The 4th UNCTAD World Investment Forum took place in Geneva, Switzerland from 13 to 16 October, attracting over 3000 participants from 150 countries, and engaging 300 speakers in 50 events.

Heads of State, Government Officials, heads of international organizations, CEOs of the world’s largest transnational corporations as well as representatives of the civil society and entrepreneurial community gathered to address the issue of investing in sustainable development. Demonstrating the success of the event; over a dozen of high-impact concrete outcomes of this year’s World Investment Forum was achieved. See the full report on: http://unctad-worldinvestmentforum.org/about-wif-2014/.

Undoubtedly, during the WIF2014, the topic of entrepreneurship was at the top of the agenda while discussing the linkages between promoting investment and promoting sustainable and inclusive development.

We are pleased to share with the entrepreneurial community, a summary of relevant sessions and outcomes
Making Value Chains Work for the Poor

The Making Value Chains Work for the Poor session provided a platform to discuss how best to promote inclusive and sustainable value chains as means of empowering small enterprises.

High-level speakers representing the public and private sectors included: the SMEs Minister of Cameroon, H.E. Mr. Laurent Serge Etoundi Ngoa, the former President of the Republic of Finland Ms. Tarja Kaarina Halonen, the Executive Director of the International Trade Centre, Ms. Arancha González; Mr. Giuseppe Lavazza, Vice-President, LAVAZZA, Mr. François Perrot, Senior Manager, Affordable Housing Project, LAFARGE; Mr. Bernard Mathieu, Senior Vice President, Head of Sustainable Development, HOLCIM and Mr. David Norman, Senior Manager, Sustainable Development Policy, SABMILLER.

The discussants reviewed how to facilitate transition from informal to formal businesses across different business sectors’ perspectives, including the integration of target groups such as women and youth. An agreement for a new partnership between UNCTAD and LAVAZZA to make value chains work for the poor has been signed.

The XXI Empretec Directors Meeting at the WIF2014

The XXI Empretec Directors’ Meeting, organized in parallel to the World Investment Forum (WIF) 2014, convened sixteen representatives from 14 countries, providing a unique opportunity to exchange experiences and look at solutions for the challenges ahead.

Empretec Centers shared their innovative experiences. Empretec South Africa (SEDA) presented a targeted training, based on the Empretec methodology, for a group of people serving their sentence in a correctional institute. The training provided them with an opportunity for self-employment that would make their social reintegration less challenging. Empretec Colombia (Cafam) provided a comprehensive overview of their entrepreneurship development training for young people aged 12 to 16, with a distinctive focus on behavioural elements. Finally, Empretec Brazil (SEBRAE) illustrated the results of an Empretec training assessment conducted on a large sample of participants, who attended the workshop in 2013. Centres agreed to adopt the Brazilian survey as a template to monitor impact of the Empretec training.

Recognizing that the time devoted to a number of issues during the XXI Empretec Directors Meeting was not sufficient to allow for a thorough discussion, UNCTAD proposed to follow up during the forthcoming Global Entrepreneurship Congress, which will be held in Milan, in March 2015.
The spirited award ceremony to announce the final three winners for the fourth edition of UNCTAD’s Empretec Women in Business Award (WBA) took place during UNCTAD’s World Investment Forum 2014. Through this event, participants at the WIF were exposed to the key role that women entrepreneurs have in contributing to sustainable development through job creation, innovation and strengthening local capacity.

Winners:

Gold: Lina Jalil Khalifeh, She Fighter (Jordan)
Silver: Divine Ndhulukula, Securico (Zimbabwe)
Bronze: Lorena Picasso, Somno (Argentina)

Special Recognitions:

Green Entrepreneurship: Pabla Torres, Bioproducts (Argentina)
Social Entrepreneurship: Leena Irshai, Renas Women Cooperative Association (Jordan)


The December issue of the newsletter will feature a special edition on the women finalists and the amazing outcomes that the awards unfolded.

Other WIF Sessions

- UNCTAD Business Schools for Impact Network discussed how business schools can better prepare students to engage in inclusive businesses in low-income countries. It brought together business school representatives, business practitioners (company managers, impact investors, small business owners and social entrepreneurs), students and teachers. The initiative, undertaken in partnership with the Global Alliance in Management Education, the Global Business Schools Network and top business schools around the world, is part of UNCTAD’s proposed action plan for investing in the sustainable development goals – the set of targets being formulated by the international community to guide development efforts for the period 2016–2030. Empretec is providing inputs to this initiative.

- The Global Business Registration Portal, in partnership with the Global Entrepreneurship Week has been launched. This is a global index of national and sub-national web portals to facilitate online business registration processes. It aims at improving business registration services worldwide, allowing easy access to existing online systems, and facilitating the exchange of experience and best practices among governments.
The thirtieth-first session of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting (ISAR 31), was organized as part of UNCTAD's World Investment Forum 2014 under the topic of monitoring of compliance and enforcement of international corporate reporting standards and codes. ISAR 31 brought together leading international experts on accounting and reporting, key policy makers, regulators, standard-setters and multiple other stakeholders to share perspectives on recent developments in corporate reporting models with a view to promote a more cohesive approach to corporate financial and non-financial reporting, and facilitate its impact on sustainable development.

