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About Us

Welcome to the Enterprise Competitiveness Institute (ECI), a leading institution dedicated to enhancing the competitiveness of enterprises in Bangladesh. Our mission is to empower entrepreneurs and businesses through the provision of high-quality training, consulting, research, and advocacy services.

At ECI, we understand that competition is the key driver of growth and innovation in any economy. That's why we work with entrepreneurs and businesses of all sizes and sectors to help them improve their competitiveness, productivity, and profitability. We achieve this by providing customized training and advisory services, conducting cutting-edge research, and advocating for policies that promote a business-friendly environment.

Our team of experts brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the table. We combine academic rigor with practical insights to develop innovative solutions that address the specific needs and challenges of our clients. Whether you're a small start-up or a large corporation, we are committed to helping you achieve your business goals and stay ahead of the competition.

We are proud to be part of the global competitiveness community and to collaborate with international partners, including the International Trade Centre (ITC), to promote enterprise competitiveness in Bangladesh and beyond.

So, whether you're looking to develop new skills, streamline your operations, access new markets, or navigate the regulatory landscape, ECI is here to help. Contact us today to learn more about how we can help you enhance your enterprise's competitiveness and achieve sustainable growth.

Trade

At ECI, our Trade Division focuses on enhancing the competitiveness of enterprises through trade-related services. We believe that trade is a key driver of economic growth and development, and our mission is to support enterprises in Bangladesh to take advantage of trade opportunities and overcome trade-related challenges.

Our team of trade experts provides a range of services to support enterprises, including training and capacity building on trade-related topics such as export marketing, trade finance, trade policy, and trade facilitation. We also conduct research and analysis on trade-related issues and provide policy advocacy to promote a more enabling trade environment for enterprises.

Our services are designed to be accessible to all enterprises, including small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and women-led businesses. We work closely with our clients to understand their specific needs and tailor our services accordingly.

We also collaborate with international partners, including the International Trade Centre (ITC), to stay at the forefront of knowledge and best practices in trade-related services.

Join us in our mission to enhance enterprise competitiveness through trade, and take advantage of the opportunities that trade can offer for your business.

Technology

At ECI, our Technology Division focuses on providing technology-related services to enhance the competitiveness of enterprises. We believe that technology is a key enabler of productivity, innovation, and market access for businesses, and our mission is to support enterprises in Bangladesh to adopt and leverage technology for their growth and development.

Our team of technology experts provides a range of services to support enterprises, including training and capacity building on topics such as digital transformation, e-commerce, cybersecurity, and data analytics. We also provide consultancy services to help businesses adopt technology solutions that are tailored to their specific needs and objectives.

Our services are designed to be accessible to all enterprises, including small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and women-led businesses. We work closely with our clients to

understand their specific technology needs and challenges, and provide solutions that are cost-effective and sustainable.

We also collaborate with international partners, including the International Trade Centre (ITC), to stay at the forefront of technology trends and best practices.

Join us in our mission to enhance enterprise competitiveness through technology, and leverage the power of technology to drive your business growth and success.

Education

As a research hub under Daffodil International University, ECI's Education Division aims to enhance the competitiveness of enterprises in Bangladesh by providing high-quality education and training programs.

Our team of experts, comprising academics, industry practitioners, and policymakers, offer a range of training and capacity building programs on topics such as entrepreneurship, business management, digital marketing, and innovation. We work closely with enterprises to identify their specific training needs and tailor our programs accordingly.

Our training programs are designed to be accessible to all, including small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and women-led businesses. We also provide scholarships and other forms of financial support to enable more individuals to participate in our programs.

In addition to our training programs, we also conduct research on education and skills development in the context of enterprise competitiveness. Our research aims to identify best practices and innovative approaches to education and skills development that can help enterprises enhance their productivity, quality, and innovation.

Enterprise Sustainability

Our Enterprise Sustainability Division focuses on promoting sustainable practices in business operations to enhance the competitiveness of enterprises. We believe that sustainable development is key to achieving long-term growth and success for businesses, and our mission is to provide enterprises with the knowledge and tools necessary to integrate sustainability into their operations.

Our team of experts provides a range of services to support enterprises, including training and capacity building on sustainable business practices such as resource efficiency, waste management, renewable energy, and social responsibility. We also conduct research and analysis on sustainability-related issues and provide policy advocacy to promote a more sustainable business environment.

