

**“The Innovations of Women-owned SMIs to Empower Community during COVID19
Pandemic”**

13 – 17 September 2021

Collaboration between:

The Government of the Republic of Indonesia and The Colombo Plan

Implementing Agency:

Directorate General of Small, Medium and Multifarious Industry

Ministry of Industry of the Republic of Indonesia.

Opening Remarks by HE Ambassador Dr. Phan Kieu Thu

1. Ms. Reni Yanita, Acting Director General for Small, Medium, and Multifarious Industry, Ministry of Industry,
2. Mr. Arrya Tirto Sumarto, Acting Head of Bureau for Foreign Technical Cooperation. Ministry of State Secretariat,
3. Ms. Sri Yunianti, Secretary to Directorate General for Small, Medium, and Multifarious Industry, Ministry of Industry.
4. Also, the 61 participants from 13 CP member countries (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, the Philippines, and Vietnam)

Once again here I am addressing you on another timely initiative by the Government of Indonesia in collaboration with the Colombo Plan under the **KNOWLEDGE SHARING PROGRAM ON ENHANCING THE DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL AND MEDIUM INDUSTRY**. This time the theme being **“The Innovations of Women-owned SMIs to Empower Community during COVID19 Pandemic”**

At the outset, I wish to convey my gratitude and sincere thanks to the Government of Indonesia and the Implementing Agency: Directorate General of Small, Medium and Multifarious Industry Ministry of Industry of the Republic of Indonesia.

Under the four programs of the Colombo Plan, namely, The Drug Advisory program, Gender Affairs program and Environment, the Colombo Plan plays a pivotal role in providing short-term training courses, workshops, scholarships, and master’s degree programs annually under the wing of its capacity building program extending these to the member countries of the Colombo Plan.

As we all know, but it is still important mention it, the Knowledge Sharing Program on Enhancing the Development of Small and Medium Industry is a collaboration program between the Government of Indonesia and the Colombo Plan Secretariat in line with the policy of the Government of Indonesia concerning the effectiveness and sustainability of Indonesia's South-South and Triangular Cooperation Program. During this training program, the participants will be able to learn and understand Indonesia's national policy and best practices on the development and promotion of SMIs, its trade policy and draw an understanding on the empowerment of women entrepreneurs in Indonesia, and their positive impact to the community.

We have been and still going through a very difficult time. We suffer the destructive effects of the global Covid 19 pandemic. Although it is more than a year now, the consequences and the devastation still keep unfolding and further distancing the hopes of recovery. Millions of lives have been lost globally and daily the numbers keep increasing by the thousands, posing unprecedented challenges to public health and safety. Our member states are endeavouring to strike a balance in the jobs that have disappeared and the businesses that have lost their sustainability, the economic downturn and the drastic changes that have affected in the daily lives of people and children due to the pandemic. We are facing the dire consequences of the pandemic economically, socially, and culturally. We do not know when this will end, we have to stay strong, plan and steer ahead in a new normal environment and address the challenges we are facing diligently.

As I already said, this training program is a very timely one and it will definitely benefit all the participants to enhance their knowledge and understanding on the Success Story of Indonesia's Small and Medium Industry entrepreneurs who have survived the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and empowered the community during the COVID-19 pandemic. So, there is a lot to be learnt from this training program and these learnings can be applied by the participants to assist the SMI community in their own countries during this COVID-19 Pandemic. Knowledge management and knowledge sharing are equally important to the public sector organizations. It creates growth, sustainability, and development. What we learn we need to share. This where the motto of the Colombo Plan becomes important, "sharing prosperity together and self-help and mutual-help". That is how we can grow as nations.

In organizing training programs on capacity building and sharing of knowledge, the organizers put in a great deal of effort and planning. Therefore, I urge from all participants to make the maximum of use of this training program and gather adequate knowledge from it.

In conclusion, I wish to express my thanks and gratitude to the Government of Indonesia and the implementing agency: Directorate General of Small, Medium and Multifarious Industry Ministry of Industry of the Republic of Indonesia and the relevant staff members for their collaboration, support, and efficient implementation of the program.

Thank you.

