy, or services where SMEs can gain a competitive edge. SMEs can target possibilities in these industries and link their offers with those prospects. Trade groups, chambers of commerce, and support organisations that operate in SMEs'

regions are resources that they can turn to for help. These organisations frequently offer the expertise, contacts, and resources needed to guide SMEs through the Indian market and establish connections with possible business partners.

Accessing Financial Support

For SMEs entering the Indian market, the FTP 2023 may offer access to financial support mechanisms. To help their entry and expansion in India, SMEs should look at options like export credit facilities, trade financing, and government-backed financial programmes.

Conclusion

Overall, the FTP 2023 is a dynamic policy plan that seeks to increase India's exports and support its exponential growth in the years to come. The policy is anticipated to assist the expansion of the export industry while also establishing a favourable climate for MSMEs and other enterprises to gain export benefits thanks to its emphasis on ease of doing business, technology interface, and collaboration. India's exports are on track to increase and become a worldwide export industry leader under the FTP 2023.



Source: Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) https://content.dgft.gov.in/DGFT_Images/Slider-img/Image-2.png

GUEST ARTICLE

The State Of MSME Sector in Eswatini

Group MD joined the organization in 1997. Has previously served as Deputy Managing Director, Company Secretary, Manager Finance & Administration, Credit Analyst at FINCORP, and was the first General Manager at First Finance, a subsidiary wholly owned by FINCORP. He is currently a Member of the Governing Council of World Association of Small and Medium enterprises (WASME). He is currently the Vice Chairman of the SADC DFI Network and also serves as the Executive Committee Member of the Association of African Development Finance Institutions (AADFI) representing Southern Africa Region. He further serves as a Board Member of the Federation of Swazi Employers and Chamber of Commerce (FSE & CC). Mr. Msibi was the first Chairman of the Board of the Youth Enterprise Fund for 4 years up to June 2013.



The Kingdom of Eswatini is the smallest country in Sub-Saharan Africa measuring 17,384 square kilometers just about the same size as Whales in the United Kingdom. The monarchy state has a relatively stable political climate albeit in recent times there has been a growing call for multiparty democracy from a section of the society. Eswatini is a landlocked country that boasts of unique a competitive advantage in that there are varied climatic conditions in one season with a small vicinity making the country an ideal location for export oriented agricultural activities all year round. 81.8% of total SMEs are involved in retail and services, 8.1 in manufacturing and 10.1% in agriculture.

Challenges faced by the Eswatini population

A recent central statistics office report depicted a negative growth in population figures currently standing at 1.2 million inhabitants. Unemployment and



poverty levels have escalated to incredibly high levels currently standing at 24% and 58% respectively thus making job creation and poverty alleviation initiatives to be the upper most development imperatives. The youth section of the society is the most impacted by the high rate of unemployment. A series of unfavorable and erratic weather patterns in recent years due to climate change have exacerbated the situation significantly hampering the ability of rural inhabitants to produce their own food but also to earn a living through sale of agricultural produce to the cities.

MSME Sector Demographics

A national survey commissioned by the European Union under the Private Sector Support Programme to research and provide a comprehensive understanding of the SME Sector in an effort to enhance the quality of decision making on matters related to the sector came up with the following key findings:

SME Ownership Structure

- There were just under seventy thousand at 69,483
 SME businesses employing about 93,000 people.
- 80% of the businesses are fall in the category of micro businesses.
- About 56% of the SMEs are owned by males whilst
 44% is owned by women.
- 93% of the SMEs are owned by Swati Nationals.
- 21% of the business are operated and managed by owners and immediate family members.
- ◆ 18% are micro businesses, 7% are small businesses and 1% are medium businesses.
- Over 77% of the SMEs received secondary education



MSME Finance

The high incidence of poverty coupled by the high rate of unemployment make MSME finance and development the most logical and sustainable option for survival in Eswatini for a larger section of the population. Poverty and unemployment levels stand at58% and 23% respectively. Eswatini has not been able to create key economic sectors that can serve as an engine for economic growth but continue to be largely anchored on primary agricultural activities. The current land tenure system presents a deterrent for enterprise development and finance. In the last seven (7) years there has been ongoing deliberations to introduce 99 Year Leases in rural communal land in order to spur investment.

The legal environment is unique in that it is a combination of traditional and western law. Women continue to be treated as minors by law and by law require the assistance of their spouses in order to enter into contracts. However positive developments took place three years ago when a law was passed making it mandatory for couples married in community of property to have all acquired land parcels registered in names of spouses. Meanwhile the greatest challenge is that indigenous businesses at times have to cope with a twin regulatory environment, namely traditional and civil, and the traditional system is very strong in the rural areas.

Government Response

Unprecedented in scale and in scope the Government of Swaziland has in the last five years launched several initiatives to create a vibrant entrepreneurial environment conducive for MSME growth. In certain instances, Government took the lead in enterprise development initiatives through direct intervention. Despite a high level of commitment from the various organs of Government, their direct approach has largely failed to create a significant impact. Some of the direct intervention programs that have been initiated by Government in recent times include the following:

- a) Regional Development Fund: The Regional Development Fund is administered by the Deputy Prime Minister's Office and is earmarked at providing financial support to members of the community in the fifty-nine constituencies of the Kingdom of Eswatini. The fund is funded annual by the state in order to assist community commercial investments. The funds are made available to beneficiaries as grants and therefore no repaid. It is immediately clear that such a structure would easily be susceptible to abuse and political interference.
- (SEDCO): The company has been in existence for over thirty years to date. It now concentrates in offering workshop / warehouse space to entrepreneurs as an incubation center and provide business development support services such as company registrations; preparation of business plans and most importantly marketing support services.



- c) Inhlanyelo Fund: This is a fund that was formed under the principles of Private Public Partnership wherein, a local billionaire provided seed capital for microenterprise loan fund. The fund is accessed through the community structures. The programhas remained operational for over 20 years although it continues to face insurmountable debt collection problems.
- d) Small Scale Credit & Export Guarantee
 Scheme: A small scale and export guarantee



scheme was capitalized by Government with its administrations vested on the Central bank of Swaziland. The facility covers 75% of the loan amount required and is accessed by SMEs through local commercial banks and most recently also through non-bank financial institutions predominantly Development Finance Institutions. It has historically recorded very low rate of uptake of loans and has been considered inaccessible by most entrepreneur but the recent inclusion of non-bank financial institutions has been viewed in positive light lending.



In 2001, the Government in an effort to find the right solution to stimulate entrepreneurship sought to structurally and methodically respond to the needs of the SME sector in Swaziland by adopting a National SME policy which is meant to chart the future of enterprise development in the country. As a consequence of the adoption of the SME policy, an office of the Directorate of SME commonly referred to as the SME Unit was formed and housed within the Ministry of Enterprise & Employment. This unit was charged with the responsibility of developing and implementing strategies for developing the SME sector in Eswatini.

Private Sector Response

Not a significant role has been played by the private sector in developing the SME sector in Eswatini save for NGOs, government initiatives and other donor funded agencies. At a consultative forum for all financial institutions in Eswatini organized by Finmark Trust and the Central Bank, all the commercial banks save for the local development bank openly declared their low appetite for small loans due to



high costs of doing so. They did however express their willingness to collaborate with partners who have a proven track recording order to expand access to financial services to SMEs.

