



World SME Update

(A Global Update On SME News, Events, Policies & Programs)

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ARGENTINA



Agricultural and Livestock Chaco SME Invests 2 Million Pesos for Breeding Pigs

With the construction of ten sheds and a balanced plant food thanks to a loan from BICE of 2 million pesos, Chaco Maderas SRL is dabbling in breeding pigs. *"We performed the complete cycle of breeding with the idea to reach production of 200 animals per month with which provide local refrigerator,"* explained Mr. William Arriortúa, Managing Partner of this family business for fifty years dedicated to cattle production and the cultivation of maize, sorghum, sunflower, wheat and soybeans.

The property has 120 mothers who are given service to them pregnant, then spend the gestation barn for 3.5 months and then to maternity, where stop and stay 21 days with piglets. Newborn animals are taken to the warehouse and then to weaning fattening, while females restart the cycle for gestation.



Santafecina SME Invests 50 Million Pesos to Move Its Factory

Located in the city of Santa Fe, Facorsa is an SME dedicated to the manufacture and sale of radiators and spare parts. Now, with an investment of 50 million pesos, will move its plant in Sauce Viejo Industrial Park in the province, in a plan that provides for the purchase of land, construction of two sheds and the acquisition of new machinery. *"This will increase the volume of production, have better equipment and increase 10% our roster of employees, which is 90 people today,"* says Mr. Alejandro Taborda, president of the company which exports to Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay, Chile and We are united.

Facorsa manufactures and sells radiators for the replacement market from its six branches of direct retail sales. SME is now focusing on the production of large equipment to provide industrial motors, generators, road machinery and mining, oil, and agricultural industries.



AUSTRALIA

Small Businesses Benefitting from New Export Loan

The Australian Government (Mr. Malcolm Turnbull) is helping small and medium enterprises become exporters through the Small Business Export Loan. *"I am delighted to announce 12 loans – provided by Australia's export credit agency, Efic – have been approved and the recipients are now exporting. There has been a strong demand and a number of applications are currently being completed and assessed by Efic".*

Applications have come from all states and a cross-section of industries including manufacturing, tourism, agri-business, wine, education and health and beauty.

Helping our small and medium enterprises compete and succeed overseas creates more Australian jobs and drives economic growth as they expand locally to meet global demand.

The Small Business Export Loan, launched earlier this year, enables businesses with annual revenue between \$250,000 and \$5 million to access up to \$250,000 to support an export contract.

The loan is available to small exporters when their bank is unable to help and is the first of its kind designed specifically for small and medium enterprises.

The application process is through a convenient, easy-to-use online portal.

The Small Business Export Loan is one of the Australian Government's tools to help small and medium enterprises become exporters. The Government is pursuing an ambitious trade agenda to create new opportunities for Australian businesses to export, expand and employ more people.

AUSTRIA



SMEs preparing for Industry 4.0

Five million euros for training networks strengthening innovation of domestic enterprises - actively use opportunities of digitization, not burdened with special taxes

Through the program 'research skills for the economy' *"can currently eleven new training networks will receive a total of five million euros. The focus of the third invitation to tender is in the shift towards industry 4.0, after which received no less than five projects targeted. "Digitization is a great opportunity that we must use for the technology Country Austria. So that we can not only enhance our competitiveness, but also developing another unique feature. This ensures growth, employment and value added in the country,"* said Economy Minister Mr. Reinhold Mitterlehner at the funding decisions. *"Companies benefit from innovative researchers and skilled professionals. Through them, new*

technologies, services and business models," refers Mr. Mitterlehner on the added value of the funded training networks. "Instead of responding to the inevitable digitalization with new taxes, we need local businesses right now provide targeted support" says Mr. Mitterlehner.

The support program is directly at SMEs who wish to qualify their innovative staff systematically are also supported universities and colleges, which determine through collaborations with companies with the necessary know-how and jointly develop educational programs. The content is based directly on the needs of the companies involved. "It allows companies to increase their innovative capacity close to the market", Mr. Mitterlehner emphasizes.

Training networks aimed at companies that operate with their own staff and budget research and development. The project duration is between one and a maximum of two years, the promotion of up to 500,000 euros per project. "Enterprises thus promote the development of its staff and equip it with expertise from. Universities again develop offers that are not available, but important for the economy", said Mr Mitterlehner on the market currently.