Global Entrepreneurship Week 2014

To celebrate the Global Entrepreneurship Week, UNCTAD, ITC and WIPO organized a one-day training workshop entitled Creativity, Innovation and Intellectual Property. The session targeted university students and practitioners in the field of Entrepreneurship in Switzerland and was aimed at unleashing their creativity, innovation and entrepreneurial spirit. It included presentations, coaching and group activities on key youth entrepreneurship competencies.

Events involving the EMPRETEC Network:

EMPRETEC installation launched in the Gambia

The Ministry of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration and Employment (MOTIE) in collaboration with UNDP, the Gambia Investment and Export Promotion Agency (GEIPA) and UNCTAD launched EMPRETEC, on Monday 8th September 2014. The project will run from 2014 to 2017 and is part of the Gambian vision 2020 that aims to create employment opportunities to women and young people. The project aims to train around 800 entrepreneurs in the next 3 years. The first 6 trainings took place in September and October 2014.
Regional Collaboration between the Empretec Centers of Argentina and Ecuador

Under the collaboration framework of the Global Empretec Network, Instructors from Empretec Argentina facilitated an Entrepreneurship Training Workshop (ETW) in July 2014 at the Agencia Metropolitana de Promoción Económica CONQUITO in Ecuador. Among the collaboration agreement, Empretec Argentina is transferring knowledge on the Management of the Center, the strengthening of the existing instructors and the training of new ones.

EMPRETEC RUSSIA

Empretec Russia conducted further 5 workshops. One of the workshops was delivered forth time for young managers of Russian Central Aerohydrodynamic Institute in Jukovskiy. Since success of the ETW in 2011, the Institute has made the Empretec workshops an annual training activity for its young professionals to enhance their efficiency, motivation and business skills, to facilitate commercial use of its scientific products and innovations. In addition Empretec Russia jointly with Russian Academy of Entrepreneurship won a Moscow City Government tender and was awarded a state contract on delivery of 5 workshops for owners and employees of small companies located in Moscow. The team of trainers included Roberto Gandara, Renato Dos Santos, Daniel Real and Dmitri Croitor (Director of Empretec Russia). A 3 day ToT was conducted for the Russian team of trainers and trainee trainers. One more National Trainer, Anastasiya Litvinenko, has been certified, and having four trainee trainers in the certification process, Empretec Russia is well set to start Empretec in Russian early next year.
Mongolian Entrepreneurship Summit

UNCTAD participated to the first Mongolian Entrepreneurship Summit in November 2014 organized by the Ministry of Labour in collaboration with the National University of Mongolia. As a guest speaker, Alejandro Rubias Hernandez of UNCTAD presented the Empretec methodology and the Entrepreneurship policy framework.

Other events across the EMPRETEC Network:

Saudi Arabia:
8 workshops were successfully organized and a total of 100 people were trained this year in collaboration with the Saudi Credit and Savings Bank and the support of the Business Development Centre (BDC-Jordan).

Ethiopia:
The UNDP in Ethiopia, Empretec Ghana and the government of Ethiopia developed the Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP) 2012-2015, which was anchored on entrepreneurship. Under the plan, a scoping mission was conducted to spearhead on a sustainable entrepreneurial development programme that comprises entrepreneurial training and advisory services to entrepreneurs. Empretec Ghana conducted the first Entrepreneurship Training Workshop in collaboration with UNDP in 2013, and the aim is to train 2,500 entrepreneurs in 2014, consolidating five enterprise development centres in the country.

Empretec India:
Empretec India proceeds towards the consolidation of the programme by organizing two workshops in India in Calcutta and Delhi, with the assistance of UNCTAD and international trainers from Brazil.
Other international news and future events...

- Global Entrepreneurship Congress. Milan, Italy 16-19 March 2015: Entrepreneurs will share experiences and will form a variety of options for mutually beneficial cooperation. For more info visit: http://www.gec.co/.

- The II Empretec Summit and XXII Global Empretec Directors Meeting will take place in parallel to the Global Entrepreneurship Congress in Milan, Italy on 19-20 March 2015.

- The seventh session of the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission organized by UNCTAD will be held in Geneva, Switzerland, 20 - 24 April 2015.

- The 3rd session on MYEM on Investment, Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Productive Capacity Building and Sustainable Development is scheduled for 30 - 31 March 2015 in Geneva.

- 2016 NESTLE CSV Prize. The Nestlé Creating Shared Value Prize is awarded every two years to help scale up or replicate business-oriented initiatives that address challenges in nutrition, water or rural development. Nominations for the 2016 Nestlé CSV Prize are open now; and will be accepted until 28 February. More info about the prize can be found here: http://www.nestle.com/csv/what-is-csv/nestleprize/about-csv-prize.

Be in the know

Books


Website

Look out at http://www.dutiee.com/, a website with technologies that Power Social Good Startups.

Staff News

Stephania Bonilla leaves the Empretec team for a few months to work on Investment Policy reviews. Congrats!

Cristina Martinez joined the team and will replace Stephanie during her leave. Welcome to her!