The UN celebrates Global Entrepreneurship Week!

The United Nations community successfully celebrated the Global Entrepreneurship Week 2013 on Wednesday, November 20, at the Palais des Nations. A town hall meeting on Youth Entrepreneurship for Development, in the presence of the ambassadors of Colombia, Italy, Mexico and Portugal, was organized with the collaboration of both UN and non-UN partners, among them UNCTAD, WIPO, the Youth Employment Network (YEN), the University of Geneva and GENILEM. The meeting was attended by more than 110 young participants. It illustrated the extraordinary development potential of youth entrepreneurship and how it may offer a means of tackling youth unemployment, a dramatic problem which is affecting developed and developing countries alike. A keynote address was delivered by Professor Raul Cuero, founder of the International Park of Creativity in Colombia. He spoke about how science, creativity and innovation are instrumental in developing a generation of dynamic and ground-breaking entrepreneurs. The forum featured a panel of entrepreneurs, each at different stages of their business creation. It also included a second panel which focused on how to leverage support network for young entrepreneurs. The panelists represented institutions including the World Economic Forum, Start-Up Chile and Unitec of the University of Geneva, among others. They underlined the importance for young entrepreneurs to interact with external actors who can help them to overcome obstacles, to learn from failures and to fully unleash their creative potential.
The First Geneva Dialogue on Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda

A high level panel on the Post-2015 Sustainable Development agenda was led by UNCTAD Secretary-General, Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi on Friday the 29 November in Geneva. The Secretary-General said that the sustainable development goals expected to be adopted should include sufficient emphasis on the development portion of the term. "So far, there’s a very big ‘S’ and a very small ‘D’" in the post-2015 discussions, he told the meeting. "We need a larger ‘D.’" He added that the Geneva dialogues should “give oxygen to substantial, horizontal engagement” involving trade-focused agencies, the business community, and civil society in establishing “the critical narrative that will shape development for the next twenty years.”

The need to engage all stakeholders, and in particular the private sector, was at the center of the dialogue. Ms. Amina J. Mohammed, Special Adviser to the United Nations Secretary-General on Post-2015 Development Planning, talked about the need to re-define partnerships, emphasizing that "we need business to be engaged, but business will join only if it makes sense to the bottom line." She went on to speak of the role to be played by such economic forces as trade, investment, entrepreneurship and technology transfer in achieving improved living standards and better environmental conditions.

Empretec Women in Business Award 2013 winner Ms. Melissa De León from Panama also contributed to the dialogue as one of the main panelists representing the private sector.
Highlights from Turkey: Empretec Director’s Meeting and related activities

The 20th Empretec Directors Annual Meeting took place in Istanbul, Turkey. It provided a platform for rich exchanges of experiences, and best practices between the 24 representatives who were presented from 21 different countries.

This year, the Director’s Meeting took place in parallel to the 16th International Business Forum (IBF) entitled, "Green and Inclusive Business - exploring and developing markets for sustainable growth." For many years, the IBF is implemented by the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) on behalf of the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) as a platform for fostering dialogue between government, private sector, and civil society to promote and disseminate sustainable business models in emerging and developing countries. Its 16th edition brought together more than 250 participants from 74 countries.

The IBF provided a great opportunity not only for Empretec Directors to benefit from the many sessions of the Forum, but also for them as well as for UNCTAD to actively contribute to the various debates and formal discussion panels that took place during the week. All of these interventions helped to gain active exposure and recognition for the work of UNCTAD and Empretec.

More information on the parallel activities and interventions below.

Youth Entrepreneurship

- UNCTAD was invited to participate in a high level opening session on youth entrepreneurship together with Mr. Mehmet Sürreya Er, Vice President of the Turkish Cooperation Agency (TIKA) and two entrepreneurs from Turkey and Thailand. A presentation made by Tatiana Krylova, Head of UNCTAD’s Enterprise Branch, highlighted the work of Empretec as well as UNCTAD’s work on entrepreneurship policy.

