



**OECD CENTRE FOR
ENTREPRENEURSHIP, SMEs AND
LOCAL DEVELOPMENT**

CFE



FUNGLODE

FUNDACIÓN GLOBAL
DEMOCRACIA Y DESARROLLO

**AN OECD CFE/ LEED PROGRAMME EXPERT WORKSHOP
ON**

***“FOSTERING DEVELOPMENT THROUGH
ENTREPRENEURSHIP, CLUSTERS AND LOCAL INITIATIVES”***

Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

Friday, 29 April 2005

PROGRAMME

At the invitation of the Dominican non-profit organisation “Fundación Global Democracia y Desarrollo” and with the support of the Embassy of Italy in the Dominican Republic, the OECD CFE Local Economic and Employment Development (LEED) Programme is organising a one-day Expert Workshop on “Fostering Development through Entrepreneurship, Clusters and Local Initiatives”.

This Expert Workshop will contribute to the design of the proposed OECD CFE Caribbean Rim SME and Local Development Initiative. The Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) is the main partner of this event. It will be held on Friday, 29 April 2005 in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic at the Auditorium FUNGLODE in Calle Capitán Eugenio de Marchena No. 26, La Esperilla.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

An OECD CFE/ LEED Programme Expert Workshop on “*Fostering Development through Entrepreneurship, Clusters and Local Initiatives*”

I. Background	3
II. Objectives	4
III. Main Themes of the Expert Workshop	4
i) Endogenous Development and International Co-operation in Latin America and the Caribbean through Entrepreneurship and SME Development.....	4
ii) The Role of Clusters in Local Economic and Social Development in the Caribbean with a Special focus in the Dominican Republic and Haiti	5
IV. Participants	5
V. Preparation.....	6
VI. Organisational issues	7
Languages	7
Date & Time	7
Venue.....	7
Suggested Hotel.....	7
Contact Details.....	7
<i>Agenda</i>	8

**AN OECD CFE/LEED PROGRAMME EXPERT WORKSHOP
ON**

***“FOSTERING DEVELOPMENT THROUGH
ENTREPRENEURSHIP, CLUSTERS AND LOCAL INITIATIVES”***

*To be organised jointly by the OECD
and the Inter-American Development Bank*

**Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic
Friday, 29 April 2005**

Programme

I. Background

1. As part of the government’s strategy to support the creation of a competitive environment and build the capacities necessary to bring the country into the global economy, the Dominican non-profit organisation “Fundación Global Democracia y Desarrollo” has extended an invitation to the OECD CFE/LEED Programme to organise a one-day Expert Workshop in Santo Domingo. The Workshop will also benefit from the support of the Embassy of Italy in the Dominican Republic and the special representation of the Inter-American Development Bank in the host country.

2. This OECD CFE/LEED Programme Expert Workshop will contribute to the preparation of *a new OECD Caribbean Rim SME and Local Development Initiative* to be carried out by the CFE. This programme could be a unique platform for policy dialogue and concrete co-operation between national and local authorities, the business community, local development practitioners, civil society and international institutions.

3. The OECD CFE strategic objective is to foster the development of an entrepreneurial society, capable of innovating, creating jobs and seizing the opportunities provided by globalisation, while helping to promote sustainable growth, integrated development and social cohesion. The CFE promotes the *OECD Bologna Process* for SME and Entrepreneurship Policies, which provides guidance to both member and non member governments to help entrepreneurs and SMEs worldwide meet the challenges and reap the benefits of globalisation.

4. The OECD understands the importance of working closely with non-member countries, including by sharing know-how in the fields of economic co-operation and development. Caribbean countries have a longstanding experience of co-operation and support within the region and with other regions. In order for a country to promote entrepreneurial, social and local development and support the growth of the national and local economies, countries should share their policy experiences. Within this context, the Caribbean is a key partner to implement a shared strategy of entrepreneurial, social and local development. In this respect, the Dominican Republic and the Republic of Haiti are key stakeholders.

II. Objectives

5. This Expert Workshop aims at discussing the potential of entrepreneurship and SMEs as engines of development through the creation of clusters and the internationalisation of SMEs. It will share the experience of OECD countries in view of its application in the Caribbean, with a special focus on the Dominican Republic and Haiti.

6. In particular, this Expert Workshop is expected to provide:

- An overview of SME clusters organisation and the possibility of twinning Caribbean SME clusters with European SME clusters.
- An opportunity for the main stakeholders to meet with international experts and discuss common problems in the region through practical cases to better promote development in their home country.
- A platform in which international experts and designated officials of the Dominican Republic and Haiti identify the tools to enhancing an economic environment propitious to SMEs development and international co-operation.

