



**Why Do Some Firms Thrive while Others Lag Behind?  
Exploring Key Challenges to Firm Success in Uganda**

**Fairway Hotel-Nakasero, Kampala.**

**December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

***Programme***

08:30- 09:20 – *Conference registration and breakfast*

09:20- 09:30 – *Welcome session and remarks*

Mr Jimmy Adiga (Chief Executive Officer, BRAC Uganda Finance Limited)

**Keynote Speech**

09:30- 09:40 – *Opening Keynote speech*

Dr.Joshua Mutambi (Commissioner MSMEs -Processing and Marketing, Ministry of Trade)

09:40- 10:00 – *Official Opening of the Conference*

Hon.Amelia Kyambadde (Minister for Ministry of Trade Industry and Cooperatives)

**Morning session 1 – Production Technology and Capital**

Moderator: Mr. Robert Mpiira (Country Research Coordinator-BRAC Uganda)

This session focuses on these questions: How important is modern technology in determining firm success, and why do some firms use more modern technology and machines than others? What challenges do entrepreneurs face in accessing credit, and is credit allocated efficiently to the most productive entrepreneurs? How important are firm clusters in driving productivity?

10:00-10:15 – *Measuring Technology in Ugandan Manufacturing*

Vittorio Bassi (Assistant Professor of Economics -University of Southern California)

10:15-10:30 – *Credit Constraints and Capital Misallocation in Agriculture in Uganda.*

Ms Benedetta Lerva (Doctorate student of Economics- Stockholm University)

10:30-10:45 – *How important is modern technology in determining firm success, and why do some firms use more modern technology and machines than others?*

Executive Director (Uganda Manufacturer's Association)

10:45-11:00– *Panel discussion for Q&A from the audience*

**11:00-11:30 – Tea/coffee break**

## **Morning session 2 – Environmental challenges**

Moderator: Mr. Ssematimba Joel (Pollution Researcher-Makerere University)

This session focuses on these questions: Does pollution affect the production process of firms, and how? Are workers less productive due to pollution? Are managers aware of the threats of pollution? How do firms adapt to an increasingly polluted environment?

11:30-11:45 – *Pollution and Firm Productivity in Uganda*

*Mr. Esau Tugume (Research Associate- BRAC Uganda)*

*Mr. Deo Okure (Pollution Researcher-Makarere University)*

11:45-12:00 – *Current Pollution Management and Monitoring Policy; opportunities and challenges of protecting the environment in the growing industrial economy in Uganda*  
*Dr. George Mugagnga (Principle Officer Lead Agency Coordination-National Environmental Management Authority)*

12:00-12:15 – *Environmental Challenges in the manufacturing Industry- Sector effective Resource utilization toward attaining sustainable green economy*  
*Mr. Ssebagala Silver (Chief Executive Officer -Uganda Cleaner Production Centre)*

12:15-12:30 – *Panel discussion for Q&A from the audience*

**12:30-14:00 – Lunch break**

## **Afternoon session 1 – Product Demand and Market Access**

Moderator: Mr.Mbaine Enoth (Senior Business Development Specialist-University of East Africa)

This session focuses on these questions: What strategies do firms use to reach customers? Do firms face challenges in finding customers for their products, and why? Which firms sell mostly to local customers, and which have access to larger markets, both in Uganda and internationally?

14:00-14:15 – *Local Competition and Customer Demand in Ugandan Manufacturing* Tommaso Porzio, (Assistant Professor of Economics-University of California-San Diego)

14:15-14:30– *Product demand and Market access -The role and value of UNBS in promoting MSMEs in economic development.*  
*Mr. Martin Imalingat (Uganda National Bureau of Standards)*

14:30-14:45 – *MSMEs Policy on Marketing – Opportunities and Challenges in Enhancing Markets and investments for MSMEs in Uganda*  
*Eng. Stephen Emuria (Assistant Commissioner- Processing and Marketing, Ministry of Trade Industry and Cooperatives)*

14:45-15:00 – *Panel discussion for Q&A from the audience*

**15:00-15:30 – Tea/coffee break**

## **Afternoon session 2 – Skills and Labor Markets**

Moderator: Jakob Rauschendorfer (Country Economist-International Growth Centre)

This session focuses on these questions: How important are the skills of the workers in determining firm success? How difficult is it for firms to find and retain workers with the right skills? What problems do workers face in finding the right jobs for their skills?

15:30-15:45 – *Skills, Beliefs and Job Search: Can labour market policies have unintended effects on how individuals search and find jobs?*

*Anna Vitali (Doctorate Student of Economics- University College of London)*

15:45-16:00 – *Challenges of Assessing Technical Skills Employable in the Ugandan*

*Dr. Micheal Okumu (Ag. Director-Directorate of Industrial Training)*

16:00-16:15 – *How is the Vocational Education and Training Policy Oriented to Address Current Skill Gaps in the Uganda's MSMEs Sector.*

*(Commissioner -BTVET- Ministry of Education and Sports)*

16:15-16:30 – *Panel discussion for Q&A from the audience*

## **Closing Remarks and Discussion**

16:30-16:45 – *Key areas for policy (IGC)*

16:45 – 17:00 – *Response - Ongoing Issues of Policy Concern and Official closing Remark*

*The Under Secretary (Ministry of Trade)*

**17:00-18:00 – Social Hour and Networking**