Ms. Tatiana Krylova participating in the panel on youth entrepreneurship.
Entrepreneurship Policy

- UNCTAD organized a session on entrepreneurship policy entitled, "Strategies, Incentives and Partnerships: Which policy options do governments have to promote green and inclusive business?" The objective was to introduce workshop participants to proactive government policies to promote businesses working for social and environmental impact and discuss how governments and donors can improve their policy support in this field to better meet the needs of the private sector. Empretec Uganda’s Director, Mr. Charles Ocici, was one of the main speakers in this panel.

Business Linkages in Africa

- Ms. Gabriel Musentekwa, Empretec Director, Zambia Development Agency contributed to the panel entitled, “IBF Impulse! Realizing Africa’s Wealth: How to Build Ecosystems that Foster Inclusive and Green Business in Africa and Beyond.” She shared the experience of a successful Business Linkages initiative in Zambia.

Business Networking Challenge

- At the request of GIZ and with their financial support, UNCTAD, together with Empretec's international master trainers Ms. Xiomara Frias from the Dominican Republic and Mr. Nana Tweneboa-Boateng from Ghana, organized a customized pre-event promotional training workshop; "EMPRETEC Business Networking Challenge." 21 pre-selected entrepreneurs from 15 different countries were able to benefit from the intense and hands-on two-day workshop which offered the participants multiple opportunities for networking, enhanced their entrepreneurial behaviors and strengthened their commitment to sustainability, quality and efficiency. It is based on Empretec's ‘learning-by-doing’ approach and it was the first time the Empretec methodology was introduced in Turkey. The enthusiasm expressed by the participants once again reaffirmed the uniqueness of the Empretec workshop and the relevance of the behavioral insights for entrepreneurs across different regions of the world. Key messages emanating from the workshop include the participants' enthusiastic endorsement of Empretec's unique focus on skills and attitudes, as opposed to the traditional trainings on management and technical knowledge.
Ad Hoc Expert Meeting on Youth Entrepreneurship

Youth entrepreneurship continued to be at the forefront of discussions this year as our recent ad-hoc Expert Meeting, which focused on examining and sharing good practices on how entrepreneurship may offer a means of tackling youth unemployment. A prominent number of experts on youth entrepreneurship from the public, private and NGO sector were present and debated on the main challenges and specific needs of the youth entrepreneurship agenda. The voice of the Empretec network was represented by Empretec Jordan Director, Nayeh Stetieh.

UNCTAD’s Entrepreneurship Policy Framework featured in workshop in Ghana

Together with the Ministry of Trade and Industries, UNCTAD organized a two-day high level Workshop on the Development of a dedicated Entrepreneurship and SME Policy and Strategy for the Republic of Ghana, from 19-20 November 2013. UNCTAD’s Entrepreneurship Policy Framework provided a baseline for the discussion between the participants, which included the main players of Ghana’s entrepreneurial ecosystem and stakeholders working in private sector development, including Empretec Ghana. The success of the workshop was highlighted in the feedback from the participants which emphasized its relevance and timeliness. Malaysia's formulation strategy for the country’s SME Master Plan was presented during the workshop and was highly appreciated by the Ghanaians as an example of a country success story. The participants divided themselves into working groups and expressed their commitment to continue work in each of the identified policy areas after the workshop. An outcome report of the workshop was also produced by UNCTAD which will provide starting guidelines, feedback and initial recommendations for further work towards an integrated Entrepreneurship and SME Strategy.
**A New Syllabus for Young Entrepreneurs**

For a sabbatical period from 1 October to the end of January 2014, Fiorina Mugione will be working on developing a new curriculum for young entrepreneurs. It will build on the Empretec methodology but will incorporate innovation and lean entrepreneurship in the teaching. Teaching cases will portray role models and also look at why young start-ups often fail, offering support to put young entrepreneurs on high growth path, building sustainable businesses. She has chosen to work with the Centre for Creative Entrepreneurship led by Professor Andy Penaluna at the University of Wales Trinity and Saint Davis. Andy participated in UNCTAD’s Multi-Year Expert Meeting and contributed to the development of its Entrepreneurship Policy Framework. The Centre has led UK-wide thinking on innovative methods of teaching entrepreneurship and mainstreaming it in all courses, not just business courses. Last year, the University was at the heart of the two major reports relating to enterprise and entrepreneurship education across the UK.

