



Gender Entrepreneurship Markets

*First Quarter Edition
Global Newsletter: April 2007*

IFC GEM welcomes you to its tenth quarterly newsletter designed to keep businesswomen in touch with key events, relevant research and, most importantly, each other! We provide brief descriptions of news, events, and online resources that will involve, inspire and inform you and others like you. Wherever possible and appropriate, we provide a link to further detail.

This issue's highlights include news of IFC and other World Bank Group activities (including the launch of [women's banking programs in Tanzania and Uganda](#)), news reports from other resources (including [the Cartier Women's Initiative Awards](#)), upcoming events around the globe (including [the Commonwealth Secretariat Women Ministers Affairs Meeting in Uganda](#)), and links to useful resources (including the [Lebanese League for Women in Business](#)). Our regular [spotlight](#) this issue falls on Julian Omalla, the owner of Delight Ltd, a booming Ugandan business that includes juice production, a bakery, farm, and a hostel business.

This newsletter shares helpful news and information with women entrepreneurs around the world. If you or your business association have an event you would like to make known, have a success story to share, or would like to tell us what you would like to read more about, please [email us](#). This newsletter is for *you* and we want to keep you involved. The IFC GEM Newsletter is also available in French, Arabic, and Farsi.

NEWS

News from IFC GEM and the World Bank Group

Women's Economic Empowerment Focus of Berlin Conference



A number of European governments, the OECD, and the World Bank Group teamed up this February at a conference in Berlin to discuss ways of increasing the economic power of women. Opened by the German Chancellor, Angela Merkel, and Development Minister Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul, the conference focused on the implementation of

World Bank's Gender Action Plan launched last September to enable more women to take part in economic processes. "Through my presence here, I hope to show that I, as Federal Chancellor, and in my current capacity as Chair of the G8 and President of the EU Council, fully support to the implementation of the World Bank's Gender Action Plan," said Chancellor Merkel at the event. Participants discussed issues of gender,

governance and growth in Africa, the role of women in finance and private sector development, women's contribution to production, and their legal status and access to economic resources. GEM coordinated the access to finance session. [Read more](#)

IFC Extends Line of Credit to Exim Bank in Tanzania



This February the IFC signed a US\$5 million line of credit with Exim Bank in Tanzania, which will allow the bank to meet the financing needs of its female clients, particularly those running small and medium enterprises. IFC GEM will provide assistance to help the bank reach out to the women's market and make business and management training available for women entrepreneurs. The loan facility is a follow-up to IFC GEM research on the barriers facing women entrepreneurs through its Gender and Growth Assessment, which identified access to finance as one of the most serious constraints. At the signing, Exim Bank committed US\$1 million to Sero Lease and Finance Ltd, a female-owned micro-leasing company servicing low-income women. This February the IFC GEM team also sponsored access to markets training for Tanzanian women entrepreneurs focused on exporting in Dar es Salaam and Zanzibar. [Read more](#)

IFC Supports Women Entrepreneurs with Loan and Training in Uganda



On February 27 DFCU Group in Uganda launched its women's program, supported by a US\$2 million IFC line of credit. "Although Ugandan women own 40 percent of their country's private enterprises they represent only 9 percent of credit," said Cherie Booth Blair QC at the launch of the program in Uganda. The IFC loan will allow DFCU to meet the financing needs of their female clients, and accompanying IFC GEM advice will focus on training for both the bank and women entrepreneurs. In partnership with local business providers, IFC GEM has also sponsored training for women entrepreneurs on business and financial management. [Read more](#)

IFC and Newmont Address Gender, HIV/AIDS in Mining Operation in Ghana

IFC signed this winter a linkages cooperation agreement with Newmont Ghana Gold Limited to collaborate on supporting small and medium enterprises in the Brong-Ahafo region of Ghana, Newmont's Ahafo gold mine. The program will place a special emphasis on supporting women entrepreneurs and will incorporate HIV/AIDS into its training activities through IFC GEM and the IFC Against AIDS programs. Newmont has also appointed a Gender Specialist in its External Affairs Department, with the aim of better empowering women in local communities. For more information, [contact](#).



