



UGANDA SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION

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BSI PARTNERS WITH UGANDA SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION (USSIA) TO ENHANCE HYGIENCE AND MANUFACTURING STANDARDS

In a concerted effort to bolster the capabilities of micro small-scale industries (MSSIs) in Uganda, the British Standards Institution (BSI) has collaborated with the Uganda Small Scale Industries Association (USSIA) to promote hygiene and manufacturing standards. This initiative, under the Standards Partnership Project, was officially launched on March 22nd, 2024, at the USSIA headquarters located in Lugogo UMA Show-grounds.

The Standards Partnership Project, spearheaded by BSI and supported by funding from the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (UKFCDO), aims to fortify trade and facilitate sustainable growth in developing economies through the implementation of international standards. By leveraging global expertise and resources, the project seeks to strengthen national quality infrastructure, thereby enhancing the capacity of small-scale industries to engage in international trade.

As part of this collaboration, BSI has provided USSIA with materials including hygiene and manufacturing flyers tailored specifically for MSSIs in

Uganda. These materials, available in multiple languages including Luganda, Itesot, Alur, Runyankore, and English, are meticulously designed to promote adherence to best practices in hygiene and manufacturing processes. By aligning with international standards, MSSIs are poised to improve product quality, operational efficiency, and ultimately, gain access to broader global markets.



Speaking on the significance of this partnership, representatives from both BSI and USSIA underscored the transformative potential it holds for Uganda's small-scale industries. By embracing these standards, MSSIs are not only enhancing their competitiveness in the marketplace but also cultivating greater consumer trust. Moreover, adherence to international standards opens doors to expanded market opportunities, both domestically and internationally.

This collaborative endeavor signifies a pivotal step towards fostering sustainable and inclusive growth within Uganda's small-scale industrial sector. Through continued support and engagement, BSI and USSIA are committed to empowering MSSIs, driving economic development, and positioning Uganda as a key player in the global trade arena.

Training Industrialists in E-Receipts(EFRIS)

In today's digital age, most industrialists have been affected by the shift towards electronic receipts (e-receipts). USSIA in partnership with Uganda Revenue Authority organized an awareness session on 19th

March in Kampala. The training focused on training industrialists in the implementation and utilization of e-receipts that can offer numerous benefits, ranging from enhancing customer experience to streamlining business operations. Some of the things discussed included; understanding the significance of E-Receipts, explaining the benefits for businesses. By following these guidelines and providing comprehensive training on e-receipt implementation, industrialists can harness the full potential of digital receipts to drive business growth and enhance operational efficiency.

USSIA Facilitates Crucial Dialogue with Ministry of Finance to Address Enterprise Challenges (Read more on page 3)

In a proactive move towards addressing critical challenges faced by Ugandan enterprises, the Uganda Small Scale Industries Association (USSIA) spearheaded a dialogue on March 15th. At the heart of this dialogue, convened at the USSIA head office, was the pressing issue of licensing complexities and obstacles hindering enterprise formalization.

Representatives from the Ministry of Finance, along with fourteen participants representing diverse sectors, came together to delve into the intricacies of enterprise development. The dialogue served as a platform for constructive engagement, allowing stakeholders to voice concerns and propose collaborative solutions.

USSIA Membership capacity building



USSIA Empowers Industrialists with Vision Boards and Business Canvas Models Training

recently hosted a transformative training session aimed at industrialists, focusing on the creation of vision boards and business canvas models. Held on March 22nd within the confines of the USSIA boardroom, the event proved to be instrumental in equipping attendees with essential tools to refine their strategic planning and goal-setting processes.

The training session was met with significant enthusiasm from industrialists who recognized the potential for enhancing their business development practices. By incorporating vision boards and business canvas models into their strategies, participants gained invaluable insights into gaining clarity on long-term objectives, defining core values, and establishing a roadmap for success.