7. In general terms, this OECD Expert Workshop is an event in which participants will discuss the challenges of implementing endogenous development strategies in their region and will analyse the use of SME clusters and entrepreneurship as drivers for growth and local economic development. It will stress the importance of SME promotion and international cooperation in local development and will address some key elements to foster local and social development through entrepreneurship activities.

8. The present draft programme has been circulated within the OECD Secretariat and to the LEED Directing Committee delegates for their comments.

III. Main Themes of the Expert Workshop

This event will be divided into two half-day sessions. It is proposed that the seminar is organised around the following themes:

i) Endogenous Development and International Co-operation in Latin America and the Caribbean through Entrepreneurship and SME Development

9. Latin America and the Caribbean is a varied region, with economic and social gaps that need to be reduced in order to achieve sustainable development. This has been at the top of the agenda of governments in the region, but results have been insufficient. In the knowledge based economy, entrepreneurship promotion and the development of an SME sector are key to job creation, poverty alleviation, growth and social inclusion.

10. International co-operation has proved to be an effective way of enhancing a propitious economic environment for development as it promotes the exchange of know-how, encourages competitiveness and opens new markets to the local economy. Successful examples of cross-Atlantic twinning of SMEs have been studied as good practices in local development strategies. These initiatives have seen the light in other countries in the region with great economic impacts and should be analysed to best adapt them to the local context.

11. Experts may wish to discuss the following issues:

- *How to foster endogenous development through entrepreneurship, SMEs and local initiatives? Which are the specific tools needed to foster sustainable local development?*
- *In which ways can SMEs contribute to integrate emerging and developing economies into the global economy? What can be done to build SMEs' capacities in developing countries to access international markets? What partnerships and networking can be envisaged between local SMEs in the Caribbean region, and between them and other countries?*

ii) The Role of Clusters in Local Economic and Social Development in the Caribbean with a specific focus on the Dominican Republic and Haiti

12. The importance of a local approach to economic and social development has increasingly gained attention both from national governments throughout the world and institutions devoted to development. In effect, in recent years the definition, design and promotion of this new approach have received strong support from international organisations.

13. In most Latin American and Caribbean countries, the existence of weak business' environments determines severe limitation on innovative activities and clusters development (IADB, 2004). SMEs have been able to contend with bigger national and international competitors by clustering together to achieve economies of scale and scope. These clusters, loosely defined as geographically concentrated firms of different sizes horizontally and/ or vertically linked and operating in the same line of business not only account for a sizeable percentage share of national GDP and exports but, in some cases, they also function as hotbeds of innovation and learning.

14. Given the economic importance of clusters, they were recognised as tools for economic development and for upgrading of international competitiveness of national industry. In this context, this session will stress the importance of SME clusters as tools for social and local development. It will also provide the audience with some OECD experiences in order to adapt the good practices and implement development strategies within the local context.

15. Experts may wish to discuss the following issues:

- *Which good practices in cluster development can be drawn from OECD countries' experience and in particular the Italian experience? How can lessons learnt be transferred to the context of the Caribbean, in particular to the Dominican Republic and Haiti?*
- *What is the role of clusters in building capacities for social and local development?*

IV. Participants

16. This Expert Workshop will gather representatives of the Dominican Republic and of the following institutions and international organisations:

- Designated international experts
- Inter-American Development Bank (IADB)
- Local Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)

- Various officials from the Caribbean Region

The OECD is not in a position to cover travel and accommodation costs. Participants and experts are invited to attend at their own expense.

V. Preparation

17. This one-day event will be organised with the support of the Dominican non-profit organisation “Fundación Global Democracia y Desarrollo” and the Embassy of Italy in the Dominican Republic together with the Inter-American Development Bank.

18. The Expert Workshop will be coordinated by the Secretariat of the OECD CFE Local Economic and Employment Development (LEED) Programme in co-operation with the OECD CFE SME and Entrepreneurship Division. The OECD Secretariat will work closely with the Dominican Authorities to ensure the success of the seminar.

19. Within the OECD, this Expert Workshop will be an Outreach activity principally under the aegis of the CFE/LEED Programme. It will be a substantial contribution to the launch of the OECD Initiative for the Caribbean Rim, carried out by the OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs & Local Development (CFE), in line with the priorities set by the *OECD Bologna Process*.

VI. Organisational Issues

Languages

Spanish, English and French will be the working languages of this Expert Workshop. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided.

