

Volume 203



CONTENTS

WORLD SME
UPDATE

STARTUP UPDATE

EVENTS UPDATE

WASME UPDATE

WASME SME UPDATE

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

ISSUE: 1-15 April 2024

BAHRAIN

Bahrain Parliament to Vote on Establishment of National Fund for SMEs

A proposal for a new national fund to bolster Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in Bahrain is up for consideration, despite facing opposition from several ministries and the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI). This fund awaits approval in the Tuesday session of the Bahrain Parliament. The Finance Ministry and the BCCI have recommended reconsideration of the proposal for several reasons, including the similarity and overlap of the fund's tasks and authorities with those of the "Tamkeen" Labour Fund.

Championed by MPs Khalid Buanq, Ahmed Al Saloom, Ali Al Doosari, Maryam Al Dhaen, and Abdullah Al Rumaihi, the National Fund for the Care and Support of SMEs aims to tackle challenges faced by SMEs, drive economic development, create job opportunities, and reduce reliance on foreign labour. They say the move aims to formulate policies that diversify income sources, alleviate state budget burdens, and combat unemployment.

The Ministry of Labour refrained from commenting, stating the proposal falls beyond its jurisdiction. Similarly, the Ministry of Industry and Commerce opted not to preempt government opinion, emphasising shared interests with various entities. The Ministry of Finance expressed concern over alignment with existing funds and emphasised the importance of clear objectives and resources. *"It is imperative for government funds to have independence, define their objectives, and have available resources to achieve the purposes for which they were established,"* the Ministry explained.

Tamkeen affirmed its support for SMEs but questioned the necessity of a new fund. Conversely, the BCCI opposed the proposal, advocating for the preservation of existing support programmes for SMEs. The BCCI highlighted existing programmes by Tamkeen that empower such enterprises.

[Read More](#)

CAMBODIA

Cambodia, Japan to explore SME collaborations in niche markets

Hem Vandy, Minister of Industry, Science, Technology & Innovation, welcomed a Japanese business delegation led by Fumiaki Takahashi, President of the Japan-Cambodia Association (JCA), to explore potential collaboration between the Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) of both nations.

During the meeting on Saturday, Takahashi reaffirmed JCA's commitment to enhancing the business ties between Japan and Cambodia, particularly with the recent establishment of a JCA office in Cambodia. He highlighted the importance of facilitating

direct communication and collaboration between Japanese and Cambodian businesses to streamline processes, moving beyond reliance solely on diplomatic channels.

JCA inaugurated its office in Cambodia on April 1, with expectations of stimulating increased interaction between Japanese SMEs and their Cambodian counterparts, thereby fostering mutual growth and facilitating exploration of niche markets in ASEAN and beyond. Highlighting the significance of establishing a physical presence, Vanndy underscored Cambodia's intention to leverage the JCA office to gain insights into Japanese innovations and to explore opportunities for collaboration beyond domestic markets.

He stressed the untapped potential within Cambodia's SME ecosystem and the ministry's dedication to enhancing public services, particularly focusing on the national quality infrastructure to bolster industries. Identifying key sectors for potential collaboration, such as agro-processing, green technology, and electronics, he emphasised Cambodia's eagerness to attract Japanese investment, particularly in areas that add value to local produce and increase productivity.

Kazunori Kato, Executive Director & Secretary-General of JCA, delineated two primary strategies for the new office, focusing on collaborating with Cambodian SMEs to co-produce products and implementing initiatives to offer technical and vocational training, aimed at enhancing the Cambodian workforce. He conveyed his positive impressions from a recent business delegation visit to Cambodia.

In addition to fostering collaborations with Cambodian businesses, associations, federations and chambers of commerce, Vanndy also suggested that JCA engage with Khmer Enterprise, a government trust dedicated to supporting Cambodian start-ups and SMEs. Vanndy highlighted that this partnership would leverage Khmer Enterprise's expertise in providing technical training and funding support to facilitate synergies between Japanese SMEs and Cambodian enterprises.