The projects funded at a glance

COMSYSBAU (Industry 4.0): University of Innsbruck - Institute of Engineering and Materials Science, a total of 31 partners (including six academic partners, 14 small businesses, five medium-sized enterprises and six large companies). The project is aimed at computer-aided design and manufacturing with systematic construction of wood. The intensified exchange between science and craft to make the relationships more understandable and promote communication and innovation in the company.

eINDUSTRIE4.0 (Industry 4.0): Sun Großschönau GmbH, a total of 18 partners (including five academic partners, nine small business, a medium sized company and three large enterprises). The project focused on a competence deepening in the subject area Industrial 4.0. The results are intended to enhance research, development and innovation skills in the companies involved and contribute to the sustainable establishment of branch-relevant, innovative knowledge and new collaborations.

Q-WEST (Industry 4.0): University of Innsbruck - Institute of Mechatronics, a total of 27 partners (including six academic partners, eight small companies, three medium-sized enterprises and ten large companies). The aim of this training network is to enter the company partners involved in time the necessary expertise in the hand, to evaluate the benefits of industry 4.0 in your company and implement. The 21 companies from Tyrol, Vorarlberg and Salzburg can deliver a competitive edge in international competition through the timely introduction of new technologies.

TRUC (Industry 4.0): SBA Research gGmbH, a total of twelve partners (including four academic partners, six small businesses and two large companies). TRUC - short for Trusted Code - including the planning and implementation of highly specialized modules and knowledge sharing about "Secure Software Development". The aim of this project is to combine needed special knowledge of relevant information security areas to allow the detailed knowledge of the staff involved / -inside the partner companies on a - to lift the top level - international comparison.

V-Net (Industrial 4.0): Technical University Graz - Life Long Learning, a total of 23 partners (including three scientific partners, 13 small companies, three medium-sized businesses and four large companies). The project deals with the qualification of Value Networks South in the high-tech electronics, IT & system solutions. Objectives are the sustainable strengthening of innovation capacity and the ability of companies to anticipate changes and adapt to them rapidly. Then there is the project a modern access to system and software development as well as to cooperative leadership.

Building Soft Skills: Danube University Krems - Department for Building and Environment, a total of 36 partners (including six academic partners, 24 small businesses, two medium-sized businesses and four large companies). The project aims to clarify the complex human-building interactions and networking established knowledge with human scientific expertise in the construction sector. In three phases and with the needs of the participants / -Innen concerted fashion knowledge transfer, which opens both companies and research institutes new skills and fields of activity takes place.

HdZ2Market: Technikum Wien GmbH, a total of 20 partners (including six academic partners, nine small business, a medium sized company and four large companies). The project provides expertise recess for companies to develop and implement innovative and sustainable building concepts. The main objectives of the training network include the nature of knowledge and increasing the capacity for innovation in the company. In addition, it comes to building long-term cooperation between the participating companies and between science and industry.

Hydrovation: ASMET - The Austrian Society for Metallurgy and Materials, a total of 16 partners (including four academic partners, five small businesses and seven large companies). Existing and new hydrogen technologies have the potential to allow CO2 free steelmaking and mobility, to stop global warming and to cover almost all energy needs from renewable wind / solar energy. This project is a certified training on the subject of hydrogen technology for business. The course is divided into three interlinked main blocks, which treated the fundamentals and applications are taught.

Incubation: University of Leoben - Chair of injection molding of plastics, a total of 18 partners (including three scientific partners, six small businesses, four medium-sized companies and five large enterprises). This project deals with new developments and methods for the design of intelligent plastic and hybrids. The qualification program enables participating companies to integrate the developments / methods in their own products or estimate where interesting developments are made.

Poly-GENFEROS 4.0: University Linz - Institute of Polymer Product Engineering, a total of 16 partners (including five academic partners, six small businesses, medium-sized enterprise and four large companies). The project aims at an integrated knowledge structure of the generative manufacturing technologies in the thematic area of plastic and the integration and making available in the operational production chain of companies. The aim is (for product developers) and in the context of technological supply chains in an increasingly networked production to deposit new manufacturing processes with the techniques of additive manufacturing for innovative services with real projects of the company.