Faced with constrained operating environment, the obvious alternative for SMEs have predominantly been the informal market players such as NGOs; MFIs, Burial Societies, Savings Clubs and Corporatives. Unfortunately, the range of products offered by these institutions are very much limited and narrow in scope and scale. Most MFIs only offer credit and not the broad range of financial services which include savings, transfers, remittances, insurance and other financial products. The absence of a full range of financial services has a created a window of opportunity for unscrupulous money lenders synonymous with high interest rates and fees.

It is worth noting that there are two non banking financial institutions which are owned by Government but operate as semi-independent institutions and are governed by Board of Directors who are appointed by the Minister of Finance. These two have made great strides in assisting and developing SMEs in the country through the provision of a diverse set of financing instruments. These are Industrial Development Company of Eswatini (IDCE) and Eswatini Development Finance Corporation (FINCORP).

Meanwhile FINCORP is a government owned institution with a sole mission of sustainably and economically providing access to financial services to Swazi entrepreneurs. It is strictly an SME financing organization across the entire economic sectors.

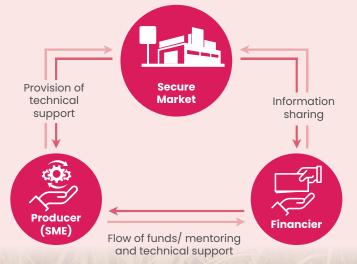


A total of SZL6.3 billion has been disbursed to SMEs since inception across the length and breath of Eswatini and across several sectors.

Successful Sugar Cane Innovative Finance Model

The country has over the years harnessed a seamless financing model which largely promotes co-ordination between the financiers, producer (SME) and sugar mills. The financier commits to provide adequate funding and support services to the producer / entrepreneur to produce the right quality, quantity and at the right time. Meanwhile the farmer commits to using the expertise and all other resources made available to producing the right quality, quantity and at the right time. Furthermore, the producer also makes a commitment to seek or provide business premises for production to take place. Whilst Commercial Marketer commits to absorbing the produce in predetermined quality

Working Structure



standards, quantity and price upon being ready. The Marketer further commits to providing technical support to the SMEs so as to ensure that quality standards are met. Both the marketer and financial institution represented by their technical staff make periodical site visits to the SME to provide guidance, mentoring and technical support.

Conclusion

It is quite clear from the aforementioned that the MSME sector in Eswatini has a great potential but is constrained by a manifold of factors that are not part of the regulatory business environment which include insufficient entrepreneurial, managerial and technical skills, weak financial services usage, low levels of innovation and specialization to name but a few. In view of the small size of the population, MSMEs need to put more focus on export-oriented businesses which demands high level of skills and consistency bur remains a big opportunity. In this approach the MSME sector would take full advantage of the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

The government of Eswatini and the private sector continue to play a meaningful role in developing the sector as it may be seen from some of the national activities and programs being undertaken. However, there is need to put in place more scientific research-based interventions in order to make more meaningful impact in the development of the MSME sector in Eswatini. The upper most initiative should be focused on business development support and mentoring services in order to scale up the number of growing and sustainable enterprises.

COUNTRY

Eswatini (Swaziland)

Population

1,195,263 (2023); Urban Population - 347,895 (2020)

Ethnic groups

84% Swazi, 10% Zulu, 6% Others

Youth unemployment rate (ages 15-24) Total - 50 %, Male - 47.4%; Female - 52.6% (2021)

GDP - composition, by sector of origin Agriculture: 8.93%, Industry: 32.94%, Services: 51.54% (2021)

Industries

- Manufacturing, particularly including textile manufacture and sugar processing
- Agriculture, forestry and mining
- Main industries include coal, sugar, textiles and apparel, soft drinks, and wood pulp

With a total size of 17,364 km2 (6,704 sq mi), this small landlocked nation is surrounded by South Africa to the north, west, and south, and Mozambique to the east. The Lebombo Mountains are a mountain range in eastern Mozambique that rises to a height of roughly 600 metres (2,000 feet).

A variety of governmental and unofficial conservation areas exist in Eswatini to preserve the area's unique ecological diversity. These regions make up around 5% of the total land area of the nation. Eswatini is home to about 820 animal species and over 2400 plant species, many of which are indigenous. This richness shows that Eswatini is crucial for the preservation of biodiversity on a global scale.



The legal definition of formal SMEs in Eswatini is based on the number of employees, the value of assets, and turnover.

The definition of SME in Swaziland is shown below:

Category	Annual turnover	No. of employee	Asset
Micro	60 000	1-3	50 000
Small	3 million	10	2 million
Medium	8 million	50	5 million

USD\$ 1 = SZL 19.1

Import – export environment in Eswatini

Due to its strong ties with Eswatini, South Africa accounts for over 85% of imports and roughly 60% of exports, with the European Union (EU) serving as its second-largest export market. Although the nation was able to efficiently exploit commerce to spur prosperity in the past, export performance has deteriorated in recent years.

Gender wise distribution of owners of SMEs in Eswatini

In the high growth target group, just 31% of the enterprises were owned by women. Even if there is still a lack of involvement among young people,



it was impressive to see that over a quarter of the companies in the high growth target group were run by young people.

Numerous recent studies show that women continue to have economic disadvantages in almost every area, and that the government is ill-prepared to address these demands. They point out that the government does not have enough employees who have received gender-specific training to offer advice to young people and underprivileged groups about women's issues related to managing SME businesses.

SME contribution in Eswatini

Eswatini's economic potential rests squarely on the shoulders of small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs). These tiny businesses employ 41% of the country's working-age population, whether formally or informally. Despite its small size, the SME sector is crucial for fostering an environment for businesses that is more robust and competitive and for promoting Eswatini's economic growth. According to research, these companies may employ 65% of the labour force and account for up to 50% of national output.

Challenges faced by SME sector in Eswatini

Missing Middle

There is a noticeable "missing middle" of businesses between the very tiny informal and the very large SMEs, and this is mostly because there aren't enough well-managed and thriving companies. As a result, there is a need for appropriate support to eventually build up to larger organisations. Previous government attempts to overcome the aforementioned barriers to better development of the SME sector have been unsuccessful because they frequently focus on the industry's lowest-level segments (micro and small firms). While the foreign-owned company dominates and runs the more profitable businesses, many of the smaller enterprises continue to be unproductive.

Lack of access to finance

This is a result of a lack of knowledge about the many loan options, a lack of bankable projects, and a lack of collateral. Lack of entrepreneurial spirit, poor financial and business management abilities, insufficient staff skill development, and the use of business cash for personal spending (no distinction between personal and business demands) are further contributing causes. Value chain finance needs to be offered. All stages of the SME company lifecycle were shown to be worsened by a lack of access to collateral, inadequate funding for DFIs, and a lack of a platform for sharing credit and information.



Lack of entrepreneurial culture

Proprietors of SMEs lack the management and business development skills necessary to create long-term visions and take initiative. The development of creative and sustainable business is hampered by the lack of competent, cheap, and reliable vocational training services structured around commercial values. Lack of partnership incubation, graduating process, and fair competition





combined with opportunist and/or international corporations entering the SME sector's environment. Instead of expanding and growing the company, starting and sustaining a corporation is more about survival. Lack of creativity, aggression, competition, and risk-taking leads to comparable and low-value firms.

Regulatory and licensing issues

The favourable treatment given to foreign investors that is out of proportion to that given to native investors. Ineffective licensing and registration procedures that would make it simpler for informal enterprises to convert to legal ones. Between government agencies and parastatals, there are no preferential procurement policies. Lack of SMME quality assurance and standards. absence of effective government assistance mechanisms.