While meeting with Takahashi during his visit to Tokyo in January, Hun Sen, President of the Supreme Privy Council of the King, welcomed the JCA to open its office in Cambodia to attract more Japanese investors to Cambodia. Takahashi at that time told Mr Hun Sen that a JCA office in Cambodia would play an important role in attracting Japanese investors to Cambodia by helping to promote the investment potential in Cambodia to Japanese companies. Especially SMEs with about four million companies in Japan. "Therefore, if we can attract only 0.1%, there would be about 4,000 Japanese SMEs that would come to invest in Cambodia," Takahashi said.

In response, Mr Hun Sen highly appreciated the efforts of the JCA and welcomed the opening of the association's office in Cambodia. He hopes that Japanese SMEs will play an important role in creating job opportunities for Cambodians as well as the possibility of transferring knowledge through investment in Cambodia.

[Read More](#)

FIJI

Fijian MSMEs get a boost with CIPE partnership

A partnership between the Fiji SME Business Owners Network and Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE) will boost the voices of the more than 600 small and medium enterprises in the country.

Network founder Kim Beddoes said they were thrilled to partner with CIPE to advance their mission of empowering and advocating for MSMEs in Fiji. “This partnership will enable us to amplify our efforts and make a greater impact on the policies and

initiatives that affect small businesses across the country, by formalising the Network which is already the largest collection of MSME business owners in the Country,” she said. Ms Beddoes said Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) formed the backbone of the Fiji economy and pre-Covid statistics indicate that MSMEs contributed over 18% of the GDP and provided employment for about 60% of the labour force in Fiji. She said CIPE was a leading global organisation committed to strengthening democracy and fostering competitive markets.

Ms Beddoes said the Fiji SME Business Owners Network supported micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in Fiji with a membership exceeding 600. She said the Fiji SME Business Owners Network was poised to lead the charge in advocating for the inclusion of MSMEs in national policy discussions, and their mission to cultivate resilient, inclusive economies for sustainable growth and prosperity in Fiji perfectly aligned with CIPE’s objectives.

[Read More](#)

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Kina Bank & SNS Tech team to boost payment outcomes for SMEs

Kina Bank and SNS Tech have partnered to deliver a PNG-first payment solution that improves payment outcomes and cash flow for small-to-medium enterprises (SMEs). It provides customers the option to pay immediately with a “Pay with Card” button on invoices generated from Xero through the integration of the Kina Internet Payment Gateway. The new integration solution was launched on Friday 05th April 2024 which means that SMEs with digital solutions developed by SNS Tech and who bank with Kina Bank will have greater control over the processing and tracking of customer payments, improving cash flow, reducing manual handling costs, lowering the risk of fraud, and streamlining accounting practices.

Chief Transformation Officer of Kina Bank, Ivan Vidovich, said, *“This is another great example of how Kina Bank is partnering with leading local tech companies to bridge the digital gap in banking in Papua New Guinea.”* *“Small businesses are the backbone of communities right across PNG, and developing first-to-market digital solutions to make doing business easier and to help our customers grow is further proof that Kina Bank is PNG’s leading digital bank.”*

In addition to streamlining business payment practices, the SNS Tech solution also offers distinct benefits to the payer. Paying an invoice via Xero and the Kina Internet Payment Gateway is the fast, convenient way to pay without cheques or bank transfers. Card payments offer strong fraud prevention, transaction history and perhaps in the future the ability to earn reward program points.

SNS Tech Chief Executive Officer & Chief Technology Officer Samson Korawali said the new platform will improve client convenience and value and will significantly enhance the client experience, and dramatically improve the efficiency of financial reconciliation.

“This groundbreaking innovation is proof of our commitment to Impactful, Transformative, and Revolutionary solutions for Papua New Guineans. We are dedicated to empowering businesses with seamless and efficient tools that redefine financial & business operations, elevate user experiences, and ultimately promote growth in the digital era,” Korawali said.

[Read More](#)

IRELAND

[EIB and BCC ICCREA Group provide €400 million to support the innovation of SMEs and mid-caps and economic development in the South of Italy](#)

This is the second covered bond operation carried out by the EIB in Italy since the new regulation came into force. 25% of the funds will be allocated to companies operating in regions concerned by the cohesion policy. Another 25% will be dedicated to innovative investments carried out by small businesses and mid-caps.

