



Empretec Women in Business Award

The Unctad's Empretec programme launched the fifth edition of the UNCTAD's Empretec Women in Business Award (WBA). The awards celebrate exceptional business women who have benefitted from Empretec's entrepreneurship development training and became role models by creating jobs, inspiring others and improving the quality of life of the local community.

Three renowned experts in entrepreneurship have selected 12 finalists on the basis of three criteria including innovation, leadership and impact in the community. The awards are presented every two years since 2008 and have made a real impact on the lives of the finalists. They have increased their access to further education and resources and have motivated them to continue developing their enterprises. This year more than 50 nominations have been received from 23 countries. The 2016 finalists are (in alphabetical order by country):

- **Maria Andrea Nallim, (Argentina):** Reciclarg Recycling Technology recycles any technological waste of companies to achieve a more sustainable and environmentally friendly use of technologies.
- **Bonou Née Zanou Berthe, (Benin) :** Akpakpa pediatric clinic provides a complete range of health care services, consultation and hospitalization for children from 0 to 17 years old.
- **Mayra Holguin, (Dominican Republic):** Programa Buenos Negocios promotes entrepreneurship and small and medium enterprises in the media, including radio and television production, events, and a reality radio show for entrepreneurs "Birth of an entrepreneur", which concluded the second season with great success and has received international awards.
- **Lidia Isabel Toaquiza Velasteguí, (Ecuador):** Pachigen produces organic cosmetics with original exclusive formulas and a wide range of compact medical masks for all skin types. All inputs are organically grown, 100% free of synthetic additives, degenerative preservatives or petroleum.

- **Fatou Saine Gaye, (Gambia):** Gayenjorro hair plus provides vocational training to two hundred and eighty youth in various marketable skills, such as Hairdressing, Beauty Cosmetology, Massage Therapy, Catering, Tailoring, Information Technology, Animal husbandry, Carpentry, masonry and Agriculture.
- **Gladys Ramos Ramires, (Guatemala):** The Artisan Cosmetic Bhoga produces cosmetic that are 100% natural and it is the first company in Guatemala using cereals, sea salt, dried herbs and pure vegetable oils as inputs.
- **Dr. Vinaya Shetty, (India) :** VIN Management Consultants provides training, coaching and counseling to various organizations. By focusing on individual and organisational development, the company enables better quality services from various organizations and public institutions such as the Police, for example.
- **Aline Wong, (Mauritius):** L'Inattendu manufactures original textile products designed for ladies, men and children. The company employs 75 employee, 95% women. It distinguishes its business with a genuine empowerment of the employees and their families to grow socially and a direct support to the development of the village where it operates.
- **Joyce Kyalema, (Uganda):** Josmak International offers a variety of organic pumpkin products of good quality and easy to access at national market. The sustainable agricultural practices adopted by the 80 rural women who provides the pumpkin leads to reduced land degradation.
- **Julia Graciela Crescini, (Uruguay) :** Oway Sports manufacture specialized technical sportswear and accessories dedicated to athletes. It is following the requirements of the ISO standard 9001: 2008, ensuring environmental sustainability. It sponsors emerging athletes, especially in the hinterland and promoting sport as a means of integration and development of people with disabilities.
- **Viet Tran, (Vietnam):** Viet Trang Handicraft provides high quality natural fibers hand-woven by artisans, most of them women. The company provides 100% eco-friendly sustainable handicraft products made from local seagrass in combination with water hyacinth, corn leaves and banana leaves.
- **Brenda Omba Kayumba Lacey, (Zambia):** Katcey Construction Limited provides a complete design and build services to the private and public sectors in Zambia for the construction industry. It is one of the few Zambian construction companies to focus on green construction, using local materials and compacted soil or kiln fired clay bricks wherever possible and appropriate.

Launch of the policy guide on Youth Entrepreneurship

A [policy guide](#) for advancing youth entrepreneurship, jointly developed by the Commonwealth Secretariat and UNCTAD, was launched on 24 November 2015 at a business forum taking place ahead of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Malta.

The launch event had the highest visibility since it was part of the main plenary session attended by

Ministers and senior officials from main government institutions involved with investment and enterprise development, as well as businesses, investors and NGOs.



Empretec Annual Directors Meeting

In Geneva, 2-3 December

The XXII annual meeting of Empretec Directors gathered thirteen representatives from twelve Empretec national centres. In terms of learning opportunities which could be used to strengthen their respective national programmes, participants highlighted the following discussions and topics: Impact assessment methodologies and results, presented by Empretec Mauritius and SEBRAE (Empretec Brazil); Certification of trainers: UNCTAD's guidelines and country challenges; ways to accelerate the certification of national trainers (the experience of Ethiopia); "Google My Business" platform and other online solutions (i.e. networking tools) for Empretec centres and *empretec*os; SME tools for export and trade presented by the International Trade Centre; Social entrepreneurship: topic and activities presented by UNCTAD.



Past event

Entrepreneurship and peace:

Symposium, 17th November, Geneva.