Limited access to markets and information

Business development assistance services improve each company's performance, enabling them to compete more successfully, run more successfully, and increase their profits. BDS is not used by the majority of SMEs in Eswatini. The development of SMEs are hampered by a lack of managerial or technical skills, the use of subpar technology, limited access to markets and information, as well as regulatory obstacles. As a result, providing an effective business support system is a requirement for SMEs in Eswatini to succeed. It calls for coordinated business support organisations that prioritise the needs of their clients, and have a track record of having a significant impact on the SME sector.

Skills shortage in small contractors

Eswatini is notable for its chronic underinvestment in human capital. As a result, the distribution of craft skills, career prospects, and workplace experience in the labour force is skewed. Additionally, there are the expenses of creating an internal training programme rather than using external training facilities, as well as the relatively high fees charged

by private training facilities following the closure of the former industrial training boards, which were supported by levies from business.



Eswatini government's intervention to strengthen SME sector SME National Policy

The SME National Policy aims to create a modern, comprehensive, targeted, and coherent framework that will create a highly competitive, profitable, and entrepreneurial sector, characterised by innovative, competitive, and sustainable businesses and supported by an enabling institutional and regulatory environment. Key players in the public and commercial sectors, as well as associations and/or organisations that represent SMEs, must collaborate in order to fulfil the Policy's goals and objectives.

The key pillars that will be used to implement the Policy are expanding access to financial products and services, consolidate SME business support organisations and structures, make the SME development legislative and regulatory framework stronger, encourage and foster an environment that values innovation and entrepreneurship, improve SMEs' ability to compete both domestically and abroad, identify, acknowledge, and safeguard the informal trade sector, strengthen the position of and support for SMEs owned by women, youth, and disadvantaged groups and promote better communication among important stakeholders to improve policy implementation and integration.



Eswatini Small Enterprise Assistance Fund

A government-funded programme called the Eswatini Small Enterprise Assistance Fund (ESEAF) helps Eswatini's SMEs with financial support. The fund intends to assist SMEs in the nation in growing and developing, especially those in rural areas.



To help SMEs access the cash they need to build and expand their enterprises, the ESEAF offers loans to them at low interest rates. Both new and established enterprises can apply for the loans, which can be used for working cash, fixed assets, and capital investments. The ESEAF offers grants to SMEs to assist them in gaining access to the funds necessary to launch or grow their firms. The grants can be used for working cash, fixed assets, and capital investments and are open to both new and established firms. Through the ESEAF, SMEs can receive equity investments in the form of shares or ownership interests in their companies. Both new and established firms can access the equity investments, which can be utilised to finance the growth and expansion of the companies.

The Eswatini Development Finance Corporation (FINCORP), a government-owned financial company that supports and finances SMEs in the nation, is in charge of managing the ESEAF.

National Industrial Development Policy (NIDP)

Eswatini's National Industrial Development Policy (NIDP) is a government initiative that supports the expansion and competitiveness of regional industries in order to advance industrial

development throughout the nation. Eswatini's desire to diversify its economy away from dependency on a few major sectors and to support inclusive economic growth and development led to the establishment of the policy.

In order to ensure that the private sector may operate in a fair and competitive environment, the policy intends to improve transparency and accountability in governmental operations. The NIDP offers a variety of assistance programmes, such as financial and technical support for regional businesses, to encourage industrial growth in Eswatini. In order to spur economic growth and job creation, the strategy also supports the growth of important industrial sectors like agro-processing, textiles, and manufacturing. By encouraging exports, luring foreign investment, and fortifying trade ties with other nations, the NIDP seeks to improve Eswatini's trade and investment climate. In order to boost competition and open doors for regional sectors, the strategy also supports the creation of value chains at the regional level. The NIDP acknowledges the value of developing human capital in advancing industrialization and economic development in Eswatini. In order to assist the expansion and competitiveness of regional sectors, the strategy seeks to increase access to education and training, encourage entrepreneurship, and build a skilled workforce.

National Entrepreneurship Development Program

The National Entrepreneurship Development Programme (NEDP) programme was introduced in 2017 with the aim of encouraging entrepreneurship-based economic growth and employment creation. In Eswatini, the NEDP offers a variety of services and support to company owners and entrepreneurs. To assist entrepreneurs in enhancing their skills and knowledge, it provides a variety of entrepreneurship development training programmes. Topics including business planning, money management, marketing, and sales are covered in the course.



The programme gives entrepreneurs and small company owners who might not be able to access conventional lending sources financial access. This covers loans, working capital financing, and seed money. It backs activities that assist entrepreneurs in starting and expanding their firms. The programme gives business owners access to office space, business support services, and mentoring. It helps business owners enter

local and regional markets. The programme gives business owners the chance to present their goods and services at trade shows, exhibitions, and networking gatherings. It offers entrepreneurs and small company owners aftercare services to make sure that their companies keep expanding and succeeding. The programme provides continuing mentoring and assistance to help business owners overcome obstacles and seize new opportunities.

Useful resources for MSMEs operating in Eswatini

MSME finance providers	Details		
Incubators	 Young Entrepreneurs Association (YEA) Innovation Hub Eswatini Small Enterprise Development Agency (SEDA) 		
Banks	 Swaziland Development and Savings Bank (SDSB) - Mbabane, Eswatini First National Bank Eswatini (FNB Eswatini) - Mbabane, Eswatini Standard Bank Eswatini - Mbabane, Eswatini 		
MFI	 VisionFund Eswatini - Mbabane, Eswatini Swazi Bank Microfinance (SBM) - Mbabane, Eswatini 		
PE/VC	Pacific SME Partners - Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea		
Fintech	Eswatini Venture Capital Fund (EVCF) - Mbabane, Eswatini Eswatini Innovation Hub (EIH) - Manzini, Eswatini		
 Eswatini Investment Promotion Authority (EIPA) - Mbabane, Eswatini Development Finance Corporation (FINCORP) - Mbabare Eswatini Royal Insurance Corporation (ERIC) - Mbabane, Eswatini Small Enterprise Development Company (SEDCO) - Mbabane, Eswatini 			

If you wish to extend business activities with featured country

Please write to us at wasme@wasmeinfo.org



Trade delegation



Technology Transfer



Incubation



Investment



Development







Startup Support











GLOBAL INDUSTRY SECTOR

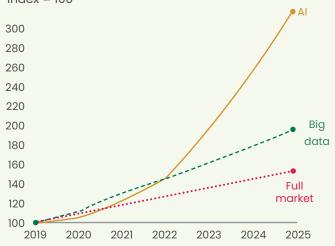


Infusion of Technology in the Mining Sector

Numerous megatrends must be navigated by the global mining industry. As sustainable energy technologies often demand more significant quantities of minerals than fuel-based solutions, metals and minerals are crucial in the shift to net zero. Rapid urbanisation is another trend that encourages significant financial investments in infrastructure and building initiatives that heavily rely on commodities obtained through mining. Therefore, it's critical to lower the environmental and carbon costs associated with their production.

