

Circle of Global Business Women Programme

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The Embassy of France in South Africa is partnering with the Entrepreneurship Development Academy (EDA) at the Gordon Institute of Business Science (GIBS) to develop a tailor-made programme to support 50 members of the Circle of Global Business Women (CGBW).

CGBW is a global network of innovative women who are authentic in their endeavours to create a leadership shift globally and are committed to developing and promoting programmes that support and enhance the potential and wellbeing of women. CGBW seeks to mobilise resources to design, implement, monitor and evaluate strategic programmes in the areas of empowerment, leadership, and innovation.

The 50 women entrepreneurs, who meet the criteria as CGBW members, will be enrolled in the upcoming 14-week online training programme. The course is set to begin in October 2020 and will be offered by the GIBS EDA. The programme will focus on different aspects of running a viable business, such as business finances, management structures, resource allocation and operational efficiency.

During his recent Women's Day address, President Cyril Ramaphosa said the government has resolved to set aside 40% of public procurement for women-owned businesses as part of ongoing efforts to ensure transformation and equality. Ramaphosa said South Africa's national strategic plan aims to promote women's economic inclusion to achieve financial independence in a bid to reduce their vulnerability to gender-based violence.

To this end, the French Embassy, CGBW and GIBS EDA hope to contribute to the development and strengthening of women as equal players in the South African entrepreneurial ecosystem. This project forms part of a Solidarity Fund for Innovative Projects by the French Embassy that was set up at the request of French President Emmanuel Macron. The objective of this programme is to bring more opportunities to women-led businesses by transferring knowledge and skills.

Miranda Hosking, Director of the GIBS EDA observed: "We are delighted to partner with the French Embassy and the Circle of Global Business Women on this programme that aims to support women-led businesses. An investment in the development of women entrepreneurs will have positive spin-offs beyond the immediate beneficiaries."

To sign up as a CGBW member and to apply for this programme, contact Bianca van Deventer at bianca@cgbw.co.za.

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