As a research hub under Daffodil International University, we are committed to staying at the forefront of knowledge and innovation in sustainable business practices. We collaborate with academia, industry practitioners, and policymakers to ensure that our services reflect the latest trends and best practices.

We recognize the importance of sustainable development for all enterprises, including small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and women-led businesses. We work closely with our clients to understand their specific needs and tailor our services accordingly.

Join us in our mission to promote sustainable business practices and enhance the competitiveness of enterprises. Together, we can build a more sustainable future for all.

Policy Makers

ECI recognizes the important role that policy makers play in promoting enterprise competitiveness and economic growth. Our mission is to support policy makers by providing them with the knowledge and tools necessary to develop and implement effective policies that enhance the competitiveness of enterprises in Bangladesh.

Our team of experts provides policy makers with a range of services, including research and analysis on key policy issues related to enterprise competitiveness, training and capacity building on policy development and implementation, and policy advocacy to promote a more enabling policy environment for businesses.

Our services are designed to be accessible to all policy makers, from national to local levels. We also recognize the importance of inclusiveness in policy development and work to ensure that policies reflect the needs and concerns of all stakeholders.

Business Associations

we are committed to supporting enterprises of all sizes and types, including business associations and chambers. If you are a business association or chamber seeking support to enhance the competitiveness of your members, here's how you can access our services:

Contact us: You can reach out to us through our website, email, or phone to learn more about our services and discuss your specific needs. Our team of experts will work with you to understand your requirements and tailor our services accordingly.

Attend our events: We regularly organize training workshops, seminars, and events on various topics related to enterprise competitiveness. Keep an eye on our website and social media channels to stay updated on our upcoming events, and register to attend.

Collaborate with us: We welcome collaboration with business associations and chambers to jointly promote enterprise competitiveness. If you have a specific project or initiative in mind, we would be happy to explore possibilities for collaboration.

Partner with us: As a research hub under Daffodil International University, we are always seeking partnerships with organizations that share our mission and values. If you are interested in partnering with us to promote enterprise competitiveness, please get in touch.

By accessing our services, business associations and chambers can provide their members with the knowledge and tools necessary to improve their productivity, quality, innovation, and marketing, and thus enhance their competitiveness in the domestic and global markets.

Donor Agencies

At ECI, we welcome partnerships with donor agencies to support our mission of promoting enterprise competitiveness in Bangladesh. We offer a range of services to support enterprises, including training and capacity building, research and analysis, policy advocacy, and consultancy services.

To access our services, donor agencies can contact us directly through our website or by email at info@eci.org.bd. Our team of experts will work with donor agencies to identify their specific needs and develop customized solutions that meet their requirements.

We recognize the importance of collaboration and coordination with donor agencies to ensure that our services are aligned with their priorities and objectives. We are committed to working closely with donor agencies to achieve our shared goal of promoting sustainable economic growth and development in Bangladesh.

Donor agencies can also collaborate with us through our parent organization, Daffodil International University, which has a wide network of partners and stakeholders in Bangladesh and beyond. We welcome the opportunity to collaborate with donor agencies on joint initiatives and projects that promote enterprise competitiveness.

Higher Education Institute

Higher education institutes can engage with the Enterprise Competitiveness Institute (ECI) in several ways to support their mission of promoting inclusive and sustainable economic growth in Bangladesh. ECI is a non-profit organization that works closely with the government, private sector, and academia to build capacity, conduct research, and provide advisory services in areas related to enterprise competitiveness.

One way that higher education institutes can engage with ECI is by participating in ECI's training programs and capacity-building initiatives. ECI offers a range of training programs on topics such as entrepreneurship, innovation, and business development that are designed to help students and faculty members develop the skills and knowledge needed to succeed in today's competitive business environment.

In addition, higher education institutes can collaborate with ECI on research projects that focus on topics related to enterprise competitiveness. ECI has a dedicated research team that conducts research on various aspects of enterprise development and competitiveness, including industry analysis, market research, and policy analysis. By collaborating with ECI on research projects, higher education institutes can contribute to the development of knowledge in this field and help inform policy decisions.