The European Investment Bank (EIB) and BCC Banca Iccrea, parent company of the BCC Iccrea Group, have signed an agreement that will help unlock more than €400 million of new finance for small and medium businesses (SMEs) and mid-caps. The operation, announced today in Rome by EIB Vice-President Gelsomina Vigliotti and Managing Director of BCC Iccrea Group Mauro Pastore, supports access to credit on favourable terms and aims to promote innovation and projects located in the South of Italy, reflecting the strong commitment of both institutions to promoting the digital transition and economic cohesion in the country.

The operation is structured around the EIB’s full private placement purchase of a new €200 million covered bond issued by BCC Banca Iccrea. To this end, BCC Iccrea Group is allocating an additional €200 million, meaning that a total of €400 million will go to the real economy. The covered bond has a maturity of seven years and a fixed rate yield of 3.433%, which is in line with the latest issues of the parent company of BCC Iccrea Group.

The recipients of the new funding will be SMEs (up to 250 employees) and mid-caps (250 to 3 000 employees), which will be able to carry out new projects with a financial advantage derived from the competitive rates and long maturities provided by EIB

loans. At least €100 million (or 25% of the total amount of the agreement) will be allocated to support innovative projects, and another €100 million will be dedicated to promoting projects in cohesion regions.

“Instruments such as covered bonds are a viable alternative to traditional financial products to channel investment towards key sectors of the economy. This operation with BCC Iccrea Group aims to promote innovation and cohesion simultaneously, as well as access to credit on favourable terms for businesses. We need to make full use of these resources to build a more prosperous and fairer future for all Italians,” said EIB Vice-President Gelsomina Vigliotti.

“This operation forms part of a regional support process that aligns with BCC Iccrea Group's recent issues in 2024 totalling €1 billion. Through these instruments we want to continue to send a strong signal of solidarity to our productive fabric and to support small businesses, ensuring not only a fair distribution of resources at national level, but at the same time promoting the digital transition of companies and fostering their competitiveness in the domestic and foreign market”, said Managing Director of BCC Iccrea Group Mauro Pastore.

[Read More](#)

KENYA

Mastercard Launches Agribusiness Challenge for SMEs in Kenya

MasterCard, through its Agribusiness Challenge Fund, is seeking proposals from Small and Medium-sized Enterprises(SMEs) in the agriculture sector in Kenya and 20 other African Countries, with projects that can create employment opportunities for the youth, women, those with disabilities as well as refugees. SMEs selected by MasterCard will receive grants ranging from US\$ 500,000 to US\$ 2,500,000, disbursed over 3 years, based on the applicants’ development stage, scalability, and business model. MasterCard said any funding will be done after the evaluation of the SME and its proposal and will also include the provision of technical assistance for three years.

The Agribusiness Challenge Fund targets SMEs in Kenya, Benin, Burundi, Botswana, Cameroon, Côte d’Ivoire, DRC, Ethiopia, Ghana, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia. “The agriculture sector presents great opportunities for innovative SMEs in Sub-Saharan Africa to grow, with opportunities to create dignified and fulfilling work for young people, especially young women, those with disabilities and refugees,” said

Smita Sanghrajka, MasterCard Foundation Fund for Resilience and Prosperity Engagement Partner. Potential applicants for the Agribusiness Challenge Fund can register and access the application platform through the Fund website www.frp.org

[Read More](#)

SERBIA and KOSOVO

EU: 250 million euros to Serbia for small businesses, 37 million to Kosovo

The European Investment Fund has made available around 750 million euros for small businesses in the Western Balkans, of which Serbia will receive 250 million euros and Kosovo 37 million, according to data from the EU delegations in Serbia and Kosovo.

The European Investment Fund (EIF), a part of the EIB Group, has concluded portfolio guarantee agreements with 11 banks and financial intermediaries in the economies of the Western Balkans. These agreements, funded under the EU's WB EDIF initiative "Guarantees for SME Resilience," will enable local banks and financial institutions to create a portfolio of loans for SMEs worth over 750 million euros, including those that will be signed in the first half of 2024.