QnHT 3.0: Human technology Styria GmbH, a total of 20 partners (including four academic partners, ten small business, a medium sized company and five large enterprises). The aim is to further increase the high R & D ratio in the human technology enterprises and ensure the arrival of medical innovations in the markets. Qualification in the network (inter-company learning) should also open up further opportunities for cooperation. To Deepens the networking of the companies involved with the training providers that have in the field of medical technology on outstanding expertise.

On behalf of the Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economics (BMWFW) the program 'research skills for the economy "by the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG) is unwound.



BHUTAN

First Joint Trade Committee (JTC) Meeting between Bhutan and Thailand.

A high-level trade delegation from the Kingdom of Thailand was in Bhutan to attend the First Joint Trade Committee (JTC) Meeting between Bhutan and Thailand. The meeting was held from 24-25 August 2016 in Thimphu.

The Thirteen member Thai delegation was led by H.E. Mrs. Apiradi Tantrapon, Minister of Commerce, Government of the Kingdom of Thailand, and the Bhutanese delegation was led by H.E. Lyonpo Lekey Dorji, Minister of Economic Affairs, Royal Government of Bhutan.

The main objective of the JTC meeting was to initiate the implementation of the Trade and Economic Cooperation Agreement (TECA) signed between the two countries in November 2013. The high-level meeting discussed on the current trade and economic relations and identified ways and means to further enhance bilateral trade, investment, and economic cooperation between the two countries.



CAMBODIA

OPIC and ACLEDA Bank Plc. Sign Commitment to Support Lending in Cambodia

ACLEDA Bank Plc., The Bank for The People, The Bank You can Trust, today (August 24, 2016) announced that the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC), the U.S. Government's development financial institution, signed a commitment letter for US\$125 million direct loan to ACLEDA Bank Plc., a leading commercial bank in Cambodia to support all sectors through micro, small and medium enterprises

(MSMEs). The project seeks to generate economic growth, employment, and goods and services in the Cambodian private sector.

Dr. IN Channy, President & Group Managing Director of ACLEDA Bank Plc. said that *"Long term finance from OPIC is significance for ACLEDA Bank Plc. to reach out more Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises throughout Cambodia those who are in need of financial facilities to start and/or expand their businesses as well as to leverage their revenues. Furthermore, OPIC Finance does form diversified sources of strategic funding for ACLEDA Bank Plc. as the market leader in financial industry."*

"We are pleased to be working with ACLEDA on this facility" said Ms. Elizabeth L. Littlefield, OPIC President and Chief Executive Officer. *"The OPIC facility will allow ALCEDA to expand their micro, small and medium enterprises portfolio which will permit the development of more sustainable businesses in Cambodia to improve the quality of life for thousands of Cambodians."*

GHANA



Siemens Increases Investment in Ghana's Energy Sector

Global technology powerhouse Siemens has announced further significant investment in gas and steam energy generation projects in Ghana over the next three to five years.

One of the world's largest energy, industrial and infrastructure companies, Siemens will roll out a series of projects, including new gas and steam turbines contributing hundreds of megawatts to the national power grid in Ghana.

At a VIP event held in Accra, Siemens Southern and Eastern Africa CEO, Ms, Sabine Dall'Omo, said the global company was committed to assisting Ghana in meeting the country's expanding energy needs. *"We have identified Ghana as one of our key countries and our further investment is aimed at helping the country reach its economic goals and secure it as a serious contender on the African continent,"* Ms. Dall'Omo said.

The event was attended by Mr. Ibrahim Murtala Mohammed, Ghana's Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry. With a current power generation capacity of 2936 MW, Ghana requires significant further energy investment.

Hydropower is by far the largest contributor to the country's energy supply at 1580 MW, and the Ghanaian government aims to increase overall capacity to 5000 MW through harnessing renewable energy projects in the future.

Partnering with local companies to meet local power needs- one of such project is for ENI in Sanzule where Siemens has been contracted to deliver two gas compression packages for its onshore receiving facility. In this instance, Siemens has entered into a joint venture with local company Draper Oil and Gas Limited to form Siemens Oil and Gas.

