

1st SAFA Women Entrepreneurship Program

The SAFA Women Leadership Committee (WLC) successfully organized the 'First SAFA Women Entrepreneurship Program' online from May 3rd to June 28th, 2023. The program aimed to equip participants with relevant skills, improve decision-making and client communication abilities, and prepare them for professional practice. The program covered business development, client outreach, compilation services, agreed upon procedures, corporate, and tax services.

Expert trainers from SAFA member bodies delivered 22 hours of professional training over nine weeks. The program received an overwhelming response with 615 registrations and engaged over 270 participants. Attendees praised the sessions' informative nature, interactive Q&A with experts, and received post-session materials. Overall, the program was a resounding success, providing valuable insights and strategies for participants' businesses, facilitated by engaging sessions.

Certificate Distribution Ceremony

To commemorate the success of the First Entrepreneurship Program, SAFA WLC organized a virtual '**Certificate Distribution Ceremony**' on Friday, July 7, 2023 which was attended by SAFA Members in Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Maldives.

Ms. Hina Usmani, Chair SAFA WLC in her inaugural speech, highlighted the program's success with 274 participants. She expressed gratitude to SAFA President, Vice President, Board and President ICAP for their support. She also announced that the committee has decided to organize this program annually. She urged participants to embrace their entrepreneurial journey, be role models, and inspire future generations.

Mr. Heshana Kuruppu, Vice President SAFA in his address appreciated SAFA WLC for organizing the program and their commitment to women empowerment. He commended the expert professionals' voluntary dedication and emphasized the program's role in unlocking potential and achieving UNDP's and SDGs' objectives. He congratulated the committee and participants and expressed support for future activities.

Mr. M. Ali Latif, President ICAP, congratulated SAFA WLC for their dedication and commitment. He praised the program's comprehensive approach, empowering women accountants to achieve professional goals and contribute to the profession. Emphasizing the entrepreneurial spirit, he encouraged recipients to view the program as a stepping stone towards aspirations, unlocking new opportunities, and making meaningful societal contributions.

CA. Nihar N. Jambusaria, President SAFA acknowledged the contributions of Mr. Heshana Kuruppu and Ms. Hina Usmani to the successful execution of program across SAFA countries. He highlighted the global importance of entrepreneurship, commending the committee's efforts in the annual Entrepreneurship Program for women. Recognizing the impact of women's participation, he expressed optimism for equal representation alongside men in the profession.

The professional experts were acknowledged with certificates for their contributions while the participants were honored based on their participation: platinum for full attendance, diamond for 75%, gold for 50%, and silver for 25%. Participants shared insights, admiring the SAFA WLC and organizers for the remarkable learning opportunity that enhanced their skills and positively impacted their professional journeys.

Ms. Chamila Cooray, Vice Chair of SAFA WLC in her concluding remarks thanked trainers and congratulated participants for completing the program. She emphasized support for women in re-entering the workforce, enhancing skills, and exploring entrepreneurship. Ms. Cooray expressed gratitude to SAFA, Ms. Hina Usmani, member bodies, and experts for their leadership and support.

Esteemed speakers, including Ms. Khursheed Kotwal, Ms. Shweta Jain, Ms. Chandima Ranasinghe, Ms. Fauzia Safdar and Ms. Samia Ashraf Bhatti, commended SAFA WLC for empowering women professionals. They pledged unwavering support, committed to contributing to women's advancement and success in their industries.