During the session, industrialists were introduced to practical steps to create effective vision boards and business canvas models. These steps included creating a compelling vision, defining a clear business purpose, setting realistic timelines and goals, establishing a distinct business identity, engaging stakeholders, and emphasizing core values.

By following these prescribed steps and integrating vision boards and business canvas models into their strategic planning processes, industrialists can cultivate



a clear sense of direction within their organizations. Moreover, the utilization of these tools serves to inspire organizational alignment and drive sustainable growth.

The event underscored USSIA's commitment to fostering innovation and strategic foresight within the industrial sector. As industrialists continue to navigate the dynamic business landscape, USSIA remains dedicated to providing them with the necessary resources and support to thrive.

In a proactive move aimed at assisting small-scale industries in Uganda, the Uganda Small Scale Industries Association (USSIA) recently joined forces with the Uganda Revenue Authority (URA) to conduct an informative session on the Electronic Fiscal Receipting and Invoicing System (EFRIS). This initiative sought to equip USSIA members with essential knowledge crucial for the upcoming implementation of EFRIS, as mandated by the URA.

The session, held at the USSIA headquarters, provided a platform for USSIA clients to interact directly with representatives from both USSIA and URA. Located at [Insert Location], the USSIA head office served as the focal point for stakeholders eager to gain insights into the workings of EFRIS.

Members of USSIA representing diverse small-scale industries actively participated in the educational session.

USSIA Collaborates with URA to Educate Clients on EFRIS System Implementation

They were joined by knowledgeable personnel from the URA, including officers responsible for overseeing the EFRIS framework and addressing stakeholders' queries.

Taking place on the 19th of March, the session was strategically timed to ensure USSIA clients are adequately prepared and compliant with regulatory requirements ahead of the EFRIS system's implementation.

Amidst evolving fiscal regulations, USSIA's proactive approach in facilitating client education on EFRIS underscores its commitment to supporting members through regulatory transitions. With the



URA's directive mandating EFRIS adoption, USSIA recognized the importance of empowering its clients with the necessary knowledge and resources.

During the session, participants engaged in fruitful discussions, addressing concerns and seeking clarification on various aspects of EFRIS, such as operational mechanisms and

compliance procedures. The presence of URA officials provided firsthand insights and guidance, fostering a collaborative environment conducive to mutual understanding.

Furthermore, the interactive nature of the session facilitated direct engagement between USSIA clients and URA officers, enabling stakeholders to address specific queries and resolve potential challenges encountered in the adoption process.

USSIA's dedication to championing the interests of small-scale industries was evident through initiatives like these, demonstrating its commitment to empowering members with the tools, information, and support necessary to thrive in an ever-evolving regulatory landscape. Through strategic collaborations and proactive interventions, USSIA remains at the forefront of driving sustainable growth within Uganda's entrepreneurial ecosystem.

USSIA MEMBERSHIP ENGAGEMENT

Meeting Between Chairperson of Uganda Small Scale Industries and Jinja Industrialists

In a recent development aimed at fostering collaboration and growth within Uganda's industrial sector, the Chairperson of Uganda Small Scale Industries, Mrs. Wekesa Eunice held a crucial meeting with industrialists from Jinja, the country's industrial hub.

This meeting signifies a significant step towards enhancing cooperation, sharing best practices, and exploring opportunities for further industrial development in Uganda.

During the meeting, key discussions revolved around strategies to support small-scale industries in Jinja, leveraging the existing infrastructure and expertise in the region to boost manufacturing capabilities.

The Chairperson emphasized the importance of nurturing local talent, promoting innovation, and creating a conducive environment for small-scale enterprises to thrive. She also launched the USSIA computer library where members will be trained in digital literacy for free.



Moreover, the dialogue touched upon aligning initiatives with national industrial policies such as the National Industrial Policy of 2020 and the Buy Uganda, Build Uganda (BUBU) initiative. By focusing on value addition, increasing competitiveness, and expanding market reach, both parties aim to contribute significantly to Uganda's economic growth and job creation efforts.