Participants discussed the important role of entrepreneurs in conflict and post-conflict societies because they are in the middle of an intimate relationship between peace and economic prosperity.. Economic growth reduces the likelihood of conflicts and civil wars. At the same time, conflict and poverty are strictly linked. Poverty, low per capita income, lack of improvement perspectives and hopes in a better future are all factors that increase significantly the risk of violence. Peace and economic development are bound together in a vicious or virtuous circle. For economic agents to flourish, that is, to produce and trade goods and services, peace is a precondition. In turn, economic growth can foster peace through entrepreneurship, which is by distributing wealth among all segments of the population. But it is only inclusive economic growth - growth that is broadly

Upcoming events

- The Global entrepreneurship Congress, on 14-17 March 2016, Medellin.
- The 3rd Global Empretec Summit
- The World Investment Forum
- The fourteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD XIV).

The Global entrepreneurship Congress, on 14-17 March 2016, Medellin. The Global Entrepreneurship Congress is an inter-disciplinary gathering of startup champions from around the world—where entrepreneurs, government officials, investors, researchers, thought leaders and policymakers work together to bring ideas to life, drive economic growth and expand human welfare.

The 3rd Global Empretec Summit, taking place during the Global Entrepreneurship

shared - that can foster peace. Protected private property, fair competition, access to resources, equal opportunities, effective governance, these are all conditions to sustainable peace and factors influencing positively entrepreneurial activities. The newly adopted agenda for the sustainable development goals (SDGs) makes entrepreneurship and peace complementary and mutually reinforcing. More specifically, the targets listed in Goal 16 - "Promoting peaceful and inclusive societies" - can be met, among others, by promoting entrepreneurial ecosystems. A strong investment climate, so crucial in post-conflict situations, also rests on the creation of more entrepreneurial ecosystems. Mr. Thomas Oloya contributed to the discussion on "entrepreneurship and peace" at the occasion of this symposium. His story illustrates well the difficulties and the potential of entrepreneurship in a post-conflict situation. He attended the UNCTAD-Empretec Business Entrepreneurship Startup Tool (BEST) training and started his own fisheries. Today, he earns over 20 million UGX per season from the fishing business. He has also started a piggery business to scale up his business operations.

Be in the known

Books: [Sustainable Entrepreneurship](#)

Website: [Africa Finance Forum Blog](#)

The Zambia Green Jobs Programme website

(<http://www.zambiagreenjobs.org/>)

Videos: Trade and peace in Kashmir

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hzkKkeCAeeM>

Congress, on March 2016 in Medellin.

The 3rd Global Empretec Summit Empretec Global Summit will take place to explore business networking opportunities for entrepreneurs visiting Medellin as GEC participants, in order to develop their business network and to facilitate b2b cross border links among them.

The World Investment Forum will take place on 18-21 July 2016, Nairobi, will take place during UNCTAD XIV. It will provide a platform to thousands of high-level participants to debate on the investment and development linkages and how investment flows can contribute to sustainable and inclusive development.

The fourteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD XIV). The fourteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD XIV) will bring together Heads of State and Government, ministers and other prominent players from the business world, civil society and academia to tackle global trade and economic development issues.

Past events

- Plan of Action for the Accelerated Industrial Development of Africa (AIDA) on 7-8 October 2015, Kenya.
- Global Coffee Forum and International Coffee Day, Milan, Italy.
- Launch of a Business Linkages Project in Benin
- Conference on "Strengthening

tourism market linkages for Tanzanian producers and processors 10 December 2015, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Plan of Action for the Accelerated Industrial Development of Africa (AIDA)

on 7-8 October 2015, Kenya. UNCTAD participated to the Workshop on the Plan of Action for the Accelerated Industrial Development of Africa (AIDA), organized by the African Union in Nairobi, The technical sessions, mainly devoted to share best practices and experiences on different areas of work, were followed by a brainstorming session to which UNCTAD highlighted the role it could play in contributing to drafting and implementing the [AU-wide Master Plan for SME development](#).

Global Coffee Forum and International Coffee Day, Milan, Italy

UNCTAD attended the Global Coffee

Forum in Milan, Italy, on 30 September and 1 October 2015, the first International

Coffee Day. UNCTAD partnered with the two renowned coffee partners on business linkages activities in Tanzania. The top management of both companies conveyed a very positive feedback on UNCTAD's training intervention with selected coffee farmers in the Northern regions of Tanzania and expressed their keen interest in expanding the experience to other coffee producing countries where they are present.

Benin: UNCTAD launched its project in cooperation with the Empretec centre of Benin (CePEPE) and the Investment Promotion Centre (CPI) on a business linkages project. A

sensitization workshop on the opportunities offered by the Business Linkages program for prospective anchor

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companies (multinational and large domestic enterprises) was organized in Cotonou.

Conference on "Strengthening tourism market linkages for Tanzanian producers and processors 10 December 2015, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

The purpose of the event is to showcase and promote linkage between farmers, processors and the tourism industry. Identifying challenges faced by tourism buyers to procure locally and drafting out channels through which solutions could be provided will be amongst the key outputs of the event. UNCTAD will present the results of its partnerships with dairy farmers supplying milk to Tanga Fresh Ltd. and coffee growers.



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