

**Training Programme for Women Entrepreneurs of South Asia
On Export-Import Procedures and Other Trade Related Matters
8 November to 12 November 2021**

The Centre for WTO Studies (CWS) and Women Entrepreneurs International Trade and Technology Centre (WE ITTC) and Association of Lady Entrepreneurs of India (ALEAP) jointly organized a “Training programme for Women Entrepreneurs of South Asia On Export-Import Procedures and Other Trade Related Matters” from 8 to 12 November, 2021. The training programme was conducted virtually for a period of 5 days and was attended by 208 participants from 6 South Asian countries, namely, India, Bangladesh, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

The welcome address for the training program was delivered by Professor Abhijit Das, Head of the Centre for WTO Studies, at the inaugural session of the programme on 8th November, which was followed by Dr. Smt. Sheela Bhide, Chairperson, WE ITTC delivering the opening remarks. Mr. Amit Yadav, DGFT and Additional Secretary, Department of Commerce then gave the inaugural address, followed by an address by Smt. Ramadevi, President, ALEAP and Senior Vice Chairperson WE ITTC. Smt. Pramila Rijal Acharya, President, South Asian Women Development Forum (SAWDF) gave an address on behalf of SAWDF. Mr. Mukesh Bhatnagar, Professor, CWS delivered the concluding remarks for the inaugural session.

The participants subsequently attended the first session of the training programme which covered topics such as ‘Overview of WTO’, ‘Current International Trading Environment’, ‘Why do rules of WTO/ FTA matter for business’, and ‘opportunities for trade within South Asia’, which was conducted by Professor Abhijit Das, Head, Centre for WTO Studies (CWS), and Dr. Murali Kallummal, Professor, CWS. The second session of the training program on ‘Rules and Procedures related to EXIM in Nepal’ was conducted by Mr. Rajan Sharma, Executive Member, Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FNCCI).

On the second day, the participants attended sessions on ‘Rules and Procedures related to EXIM in Bangladesh’ conducted by Dr. Mostafa Abid Khan, Former Member, Bangladesh Trade and Tariff Commission, and a session on ‘Managing risks in International Trade Export Credit and Guarantees’ conducted by Mr. Ranvir Kishore, Senior Manager, ECGC.

On the third day, Dr. Ram Singh, Professor, IIFT conducted sessions on ‘Rules and Procedures related to EXIM in India’, ‘Initiating an EXIM transaction’, ‘Commercial Documents in Foreign Trade’, and ‘Inco terms in International Trade’. Subsequently, Professor Mukesh Bhatnagar, Professor, CWS conducted a session on ‘Foreign Trade Promotion Schemes in India’.

Mr. Wasantha Manthripala, Registrar, Bandaranaike Centre for International Studies, Sri Lanka took a session on ‘Rules and Procedures related to EXIM in Sri Lanka’ on the fourth day of the training program. This was followed by a session on ‘Problems faced by MSMEs in trading in South Asia’ by Mr. Anil Bhardwaj, Secretary General, Federation of Indian Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.

On the final day of the training program on 12th November 2021, the participants attended a session on ‘SAFTA provisions’ and ‘Duty preferences for LDCs-DFQF’ by Dr. Murali Kallummal, and a session on ‘Experience Sharing by Trading Houses and Women Entrepreneurs’ by Ms. Nutan Bhargava, Entrepreneur, Managing Director, Saniya. Subsequently there was a feedback session by the participants.

At the closing session of the training program, Ms. Aditi Das Rout, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development gave the valedictory address. This was followed by Smt. Rama Savithri, CEO, WE ITTC discussing the proposed initiatives of WE ITTC. The training program concluded with the vote of thanks delivered by Smt. Jyothi Pidikiti, Vice Chairperson, WE ITTC, followed by Professor Abhijit Das delivering the concluding remarks.