The engagement between the Chairperson of Uganda Small Scale Industries and Jinja industrialists underscores a shared commitment to driving industrialization, fostering inclusive growth, and unlocking the full potential of Uganda's industrial sector. Through collaborative efforts and strategic partnerships, they seek to propel the industry forward and capitalize on emerging opportunities within the domestic and regional markets.

This meeting serves as a testament to the proactive approach taken by USSIA in advancing Uganda's industrial journey while laying a solid foundation for sustainable development and prosperity across various sectors in the Jinja region.

The Uganda Small Scale Industries Association (USSIA) and its members demonstrated remarkable prowess and dedication at the third Private Sector Foundation Uganda (PSFU) Women Katale event, held at the Dam Waters Rugby Grounds in Jinja from March 15th to 17th, 2024. Themed "Bridging Economic Divides for Women's Prosperity," the event served as a pivotal platform for women entrepreneurs to network, learn, and advance their businesses, emphasizing economic empowerment and inclusivity.

Set against the scenic backdrop of Jinja's natural beauty, the event attracted women entrepreneurs from diverse sectors, both locally and internationally. Over the course of three days, participants immersed themselves in a dynamic array of activities, including workshops, discussions, and networking sessions.

USSIA, alongside its dedicated members, played a significant role in the event, reaffirming its commitment to supporting and championing the interests of female entrepreneurs. The chair-

USSIA Staff and Members Shine at PSFU Women Katale Event in Jinja



person of USSIA took center stage, offering insights into the challenges faced by women in business and providing words of encouragement to inspire resilience and determination among attendees.

The event underscored the persistent gender disparities in entrepreneurship and highlighted the critical need to create an enabling environment for women to thrive economically. Through active engagement in various activities, USSIA and its members seized the opportunity to network, share experiences, and learn from industry experts.

The chairperson of USSIA delivered a poignant address, shedding light on the systemic barriers hindering the success of female entrepreneurs while emphasizing their pivotal role in shaping Uganda's economic future. Attendees resonated deeply with the message of resilience and determination, leaving the event with renewed motivation and empowerment.

By participating in the PSFU Women Katale event, USSIA bolstered its

visibility and reaffirmed its dedication to advancing the interests of female entrepreneurs and promoting gender equality in the entrepreneurial landscape. As the event concluded, participants departed with newfound knowledge, valuable connections, and a shared resolve to break barriers and forge a path toward prosperity and success.

The PSFU Women Katale event stands as a beacon of hope and

Industries Exposure Visit Program

In a concerted effort to bolster industrial development initiatives for Micro, Small, and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs), the service department, in collaboration with the textile department, orchestrated a transformative visit to Nytil industry in Jinja on the 7th of March. With the participation of 37 eager members, the visit aimed to provide entrepreneurs in the textile industry with valuable exposure to cutting-edge technologies and affordable, high-quality products.

The excursion to Nytil industry served as a cornerstone in achieving strategic goal 4, as outlined by the service department's mission to support and nurture the growth of MSMEs. Through firsthand observation and interaction, members gained invaluable insights into the intricacies of textile production processes, including the utilization of advanced technologies to streamline operations and enhance product quality.

Furthermore, the visit offered participants a unique opportunity to explore avenues for accessing cost-effective raw materials and finished products, thereby empowering them to optimize their business operations and remain competitive in the textile market. By fostering knowledge exchange and networking opportunities, the service and textile departments demonstrated their unwavering commitment to equipping members with the tools and resources necessary for sustained success.

As members returned from the enriching visit to Nytil industry, they expressed newfound inspiration and enthusiasm for leveraging the insights gained to drive innovation and growth within their respective enterprises. The service and textile departments look forward to building upon the momentum generated by the visit, as they continue to champion initiatives that propel the industrial development of MSMEs and contribute to the economic prosperity of the region.

empowerment for women entrepreneurs across Uganda, emphasizing the transformative power of collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and collective action in driving positive change in the entrepreneurial ecosystem.