These funds will facilitate access to finance for small businesses and improve their resilience to current economic challenges, enabling business expansion, job creation, and innovation development. It is expected that these guarantees in Serbia will facilitate the placement of loans under favorable conditions totaling 250 million euros for around 4,650 SMEs, preserving about 64,000 jobs. On the other hand, in Kosovo, these guarantees will facilitate the placement of loans under favorable conditions totaling 37 million euros for around 690 SMEs, preserving about 9,500 jobs.

Marjut Falkstedt, the CEO of EIF, commented on this occasion. "By supporting small businesses in the Western Balkans, especially in its most neglected and sensitive segments, these significant financial resources will enhance their capacity for innovation and growth, contributing to further integration into the European Union's economy. This will provide an additional boost to the development of strong and competitive economies in the region, as well as their progress in global value chains," Falkstedt stated. Thanks to EIF guarantees, around 2.5 billion euros have been mobilized for over 38,000 SMEs in Serbia, contributing to the preservation of 637,000 jobs.

Emanuele Giaufret, the Head of the EU Delegation and EU Ambassador to Serbia, emphasized his satisfaction that the European Investment Fund, thanks to the guarantees provided by the EU, could direct financial resources to a larger number of small and medium-sized enterprises in Serbia. "*More accessible loans granted through local banks will enable companies to realize their potential in terms of growth and innovation while creating new jobs. Our strong support for SMEs is crucial for bringing Serbia's economy and the region closer to the European Union, as the main goal of its Growth Plan for the Western Balkans,*" Giaufret said.

EU Ambassador to Kosovo Tomas Szunyog added: "*Thanks to our joint efforts, small and medium-sized enterprises in Kosovo will be able to increase their financing opportunities and access loans under favorable conditions. This EU-funded initiative will help such enterprises across the Western Balkans region better respond to economic challenges and grow,*" Szunyog said.

[Read More](#)

LITHUANIA

EIMIN Will Provide Additional Funding for Business Digitisation Projects

The Ministry of the Economy and Innovation continues to invest in building a digital Lithuania. Following a particularly strong interest from Lithuanian businesses in digital solutions for e-commerce, the Ministry has increased the planned allocation of EUR 12 million. It will allocate more than EUR 18 million in investment to all 545 projects that have been positively evaluated.

“We are strengthening the market of e-commerce and services, which is why we launched a EUR 12 million call for business last year. The number of received applications shows that businesses are very interested in this measure. We looked for opportunities to fund all the projects that were positively evaluated, thus, we allocated an additional amount of EUR 6.43 million. These investments are paying off, as businesses that are turning to cyberspace and digitalisation become stronger, more innovative and more resilient to challenges,” says Aušrinė Armonaitė, the Minister of the Economy and Innovation.

The selection of projects was carried out by the Innovation Agency. The projects will be implemented by 254 micro enterprises, 231 small enterprises and 60 medium-sized enterprises. *“The funding will enable more than half a thousand businesses to deploy digital solutions for e-commerce transactions, configuration and visualisation of services and products. This will make it easier to trade online both nationally and internationally and will increase the visibility of businesses,”* says Iveta Paludnevičiūtė, the Chancellor of the Ministry of the Economy and Innovation.

“The Digitalisation of SMEs call is extremely popular and needed for Lithuanian SMEs. As many as 90% of the successful applicants did not have an e-shop, the funding will encourage businesses to start online trading, thus, contributing to the growth of their sales revenue. As 89% of the successful companies are micro and small enterprises, the financial incentive to move to a higher level of digitalisation is really relevant for them”, says Sigita Skrebė, the Head of the Business Productivity Unit at the Innovation Agency.

