



ENABLING ENTREPRENEURSHIP FOR WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC



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This publication is the product of the joint ESCAP and Goldman Sachs *10,000 Women* initiative aimed at fostering women's entrepreneurship in Asia and the Pacific by strengthening the existing knowledge base and the capacities of policy-makers.

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The cover and layout of the publication were designed by Daniel Feary.

LIST OF ACRONYMS

APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
FLO	Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry Ladies Organization
GEDI	Global Entrepreneurship and Development Index
GEM	Global Entrepreneurship Monitor
GEPI	Global Entrepreneurship Program Indonesia
ICECD	International Centre for Entrepreneurship and Career Development
ICT	Information and Communication Technologies
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
MSME	Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
SME	Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises
UNIRAZAK	Universiti Tun Abdul Razak, Malaysia

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The background is a solid orange color. It features a repeating pattern of large circles. Each circle is divided vertically. The left half of each circle is a solid, slightly darker shade of orange. The right half contains a series of concentric, semi-circular lines in a lighter shade of orange, creating a ripple effect.

Executive Summary

Asia and the Pacific is considered the “engine of global growth”, as it is home to six of the world’s top ten fastest growing economies. Yet, this growth is hampered by inequalities across the Asia-Pacific region, in particular gender inequalities. Hindrances, whether structural or social, limit women’s economic participation, denying communities and countries of greater socioeconomic growth that is of benefit to all elements of society. Entrepreneurship is a key means of redressing this inequality and the associated impediments to equitable, inclusive and sustainable development.

Recognizing the potential of, and the challenges for, women’s entrepreneurship across the Asia-Pacific region, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and Goldman Sachs 10,000 Women launched a joint programme to promote enabling policy and legal environments for women’s entrepreneurship in four countries in Asia and the Pacific: China, India, Indonesia and Malaysia.

Enabling Entrepreneurship for Women’s Economic Empowerment in Asia and the Pacific presents the key findings of the ESCAP-Goldman Sachs programme. The research findings highlight context-specific experiences and shared challenges for women’s entrepreneurship that resonate across the Asia-Pacific region.

The publication begins with an introduction that highlights the growing role played by women entrepreneurs in Asian and Pacific economies. The introduction is followed by an outline of the ESCAP and Goldman Sachs 10,000 Women study that forms the basis of the publication. In this context, brief profiles provide the policy context, key data and trends for women’s entrepreneurship in the study’s four focus countries: China, India, Indonesia and Malaysia.

Chapters 3 to 6 document the common barriers that limit opportunities for women to establish, manage and grow an enterprise. Barriers are considered in four areas that are critical determinants of the entrepreneurial environment, namely (a) policy development, coordination and implementation, (b) access to finance and

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