HIGHLIGHTS

Conference Debates on Green and Digital Exports
Landlocked Developing Countries Business Talks
International Young Ecopreneurs Competition
B2B Meetings
Mongolia SheTrades Hub Launch
Mongolia National Export Strategy Workshop
The World Export Development Forum, the flagship event of the International Trade Centre (ITC), is the ideal setting to discuss trade development and connect businesses to new markets. It is unique for bringing together the voices of businesses, governments, women and youth.

This annual event combines high-level plenaries with business networking. Its side events offer capacity building for trade, with training, insights and partnerships for small businesses to engage in international markets.

Each forum explores trade development that is green, digital, inclusive and supportive of small business in regional and global value chains. It also takes a deep dive into the needs of distinct geographic groups – particularly developing, landlocked and least developed countries.

The World Export Development Forum looks at common priorities of firms trading to create a dynamic gathering of national, regional and international participants.

Trade has changed enormously since this event began as a closed-door, public-private summit on national export strategies. The World Export Development Forum has adapted with changing times, keeping the strategic focus on trade development, and adding tangible opportunities for business and development partnerships.

This year’s event reflects on fresh solutions in a complex era. Trade routes and supply chains are shifting, with entire economies disrupted due to conflict, climate and the aftermath of the pandemic. The world is decidedly more digital, and trade in services is revolutionizing all economies. Governments are committed to supporting their young and growing populations. Women-led businesses are mobilizing to claim their rightful share of global trade. Sustainability has gone from being a nice-to-have to a central business imperative.

New paths to diversify trade are built on green solutions, digital transformation and trade in services. Increasingly, women and youth running small businesses are walking these paths, and looking to connect with countries with geographic similarities.

The World Export Development Forum creates platforms for a sustainable, inclusive recovery through international trade.
Programme overview

The programme captures business insights on smoother trade for landlocked developing countries; gives a voice to young ecopreneurs to pitch their ideas for a greener future through trade; puts business pairs together to showcase digital and green paths to diversify trade; and offers public-private debates on green trade, digital transformation, women in trade and access to finance.

The official opening and sessions showcasing young entrepreneurs take place on the International Day for Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises.

Business-to-business matchmaking focuses on three sectors: digital, natural fibres and leather.

National outcomes include the launch of a SheTrades Mongolia hub, joining a network of similar national hubs and a kick-off workshop for a Mongolian National Export Strategy. Groundwork for young professionals to join a global community of young entrepreneurs is also underway in the context of the forum.
Monday, 26 June

MORNING  Business Talks: Landlocked Developing Countries
AFTERNOON  B2B Meetings: Digital, Natural fibres, Leather
            Presentation: China International Fair for Investment and Trade

Tuesday, 27 June

MORNING  Official Opening with the President of Mongolia
            Plenary: Paths to Diversification – Business Cases
AFTERNOON  In Conversation: Scaling up Youth Entrepreneurship
            Youth Ecopreneur Awards: Green Pitch Competition

Wednesday, 28 June

MORNING  In Conversation: Trade Trends
            Plenary: Harnessing Digital Transformation
            Plenary: Towards Green Trade
AFTERNOON  Plenary: Access to Finance
            Launch Ceremony: SheTrades Mongolia
            Plenary: Women in Trade – Connecting Communities, Opening Doors
            Closing and Announcement – Ecopreneur Award Winners
EVENING  Open Air Gala Dinner

Thursday, 29 June

10:00-14:00  Excursion: Nomadic Festival
              For international participants
9:00-16:00  Workshop: National Export Strategy
              For national participants
Youth Ecopreneur Awards

Programme Highlights

Youth: Green Pitch Competition

Submissions from 63 developing countries
7 finalists pitch on stage
2 awards

- International Young Ecopreneur Award
- Land Restoration Award

In partnership with
Business Talks: Landlocked Developing Countries

Private sector consultation for the forthcoming United Nations Conference on the Landlocked Developing Countries

4 business roundtables:

- Trade infrastructure
- Regional connectivity
- Trade finance
- Inclusive trade facilitation

In partnership with

B2B Meetings

3 sectors:

- Information and Communications Technology
- Natural fibres
- Leather

In partnership with
National highlights – global connections

SheTrades Hub Mongolia

Joining a global network of national hubs of the International Trade Centre’s SheTrades programme

In partnership with

National Export Strategy for Mongolia

Workshop to gather public-private insights for priority sectors in the country’s national export strategy
Media partnerships

Business outreach partners

The AMERICAN CHAMBER of Commerce in Mongolia
Mongolia’s commitment to hosting the World Export Development Forum comes from the highest levels in the country and the private sector, including the Office of the President, the Parliament, key ministries and the Mongolian National Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

- Geopolitically important for its strategic location between Europe and Asia, and firmly committed to multilateralism.
- A thought leader on issues facing landlocked nations, through its International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries.
- A global leader on battling deforestation through its ‘1 billion trees by 2030’ initiative.
- Open for new business and investment outside of the traditional mining sector, with potential in services as well as value-added agribusiness.
- An emerging actor in technology-enabled trade to overcome landlocked challenges through digital services, software innovation development and fintech.
- Host to a vibrant small business sector, including an educated workforce of women and youth-led firms.
Established in 1964, the International Trade Centre is the joint agency of the United Nations and the World Trade Organization. For nearly sixty years, ITC has been dedicated to connecting small businesses in developing countries to global markets.

ITC delivers practical, development-focused results through projects in 132 countries, a range of thought leadership products and partnership-based events. ITC activities link global trade, private sector engagement and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

ITC champions small business, women and young entrepreneurs – working with both the public and private sector. It prioritizes support to least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States, sub-Saharan Africa and fragile states.

As ITC’s annual flagship event, the World Export Development Forum reflects ITC’s vision of a world where trade builds inclusive, sustainable and prosperous economies.
20 Years: The World Export Development Forum

2019 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia: *Trade and Invest in One Africa*

2018 Lusaka, Zambia: *Scaling up through trade: Skill – Innovate – Connect*

2017 Budapest, Hungary: *Trade – A force for good: Include, Innovate, Integrate*

2016 Colombo, Sri Lanka: *Trade for Success: Connect, Compete, Change*

2015 Doha, Qatar: *Sustainable Trade: Innovate, invest, internationalize*

2014 Kigali, Rwanda: *SMEs: Creating jobs through trade*

2012 Jakarta, Indonesia: *Linking growth markets: New dynamics in global trade*

2011 Istanbul, Turkey: *Private sector engagement with LDCs for tourism-led growth*

2010 Chongqing, China: *Adapting to post-crisis world trade patterns*

2008 Montreux, Switzerland: *Consumer Conscience: How Environment and Ethics Influence Exports*

2007 Montreux, Switzerland: *Bringing Down the Barriers – Charting Dynamic Export Development*

2006 Berlin, Germany: *Export Development and Poverty Reduction*

2005 Montreux, Switzerland: *Export of Services: Hype or High Potential?*

2004 Montreux, Switzerland: *Competitiveness through Public–Private Partnership*

2003 Cancun, Mexico: *Business for Development: Implications for Strategy Makers*

2002 Montreux, Switzerland: *Managing Competitive Advantage: The Values of National Strategy*


2000 Montreux, Switzerland: *Export Development and the Digital Economy*

1999 Annecy, France: *Redefining Trade Promotion – The Need for a Strategic Response*