



## **Opening Ceremony Speech**

**Training of Trainers on Entrepreneurship Development for  
Women Trainers/Motivators,  
28 February – 18 March 2011,**

**Organised by the Colombo Plan and the Government of  
India**

**Implemented by the**

**National Institute of Macro, Small and Medium  
Enterprises (NIMSME), Hyderabad, India**

**On, 28 February 2011**

**By**

**Dato' Patricia Yoon Moi Chia**

**Secretary-General**

**The Colombo Plan Secretariat**

Dr. Chukka Kondaiah  
Director-General

Prof. Dev  
Registrar

Dr. C. Rani  
Programme Director,

Lecturers,

Participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

“Nameste!”

A Very Good Morning to everyone.

Congratulations and a warm welcome to all participants. I am happy to be here for the first time at the opening ceremony of the first joint training programme on ‘Training of Trainers on Entrepreneurship Development for Women Trainers/Motivators’ organised by the Colombo Plan and the Government of India. And I wish to thank our implementing partner, the National Institute of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises for their technical and management support in making this programme possible.

2. I am glad that there are 9 participants from 7 Colombo Plan member countries, namely Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippines and Sri Lanka out of a total of 25 applications.

3. It is widely known that in Asia it is difficult for a woman to start a business. According to the Women Economic Opportunity Report for 2010, the indicator of ‘starting a business for women’, is average. For instance, out

of 113 countries, Sri Lanka is ranked 32, Malaysia ranked 40, Lao PDR ranked 62 and Bangladesh is ranked at 69. The barriers for women to become entrepreneurs are economic, legal and cultural. Therefore, when developing entrepreneurship amongst women, there is a difference between developing entrepreneurship for the educated woman who wants to be an entrepreneur and entrepreneurship development dealing with poverty reduction. These two aspects should not be clustered together but dealt with separately.

4. The aim of this training programme is to raise the training standards for women entrepreneurship development. I hope that this 3-week training programme will enable the sharing of India's experience in developing female entrepreneurship. The lessons learnt from India to overcome those economic, legal and cultural barriers and how to create opportunities for women to succeed as entrepreneurs will be highly useful models. I understand there will also be an Entrepreneurial Motivation Training Laboratory, which is to develop skills to guide potential entrepreneurs on how to prepare a project report. It will also be an interesting regional experience when all of you share your country experiences. It would be expected that while there may be differences, the similarities would be also part of the Asian reality.

4 This year marks the major milestone of the Colombo Plan's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2011. All of you are welcome to join us in our celebrations both in Colombo and also in your home cities. I would like to say that Colombo Plan Secretariat implements a training programme on entrepreneurship development based on the Blue Ocean Strategy. For 2011, we will expect to implement a total of 100 training programmes in our four permanent programmes, Programme for Public Administration and Environment, Long-term Scholarship Programme, Drug Advisory Programme and Private Sector Development. This will generate 3,102 training opportunities for our member countries.

5. The subject areas of training in the Private Sector Development Programme are Eco-tourism, Malaysian experience on Internationalisation of SMEs, Trade Promotion, Industrial development and SMEs policy, international trade and WTO, management of small and medium food processing enterprises for women trainers, methods of attracting foreign direct investment for private sector growth, operational management of Sharia micro-finance, one village one product and one village one fisheries product. These training programmes are implemented in collaboration with Asian Productivity Organisation, India Millennium Fund under the Government of India, Korea International Cooperation Agency, Non-Aligned Movement Centre for South-South Technical Cooperation (NAMCSSTC), Singapore Technical Corporation Directorate, SME Corporation Malaysia and South East Asian Fisheries Development Centre (SEAFDEC).

Having said that Ladies and Gentlemen,

5. The Colombo Plan is one of the oldest inter-governmental organizations which established in 1951. Today, the Colombo Plan has grown from 7 member to 26 member country organisation including the richest and the poorest countries in the Asia Pacific region. Our latest member is Brunei Darussalam, which joined the Colombo Plan in November 2008. From 1951 until 1989, the Colombo Plan scholarship was a household name in the Asia-Pacific and is the most famous of our brands. It has benefited more than 300,000 officials from Colombo Plan member countries.

6. In 1995, in response to the changing needs of member countries, the Colombo Plan was restructured and revitalised to provide capacity building using the South-South Cooperation modality. Since then, I am glad to inform that we have provided a total of 17,341 scholarships, for officials from both

public and private sector. Out of that, 1,769 scholarships were provided under Programme for Public Administration and Environment, 104 for Masters degree, 1,487 for Programme for Private Sector Development and 13,981 for the Drug Advisory Programme.

7. Our biggest programme is the Drug Advisory Programme. Established in 1973, it is the oldest regional programme which focuses on both drug demand and supply reduction. In the Asia Pacific region, the Colombo Plan's drug demand reduction programme is the most significant stakeholder to address drug abuse, treatment and rehabilitation and prevention including in Afghanistan. For professionals working in the field of drug addiction treatment and rehabilitation, the Colombo Plan has embarked on raising of professional standards through certification. Other initiatives include the assistance and training to treatment and rehabilitation centres, using the faith-based approach for prevention and aftercare programmes, counter narcotics public information programme, enhancement of life skills for youths and outreach drop-in centres.

8. In conclusion, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Government of India for collaborating in this training programme and also to NIMSME for its excellent partnership. I wish all our participants a very pleasant stay in this lovely country with its rich culture and history, and for a most productive and successful training.

Thank you.

28 February 2011