Ms. Fiorina Mugione pictured 1st left with Mr. Andy Penaluna (centre) together with colleagues at University of Wales Trinity and Saint Davis.

**Events across the EMPRETEC Network**

**EMPRETEC Argentina** serves clients of bank: With the purpose of diffusing the Empretec programme in and across the country, Empretec Argentina teamed up with the marketing team of its host institution, the Banco de la Nación, and allowed more than 700 of the bank's clients to benefit from Empretec services.

**EMPRETEC in action in Costa Rica:**
As part of a project backed by the Government to promote cultural entrepreneurship, Empretec was invited to participate in the National Entrepreneurship Council of Costa Rica before the Office of the Minister of Economy, Industry and Commerce. Empretec was represented by Lourdes Navarro, Director of Empretec Panama (CEDE) and she took this opportunity to showcase the work of Empretec in the Latin American region.

**EMPRETEC Dominican Republic** celebrates the day of the Dominican Entrepreneur: Dominican Empretecos participated in the first Entrepreneurship Fair, on the occasion of the first celebration of 12th of November, which has been officially decreed as the "National Day of the Dominican Entrepreneur."

**EMPRETEC Guyana's** 10th year anniversary! Empretec Guyana celebrates its 10th year anniversary with a gala dinner and an award ceremony which featured an "Empretec of the decade" and "most outstanding venture" awards.
EMPRETEC Jordan celebrates its 50th ETW!: From 28 September to 3 October, 20 new Empretecos joined the Empretec family in Jordan and marked the Business Development Centre's 50th Entrepreneurship Training Workshop.

EMPRETEC Mauritius conducts campaign: Among its many activities in the past quarter of 2013, the Empretec Centre in Mauritius conducted an "Inspiring Entrepreneurship Across Mauritius” awareness campaign in November, to sensitize people about entrepreneurship in the country.

EMPRETEC Panama receives distinction by the Latin America Quality Institute: In November, the 7th Edition of the Latin America Quality Awards acknowledged the work of Empretec Panama (CEDE) in promoting entrepreneurial leadership in the country.

EMPRETEC Russia celebrates its 2nd anniversary! Since the inception of the Empretec programme in Russia two years ago, 10 ETWs have been conducted, from which over 200 participants have benefited and a first national trainer has been certified. To mark this occasion, a press conference was organized with the participation of the Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD Mr. Petko Draganov, the Deputy Chairman of Vnesceconombank Mr. Mikhail Kopeikin, the Business Development Director of KPMG Evgenia Schipalova, Empretec Russia Director, Dmirti Croitor and Tatiana Krylova, Head of the Enterprise Branch along with other partners in Russia.

EMPRETEC Vietnam celebrates its 3rd birthday!: On the occasion of Empretec Vietnam’s 3rd birthday, the fifth networking event for Empretecos entitled, "For the Healthy Development of Entrepreneurs and Enterprises” was held in late November in Hanoi.

EMPRETEC Zimbabwe empowers youth: This year, the Empretec Centre embarked on a project to empower local youth from 18-25 years, which included an ETW as well as training on business management skills.
Other news...

Our team joiners:

- Alejandro Rubias Hernandez has joined the Entrepreneurship Section, he was previously working in the United Nations in New York.
- Stephania Bonilla-Féret has returned from maternity leave.

…and

- We thank Richard Bolwijn for his valuable contribution to the programme during his time as the Officer-in-Charge of the Entrepreneurship Section.
- Lorenzo Formenti is currently completing an internship with the entrepreneurship team. Among the many activities he is involved in, he is working on a new Emretec website which is going to be launched soon!
- We thank Cristina Martinez de Silva for her great contribution for the Emretec Director’s Meeting and wish her all the best!
- After a short contract break, Till Leopold is now continuing his work with the Entrepreneurship Section focusing on a joint programme in Zambia.

The EMPRETEC Team wishes you all the best for 2014!!!