"Siemens is committed to collaborating with Ghanaian companies to ensure improved energy availability, building of local expertise as well as economic growth through job creation," Ms. Dall'Omo said.

Other flagship projects being undertaken by Siemens includes the rolling out a steam turbine project with Group 5 in Kpone – the largest steam plant in the country contributing 350 MW to the grid. Another project under way is the Tema Thermal Power Plant. The Tema plant is being rolled out in two phases and includes the installation of eight gas turbines overall. It has the advantage of flexibility in times of unsecure gas supply, and will ultimately add 82 MW to the national grid.

“Siemens will in future be working with stakeholders to look into opportunities to harness wind energy to meet Ghana’s energy needs,” Ms. Dall’Omo said.

It was announced that Mr. Edmund Acheampong, a Ghanaian who has been working with Siemens in the United States, has been appointed as the new Ghana country manager of Siemens in Accra. His team will be responsible for business development, sales and project execution. Mr Acheampong said at the event Siemens is currently active in more than 200 countries, and has a 165-year track record in engineering excellence, innovation, quality and reliability.

“Siemens has a deep understanding of Ghana’s current and future energy issues, and is well placed to assist the country in addressing these challenges. Our commitment to Africa as a continent, and Ghana in particular, has been characterised by more than just the provision of infrastructure that has helped grow the economy, however our conduct has always been characterised by a desire to see and contribute towards genuine and sustainable social upliftment in close collaboration with our local partners,” Mr. Acheampong concluded.

Siemens AG (Berlin and Munich) is a global technology powerhouse that has stood for engineering excellence, innovation, quality, reliability and internationality for more than 165 years. The company is active in more than 200 countries, focusing on the areas of electrification, automation and digitalization.

HUNGARY



Number of people in employment increased by almost 150,000 in one year

The number of people in employment has increased by more than 660,000 in the past six years, and unemployment has fallen to 5 per cent. But there are further reserves: some 250,000 people are looking for jobs, Mr. Péter Cseresnyés, State Secretary for labour market and training said on the public television channel M1 in response to the latest statistical data.

He added: there are unfilled work force needs in the catering sector, in agriculture, in the information technology segment and in the processing industry. These needs must be addressed with adequate training and job orientation.

We may have recently observed that there is keen competition on the market for qualified work force, and this is also testified to by the fact that real wages have increased significantly in the last three years, he added.

He stressed that it is in everyone's best interest, employees, employers and the Government included, that the number of people in employment should continue to increase considerably. Further employees can be directed to the labour market with the aid of training and employment policy tools.

The commentary issued by the Ministry for National Economy in the wake of the release of the above statistical data highlighted that the number of people in employment has reached a new peak, and the 5 per cent unemployment rate is at a record low. No unemployment rate this low has been recorded in the country ever since the change of regime.

Thanks to the ongoing expansion of the private sector, the reduction of the taxes on employment, and the job protection action plan, employment is steadily rising in Hungary which also has a positive impact on the development of fiscal revenues and the consumption of households, the Ministry stressed.

INDIA



India and Germany join hands on skill agenda Germany Contributes 22.6 CRORES INR for Skill Development in India

India and Germany are deepening their collaboration in the area of skill development. An implementation agreement was signed between the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) and (German International Cooperation (GIZ), to initiate a new project focused on adapting elements of the German dual system in select industrial clusters in India.

This new project will run for three years starting August 2016 with a budget of EUR 3,000,000 (22.6 Crores INR) – made available by the German Government and aims to foster conditions which will help create and improve cooperative workplace-based vocational training in India's industrial clusters. The project will be implemented in three selected clusters, which include the Automobile cluster in Maharashtra and Electronics cluster in Bangalore.

German technical assistance will be used to enhance industry institute partnerships between Indian and German organizations, build capacity of local training institutions and foster industry linkages which will help adapt elements of the German dual system, into the Indian context. This new project will also play an important role in supporting MSDE's existing programmes to scale up apprenticeship training.

The project will be implemented under the umbrella of the 'Joint Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in the field of Skill Development and Vocational Education

and Training (VET)', signed during the Indo- German intergovernmental consultations on 5th October 2015 in New Delhi.