Mining AI and Big Data are forecast to grow faster than the sector's overall IT Market

Mining IT Full market size vs AI & Big data 2019-2025*, Index = 100



*Based on Global Data's market forecast from 2019. Source: GlobalData

Challenges faced in using technology in the mining sector Limitation of Finance

Costs associated with establishing effective and cutting-edge technological solutions include hardware purchase costs, installation fees, training costs, which include the time lost by employees from their regular workdays and the cost of the training itself, software and licencing costs, which are frequently recurring or subscription-based, downtime and loss of short-term production income when switching to a new technology solution, operating and utility expenditures and maintenance and support expenses. It might appear to be a significant financial burden for mining businesses to pursue technology solutions when the initial costs are added to the ongoing costs of operating and maintaining the gear, software, and utility services.

Data Management

Data management is complicated by inconsistent data collection and a lack of operational support for allocating resources to assure accurate data. The advancement that could be made by using data science and predictive analytics is hampered by this lack of focus on data quality and sensor health. To be successful, we must incorporate IT specialists with knowledge of the organisation's infrastructure, security, data science, analysis, and other contemporary digital talents.

Change Management

Given the difficulties involved in implementing change management on remote sites with 24/7



operations and FIFO workforces, mining provides additional obstacles to change managers. Along with the logistical difficulties involved in implementing change management efforts at remote locations, another difficulty is ensuring that employees from each shift and each swing participate in the programme. This may require the involvement of up to six different "crews" for certain larger sites.

Technology Skill Sets

Globally, there is a shift towards digital mining, with 69% of mining companies considering remote operation and monitoring centres and professions like data engineer and data analyst becoming increasingly prevalent. The idea is to identify the roles that will change as technology is introduced. A considerable section of the workforce that will be affected by the transition can be retrained with the necessary skills to take on the new jobs if they are willing and able thanks to this early identification of the change. A strong recruitment strategy is necessary for technological roles that are in demand, which require experience and for which a brief period of training is insufficient.

Regulation

A major concern for businesses thinking about implementing these solutions given the rigorous laws and the fact that technology adoption in mining is only just beginning to become somewhat widespread on a worldwide basis. The right safeguards must be put in place to guarantee compliance with health and safety regulations if the project is to succeed. Early-warning systems and communications are both crucial for safety and security in mining, and technology may offer them.

Global trends of using technology in the mining sector

Process Automation

Complex and labour-intensive mining operations include excavation, material handling, and site inspections. Thus, the use of more equipment and personnel is required to meet the rising demand

for metals and minerals. The development of robotics and related AI enables remote or autonomous mine operations. Through the automation of electric trains to transport ore to dump trucks, which follow a predetermined course to the processing facility, this permits the human-free operation of drills. Additionally, process automation lessens the demand for hiring new workers and does away with human presence in risky areas, boosting worker safety.

Turkish startup Arventek develops autonomous unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) that capture geographic visual data and analyse mining activities. The startup's UAVs feature vertical take-off and landing (VTOL), thereby minimising space requirements and improving manoeuvrability. Arventek's platform, RemoteSite, plans the inspection routes, examines the details, and tracks flight through live flight simulation. The UAVs capture highresolution photos and transform them into digital maps and 3D models. They provide insights to speed up decision-making on mine expansion, inventory, and safety as well as enable remote asset management for mine managers.

Industrial Internet of Things

Digital sensors and smart gadgets are commonplace in workplaces, but the size of mining sites makes it challenging to retrieve the data they collect. As a result, data silos are formed, which reduce the value of sensor data and lead to inefficiencies. Utilising IIoT enables all stakeholders, from mine operators to top management, to have worldwide access to operational data. Additional technological advancements enable smart measurements, remote operations, and real-time condition monitoring of mining equipment, all of which increase operational effectiveness and resource utilisation.



Datacakra is an Indonesian startup that specialises in IIoT and monitoring systems. The startup's IIoT platform, Provisense, handles heavy-duty enterprise-grade IoT solutions supporting a wide range of industrial sensors. Datacakra's other solution, Smartpole, converts existing light poles into smart devices. They monitor the mine environment, weather, pollution levels, and hauling truck speed, allowing mine managers to remotely monitor mine conditions.

Artificial Intelligence

Mine engineers and management can evaluate operations in real-time thanks to data streams created by the digitalization of mining operations. Data analytics gains a new dimension thanks to Al, where the discovery of trends or patterns increases the usefulness of the data. To offer insights into mining operations, startups use machine learning (ML), deep learning (DL), and natural language processing (NLP). To advance anomaly detection, preventive maintenance, and digital twins for mining operations, they make pattern and trend recognition possible. Artificial intelligence streamlines processes while enabling quick and informed decisions from corporate stakeholders.

Wearable Technology

Businesses must make sure that the many personnel employed in mines are adequately trained, safe, and healthy. New employees can learn without being exposed to potentially dangerous conditions thanks to wearable technology like augmented reality (AR), virtual reality (VR), and extended reality (XR). Other wearable gadgets follow operator movements, check their vital signs, and identify safety concerns. Examples include IoT-enabled wristbands, helmets,

and vests. Wearable technology enables mining businesses to track employee skill levels and assure their welfare.



Australian startup Metasense provides SafeSpot, a modular wearable device for environmental risk management. It fits onto safety helmets to track and implement employee safety measures. Metasense's combined hardware, software, and cloud collect data for record management, provide real-time operational visibility, and inform downstream decisions. This allows mine managers to remotely track employee movements and monitor their environments to identify safety risks and unwanted activities.

Additive Manufacturing

Each mine site has unique assets and equipment for mining, and each machine part uses a lot of raw materials and manufacturing resources. The manufacturing capacity for mining components is capped as a result, which lengthens the lead time for any spare part needs. Modern additive manufacturing techniques enable quick custom production of parts with unforeseen specifications. By utilising on-site production, 3D printing also reduces the expensive transportation of parts to distant sites in the event of equipment breakdown. Additionally, it improves operational productivity by decreasing downtime for the machines.

Cloud Computing

Access to operational data is made possible by IoT platforms and devices thanks to the digitalization of the mining sector. But to extend this access to a point outside the mining site, a sizable computing infrastructure is needed. Mining firms may take advantage of data processing and handling capabilities thanks to cloud computing without having to maintain pricey IT infrastructure. This lowers capital expenses and avoids the need for additional operating expenses. Additionally, it allows authorised individuals to access mining data remotely, promoting fluid communication and preventing data silos.



Canadian startup Minetell offers a cloud-based workplace control monitoring solution that evaluates the performance of health and safety controls. It provides mining companies with secure, real-time information that ensures all control measures work as designed. The solution also offers safety recommendations regarding protective equipment, sanitation, and physical distancing. Lastly, it provides automated alerts that allow safety officers to quickly address areas of concern and reduce exposure to material risks

Blasting Optimisation

Several businesses are relying on technology to guarantee a successful blast and speed the design process. Companies can offer blasting programmes that guarantee results using anticipated fragmentation models, ore tracking systems, and environmental data. Decisions on blasting are based on drilling logs, ocular inspection, and laser profiling data. Sediment density, fluid penetration, mud seams, and fragmentation are some of the different ways that the blast site is examined.

GPS technologies

Some mining companies have recently developed and installed Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) positioning and navigation systems on blasthole drills and electric cable shovels in their open-pit mines. Through a Moving Map Display (MMD) on a screen, these GPS systems create precise, three-dimensional visualisations of the location of the drill bit or shovel tracks in real-time. This enables the drill operator to accurately control the drill from a distance, maintain a specified shovel grade, or change the drill's face position. This type of system requires robust, tested GPS components in order to resist the frequently harsh external conditions.