World Bank Group Celebrates International Women's Day



A variety of events marked this year's March 8 celebrations of International Women's Day at the World Bank Group. The Pangea Artisan Market & Café, Vital Voices and GEM sponsored a screening of the Oscar-nominated movie "Water," and a discussion with Somaly Mam, a Cambodian activist against sexual slavery, and the founder of AFESIP. The World Bank Oil, Gas and Mining group hosted women executives from leading corporations for a discussion on

women's economic empowerment and sustainable development. The World Bank sponsored a lecture on IMF research on gender and its relevance to macroeconomic policy, as well as a reception in honour of March 8.

For more information, contact jcutura@ifc.org.

Symposium Focuses on Gender and Development in Liberia

Organized by the World Bank, UNIFEM, and the Initiative for Inclusive Security, the one-day symposium hosted 19 women government and civil society leaders from Liberia, who came together to discuss how women can help consolidate peace and lead reconstruction efforts under the pillars identified in the interim Poverty Reduction Strategy and with the support of the World Bank's newly launched Gender Action Plan. [Read more](#)



Vital Voices Hosts Leadership Summit for Women in Africa

The Vital Voices Global Partnership, together with African and international partners launched a new initiative at the *Vital Voices of Africa: A Leadership Summit for Women and Girls* in Cape Town, South Africa this January. The summit brought together women and girls who are emerging and established leaders across countries to grapple with some of the most pressing challenges facing Africa: economic development, trade, violence against women, HIV/AIDS and good governance. IFC GEM sponsored partners from Gender and Growth Assessment focus countries who presented their work in a session on creating an enabling environment for women entrepreneurs. [Read more](#)



MORE NEWS

Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) Announces Gender Policy



This winter the MCC announced a formal policy to integrate gender analysis into its assistance programs. "Decades of experience and research demonstrate that gender inequality is a significant constraint to sustainable, long-term economic growth and poverty reduction," said Ambassador Danilovich at the launch, adding, "An organization such as MCC must have a policy that does more than define what it believes; the policy also must outline practical ways to ensure gender equity in our

programs.” The policy is showing positive results in countries such as the Kingdom of Lesotho, where the MCC recently supported the passage of the Legal Capacity of Married Persons law, which aims to improve the status of married women. [Read more](#)

Gender Bias Increases Poverty

Inequality at home between men and women leads to poorer health for the children and greater poverty for the family, says a new study done by UNICEF, the UN children’s agency. The report points to a greater lack of opportunities for girls and women in education and employment that contributes to disempowerment and poverty. [Read more](#)



Young women develop entrepreneurial skills through college bazaar



A college bazaar for female Emirati students at the Dubai Women's College is developing entrepreneurial skills as students create and implement their business ideas, ranging from cooking food to designing T-shirts. This creative learning model is fully integrated into the curriculum and students are assessed and graded based on the quality of their learning and reflection. For more information, [contact](#)

The Cartier Women’s Initiative Awards



To encourage more women to create their own businesses, Cartier and the Women’s Forum for the Economy and Society joined forces in October 2006 to launch the Cartier Women’s Initiative Awards. This is an annual international distinction honouring five innovative business projects led by women. The application deadline is April 15,

2007. [Read more](#)

Exxon Mobil Foundation to give US\$5m to Educating Women and Girls



The Exxon Mobil Foundation is to make US\$5 million in grants available to organizations aimed at improving education and opportunities for women and girls in developing countries. Projects funded by the initiative help to reduce barriers that prevent girls from attending school and provide women with training to start or improve businesses and non-profit organisations. [Read more](#)

International Women of Courage Award Ceremony

This March the US State Department paid tribute to ten Women of Courage at an awards ceremony hosted by Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice, the only ceremony at the State Department that pays tribute to emerging women leaders worldwide. Eighty-two women were nominated by US Embassies worldwide for their contributions to the promotion of freedom, justice, peace and equality. [Read more](#)



Inspirational Quote

“We cannot tackle our problems alone, as shown by issues such a climate change and biodiversity. This is why it is so important for us to empower women as actors in the global world, to have networks, and to exchange experience on practical problems and potential solutions.”

- Angela Merkel, Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany

SPOTLIGHT ON: Julian Omalla, Owner, Delight Ltd.



