



**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**

2013/SMEMM-WMM/010

Agenda Item: 2.1

Women and SMEs in Brunei Darussalam

Purpose: Information
Submitted by: Brunei Darussalam



**1st Joint Ministerial Meeting on Small and Medium
Enterprises and Women
Bali, Indonesia
7 September 2013**

Women And SMEs In Brunei Darussalam

Saturday, 7th September 2013

STATEMENT BY

HER EXCELLENCY
DATIN PADUKA HAJAH ADINA OTHMAN
DEPUTY MINISTER OF CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORTS, BRUNEI
DARUSSALAM

FRAMEWORK FOR DEVELOPING SMES

In Brunei Darussalam, women have equal opportunities as men in economic participation. The WEF Global Gender Gap Report places Brunei at 30th place in terms of women in economic participation and opportunity.

In Brunei Darussalam, SMEs contribute 92% of the employment opportunities in the private sector and more than half of these SMEs are owned by women.

The development of SMEs has been in the national development agenda for many years. There have been many efforts at developing SMEs both by the government and private sectors in the country.

FRAMEWORK FOR DEVELOPING SMES

Our government has in place a guiding framework for developing SMEs that is focused on entrepreneurship development. This framework has 7 major areas of intervention which include:

- i. Human Resource Development which focuses on developing knowledge, skills and ethical values of entrepreneurs
- ii. Access to Finance or Capital
- iii. Access to Technology and Innovation
- iv. Increasing Market Access
- v. Access to Information and ICT Policy, Regulatory and Administrative Environment or Good Governance
- vii. Developing Production/Manufacturing Sites including its basic infrastructure

THE DECADE TO SPUR SME DEVELOPMENT IN BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

To further spur the development of SME in Brunei Darussalam, we have declared the present decade (2010-2020) as the Decade to Spur SME Development in Brunei Darussalam.

By declaring this, we will be engaging the various stakeholders in realizing our aspirations of continued growth of our SMEs and an increase in the number and quality of SMEs penetrating the regional, international or global markets.

PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN SMES

The active participation of women in SMEs is encouraged and nurtured by the Government and the private sector through equal access to the provision of incentives and entrepreneurial support which include financial assistance schemes, access to info-communication technology, business counseling as well as training in the form of workshops, seminars and consultations.

Their participation in the business world in Brunei Darussalam has increased in various economic sectors including consultancy, architecture, legal practice, manufacturing, aqua-culture and agriculture, general construction and many more.

FINANCE FOR SMES

- In term of access to finance for SMEs, the government has exerted tremendous efforts in facilitating SMEs access to finance. Just recently, the government has launched a complete handbook on 'Assistance Schemes for Business Start-ups and SMES' which consist of important information on all Financing schemes and assistance offered by the Brunei Darussalam Government.
- Financial assistance schemes are made available to SMEs through commercial banks. These include the Enterprise Facilitation Scheme, the Micro-Credit Financing Scheme and the Working Capital Credit Fund.

FINANCE FOR SMES

- The Enterprise Facilitation Scheme has three components – the Entrepreneur Development Scheme, the Enterprise Development Scheme and the Regional Cooperation Project Facilitation Scheme.
- For the period 2006-2010, 56% and 41% of the loan applicants for Micro-Credit Financing Scheme and Enterprise Facilitation Scheme respectively are made up of women business owners/co-owners, directors/co-directors or managers/co-managers.
- Our private sector also provides entrepreneurship development programmes, such as the Live Wire Brunei which was launched in 2001 by the Brunei Shell Petroleum Company, targeting those between the ages of 18 and 30 years.

THE WOMEN'S BUSINESS COUNCIL (WBC)

- The Women's Business Council (WBC) was established in the year 2000, under the direct supervision of the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources. It has successfully organised several awareness programmes through seminars, courses, talks and goodwill meetings, signifying their concern for progress and development.
- The WBC works closely with many agencies including the Community Development Department to create social entrepreneurship for women who receive welfare assistance to enable them to be financially independent and to supplement their income. Another social entrepreneurship programme is to develop young unemployed youths to learn business skills through training programmes developed by WBC.



THANK YOU
TERIMA KASIH