Robotics

By drilling ore from the ground, mining robots also contribute to the preservation of human lives. These automated drill rigs help the ore be extracted. Because explosives are required to shatter rocks in order to harvest minerals from the ground, people are at risk. Additionally, the explosive placement holes would need to be drilled using regular equipment by human miners. However, these automated drilling rigs also assist in speeding productivity to save time in addition to saving lives. This allows the drilling equipment to create holes more quickly than human miners using standard equipment can.



Conclusion

There is a need to improve the business climate in the area to maximise mining and diversify the economy. This requires creating a formal organisation to encourage and manage municipal cooperation. There is also a need to promote faster local and other regional actors' cooperation in order to attract and integrate skilled migrants. Another thrust is required to enhance training and educational initiatives to better incorporate women in value-added activities and prepare the workforce for technological advances. This should be accomplished by collaborating with mining companies and academic institutions to align vocational education and training (VET) programmes.



Mr. Vijay Kumar

Director General (WASME), India

What has been your personal and professional journey in the MSME sector?

I began working with the Government of India, Ministry of MSME from 1987 (last 35 years). I have also worked with other MSME development departments as well including as officer on special duty with Government of Delhi, India.

When I was working with the Indian Government, I mostly concentrated on range of technical fields, including skill development, export promotion, digitization, marketing, implementation of national standards, technology transfer, skill development, quality control and testing, packaging and SME finance.

The schemes that I prepared and implemented for MSME sector was Lean Manufacturing focusing on reduction of wastage from an enterprise for more productivity and profit, Product Design and Development with technological advancement to ensure availability of new products, Marketing Support, SME Cluster Development Programmes, Export Promotion, Skill Development and Setting up Business Incubators with Technology Transfer centre were the major schemes, which I prepared

and implemented. I also served the MSME sector by organising Entrepreneurship Development Programmes, National and International Exhibition and Seminars. To enhance the export from SME sector, as senior officer of Govt. of India, Ministry of MSME, I led the MSME delegation to various countries like Turkey, UK, Nigeria, Senegal, Thailand, Uzbekistan etc. for export promotion and technology transfer.

What are your key insights for the development of MSME sector in India?

Every country's economy is dependent on its MSME sector; for example, in India, the MSME sector has emerged as an immensely dynamic and evolving



sector of the Indian economy and is considered an important driver of economic development in the country. In India, MSME sector contributes to more than 48% of exports and over 30% of country' generates employment for 111 million people. Therefore, it is extremely important for a nation's economic development and plays a crucial role in shaping the economy for each nation.

Therefore, we have to be careful and alert in

solving the problems of MSME's in India or in any nation, so that they may not face any problem while growing up in their businesses. We also have to assure 66 WASME can be that MSME should have a continuous growth. a game changer MSMEs not only solve the in next five years unemployment problem any country but for global SMEs.99 also earn large amount foreign exchange through export of product and services. MSMEs have also played an important role in providing

What is your vision regarding WASME's role in the promotion and growth of MSME sector globally?

employment opportunities in rural areas.

Keeping in view the challenges faced by SMEs globally, WASME has to accept the challenge and contribute SME sector globally in the area of Policy Formulation, Skill Development, Technology Upgradation/Transfer, Credit/Finance, Marketing Development and Export Promotion, Testing & Quality Control, R & D/ Innovation including other such challenges faced by SMEs globally.

WASME is already serving SMEs belonging to manufacturing and service sector through various schemes and programmes in countries like Nepal, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Kenya, South Africa, Ghana, Nigeria, Botswana, Bhutan, Uganda, Niger, etc.

What are the key challenges in the MSME sector and your proposed solutions?

The key challenges in the SME sector faced by them worldwide are of design and development of new product and services, skill development w.r.t. both the trainers and the trainees, non-use of international standards which primarily ensure enhancing the quality, design and development of packaging material, organising national/international exhibition for enhancing export,

insufficient in-house facility for testing and quality control including non-use of cost effective technology in SMEs.

the policy makers or government of different economies especially the least developed countries; Setting up of Skill Development Training Centres for trainers and trainees, Prototype Design and Development centres for new products, testing centers, export promotion centers, Ease credit/financing facilities, setting up of incubators with R & D facilities and setting up of common facility

Solutions I may recommend to

What are the key focus areas where WASME can be a game changer in the next 5 years?

centers.

The key focus areas that I may take on behalf of WASME are Technology Upgradation/transfer of cost effective technology, prototype design and development of new products, skill development for trainees and trainers, design of eco-friendly packaging, testing and quality control, use of IT and IT tools, setting up of Incubators and R&D centers, setting up of common facility centers etc. in addition to local need based SME facilities. These are the key focus areas where WASME can be a game changer in next five years for global SMEs.

OF THE MONTH

Mr. Anirudh Saraswat Co-Founder, ORIANA Power, India



A journey of personal and professional experiences shaping work in sustainable energy sector

I am a chemical engineer from Panjab University, Chandigarh. My personal and professional experiences have played a crucial role in shaping my work in the sustainable energy sector. My academic background provided a solid foundation in understanding the technicalities and nuances of energy generation and its environmental impact, which is crucial for my current role.

Being recognized as one of the 40 under 40 Solar Pioneers by Solar Quarter was not just an honour but a testament to my dedication to creating a sustainable future. This recognition has fuelled my passion further and has allowed me to bring more innovative ideas to the table.

What defines my approach towards the sector is my profound interest in creating a business model that is not just profitable but also creates significant social and ecological benefits. My belief is that a business should not only be profit-oriented but should also aim to make a tangible impact on society and the environment. This perspective has helped me align our business strategy with the global sustainability goals, enabling us to create solutions that address energy needs while mitigating environmental harm.

The journey so far has been enriching, and I am committed to continuing to leverage my

experiences and expertise to drive further innovation in the renewable energy sector.

Oriana Power's objectives and goals and its alignment with the larger actionable points on shift to renewable energy sources

Oriana Power is committed to aligning its objectives and goals with the broader actionable points on the shift to renewable energy sources. Our mission is to ensure the availability of affordable renewable energy for the present and future generations through continuous optimization and innovation. This aligns directly with the global objective to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by almost half by 2030 and 450 GW target set by govt of India and to reach net-zero by 2050, as stated by the United Nations.

Our commitment to renewable energy is evident in the variety of projects we've undertaken, including Floating Solar, Ground Mount Solar, and Solar Park projects. We design, construct, and operate solar projects for our industrial and commercial customers, contributing significantly to reducing reliance on fossil fuels.

Our vision is to improve our globe and the planet where we currently reside by shifting to renewable energy sources. We are confident that through our work, we're making a significant contribution to



the global shift towards renewable energy, thereby protecting the environment and ensuring a better tomorrow for all.

The primary objectives of Oriana Power Limited align with the broader actionable points on the transition to renewable energy sources. The organization aims to provide cost-effective, sustainable, and reliable energy solutions to cater to growing energy demands, while also mitigating climate change effects. Oriana Power Limited's ongoing efforts involve executing over 100MW+ of solar across India.

Major projects and services that Oriana Power is currently operationalizing

I'm excited to share our organization's current projects and services in the renewable energy sector. Over the last five years, we've installed more than 100MW of solar power capacity across various parts of the country, demonstrating our commitment to promoting clean and sustainable energy.

Currently, we're operationalizing an impressive portfolio that includes managing our own assets totalling over 30MW under the Renewable Energy Service Company (RESCO) model. This model allows us to invest, install, and operate the renewable energy systems while our clients only pay for the energy they consume, thus providing them with a low-risk, cost-effective solution.