The largest number of projects will be implemented in Kaunas County, i.e. 215. 170 projects will be funded in Vilnius County, 56 in Klaipėda, 28 in Šiauliai, 20 in Panevėžys, 15 in Alytus, 13 in Utena and 12 in Marijampolė. 8 projects will be implemented in Telšiai and Tauragė counties. By sector of activity, the largest number of projects are in computer programming, specialised construction activities, metal and wood products, building construction, advertising and market research, and human health. The “Digitalisation of SMEs” measure is implemented under the Programme for the European Union Funds’ Investments 2021-2027

[Read More](#)

MOZAMBIQUE

E UBA Mozambique announces US\$50M credit line for SMEs

The United Bank for Africa (UBA Bank) and the Confederation of Economic Associations (CTA) launched last week, a financing line aimed at supporting Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), with a focus on the agro-processing, automotive, pharmaceutical, transport and logistics sectors. According to a statement from the association, the launch of the financing line was marked by the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding that formalises the partnership between it, represented by its president Agostinho Vuma, and UBA, represented by its CEO, Rotimi Morohunfola.

The document explains that this is a financing line of 50 million dollars (3.1 billion meticals), which will be allocated to financing MSME projects starting at 150,000 dollars (9.4 million meticals). “The line has advantages, especially in terms of cost, in that it offers subsidised prime rate prices for the purchase of equipment over a maximum period of four years,” the statement reads.

As MSMEs represent 98 per cent of the business structure and contribute around 48 per cent of jobs in Mozambique, according to data from the National Statistics Institute, access to finance for this segment of companies is seen as one of the most significant limitations to their development. In this context, Agostinho Vuma believes that the financing line will boost national MSMEs and believes that, through this partnership with UBA, many companies will be able to benefit from the financing packages available from the Nigerian-owned financial institution. On the same occasion, the CEO of the United Bank for Africa, Rotimi Morohunfola, said that the institution decided to go ahead with the partnership with CTA because it brings together the Mozambican private sector, reaffirming the bank’s interest in supporting the growth of Mozambican MSMEs.

[Read More](#)



Asia

Breakthrough Energy, Temasek and Enterprise Singapore jointly establish "Breakthrough Energy Fellows - Southeast Asia", a multi-year effort to accelerate the development of early-stage climate-tech solutions in the region

Breakthrough Energy (BE), the climate organisation founded by Bill Gates; Temasek, a global investment company headquartered in Singapore; and Enterprise Singapore (EnterpriseSG), the government agency championing enterprise growth, have today signed a Memorandum of Understanding to establish Breakthrough Energy Fellows – Southeast Asia ("BE Fellows – SEA") with a joint funding commitment over the next three years. The programme will be helmed out of Singapore and marks the first BE Fellows hub outside of the United States.

Announced at Ecosperity Week 2024[1], BE Fellows – SEA will be the first regional hub in BE's existing signature global Fellows programme. It aims to tackle early-stage barriers to climate technology innovation in Southeast Asia and accelerate the development of climate technologies that have the potential to significantly reduce greenhouse gases at scale and contribute towards global net-zero targets.

The partnership will leverage the pioneering climate technology platform established by Breakthrough Energy, Temasek's thought leadership, expertise and networks as a global investor anchored in Asia, and Enterprise Singapore's commitment to drive startup development and nurture deep tech startups in Singapore and the region. The complementary combination of the strengths and capabilities of the partners will enable the creation of a strategic and novel programme that can help address the critical innovation gap in the development of deep-tech climate technologies here in Southeast Asia.

BE Fellows – SEA will provide researchers, scientists, engineers and technology innovators in the region with funding and support to help take their promising climate solutions to the next stage of development and commercialisation. Through the programme, each participating Fellow's research will receive an initial USD\$500,000 grant for further development and technology de-risking. They will also gain access to a global network of industry partners, mentors, investors and experts, as they develop, demonstrate and commercialise their solutions for a clean energy future, with potential to receive follow-on funding from the same programme.

These collective efforts aim to help the Fellows with technology advancement, commercialisation fundamentals, and go-to-market strategies as they work to scale their solutions for wide-spread adoption. Across the first three cohorts of Breakthrough Energy Fellows, teams have raised over US\$150 million in follow-on funding and created more than 200 full-time jobs. Learn more about the technologies and solutions existing Fellows have developed here.