Successful Entrepreneurship Sessions for GetSkilled Beneficiaries

USSIA Empowers Youth with Skills and Entrepreneurial Spirit

Uganda Small Scale Industries Association (USSIA) has been actively engaged in addressing the unemployment crisis among youth by providing them with essential skills through its "Get Skilled" initiative. This program, facilitated by USSIA and its members, offers tailored training programs in various sectors such as leatherworks, tailoring, motorcycle repair, hairdressing, and metal fabrication.

Recognizing the critical link between poverty and lack of skills, USSIA has partnered with Welt Hunger Hilfe to expand the reach and impact of the project. The collaboration with Welt Hunger Hilfe has been instrumental in ensuring the success of the "Get Skilled" initiative by providing crucial support and resources.

Recently, USSIA took another significant step towards empowering youth by organizing a series of entrepreneurship sessions aimed at fostering innovation and entrepreneurial spirit among the beneficiaries of the "Get Skilled" program. Commencing on the 3rd of April, 2024, these sessions aimed to equip participants with the necessary knowledge, tools, and mindset required to embark on successful entrepreneurial ventures.

The success of the initiative was evident in the recent placement of 200 youths into various employment opportunities, marking a significant milestone for USSIA and its partners. This achievement underscores the effectiveness of collaborative efforts in addressing complex socio-economic challenges and highlights the importance of providing practical skills to youth.

With support from Welt Hunger Hilfe and other stakeholders, USSIA's "Get Skilled" project is poised to make a lasting impact on the lives of countless youth in Uganda. The combination of practical skills training and entrepreneurship sessions not only prepares youth for employment but also encourages them to become job creators in their communities.

USSIA remains committed to scaling up its efforts to reach even more young people in need of skills and employment opportunities. Through the convergence of skill-building and entrepreneurship, USSIA is not only changing individual lives but also contributing to the overall economic growth and development of Uganda.

The "Get Skilled" initiative stands as a testament to the transformative power of collaboration and dedication in creating a brighter future for youth in Uganda.

"Get Skilled" Initiative Fosters Entrepreneurship Among Youth Beneficiaries

In its ongoing efforts to empower individuals with skills for success, the Uganda Small Scale Industries Association (USSIA) recently organized a series of entrepreneurship sessions as part of its "Get Skilled" initiative. The program, dedicated to providing practical skills training to youth, has expanded its focus to include fostering innovation and entrepreneurial spirit



Get skilled placement



among its beneficiaries.

Commencing on the 3rd of April, 2024, the entrepreneurship sessions aimed to equip participants with the knowledge, tools, and mindset required to embark on successful entrepreneurial journeys. Through interactive workshops and mentorship programs, USSIA sought to instill the confidence and capabilities needed for youth to become job creators and contributors to Uganda's economic development.

The success of the entrepreneurship sessions was evident in the enthusiasm and engagement of the participants. Many

expressed their newfound understanding of business concepts and their eagerness to apply them in real-world scenarios. USSIA's commitment to empowering youth with both practical skills and entrepreneurial acumen is a testament to its dedication to creating sustainable pathways to success.

The "Get Skilled" initiative has already made significant strides in addressing unemployment among youth in Uganda. With the recent placement of 200 beneficiaries into various employment opportunities, USSIA and its partners have demonstrated the tangible impact of their collaborative efforts. By providing hands-on experience and

mentorship, USSIA ensures that participants are well-equipped to meet the demands of the job market.

Supported by Welt Hunger Hilfe and other stakeholders, USSIA's "Get Skilled" project is poised to make an even greater impact in the future. The combination of skills training and entrepreneurship development not only empowers individuals but also contributes to the overall growth and prosperity of Uganda.

As USSIA continues to scale up its efforts, it remains committed to reaching more young people in need of skills and employment opportunities. Through initiatives like the entrepreneurship sessions, USSIA is laying the groundwork for a more vibrant and resilient economy, driven by the ingenuity and determination of Uganda's youth.



cy and strategic collaboration with legislative bodies, USSIA endeavors to shape policies that not only meet regulatory standards but also reflect the values of inclusivity, equity, and sustainability.

