



A. News from SETU Africa

Consultative workshop with High Commissioners and Senior Representatives of the African High Commissions and Embassies in New Delhi

A consultative workshop was organized by the SETU Africa programme to share the experiences of informal sector women workers of some African countries and SEWA in the SETU Africa programme on 11th December, 2015 in the Ethiopian Culture Centre in New Delhi. This programme was an opportunity of mutual learning and sharing of experiences for women's economic and social empowerment with senior representatives of the different African governments.



This workshop was attended by the High Commissioners and the representatives from the High Commissions and Embassies of Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda. Her Excellency, Ms. Zenebu Tadesse, Minister of Women's, Children and Youth Affairs, the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia also attended this workshop.

The main purpose of this consultative workshop was to learn about the different needs for attaining women's economic empowerment and self-reliance in different African countries. We discussed about the different needs that have emerged during SETU Africa programme, and

Happy New Year!

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participants shared their views about the draft action-plan prepared by SETU Africa for addressing these needs. These are as given below.

| <u>Emerging Needs</u> | <u>Recommended ActionPlans</u> |
|---|--|
| Livelihood is the central issue in informal women workers' lives | Marketing in crafts bazaars, design development workshops, women producers' trading networks, linking with private sector for marketing |
| Integrated Financial Services needed | Policy advocacy for inclusive and comprehensive financial services and doorstep banking, women's banks , financial literacy and other allied services like microinsurance and micropension |
| Support Services | Setting up child-care centres |
| Capacity-building inputs to strengthen their livelihoods, organizations | Training on organising and building own organizations and leadership |
| | Cooperative management training |
| | Technical training (farming, developing seed banks, marketing, craftsdesign) |
| | IT training for youth and women |
| Enabling policies and programmes by governments | Workshops to bring together women and government officials in African countries and India |
| | Dialogue, exchanges, linkages between government officials and women |

Presenting about the SETU Africa project in India Ocean Rim Association (IORA) meeting at Seychelles

SETU Africa representative was invited to give the key note address based on our work in three African countries, two of which---Tanzania and South Africa---are part of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA). The IORA organized a first ever meeting on women's economic empowerment.

The IORA consists of 20 countries in the Indian Ocean region and six observer countries. The IORA countries include Australia, India, South Africa, Oman, Iran, UAE, Bangladesh, Tanzania, Kenya, Malaysia, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and several small island states like the Seychelles, Mauritius, Comoros Islands and Madagascar. Two of our partner countries in SETU Africa programme are part of this association.

The meeting adopted and endorsed the Mahe Declaration for Women's Equality in the IORA region. The idea is to have a working group to push the women's economic empowerment agenda forward. We managed to get the language changed to acknowledge the economic contribution of informal women workers of the region and their need for both work and social security. All agreed to this.

The meeting also focused on the 'blue economy', fishing and ocean-related economic activities, that are a major part of most of the IORA countries' economies. Our experiences at SEWA and SETU Africa generated interest and are incorporated in the final report of the IORA meeting.

IAFS III held in New Delhi



The India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS) is a formal platform for strengthening the centuries-old relationship between India and Africa. The third edition of the four days IAFS summit, which took place during 26th-29th October 2015, enables consultations at the highest political level between the heads of government of 54 nations across Africa and the Indian government. The first two summits were held in 2008 in New Delhi and in 2011 in Addis Ababa.

The SETU Africa programme is one of the many initiatives of IAFS II for strengthening people-to-people engagement between India and Africa. The IAFS III has outlined several areas of cooperation between India and Africa including USD 10 billion line of credit to Africa from India, USD 600 million for projects and different initiatives to promote business and 50,000 scholarships for African students to mention a few. The capacity-building initiative is identified as one of the major areas of engagement between India and Africa.

In the last three years, while working in the SETU Africa programme, we observed that capacity-building is the one of the major demands from our sisters working in the informal economy in Africa. They noticed the change in the lives of SEWA sisters due to the different types of capacity-building inputs, resulting in their social and economic empowerment.

We are happy to see that the association between India and Africa is growing day-by-day. Although it is mainly focused on macro-level issues and between the different institutions of the formal sector from India and Africa, we are hopeful that in the detailed action-plan of IAFS III, the issues of informal sector women workers will also be included. We are waiting for the detailed action-plan of this summit.



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