In addition, we have over 15MW

of solar projects under construction. These upcoming projects further represent our ongoing commitment expanding our renewable energy footprint and delivering reliable, affordable, and environmentally friendly power solutions

to more communities.

Our services extend beyond the installation and operation of solar power systems. We also offer comprehensive asset management solutions, from designing customized solar solutions to providing ongoing maintenance and support.

In a nutshell, our organization is dedicated to facilitating the transition to renewable energy and creating a sustainable future for all. We look forward to continuing our work in this exciting and important field.

Impact of Oriana Power's various projects and its future plans

I'm proud of the transformative impact of our projects. To date, we have installed 100+ MW of capacity, including Ground mounted, rooftop and floating solar, contributing significantly to energy diversification and emission reduction.

Our projects have had considerable environmental, economic, and social impacts. Environmentally, we've facilitated a substantial decrease in CO2 emissions by displacing nonrenewable energy. Economically, we've stimulated local economies, creating jobs, and driving down energy prices through competitive renewable energy supply. Socially, we've provided power packs to less privileged, enhancing their quality of life and reducing health risks associated with fossil fuel usage.

> Our floating solar installations are particularly innovative, maximizing utilization of water bodies for energy generation, without compromising land resources. This technology also reduces water evaporation, a crucial factor in water-scarce regions.

Looking ahead, our ambitious plan is to execute 1 GW of renewable capacity over the next three years. We'll focus



on expanding our floating solar installations, harnessing advancements in energy storage, and investing in hybrid systems. Moreover, we'll explore opportunities in emerging markets, contributing to global renewable energy targets.

Through these plans, we aim to drive the renewable energy sector forward, solidifying our commitment to sustainable development and environmental stewardship.

Major challenges faced by organisations working in the renewable energy sector

Challenges are part of business, particularly within Engineering, Procurement, and Construction (EPC) and Renewable Energy Service Companies (RESCO), some notable challenges arise.

Technical and Infrastructure Challenges: Integration of renewable energy systems into existing grids can be complex, due to the intermittent nature of renewables. To navigate this, we've invested in robust grid management systems and energy storage solutions.

Financial Challenges: High upfront costs and securing funding for projects can be tough. We've navigated this by leveraging partnerships, governmental incentives, and innovative financing models like Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) through the RESCO model.

Regulatory Hurdles: Varying regulatory landscapes across different regions can be a roadblock. By engaging with policy makers and industry bodies, we've pushed for more supportive policies and clearer regulatory guidance.

Market Acceptance: Despite the growing awareness about renewables, skepticism remains. To combat this, we focus on education, demonstrating not just the environmental but also the economic benefits of renewable energy.

Supply Chain Risks: Issues with equipment supply and logistics can delay projects. We've mitigated this risk through diversifying our supply chain and enhancing logistics management.

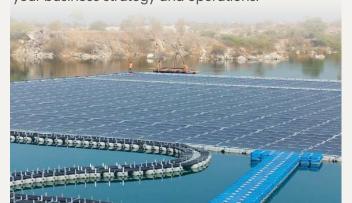
Despite these challenges, we remain committed to our mission of delivering efficient, sustainable energy solutions, constantly adapting and learning to overcome these hurdles.

Role of SME/start-up working in the renewable energy sector in global policy discourse

SMEs, like Oriana Power Limited, play a crucial role in shaping global policy discourse in the renewable energy sector. They demonstrate the feasibility of renewable energy solutions, pioneer innovative technologies, contribute to job creation, and help reduce dependence on fossil fuels. Their successes and challenges can significantly inform policy decisions.

Advice to our audience in the SME sector working in the renewable energy sector

My advice to SMEs in the renewable energy sector is to focus on innovation, sustainability, and partnerships. Continually innovate to improve energy efficiency, reduce costs, and meet evolving market needs. Emphasize sustainability in every aspect of your operations, from energy use to waste management. Collaborate with other businesses and stakeholders to leverage collective strengths and maximize impact. Remember, while it's essential for a business to be profitable, it should also support social and ecological causes. Thus, embed a socially responsible and environmentally friendly ethos in your business strategy and operations.



WASME CORNER

FINCORP Managing Director Honoured With a Gold Award by the Association Of African Development Finance Institutions (AADFI)

Presents this

Eswatini Development Finance Corporation (FINCORP) Group Managing Director, Mr. Dumisani Msibi, has been honored with the Association of African Development Finance Institutions (AADFI) Gold Award.

According to AADFI Secretary General Cyril Okoye, this award recognized the selfless

services that the FINCORP MD

renders to the Association as a member of the Board of Directors and Regional Representative for Southern Africa. "Your commitment contributes the progress Association has recorded over the years," said Okoye.

The award ceremony took place at the Sharm El Sheikh International Congress Centre (SSHC), in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, during the African Development Bank Annual Meetings and on the occasion of the 48th AADFI Annual General Assembly.

Mr. Msibi accepted the award in person from African Development Bank (AfDB) Vice President, Private Sector, Infrastructure, and Industrialization, Solomon Quaynor, at the Sharm El Sheikh International Congress Centre

in Egypt.

He expressed his profound gratitude for the recognition. "I am deeply humbled and encouraged that I have been found to be worthy of this prestigious honor of this continental body of Development Finance Institutions. It gives me great satisfaction that our efforts at the board of AADFI are making a difference. I wish to

appreciate the collective effort of the AADFI Board of Directors for the incredible work

> that they do to strengthen the work of Development Finance Institutions in the continent particularly in

> > and capacity building.

AADFI,

GOLD AWARD driving impact investments Mr. DUMISANI J. MSIBI Eswatini Development Finance Corporation (FINCORP), Eswatini **Group Managing Director** In recognition of his selfless services to

the Association as the

Regional Representative for

South Africa of the AADFL

headquartered in Abidjan, Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, is an international Pan-African organization for Development Finance Institutions (DFIs) created under the auspices of the African Development Bank in 1975. The mission of AADFI is to promote cooperation

among development finance institutions operating in Africa and in other continents in order to enhance the development finance agenda.



The Association has over 82-member institutions comprising national and multinational institutions engaged in finance and development activities in Africa. It is a member of the World Federation of Development Finance Institutions (WFDFI) and has observer status at the World Bank. FINCORP is a member of AADFI.



WASME to extend its service for the development and promotion of SMEs in Africa.

WASME is spurring its efforts for the development and promotion of SMEs in its member countries, especially in Africa. WASME is collaborating with many leading and nodal SME development and promotion organisation in many countries including Ethiopia, Uganda, Estawini, Bangladesh, Papua New Guinea, Nigeria, Rwanda, Srilanka and many more.

WASME, with its multidimensional and multisectoral activities, aims to address the challenges faced by SMEs due to economic, social, and environmental shocks, including the COVID-19 pandemic. With focus on key areas such as technology, skills, quality, packaging, market access, and skill development to enhance the sustainability, competitiveness, and growth of SMEs, WASME also aims to advocate for and formulate schemes and programs for the sustainable and inclusive development of SMEs globally.