Date & Time

Friday, 29 April 2005 from 9:00 to 18:00

Venue

Auditorium FUNGLODE
Fundación Global Democracia y Desarrollo
Calle Capitán Eugenio de Marchena No. 26
La Esperilla. Santo Domingo

Suggested Hotel

Please note that the OECD does not cover accommodation costs and is neither responsible for the choice of the hotel nor for the booking. Participants are invited to arrange their accommodation.

Hotel Santo Domingo
Av. Independencia and Av. Abraham Lincoln
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Contact Details

At the venue in the Dominican Republic:

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PRELIMINARY DRAFT AGENDA

8:30 – 9:00	<i>Registration</i>
9:00 – 10:00	<p><i>Welcome and Opening Remarks</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms. Ligia Amada Melo, Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology, Dominican Republic - Mr. Jaime Moreno, Director, Centre for Environment and Sustainable Development, FUNGLODE, Dominican Republic - H. E. Giorgio Sfara, Ambassador of Italy in the Dominican Republic
10:00 – 13:00	<p>MORNING SESSION</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>“Endogenous Development and International Co-operation in Latin America and the Caribbean through Entrepreneurship and SME Development”</i></p> <p><i>Chair: Mr. Sergio Arzeni, Director of the CFE and Head of the LEED Programme, OECD</i></p>
10:00 – 11:15	<p><i>Panel 1: Towards an agenda of endogenous development through entrepreneurship and SME development</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Moisés Pineda, Special Representative in the Dominican Republic. Inter-American Development Bank - Ms. Lisa Bell, Jamaica Promotions Corporation, Jamaica - Mr. François Hurel, General delegate, French Agency for Business Creation, France <p><i>Discussant: Mr. Jean Guinet, Principal Administrator on Innovation systems and technology policies, Directorate for Science, Technology and Industry, OECD</i></p>
11:15 – 11:30	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:30 – 13:00	<p><i>Panel 2: Towards an agenda of international co-operation for entrepreneurship and SME development</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “Competitive Development and Free Trade in the Dominican Republic” by Mr. Antonio Isa Conde, Director, Centre for Competitiveness of FUNGLODE, Dominican Republic - “SMEs Facing Globalisation: Which Strategies?” by Mme Marie-Josée Garnier, Consultant on Development, Haiti <p><i>Discussant: Mr. Jean Guinet, Principal Administrator on Innovation systems and technology policies, Directorate for Science, Technology and Industry, OECD</i></p>

13:00 – 14:30	Lunch
14:30 – 18:00	<p>AFTERNOON SESSION</p> <p><i>“The Role of Clusters in Local Economic and Social Development in the Caribbean with a specific focus on the Dominican Republic and Haiti”</i></p> <p><i>Chair: Mr. Sergio Arzeni, Director of the CFE and Head of the LEED Programme, OECD</i></p>
14:30 – 15:45	<p>Panel 1: The Role of Clusters in Local Economic and Social Development: The Italian Experience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>“How to Support Clusters and Entrepreneurship Development?”</i> by Dr. Federico Montelli, Director, Chamber of Commerce of Milan, Italy - <i>“The Dominican Republic and Haiti: One Single Destiny”</i> by Mr. Francesco Fantoli, Correspondent journalist in Haiti of the Italian Television Network RTI, Italy <p><i>Discussant: Mr. Jean Guinet, Principal Administrator on Innovation Systems and Technology Policies, Directorate for Science, Technology and Industry, OECD</i></p>
15:45 – 16:00	Coffee break
16:00 – 17:15	<p>Panel 2: The Role of Clusters in Local Economic and Social Development: Good Practices for Latin America and the Caribbean</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>“The Dominican Experience on Clusters: Towards a New Entrepreneurial Culture”</i> by Ms. Elka Scheker, Coordinator for Business Environment and Development of International Services, National Competitiveness Council, Dominican Republic - Mr. Alvaro Albuquerque, Head of International Relations, SEBRAE Brazilian Bureau for the Support of SMEs, Brazil <p><i>Discussant: Mr. Jean Guinet, Principal Administrator on Innovation Systems and Technology Policies, Directorate for Science, Technology and Industry, OECD</i></p>
17:15 – 17:45	<p>Summary by the Rapporteur</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Jean Guinet, Principal Administrator on Innovation Systems and Technology Policies, Directorate for Science, Technology and Industry, OECD
17:45 – 18:00	<p>Conclusions and Closing Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Sergio Arzeni, Director of the CFE, OECD - H. E. Giorgio Sfara, Ambassador of Italy in the Dominican Republic