As the deliberations on the Occupational Safety and Health (Amendment) Bill 2023 progress, USSIA remains steadfast in its dedication to advocating for measures that uphold the highest standards of occupational safety and health.

With the support of stakeholders and policymakers, USSIA aims to navigate the complexities of the legislative process, ultimately paving the way for a safer and more secure future for the workforce.



Stand on Occupational Safety and Health Amendment Bill 2023 to Parliament

In a pivotal move on 20/02/2024, the Department of Policy Lobby and Advocacy took center stage in Parliament as it presented its stance on the Occupational Safety and Health (Amendment) Bill 2023 to

the Safety Committee. The proposed amendments to the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 2006 have emerged as a crucial opportunity for the Department to address longstanding challenges and mold regulatory frameworks in alignment with the dynamic nature of modern workplaces.

The Occupational Safety and Health Act of 2006 stands as a cornerstone legislation aimed at safeguarding the welfare of employees across various industries. However, with the passage of time and the evolution of work environments, the necessity for amendments has become increasingly apparent. The proposed amendments within the 2023 bill serve as a proactive step towards fortifying the existing regula-

tory landscape, ensuring that it remains robust and responsive to the evolving needs of the workforce.

USSIA, through its Department of Policy Lobby and Advocacy, has seized this opportunity to advocate for changes that not only enhance the safety and well-being of workers but also foster a culture of compliance and accountability within organizations. By engaging with the Safety Committee, USSIA aims to contribute to the formulation of amendments that strike a delicate balance between regulatory rigor and practical implementation, thus fostering a safer and healthier work environment for all.

The presentation before the Safety Committee marks a significant milestone in USSIA's ongoing commitment to championing the interests of both employers and employees alike. Through evidence-based advoca-

The organization was requested by Uganda National Council for Science and Technology to nominate a Male and Female to seat on the 5th Council of the Uganda National Council for Science and Technology. So, on 1ST March 2024 USSIA nominated Mr. Julius Nyanzi (Professor Bio) and Ms Priscilla Mugerwa to represent our organization on that committee

USSIA was selected by Private Sector Development Group under ministry of finance to be part of the Quality Assurance Committee for the assignment "assessment of informal activities and workers by EPRC. the first Quality Assurance Team meeting was held on Thursday 21 March 2024 at the PSD/DPI Programme Secretariat 4th Floor Board Room, Crested Towers. During the meeting, ToRs were presented to the team and EPRC presented present the draft Inception Report for comments and approval before they proceed to the next steps.

USSIA on 28/02/2024 presented & submitted its position paper on alcohol drinks control bill 2023 to the parliamentary committee on health, and tourism, trade, and industry parliament of the republic of Uganda the Bill aims to address concerns related to public health and safety by prohibiting the sale of alcoholic drinks to individuals below the age of eighteen and implementing measures to curb the accessibility of alcohol to minors. It also seeks to regulate the packaging and sale of alcoholic beverages, aiming to mitigate the risks associated with the consumption of adulterated or substandard products.

USSIA's Role in Advancing Quality Assurance and Sustainable Solutions for Migrant Workers in Uganda

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On 9th/04/2024 USSIA was added to the committee that is coordinating platform on sustainable solutions for Labour migrant returnees and vulnerable migrants. This platform was formed by MGLSD with support from Government of Uganda and GIZ. The aim of the platform is Migrant returnees who are vulnerable

Between 4th – 7th and 18th – 22nd 2024, USSIA fully got involved in the formulation of The Uganda National Insurance Policy, since the establishment of the insurance sector in Uganda, the sector never had a policy, the process took place at the Insurance Regulatory Authority under the guideline of the cabinet secretary. The aim of coming up with a policy is to see how they can help the insurance sector to increase its performance in the country which is currently below 1%.