The Joint Working Group, under the MoU held its first meeting on 26 July 2016, in New Delhi. At the meeting, the two countries agreed to deepen their collaboration in a number of specific areas including: curriculum development, research and sharing of best practices, training of trainers, and establishing cooperative workplace based skill training programmes in three industrial clusters.

Commenting on the Indo-German partnership in the area of skill development, Mr. Rajiv Pratap Rudy, Union Minister of State (I/C) for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship said, *"We in India recognize the fact that Germany's dual system is widely acclaimed as one of the best in the world, noted for its close linkages between industry and training institutions. This provides a competitive edge to German industry and businesses. We need to adapt elements of the German VET system to the Indian context to ensure that skill training in India is closely aligned with the requirements of industry."*

"Germany has been one of countries which is on top of the manufacturing and innovation pyramid and continues to develop most high end products. It has some of the best working models in sustainable workforce development which is the reason for the country's economic progress. This partnership with Germany will help strengthen our skill development initiatives. The recent budget allocations that have been made for promoting apprenticeship programs in the country will help our plans see daylight" said Mr. Rohit Nandan, Secretary, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

"Germany is known for its excellent vocational education system that relies on the strong participation and engagement of the private sector. Having a very long standing partnership with India, Germany is pleased to support the "Skill India" and "Make in India" initiatives with a new bilateral programme on vocational education and training. Herein, the engagement of private enterprises, including German firms, as carriers for skill development will be crucial for the success", said German Ambassador to India, Dr Martin Ney, today during an official signing ceremony for the launch of a new bilateral partner programme at the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE).

IRELAND



Enterprise Ireland €200k feasibility fund to support next generation of agri-business in Ireland

The Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, Mary Mitchell O'Connor TD, today (August 15, 2016) launched a new Enterprise Ireland Competitive Feasibility Fund for agri-businesses.

The Fund, which can provide up to €25,000 per initiative, is aimed at stimulating innovative start-ups and creating jobs and growth in the Irish agri-business sector.

The Fund will open for applications from entrepreneurs and early stage start-up companies on Tuesday 23 August, and will close on Tuesday 6 September 2016.

The purpose of the Competitive Feasibility Fund is to enable promoters to assess the viability and market potential of their business ideas. Enterprise Ireland is seeking to support business ideas that are likely to achieve significant growth within three to four years, with sales of €1m+ per annum and employment of 10 or more.

The fund is open to applications from individuals, early stage companies or prospective businesses operating in the agri-business sector including: machine design and manufacturing; fabrication; engineering and technical activities; life sciences products with application in the agri-sector; farm related software and related services; vet-pharma; animal health and chemical products. Early stage food companies with the potential to export are also encouraged to apply.

Launching the Fund the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, Mary Mitchell O'Connor T.D. said: "In Ireland we have a strong and dynamic agri-business sector, with highly innovative companies like TrueNorth Technologies successfully winning sales in international markets. Competitive Feasibility Funds are all about developing new businesses that will create jobs in every region in Ireland – something this Government is deeply committed to. If you are a potential entrepreneur or early stage business in the agri-business sector, this Competitive Feasibility Fund can help you get started".

Mr. Denis Duggan, CFF programme manager, Enterprise Ireland said: "*A priority for Enterprise Ireland is to help Irish entrepreneurs and companies to start up. Ireland has a world-class agri-business eco system, which offers tremendous potential for entrepreneurs and existing businesses to carve out opportunities for innovative products and services. Agri-businesses sustain and create jobs in many rural areas and are significant contributors to their local economies. Irish agricultural machinery exports alone are valued in excess of €100m per annum. With this €200k Competitive Feasibility Fund, we aim to support the next generation of Irish agri-businesses that can grow to compete in export markets, creating valuable jobs here into the future*".

The closing date for applications is Tuesday 6th September 2016. Full details of the fund, including application form, are available on the Enterprise Ireland web site: www.enterprise-ireland.com/AgriFund

JAPAN



JICA, Brazilian Organization to Boost Vocational Training in Portuguese-Speaking Countries

JICA is about to start two projects in partnership with a Brazilian vocational training institution that will work to boost the capacity of vocational training institutions in Paraguay, which neighbors Brazil, and in the African country of Angola.