WASME is leveraging its extensive experience in technical trades like aerospace, mechanical, electrical, electronics, chemical, textile, food processing, ceramic, and wood industries to extend its expertise and support to SMEs in different countries by offering wide range of services and solutions as given below:

- Extend support to SMEs in the area of Digital Infrastructure, E-Commerce, Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Robotics, Electric Vehicle (EV), Renewable Energy (RE), Software Development & Hardware etc.
- Skill Development & EDP programmes, end to end support for business/ enterprise development by facilitating through consultancy, technology transfer, trade facilitation and research and development activities to SMEs in three segments:



- Skill development for graduates/ post graduates and other such unemployed youth to improve their employability scope in the existing SMEs or other organizations.
- Skill development through Entrepreneurship Development programme for setting up of their new enterprise.
- Linking SMEs with end to end enterprise development support facilitation that includes cost effective technology transfer, getting the right equipment, incubation support and market and export development.
- Training of the Trainers (TOT) programme for the sustainability of the Skill Development project in all technical trades.
- GAP study in various fields & expert consultations for incubation including programmes on enhancing export and marketing.
- Access to credit and market by preparing sample Detailed Project Report (DPR) by including cost effective & right technology.

- Exposure of the global expertise, exposure and experience of WASME to SMEs, through B2B meetings, exhibitions/trade fairs, outreach programmes, buyer-seller meetings and activities with other member countries of WASME.
- Advising, formulating and implementing schemes and programmes at enterprise, regional and national level.

WASME is open to collaborating with members, associates, partners, local government bodies, regional authorities, international organizations, civil societies, institutes, chambers, associations, promotional organizations, financial institutions, and SMEs in different countries and work closely to identify critical issues and problems faced by SMEs and co craft an action plan to empower and nurture the growth of SMEs create a positive impact on the sustainability, competitiveness, and growth of SMEs in respective country.

For any query and business requirements please reach us at dg@wasmeinfo.org directorpnd@waseminfo.org,

WASME Hosted International Conference on Environment, Climate Change and Renewable Energy

On 4th May, 2023, WASME (World Association for Small and Medium Enterprises) and SCIENXT in association with Bennett University, India organised an *International Conference on Environment, Climate Change and Renewable Energy ICECR - 2023* at Bennett University, Greater Noida. Primarily the conference focused on climate impact towards the environment and adoption of renewable energy.

Conference was set in motion by Dr. Sanjeev Layek as he addressed the gathering present there by boosting upon climate change all over the world and how it is affecting the mother earth in today's scenario. He admitted on practising correct laws to protect our nature by all sources of climate change which leads to environmental degradation.

The conference was attended by many esteemed guests including Dr. Prabhu Aggarwal, Vice Chancellor, Bennett University, India, Dr. Ashok Dalwai, IAS(Rtd), CEO, National Rainfed Area Authority, Govt of India, H.E. Jaqueline Mukangira, High Commissioner, The Republic of Rwanda to India





Shri. Dharmendra Pradhan, Hon'ble Education Minister, Govt of India was the chief guest of the conference who joined virtually and emphasized the need to align with the vision of Indian government and highlighted various, schemes and projects undertaken by the government in environment, climate change and renewable energy. He also highlighted the G20 motive for setting up a greener economy by the means of education and awareness among people to establish the rule of cleaning our environment while giving examples of successful plan like Swachh Bharat Ambhiyan etc.

Dr. Prabhu Aggarwal, Vice Chancellor, Bennett University greeted the organising partners SCIENXT and WASME for their hard work and contentment by initiating this insightful conference. He highlighted that the objective of the conference is to bridge the gap between industries, institutes, and start-ups to foster

collaboration and drive innovations in sustainable development and renewable energy as it aims to increase awareness among the younger generation about the importance of environmental sustainability and renewable energy in addressing climate change and achieving sustainable

development. He indicated the outcomes and impacts are essential for promoting sustainable development and mitigating the impacts of climate change. By connecting stakeholders and sharing knowledge and expertise, the conference can contribute to the global efforts in combating climate change and promoting environmental sustainability.

Conquering the audience by his words was set by the address of Dr. Ashok Dalwai, IAS(Rtd) who spoke clearly about participants for their presence and started the session by sharing the subject of organic relationship between climate change, renewable energy and environment all together. Encouraging the youth to develop world service to protect the environment. Explaining the term 'Ecology' was the most intuitive mode of his speech. Elaborating upon the industrial revolution he induced the greenhouse gas effect as well





as providing righteous solutions to change our environment degrading conditions by usage of biological resources, incorporating biotechnology and establishing bio economy.

H.E. Mrs. Jaqueline Mukangira, High Commissioner, The Republic of Rwanda to India shared environmental protection stories of Rwanda to the youth so as to boost their ability to work for a greener move. Elaborating upon environmental policies, protection acts, regulations and laws followed by the people indicating that Rwanda is the 2nd cleanest country in Africa. Situating more upon restoration forest policies she showcased the importance of the environment for mankind. In her speech she emphasised on plastic bans to develop a cleaner world in future. Extending her gratitude towards the government of Rwanda and other nations which have joined hands to create new institutions and reforms for a greener future.

This conference was a key milestone in providing interdisciplinary collaboration and knowledge exchange among experts, researchers, and practitioners working in the environment, climate change, and renewable energy fields for promoting sustainable development and mitigating it impacts and contribute to the global efforts in combating climate change and environmental sustainability. The conference also includes theme-based drawing and project competitions for school students, encouraging young minds to engage with these crucial topics and a Plenary talk on "Are You Mindful And Mindfull" Dr. Nidhi Sinha, Associate Professor, Bennett University initiated in which she collaborated the psychology of the brain with our calmness to tackle actions and control it. Informing the insights of day to day life and bringing upon a creative activity made the participants to attend the session with concentration.

WASME Participated in QA conclave and Industry Meet for Defence sector

WASME participated in the QA conclave and Industry Meet of North Zone organized by QAE(WE), Delhi at Kota House, New Delhi held on 10th May 2023.

Dr Sanjiv Layek Executive Secretary, WASME represented and presented WASME's view on the MSMEs in the defence sector, challenges faced by them and way forward. He introduced WASME vision towards fulfilling the vision of Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi's of Aatmanirbhar Bharat (Self – Reliant India) and Vocal for Local to globalise the SMEs. During the presentation, Dr Layek talked about



"Triangular Model – Govt. Academia and Industry (MSME & Startup)" to empower MSMEs in the defence sector.

The meeting chaired by the Lt Gen RS Reen, Director General Quality Assurance and he also felicitated Dr. Sanjiv Layek.



UN SCAN



ITC

ITC and AUC sign agreement to empower small businesses to unlock intra-African trade

The African Union Commission (AUC) and the International Trade Centre (ITC) signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) at the African Union headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to mark the next chapter of an ongoing partnership. Together, the organizations will foster inclusive trade in Africa by incorporating small enterprises into the regional economy, and promote the sharing of trade information and market intelligence across Africa through the African Trade Observatory (ATO).

The renewed agreement responds to changes in the global economy and the ongoing regional integration process in Africa underpinned by the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). It reaffirms the dedication, shared vision and joint efforts of the African Union and the lead UN agency on small business development.

Key areas highlighted in the framework of cooperation include advancing the African Trade Observatory, an online tool developed by ITC that provides policymakers and businesses real-time trade data; promoting key continental value chains to reinforce industrial development; integrating small businesses into the regional trade process to take advantage of the AfCFTA; and mainstreaming the economic empowerment of women and young entrepreneurs for inclusive trade.

