

# SAARC

Chamber Craft Village (SCCV) of SCWEC

5 July 2006, Kathmandu, Nepal



## SAARC Chamber Women Entrepreneur Council (SCWEC)

was established in 2001 with the objectives to:

- Strengthen the intra-regional development of women entrepreneurs, bring about closer contact,
- regional fellowship and cooperation in countries of the South Asian region,
- exchange trade information,
- enhance entrepreneurial skills,
- SMEs growth,
- Creation of market linkages.

SCWEC is an affiliate body of the SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) with specific focus on women entrepreneurship in the region.



The main objective of SAARC Chamber Crafts Village (SCCV) is to serve as the information and marketing resource by facilitation of trade activities through intra exchange of products and services in the SAARC

region. One of the core objectives of the SCCV is to create greater market opportunities, design and deliver integrated solutions for business development, support and expand the operations of SMEs through increased access to local, regional and global markets. This is a pilot project which will be replicated in the other SAARC member countries.

The project is under aegis of SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI).

SAARC Chamber Craft Village (SCCV) launched its first retail outlet for handicrafts produced by South Asian Women Entrepreneurs on 5 July, 2006 in Kathmandu, Nepal. SCCV was organized by the SAARC Chamber

Women Entrepreneur Council (SCWEC). Hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Nepal Mr. K.P. Sharma Oli inaugurated the SAARC village, President SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry

(SCCI) Dasho Ugen Thechup Dorji and Chairperson SCWEC Mrs. Nasreen Awal Minto were also present at the occasion. The retail outlet in Kathmandu has on display handicrafts produced by women entrepreneurs from all

over South Asia including common cultural products like ready-made garments, jewelry, shoes and spices. All this has made SCCV both an informative and interesting place for businesswomen to meet. SAARC Chamber Crafts Village would work as a wholesale outlet where women from all countries can display their goods and present information about them.

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Women empowerment is one of the most important goals of our government. Now women are more conscious about their rights and obligations and are playing very important roles in business and economy. We have already taken several effective steps for the development of women entrepreneurs in the economy. The establishment of retail outlet of SCWEC in Kathmandu would help to exchange information, skills of making handicrafts and to build good bilateral relationships among the women of the SAARC countries.

**Hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Nepal Mr. K.P. Sharma Oli**

SCCV project is a unique entrepreneurial experience with the objectives to market products manufactured exclusively by women of SAARC region. This is both a courageous and remarkable effort of the women in the SAARC region. Our economies can only gain more strength as more and more women entrepreneurs take part in expanding their businesses that will ultimately create more jobs and generate income for women to raise their living standards.

**SCWEC Chairperson, Ms. Nasreen Awal Mintoo**

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As women comprise 49% of the total population in South Asia, they need to be promoted through developing their entrepreneurship skills and creating global business linkages. New opportunities have been developed by SCCV for capacity building in women's enterprises, including training, which will increase the quality of goods offered by our countries, as well as exposure to international markets, which will bring further incentive to the women business entrepreneurs to expand their horizon.

**SCCI President, Dasho Ugen Tsechup Dorji**

There is an inherent need for women's organizations from developed and developing countries to share experiences and best practice in order to work towards bettering conditions for women entrepreneurs. SCCV will provide women the opportunity to exchange information and create a network of women entrepreneurs and thus end their isolation. SCCV is also giving new chance to women with access to the new alliances that are shaping tomorrow's economy.

**SCCI Vice President, Mr. Hulas Chand Golchha**

The initiation of SCCV project targeting women in the SAARC region is a significant milestone that would ultimately boost socio-economic advancement. Women entrepreneurs have been playing a significant role in developing the rural and urban areas of the country by training women. The encouraging projects like SCCV should become a prominent agenda of FNCCI in developing business skill among the women entrepreneur to link them with mainstream of business activities.

**FNCCI President, Mr. Chandi Raj Dhakal**



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