SENAI was established in 1942 in Brazil with the goal of developing human resources with the skills and abilities needed by industry. It has provided vocational training to more than 27 million people.

Japan has been providing assistance to the organization since 1962. SENAI has developed superior personnel who can pass on their skills on to other developing countries. JICA has been collaborating with SENAI since the year 2000 to carry out triangular cooperation* with various countries in Latin America and Africa.

The "Project for Developing Qualified Human Resources in response to the Needs of the Industries" in Paraguay launched in June.

The four-year project aims to develop skilled workers and human resources with profound knowledge in the field of factory management, to meet the demands of Paraguayan manufacturing industries. In addition, collaborating with Japanese experts specialized in the Japanese principles of manufacturing known as "monozukuri,"

And in Angola, the "Project for strengthening the capacity of Vocational Training Center for Civil Construction (CENFOC)," which targets vocational training centers, is about to get underway. In Angola, rehabilitating buildings and infrastructure destroyed by the long civil war is an issue. And the purpose of this project is to develop skilled labors in the construction field.

Angola and Brazil not only share the same official language of Portuguese, important elements of their architecture – land and materials – are also similar, so the guidance of experts sent from SENAI is expected to be effective.

It is a plan focused on improving the skills of young people, some of whom are expected to take the lead in rebuilding infrastructure as part of the effort to build up the country in the wake of the civil war.

Cooperation between Japan and Brazil has been continuing for more than 50 years. It has brought about big results within Brazil, but also has spread to other countries in Latin America and other Portuguese speaking countries including East Timor and some in Africa.

*Triangular cooperation refers to developed countries helping developing countries where development is comparatively advanced to use their development experiences and human resources to carry out assistance to developing countries that are not very developed.

MALAYSIA



MITI proposes more fund allocation & tax incentives for SMEs

The Ministry of International Trade and Industry is proposing more fund allocation and tax incentives to support the SME ecosystem, said Minister of International Trade and Industry Mr. Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed.

He said the ministry would draft a proposal on stepping up the small-and-medium enterprise (SME) agenda, to be submitted to the Prime Minister for the 2017 Budget.

"We realise that SMEs are the backbone of the Malaysian economy as it provides jobs to many. SME companies need more exposure for their products which can eventually enter the export market," he told reporters after a dialogue at the Initial Public Offering Seminar 2016

He said developed countries such as the United States and Japan were already ahead in the area of empowering their SMEs and Malaysia should follow in their footsteps.

The half-day seminar, attended by over 100 representatives of local SMEs, was jointly organised by SME Corporation Malaysia, Bursa Malaysia, MIDF Amanah Investment Bank Bhd and the Bumiputera Agenda Steering Unit to provide participants with pertinent information on the key aspects of a listing process.

Mr. Mustapa said today's event, the fifth edition since its commencement in 2011, would also be expanded to Sabah and Sarawak to encourage SMEs there to consider IPO as a fund raising exercise.

Meanwhile, SME Corporation Chairman Tan Sri Mohamed Al Amin Abdul Majid was confident that local SMEs would rise to the occasion and tide over the current volatile economic situation.

"In this regard, SMEs should look at the current situation as an opportunity to prepare themselves for the economic recovery, expected to begin in 2017 or 2018. Within the said context, today's seminar serves as an early preparation for SMEs to integrate themselves into the higher value chain, which includes listing on Bursa Malaysia," he added.

NIGERIA



Ease of doing business: Nigeria will be among top 100 Countries by 2019- President Mr. Buhari

Nigeria will be one of the most attractive and easiest places of doing business in the world by 2019, President Mr. Muhammadu Buhari said on Sunday in Nairobi, Kenya.

Speaking at a plenary session on "Dialogue with the Private Sector" at the sixth Tokyo International Conference for African Development (TICAD VI), President Buhari

said his administration is implementing policies and measures to create right and enabling environment for business and investors in Nigeria.

Nigeria is currently ranked 169 out of 189 countries by the World Bank, according to the Bank's 2016 Ease of Doing Business report.

President Mr. Buhari told the session attended by several African leaders, Japan Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and international business executives that his administration's vision and objective is to make Nigeria one of the top investment destinations in the world, within the shortest possible time.