Julian Omalla, a successful and energetic Ugandan entrepreneur, is the owner of Delight Ltd., a business that includes juice production, a bakery, farm, and a hostel. Julian was never shy or modest. When she was young, she dreamed of being a pilot, and loved chemistry and physics. A friend sponsored her to go to Israel where she studied fruit science. When she came back to Uganda, she started being a trader, but was cheated and lost all her money. Yet she didn't lose her spirit, and started again from scratch. In 2000 she was nominated as the “Young Business Woman of the Year” and won a plane ticket to travel to Belgium, where she bought a fruit juice machine.

In 2000 the demand for Julian's products was outstripping supply, and she turned to the Uganda Investment Authority for funding to expand her operations. She started trading in Sudan. The company grew fast, and her farm is now the largest in Uganda. The farm delivers maize and beans to the World Food Program and has over 100 employees. Even at this stage, she has experienced problems with bankers. One bank she had a relationship with used to bounce her checks, and she felt they did not understand her business. She recently turned to DFCU bank to borrow funds. As a prerequisite to getting their loan, she took a DFCU seminar on business skills, to better understand how to manage the funds. “The training has given me the confidence and understanding of how to borrow from the bank. It was wonderful,” she says.

She has won several awards dedicated to women's entrepreneurship, and has been the frequent subject of radio and talk shows in Uganda. Julian has big plans for her business. She wants to finish building her hostel and then to build another one. She is also launching new products - maize and millet flour - and is planning to expand her exports to Sudan and other countries.

Each Women in Business newsletter spotlights either a women's business association that has developed an innovative idea or process that promotes women's

entrepreneurship, or an enterprising and inspiring women who has achieved success. If you have a success story to share, please [email us](#) with the details. We look forward to sharing your stories.

The IFC GEM team wishes to thank Avis Charles, who so kindly volunteered to provide access to markets training for women entrepreneurs in Zanzibar this winter. The feedback was fantastic. For more information about her work, [visit](#)

CALL FOR CONSULTANT CV's

IFC GEM is looking for women and men experienced in the field of private sector development and gender for future short-term assignments. If you have relevant experience and would like to be included in our database, please [email us](#).

EVENTS

World Federation of Engineering Organizations

6-8 June, Tunis, Tunisia: This international colloquium on “Empowering Women in Engineering and Technology” will aim to enhance support for women engineers and women interested in becoming engineers worldwide. [Read more](#)



FT Sustainable Banking Conference and Awards

7 June, London: The Awards, created by the Financial Times and the IFC recognise banks showing leadership and innovation in integrating social, environmental and corporate governance objectives into their operations. [Read more](#)



Commonwealth Secretariat: Women's Affairs Ministers' Meeting



11-14 June, Kampala, Uganda: This meeting will bring together Commonwealth Ministers responsible for gender and women's affairs under the theme of “Financing Gender Equality for Development and Democracy.” [Read more](#)

tomorrow people.org Women's Leadership and Empowerment Conference 2007

21-23 June, Bangkok, Thailand: This three-day conference includes a study session on women's leadership and empowerment of disadvantaged groups, presentations of submitted papers and open discussions, and is designed for future female leaders. [Read more](#)

Women Lead in Promoting Peace and Stability



22 October-16 November, Washington, DC: This training program aims to enhance the leadership, management and advocacy skills of women to ensure that they are able to effectively participate in and shape peace processes and post-conflict reconstruction. [Read more](#)

LINKS TO RESOURCES

The 2007 US Women's Chamber of Commerce Guide to Women Contractors



This guide contains listings of women-owned firms from all across the U.S in both print and online form. [Read more](#)



Professional Women and Minorities

Published biennially, this Human Resources Data Compendium is a comprehensive reference book of data on human resources in science, engineering and technology. [Read more](#)

“Engaging men in gender equality: positive strategies and approaches”

Published by BRIDGE, the report provides a practical resource guide to working with men to promote gender equality. [Read more](#)



Lebanese League for Women in Business (LLWB)



LLWB is a non-profit scientific and cultural association whose goal is to empower women through equality of chances, unobstructed access to resources, entrepreneurship and leadership. [Read more](#)

Lessons from evaluations of women and gender equality in development cooperation

This report analyzes findings of evaluations undertaken by development organizations between 2002 and 2006, noting that information about gender has not been gathered or used effectively to improve outcomes. [Read more](#)



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