H.E Ambassador Albert Muchanga, Commissioner for Economic Development, Trade, Tourism, Industry, Minerals (ETTIM), said: 'The MOU cements the strong relationship that already exists between the two institutions. It will catalyse implementation of the African Union SME Strategy, operationalization of the ATO, protection of intellectual property, as well as promotion of private sector development in Africa.'

Pamela Coke-Hamilton, ITC Executive Director, said: 'With this new agreement, our two institutions are stepping up our collaboration to deliver on our shared vision of an interconnected, industrial and inclusive Africa. Together, we'll continue to equip small businesses with the information and skills they need to integrate into regional and continental value chains – and get the visibility they need through a Made in Africa label – so they can earn more, create quality jobs and transform societies.'

The African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government declared 'Acceleration of AfCFTA Implementation' as the theme of the year 2023. This year, the AUC and ITC will train small businesses attending the Intra-African Trade Fair and AU Women in Processing Summit in Cairo, Egypt, in November on how to compete and transact in the African marketplace. The ATO database will be expanded, and enterprises will receive training on how to use the tool for business expansion. ITC will also support the AU on fully operationalizing its Enterprise Africa Network to strengthen the continent's overall business ecosystem, to make it easier for businesses to trade.

Source: https://intracen.org/news-and-events/news/itc-and-auc-sign-agreement-to-empower-small-businesses-to-unlock-intra-african

UNESCAP

Asia-Pacific countries adopt 10 UN resolutions reaffirming commitments to protect the planet and its people

Governments from across Asia and the Pacific today endorsed a UN resolution to take urgent action to combat climate change and its impact. They re-committed to immediately curb greenhouse gas emissions – of which the region accounts for over half of the global emissions.

"The global climate fight will be won or lost in this crucial decade; in this context, the resolution demonstrates the commitment by countries in the region to take faster and bolder climate action to ensure that their climate goals are met," said Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of ESCAP at the closing.

The resolution further recommends countries to promote clean energy technologies, regional power system connectivity, low-emission mobility, early warning systems and strengthened use of climate change-related statistics as part of crucial mitigation and adaptation strategies.

Nine other resolutions aimed at strengthening regional action and partnerships towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development were also adopted at the 79th session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), which was held in Bangkok from 15 to 19 May and drew over 1,000 representatives from governments and stakeholder groups.

Among others, the resolutions underscored commitments towards environmental protection; mitigating and minimizing the consequences of disasters in the water basin of the Aral Sea; supporting countries in special situations; promoting digital cooperation and inclusion;

advancing the use of space applications; promoting disability-inclusive development; better understanding of the linkages between climate and ocean; and sustainable urban development.

Recognizing the transformative role of cities at the frontline of almost all global development and climate agendas, countries emphasized the positive contributions of national, subnational and local governments. They encouraged stakeholders to work together closely to develop impactful urban initiatives in implementing the 2030 Agenda.

Several of the resolutions at this year's Commission also acknowledged the unique challenges of least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States in the region, who find themselves increasingly vulnerable amidst the impacts of climate change, geopolitical tensions, economic headwinds and the COVID-19 pandemic.

A report released to coincide with the meeting revealed that despite the clear benefits of connectivity in transport, energy and ICT, these countries in special situations lag far behind what other countries in the region have managed to achieve.

On the sidelines of the 79th Commission session, ESCAP and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat signed a memorandum of understanding to complement each other's strategic work on the SDGs, climate action and resilient development, social inclusion and equity, and regional economic and trade cooperation opportunities in the Pacific.

Source: https://www.unescap.org/news/asia-pacific-countries-adopt-10-un-resolutions-reaffirming-commitments-protect-planet-and-its#

ABOUT 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 vision is further realized and advanced with the consistent support of its large base of member representatives in over 100 countries.



WASME's focus is on MSMEs
by providing technology
transfer and trade
promotion through
international/regional
conferences/workshops/

seminars. WASME also organizes programs on various

important issues for the growth of MSMEs such as IPRs, Skill Development, Certification & Accreditation, ICT, Marketing, Global Supply Chain, Technology Transfer, Entrepreneurship development, quality control, Al, Machine learning, robotics, etc.

WASME also publishes monthly "World SME News" which features developments in the MSME sector from around the world, as well as a fortnightly e-newsletter called the "SME e-Bulletin". These two organs act as a way to disseminate information among members and advocate for sustainable and regenerative MSME development and growth.

CORE ACTIVITIES



Articulating concerns and interests of MSMEs at various national and international level.



Enlarging collaboration with UN agencies and international organisations.



Developing relationship between MSMEs in developed and developing countries by encouraging enterprise-to-enterprise cooperation in the area of skill development, technology transfer and export;



Capacity building of MSMEs through seminar, EDP and skill development programmes.



Information
dissemination on
technology, export,
marketing, match making
etc. in MSME sector.



International cooperation by networking with MSME promotion organisation at national and international level.



Carrying out research and studies on national/international issues confronting MSMEs.

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

WASME has members in different countries across the world. Member constituents represent industrial promotional organizations of various types and come from highly industrialized, developing and transition economies, as well as least developed countries. WASME has a broad membership spectrum that includes:

Categories

General Members

- Ministries/ Government Departments
- Public Sector Undertakings/Semi Government Organization
- Export Promotion Councils/ Trade Councils
- ◆ Financial Institutions/ Banks/ NBFCs
- SME Promotion Organization/Enterprise Development Organization

Chambers/Industry Associations/SME Associations

International & Regional Federations/
Associations

Associate Members

- Corporations,
 Consulting Firms
- Partnership/ Proprietorship/ LLP etc
- Research Institutes/ Technical Institutes/ Universities
- Individual Consultants/ Experts/ Students
- ◆ NGOs/ SMEs etc.

Associate Membership-Indian Chapter

Any General Member or Associate Member who is willing to be Permanent Member of WASME

Benefits to Members

Collaborating with other members on issues of common interest to enable local SMEs gain access to a variety of advantages, such as:

- Making advantage of a vast network of WASME to create new alliances
- Building a global network and making your voice heard
- Globally promoting your company using WASME marketing platforms
- Possessing the chance to organise or present at WASME Global Conferences, Seminars, Exhibitions, events, and programmes
- Having your interests represented at multilateral organizations including UN organizations, national and international forums etc.
- Sharing your opinions and ideas in WASME publications
- Get access to WASME Resource Centre of Knowledge, Experts, Technology, Trade Facilitation, Financial Assistance, Market Linkage etc.
- Get tailor made services and support

For more information visit our

Website: www.wasmeinfo.org

Contact: membership@wasmeinfo.org

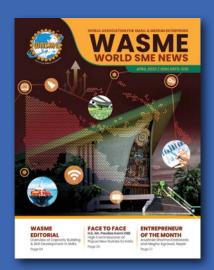
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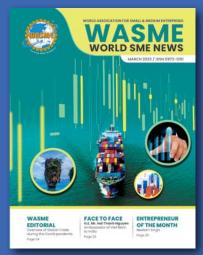
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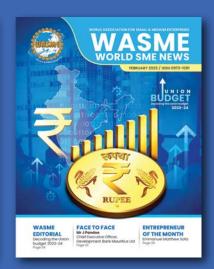
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WORLD ASSOCIATION FOR SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES

WASME House, Plot No. 4, Sector-16/A, Institutional Area, Film City, Noida-201301, Uttar Pradesh, India Call us: +91 120 4216283 / 4216284, Fax: +91 120 4216283

Email: wasme@wasmeinfo.org • Website: www.wasmeinfo.org