



Expert Group Meeting on Outline of Asia-Pacific MSME Policy Guidebook, second edition

Tentative programme

Thursday, 3 September 2020 (Bangkok time), MS Teams

14:00 -14:20 hours	Opening session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opening statement by Ms. Mia Mikic, Director, Trade, Investment and Innovation Division Observations about the project and the objectives of the EGM by Mr. Marc Proksch, Chief, Investment and Enterprise Development, TIID
14:20 – 15:00	Session 1: Review of overall structure of the Guidebook and Part I: Setting the Scene <p>Almost every policy has some implications for the development of MSMEs. However, MSMEs are defined very differently among countries and there are many different types and forms of MSMEs, including those that operate in the informal sector. This session will review the structure of the policy guidebook and discuss in particular the overall scene setting that describes the general infrastructure in place for assisting MSMEs in Asia-Pacific countries.</p> <p>Introduction by Mr. Eric Roeder, ESCAP consultant</p> <p>Experts discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mrs. Ferdaus Ara Begum Ms. Olga Solleder Ph.D. Dr. Wimonkan Kosumas

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Sailendra Narain • Dr. Simon White <p>Coordination of national policy and regional cooperation (10 minutes):</p>
15:00 – 15:40	<p>Session 2: General Policies for MSME Development</p> <p>This session reviews part II of the guidebook which covers all policies that have an impact on MSMEs though they are not specifically designed to help MSMEs. In particular enterprise development, trade and investment policies have a profound impact on MSMEs. In addition, MSMEs cannot prosper if macroeconomic policies such as high interest rates and taxes undermine their development and they are not able to compete in a fair and level playing field. MSMEs also cannot be competitive if they lack proper access to infrastructure such as transport, energy, ICT and telecommunications. Labour and environmental policies are meant to promote sustainability but may undermine the development of MSMEs. They need to be adapted to help MSMEs as well.</p> <p>Introduction by Mr. Eric Roeder</p> <p>Experts discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Deborah Elms, Ph.D. • Mrs. Ferdaus Ara Begum • Prof. Naoyuki Yoshino • Mr. Teerawat Charoenrat, Ph.D. • Ms. Olga Solleder Ph.D. • Dr. Simon White <p>Summary /key points</p>
15:40 – 16:20	<p>Session 3: Specific Policies for MSME Development: Competitiveness</p> <p>Almost every country supports their MSMEs recognizing their importance for national development. This includes improving the business environment, facilitating access to technology and promoting entrepreneurship, helping start-ups and the growing enterprise, and facilitating access to finance. It also involves helping MSMEs transiting from the informal to the formal sector to access support schemes. The overall objective of these policies is to improve the productivity and competitiveness of MSMEs. However, after so many years MSMEs are still struggling. What are the best practices and policies governments can adopt to strengthen the productivity and competitiveness of MSMEs. Inevitably, this involves helping MSMEs accessing appropriate technologies and</p>

	<p>benefiting from the digital economy.</p> <p>Introduction by Mr. Eric Roeder</p> <p>Experts discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Tulus Tambunnan • Prof. Jianqing Ruan • Dr. Wimonkan Kosumas • Ms. Deborah Elms, Ph.D. • Mr. Teerawat Charoenrat, Ph.D. • Mr. Kithmina V. Hewage • Dr. Sunil Shukla • Ms. Olga Solleder Ph.D. • Dr. Simon White • Mr. Andre Wirjo <p>Summary/ key points</p>
16:20 – 17:00	<p>Session 4: Specific Policies for MSME Development: Sustainability</p> <p>Most governments have adopted policies to help MSMEs improve productivity and competitiveness but have ignored sustainability. While sustainability has economic, social and environmental dimensions, Party IV of the guidebook seeks to identify policies that promote social and environmental sustainability of MSMEs. Long regarded as a cost to MSMEs, increasingly sustainability is seen as a prerequisite for long-term competitiveness in the wake of climate change, natural disasters and pandemics such as Covid-19. Obviously, for MSMEs to be sustainable they need to adopt internationally recognized principles and standards of responsible business conduct. However, even in a perfect environment, MSMEs owned or managed by women continue to face problems even though the track record of those MSMEs is very good. The guidebook will provide an overview of the issues and recommendations for policy to enhance the sustainability of MSMEs.</p> <p>Introduction by Mr. Eric Roeder</p> <p>Experts discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Savia Hasanova • Prof. Tulus Tambunnan

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Jennifer Buckley • Ms. Olga Solleder Ph.D. • Dr. Sailendra Narain • Dr. Wimonkan Kosumas • Dr. Simon White • Mrs. Ferdaus Ara Begum <p>Summary/key points</p>
17:00– 17:30	<p>Closing session</p> <p>Conceptualizing a new MSME ecosystem for Asia-Pacific in the post-Covid-19 era</p> <p>Moderator: Barbara Meynert</p>