Addressing the climate gap, especially in Southeast Asia, requires concerted efforts by public and private stakeholders to identify actionable and investible business opportunities and accelerators to unlock decarbonisation outcomes. In Southeast Asia alone, a significant investment gap of US\$1.5 trillion[2] needs to be bridged from now till 2030, and substantially more until 2050 to meet its net zero target. New technologies are needed to reduce the costs, and more needs to be done to cultivate talent and develop capabilities in climate science and innovation. Collective efforts to fund and invest in research and capacity building can support the development of expertise; accelerate discovery and increase the number of projects and companies working on climate technologies; and advance commercialisation of sustainable solutions required to tackle the climate crisis more effectively. The BE Fellows SEA aims to spark and accelerate the development of such technologies.

Ms. Ashley Grosh, Vice President, Breakthrough Energy Fellows, said, "To address the world's most pressing climate challenges, innovators require tailored resources and support. That's why we established the Breakthrough Energy Fellows programme. We are excited to deepen our commitment to early-stage innovation through the launch of a regional hub in Singapore. With its strategic location, thriving ecosystem, and unwavering commitment to sustainability, Singapore is an ideal epicenter for nurturing climate innovation in Southeast Asia and beyond. Temasek and Enterprise Singapore's existing deep understanding of the regional landscape make them ideal partners for this expansion. Together, we're ready to develop and scale tailored solutions to address the urgent clean energy needs we need to reach net-zero."

Mr. Russell Tham, Head, Emerging Technologies, Temasek, said, "There is an urgent imperative to bridge the capabilities gap in climate-tech innovation in Southeast Asia. We're excited to convene this partnership with our trusted partner, Breakthrough Energy, to pioneer what is the first regional hub of their well-established global Fellows programme here, alongside Enterprise Singapore. Breakthrough Energy's extensive global science, investment, and innovation ecosystem, coupled with Temasek's global sustainability focus, has been and will continue to be a powerful and complementary combination. We are confident that this tripartite Fellows programme will catalyse a new wave of tech innovations in Singapore and Southeast Asia that can contribute towards solving our global climate challenge."

Ms. Cindy Khoo, Managing Director, Enterprise Singapore, said, "Deep tech innovations possess the transformative power to solve climate change challenges, but startup founders often face early-stage roadblocks as they take their technologies from lab to market. We need to be deliberate in providing climate-tech innovators with the right support needed to develop and commercialise new, game-changing solutions more quickly. We are excited to partner with Breakthrough Energy and Temasek to anchor Breakthrough Energy Fellows - SEA in Singapore, and build upon our strong fundamentals and infrastructure in both research and venture building to catalyse climate tech breakthroughs in the region."

More information and application details for BE Fellows - SEA will be announced in the later half of the year.

[Read More](#)

Europe

Rosberg Ventures announces the creation of a new over €70 million fund of funds aimed to boost global startup innovation

Former Formula 1 World Champion, Sustainability entrepreneur, and Angel Investor Nico Rosberg, through his investment firm Rosberg Ventures, has announced the creation of a new over €70 million Fund of Funds aimed at increasing German and European participation in leading global venture capital (VC) efforts. This strategic move seeks to bridge the investment gap between Europe and the United States in the venture capital domain.

Rosberg Ventures aims to utilize the fund to invest in Tier 1 global VC funds, emphasizing diversification which is crucial in venture capital. This new fund targets Ultra-High-Net-Worth families in Germany and Europe, offering them substantial access to top-tier VC funds and fostering the creation of symbiotic relationships between startups and large corporates.

Despite Europe's significant wealth, its participation in global VC is markedly low, with U.S. investments outpacing Europe's at €188 billion to €77 billion. This fund aims to transform this landscape by facilitating entry into premier VC funds which previously seemed out of reach for many German and European investors.

Nico Rosberg said: "Our mission with Rosberg Ventures has always been to empower global startup innovation and create value through strategic capital investment. With this new \$75 million fund, we are not just investing; we are creating a platform for growth and transformation for both startups and established corporates."