We believe government has a particular responsibility to create right and attractive environment for businesses and economic activities to thrive. In furtherance of this vision, we have launched the Presidential Enabling Environment Council, PEEC and Inter-Ministerial Council to oversee the efforts of government to remove various bottlenecks that stifle businesses and economic activities and thereby create economic activities and the right enabling environment and investment climate in Nigeria.

The secretariat will include strong private sector representation that would be led by experienced business professionals from the private sector.

We are committed to moving up the ranking of the World Bank's ease of doing business index 20 places in first year and be in the top 100 within the next 3 years," the President said.

PHILIPPINES



DTI unveils food innovation hub

In its effort to catapult local micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) into the global market, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) through its Philippine Trade Training Center (PTTC), launched an innovation hub specifically catering to the processed food sector on August 10, 2016.

The Food Connection Innovation hub is in collaboration with the Department of Science and Technology, Food Innovation Center (DOST-FIC).

"With the growing opportunities in the food sector and the anticipation of the huge market demand for innovative food products in the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) integration, we would like to provide areas of assistance for our entrepreneurs specifically those processed food MSMEs," said PTTC Executive Director Mr. Nestor Palabyab during the soft launch of the Food Connection innovation hub.

The hub will specifically house facilities that will equip food entrepreneurs in meeting technical requirements of the export market such as the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) and other safety and quality certifications. Food

laboratory testing equipment such as metal detector, water activity meter and pH meter, are all aimed to be available during the hub's full operation. Consultancy services on safe quality management, production, marketing and management will also be offered to enterprises that will be assisted by the hub. Other existing facilities at the PTTC such as seminar rooms, exhibit halls and meeting rooms will also be accessible.

Included in the latest Philippine Export Development Plan (PEDP), processed food sector is positioned to create demand in the growing market abroad especially with the rise of healthy food products, and Halal-certified products in non-Muslim regions. The Food Connection Innovation Hub will be housed with ASEAN trade experts, export marketing trainers and experts, and other trade experts that will cater to the needs of the hub's clients.

Through the food connection innovation hub, DTI-PTTC also expects to promote networking among key players and venture capitalists in the sector to establish collaboration and develop viable business strategies.

According to Philippine Exports Confederation Inc (PHILEXPORT), there are about 500 processed food MSMEs that are currently registered as their members. These enterprises are expected to benefit in different trade assistance that the hub will provide to further their export products in penetrating the global market.

In 2014, Philippine Statistics Agency (PSA) reported that there are a total of 127,518 established MSMEs in the food and accommodation sector. These numbers are expected to grow as the Philippines prepares for the full integration of the ASEAN Economic Community.

Philippine Trade Training Center is the DTI's training arm which promotes capacity building and mentoring among entrepreneurs especially those in the exporting industry.



World Association for Small and Medium Enterprises (WASME) is a global non-profit organization headquartered at Noida, India that has been spearheading the cause and development of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) world over since its inception in 1980. Over three decades, WASME has emerged as one of the most representative, effective and leading international organizations, working towards the promotion of SMEs worldwide through policy advocacy, information dissemination, conferences, seminars, events, trainings, publication, network linkages and many **more**.

WASME enjoys consultative status with concerned agencies in UN system such as **ECOSOC, UNCTAD, ITC, WIPO, UNIDO, UNESCO, UNCITRAL, UNESCAP and ILO**, several intergovernmental and international organizations like **WCO, OECD, ICSB, APEC, APCTT, etc.**

WASME's fortnightly SME e-Bulletin "**WORLD SME UPDATE**" aims to keep abreast its readers with latest information on various developments taking place in SME sector around the globe. If you have any news/ information on the issues related to Government policies & programs and latest developments in the SME sector i.e. technology and innovations, success stories, case studies, research and methods, planning and programmes, training and developments, finance and management, and marketing that you would like to share with the world SME community, please do send those to us at.

We always welcome your valuable feedback/comments on the SME e-Bulletin to further enhance our services on information dissemination. Hence, please send us your valuable guidance and meaningful articles as a regular contribution to SME e-Bulletin and our website in the larger interests and benefits of SMEs world over.

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