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# WLN

## Promoting Women-owned ME and SME's as an Effective Measure for Poverty Eradication



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Economically empowered women  
are at the center of poverty  
eradication and creating  
sustainable development



# Key Themes in the Presentations

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- SME and ME Sector Is a Primary Tool for Eradicating Poverty Among Women
- Trends Toward a Increasing Level of Growth Over the Last 10 Years but Growth Is Not Fast Enough As It Could or Should Be Among APEC Women Sector
- All Economies Highlight SME/ME Development Is Crucial for Increasing Labor Force Participation Rates



# Key Themes..Cont

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- Entrepreneurial Centers for Women Are Key Parts of a Strategy for Getting Women Involved in Business Developments
- Exposing women to the models, best practices and strategies that focus on S/ME development are effective measures for assisting women to learn how to become more entrepreneurial and business oriented in their small productive activities



## Key Themes..Cont

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- NGO's and International Organizations Are Supports That Are Essential in Addressing Women's Economic Issues
- Training is key factor for ensuring that the costs and risks associated with women's access to finance and credit remains mitigated, and to managing risks (all projects highlighted this factor)



# Supports That are Proving Effective

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- Capacity development relating to management and entrepreneurial skill development (training programs, centers, models )
- Training in ICT is a critical part of creating the enabling environment
- Special emphasis on single mothers



# Supports That are Proving Effective

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- Networking opportunity is a key element in building the S/SME sector (regional forums, workshops, conferences, including supporting organizations that promote these initiatives)
- Innovative micro-credit measures are instrumental in growing women's businesses and Micro-enterprises, and expanding their access to opportunities



# Supports That are Proving Effective...cont

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- Incubators are proving effective in some economies although this practice may not be widespread or the information about these practices throughout economies has not been largely synthesized



# Challenges Remain

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- Shifting existing orientation toward a more business orientation ( building the business mind among low income and small scale producers)
- Gender equality (in many cases men are still acting as the leader of the business, and women are reluctant to take these up front roles and positions)



# Going Forward

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- Now at a stage to begin assessing the current programs and to make decisions as to what is needed for future activity
- Education is still a huge factor in getting women involved in S/ME development



# Going Forward

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- Need to enhance micro-credit measures within APEC economies and include consultation with agencies at the international, national , regional and local levels
- There is a recognition that there are requirements for more measures that facilitate markets, credit, and information technology for women-owned enterprises