Finally, higher education institutes can engage with ECI by providing advisory services to local enterprises. ECI works with a wide range of enterprises, from small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to large corporations, to help them improve their competitiveness and sustainability. Higher education institutes can provide valuable advisory services to these enterprises, drawing on their expertise in areas such as marketing, finance, and operations.

Overall, the engagement of higher education institutes with ECI is critical to advancing the organization's mission of promoting enterprise competitiveness in Bangladesh. By working together, these institutions can help build a more inclusive and sustainable economy that benefits all stakeholders.

MSMEs

The Enterprise Competitiveness Institute (ECI) is a Bangladeshi organization that provides various services and support to Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) to help them enhance their competitiveness and productivity. ECI offers a range of services that can be accessed through their website at <https://eci.org.bd/#>. Here are some of the ways MSMEs can get different services from ECI:

Training and Capacity Building: ECI provides training and capacity building services to MSMEs to help them improve their business management, product development, and marketing skills. These training programs are designed to address the specific needs of MSMEs and are delivered through workshops, seminars, and online platforms.

Business Advisory Services: ECI offers business advisory services to MSMEs to help them improve their competitiveness and productivity. The advisory services cover a wide range of areas such as business planning, financial management, marketing, and human resource management.

Export Promotion: ECI provides export promotion services to MSMEs to help them access new markets and increase their exports. ECI provides market information, trade promotion, and export readiness assessment to MSMEs to help them develop their export capabilities.

Technology Transfer and Innovation: ECI provides technology transfer and innovation services to MSMEs to help them adopt new technologies and innovations. ECI works with various technology providers and research institutions to identify and promote relevant technologies and innovations that can benefit MSMEs.

Access to Finance: ECI provides access to finance services to MSMEs to help them secure financing for their businesses. ECI works with various financial institutions and investors to facilitate access to finance for MSMEs.

To access these services, MSMEs can visit the ECI website at <https://eci.org.bd/#> and navigate to the relevant service area. They can also contact ECI directly through the website to get more information about the services or to request support.

Featured Podcast

Welcome to our Featured Podcast section, where we bring you insightful conversations with industry experts and thought leaders on various topics related to trade, business, economy.

ECI's podcast is a great resource for anyone interested in learning more about the challenges and opportunities facing businesses in developing countries. Hosted by ECI's experts, the podcast covers a wide range of topics, including trade policy, entrepreneurship, innovation, and sustainability.

Recent episodes have featured interviews with industry leaders, policymakers, and academics, who share their insights and experiences on various aspects of business and economic development. Some of the most popular episodes include "Unlocking the Potential of Women Entrepreneurs in Bangladesh," "The Role of SMEs in Economic Growth," and "Greening the Supply Chain: Opportunities and Challenges."

If you're looking for a podcast that combines rigorous analysis with real-world insights, ECI's podcast is definitely worth checking out. You can find it on the ECI website or on major podcast platforms like Spotify, Apple Podcasts, and Google Podcasts. Happy listening!

Career with ECI

The Enterprise Competitiveness Institute (ECI) is a leading institution in Bangladesh dedicated to fostering economic growth and development through enterprise

competitiveness. ECI offers a wide range of services to businesses, government agencies, and other organizations to enhance their competitiveness and productivity.

As a professional seeking a career with ECI, you can expect to be part of a dynamic team of experts who are passionate about promoting enterprise competitiveness in Bangladesh. ECI values diversity, innovation, and excellence, and is committed to providing a stimulating and supportive work environment that enables its employees to thrive and achieve their full potential.

ECI offers a variety of career opportunities across different areas, including research, consulting, training, project management, and more. Whether you are an experienced professional or just starting your career, ECI provides a platform for you to grow and contribute to the economic development of Bangladesh.

To learn more about career opportunities with ECI, visit the organization's website at <https://eci.org.bd/#>. You can also follow ECI on social media to stay up-to-date on the latest news and events.

Core Services

Policy Formulation

As an Enterprise Competitiveness Institute (ECI) based in Bangladesh, one of our key tasks is policy formulation aimed at enhancing the competitiveness of enterprises operating within the country. To achieve this objective, we utilize our website, <https://eci.org.bd/#>, as a platform to disseminate information, conduct research, and engage in dialogue with stakeholders.