Rosberg Ventures launched its inaugural fund over a year ago and has swiftly moved to establish its second fund, which has already achieved a first close at €30 million. The fund is uniquely positioned, being indirectly invested in over 2000 transformative startups across sectors such as AI, Health Tech, Blockchain, Robotics, Fintech, and Consumer technology.

"This new chapter at Rosberg Ventures extends the innovative, tech-centric work I've been dedicated to since my retirement from Formula 1," Rosberg added. "We are excited to continue this journey, shaping the future of technology and entrepreneurship."

[Read More](#)

Africa

The AgriTech4Egypt Innovation Challenge is now accepting applications

The AgriTech4Egypt Innovation Challenge is accepting applications from motivated scientists and entrepreneurs who are developing agri-tech solutions to make Egypt's agricultural system more productive, efficient, and climate resilient.

With a focus on supporting early-stage agri-tech ventures in Egypt that have a proof of concept (POC) or minimum viable product (MVP), the AgriTech4Egypt Innovation Challenge aims to provide them with the necessary tools to develop a strong go-to-market strategy through market access and technical validation.

In priority areas like digital agriculture and precision farming, agri-finance solutions, sustainable value chain development, capacity-building tools, and effective irrigation water management, it is searching for agri-tech innovations.

A fully funded four-day immersive bootcamp, networking opportunities with agribusinesses and other partners, access to professional advice from CGIAR scientists and industry experts, and a sponsored six-month acceleration program are all available to selected ventures.

These resources will help them build the foundations of an agri-tech venture for scalable growth in Egypt.

Additionally, they will be eligible to earn an equity-free grant of up to EGP300,000 (US\$6,500) from ASRT, test and validate their solution with end users for a maximum of six months, and gain exposure to investors and market prospects.

The accelerator course will run from June to October, with a demo day scheduled for November. Applications are accepted until April 21

[Read More](#)



The poster features the WASME logo at the top left, the Bolivian flag at the top right, and a collage of industrial factory scenes in the center. A red banner at the bottom left says 'Interested Participants FREE REGISTRATION'. The event details are listed on the right side.

World Association for Small and Medium Enterprises (WASME)

WASME B2B Facilitation Series
With
Plurinational State of Bolivia

Focus Sectors :

- Pharmaceutical Medicines
- Gold Refiners companies which are certified with London Bullion Market Association (LBMA).
- Sugar Enzymes (Chemical Products for Alcohol Production).

Venue: WASME International Secretariat, Plot No. 4, Sector 16 A, Film City, Noida

Friday, 17 May 2024 | 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

www.wasmeinfo.org Follow Us:

Date: 17 May, 2024

Venue: WASME International Secretariat, Noida, India

Register at: <https://www.wasmeinfo.org/event/wasme-b2b-facilitation-series/>



The poster features the WASME logo at the top left, the Pixpg Media logo at the top right, and a map of Europe with various national flags at the bottom. The event details are listed in the center and right side.

World Association for Small and Medium Enterprises (WASME)

Powered by
PIXPG MEDIA

WORLD SME DAY 2024
THEME : ONE EUROPE - ONE SME

REGISTER NOW

27 JUNE 2024 | 9:30 AM to 5:00 PM

LE MERIDIEN Windsor Place,
Janpath, New Delhi

www.wasmeinfo.org Follow Us:

Date: 27 June, 2024

Venue: Le Meridian Windsor Place, Janpath, New Delhi

Register at: <https://www.wasmeinfo.org/event/world-sme-day-2024/>

► Membership

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.

Permanent Members

- ◆ 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 any query related to membership write to membership@wasmeinfo.org

WORLD ASSOCIATION FOR SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (WASME),



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

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

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

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

Editor, World SME Update
World Association for Small and Medium Enterprises
Plot No. 4, Institutional Area, Sector – 16 A,
Noida, GautamBudh Nagar – 201301, Uttar Pradesh, India
Tel: +91-120- 4216283, Fax: +91-120- 4216284
Mobile: +91 9560685555
Email: editor@wasmeinfo.org , wasme@wasmeinfo.org
Website: <http://www.wasmeinfo.org>,