

9 March 2021

Event: Pacific Trade Finance Symposium to address access to trade financing

The joint PIFS-ITC Trade Finance virtual symposium is scheduled on 10 and 11 March 2021



In the spirit of South-South collaboration, specialists from Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific will join with policymakers, regulators, banks, financial providers and enterprises in a virtual symposium to strategize on the future of financing for trade recovery and growth in the Pacific.

Participants will hear about successful innovations from other island economies; engage in panel discussions with leading practitioners and benefit from a training session for entrepreneurs on preparing a business proposal for obtaining trade financing. The symposium will contribute to the ongoing discussions in the Pacific region on how to leverage trade financing to accelerate the recovery of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) from the COVID-19 pandemic, and build resilience and export-led growth.

Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat Secretary-General Dame Meg Taylor says: 'We are strengthening platforms for engagement between Pacific businesses and global experts for resilient recovery through innovative and accessible trade finance.'

The event is jointly organized by the International Trade Centre (ITC) and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat.

Pamela Coke-Hamilton, Executive Director of ITC says: 'Affordable and flexible trade-related financing is important for the smallest enterprises in a supply chain if island economies are to build value addition and meet overseas market expectations. PIFS and ITC are bringing industry specialists

together to illustrate new ways of working that could reduce transaction costs and delays and accelerate growth in small island economies.'

The event benefits from the sponsorship, collaboration and high-level participation of the European Union (EU), Commonwealth Secretariat (COMSEC), Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) Secretariat and the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS).

Please register your participation with **Ms. Jill Juma Trade Policy Adviser on email Jillatienoj@forumsec.org**, with copy to Mr. Josefa Sokota on Josefas@forumsec.org to receive session recordings, materials and a placeholder for your calendar. Enterprises wishing to benefit from the training session on business preparation for obtaining trade-related financing should enter additional details on the registration form.