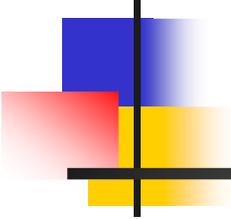
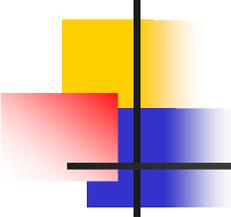

WLN

Promoting Women-owned ME and SME's as an Effective Measure for Poverty Eradication



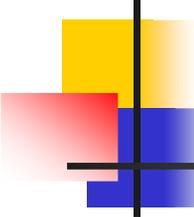
Rapporter: Francine Whiteduck

*Economically empowered women
are at the center of poverty
eradication and creating
sustainable development*



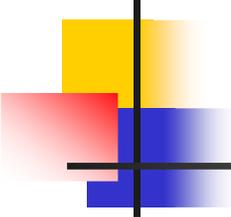
Key Themes in the Presentations

- SME and ME Sector Is a Primary Tool for Eradicating Poverty Among Women
- Trends Toward a Increasing Level of Growth Over the Last 10 Years but Growth Is Not Fast Enough As It Could or Should Be Among APEC Women Sector
- All Economies Highlight SME/ME Development Is Crucial for Increasing Labor Force Participation Rates



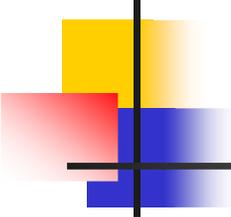
Key Themes..Cont

- Entrepreneurial Centers for Women Are Key Parts of a Strategy for Getting Women Involved in Business Developments
- Exposing women to the models, best practices and strategies that focus on S/ME development are effective measures for assisting women to learn how to become more entrepreneurial and business oriented in their small productive activities



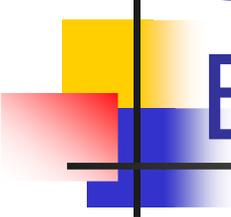
Key Themes..Cont

- NGO's and International Organizations Are Supports That Are Essential in Addressing Women's Economic Issues
- Training is key factor for ensuring that the costs and risks associated with women's access to finance and credit remains mitigated, and to managing risks (all projects highlighted this factor)



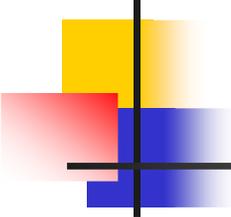
Supports That are Proving Effective

- Capacity development relating to management and entrepreneurial skill development (training programs, centers, models)
- Training in ICT is a critical part of creating the enabling environment
- Special emphasis on single mothers



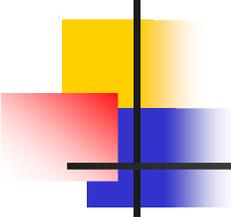
Supports That are Proving Effective

- Networking opportunity is a key element in building the S/SME sector (regional forums, workshops, conferences, including supporting organizations that promote these initiatives)
- Innovative micro-credit measures are instrumental in growing women's businesses and Micro-enterprises, and expanding their access to opportunities



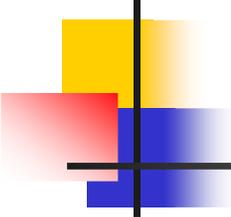
Supports That are Proving Effective...cont

- Incubators are proving effective in some economies although this practice may not be widespread or the information about these practices throughout economies has not been largely synthesized



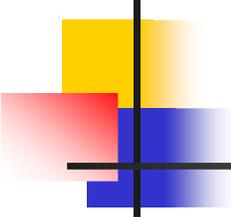
Challenges Remain

- Shifting existing orientation toward a more business orientation (building the business mind among low income and small scale producers)
- Gender equality (in many cases men are still acting as the leader of the business, and women are reluctant to take these up front roles and positions)



Going Forward

- Now at a stage to begin assessing the current programs and to make decisions as to what is needed for future activity
- Education is still a huge factor in getting women involved in S/ME development



Going Forward

- Need to enhance micro-credit measures within APEC economies and include consultation with agencies at the international, national , regional and local levels
- There is a recognition that there are requirements for more measures that facilitate markets, credit, and information technology for women-owned enterprises