Similar to the International Trade Centre's (ITC) platform, <https://intracen.org/>, we recognize that policies play a critical role in shaping the environment within which businesses operate. As such, we aim to engage with policymakers, academics, and practitioners to ensure that policies are informed by evidence-based research and best practices.

Our website serves as a repository of information on policies and programs that impact enterprise competitiveness in Bangladesh. We conduct research to identify the challenges faced by businesses and analyze the impact of existing policies on their operations. This information is used to inform the formulation of new policies and the revision of existing ones.

In addition to research and analysis, we also engage in advocacy to promote policies that are favorable to enterprise competitiveness. This involves engaging with policymakers, civil society, and the private sector to promote the adoption of policies that support enterprise development and growth.

Overall, policy formulation is a critical task for ECI, and our website is a key platform for achieving this objective. By engaging in research, advocacy, and dialogue, we aim to promote policies that enhance the competitiveness of enterprises in Bangladesh and contribute to the country's economic growth and development.

Technology integration is a crucial task for the Enterprise Competitiveness Institute (ECI) to ensure that Bangladeshi enterprises are competitive in the global market. The ECI website, <https://eci.org.bd/#>, serves as a platform for promoting and facilitating technology integration in the country's businesses.

Following the example of <https://intracen.org/>, the ECI website provides various resources and tools to help enterprises integrate technology into their operations. This includes information on emerging technologies, best practices for technology adoption, and access to technology experts.

Additionally, the ECI website serves as a hub for connecting businesses with technology providers and developers. Through the website, businesses can find and collaborate with technology partners to implement new solutions, such as automation and digitalization.

Furthermore, the ECI website provides training and capacity-building programs to help businesses develop the necessary skills to integrate technology effectively. These programs cover a range of topics, from basic computer literacy to advanced data analytics and artificial intelligence.

Overall, technology integration is a key task for the ECI, and the organization's website serves as a valuable resource for businesses looking to stay competitive in the global marketplace.

Global Value Chain (GVC)

A Global Value Chain (GVC) refers to the complex network of businesses, individuals, and activities involved in the production and distribution of goods and services across international borders. The GVC concept recognizes that the production process is increasingly fragmented across multiple countries, with each country specializing in certain tasks and activities.

One of the key tasks of the ECI is to help SMEs integrate into global value chains. This involves identifying opportunities for SMEs to participate in global production networks and helping them to improve their competitiveness and efficiency. To achieve this, the ECI works

closely with firms to identify their strengths and weaknesses and develop strategies to overcome any barriers to entry.

Sustainable Education Ecosystem

The ECI also provides training and capacity-building programs to help SMEs develop the skills and knowledge necessary to compete in global markets. These programs cover a range of topics, including marketing, supply chain management, and quality control.

A sustainable education ecosystem is essential for the development of a competitive enterprise sector. The Enterprise Competitiveness Institute (ECI), located at <https://eci.org.bd/#>, recognizes this fact and has taken on the task of building such an ecosystem in Bangladesh. ECI works in collaboration with the International Trade Centre (ITC) under the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to support the growth of micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in Bangladesh.

The sustainable education ecosystem created by ECI aims to improve the competitiveness of MSMEs by addressing the skills and knowledge gaps in the workforce. This ecosystem consists of various components, including capacity-building programs, vocational training, and entrepreneurship development.

One of the main tasks of ECI is to provide training programs that cater to the needs of MSMEs. These programs are designed to enhance the skills and knowledge of entrepreneurs, workers, and other stakeholders in the MSME sector. The programs cover a wide range of topics, such as product development, marketing, finance, and export promotion. The training programs are offered through various channels, including online platforms, classroom-based training, and on-the-job training.

ECI also focuses on developing a sustainable vocational training system that is responsive to the needs of the MSME sector. The institute works closely with vocational training providers to ensure that the training offered is relevant and meets the needs of the market. ECI also provides support for the development of new training programs that cater to emerging sectors and technologies.

Another task of ECI is to promote entrepreneurship development in Bangladesh. The institute provides support to aspiring entrepreneurs through business incubation, mentorship, and access to finance. ECI also works with universities and research institutions to promote entrepreneurship education and research.

In addition to these tasks, ECI also engages in policy advocacy and research to promote the growth of the MSME sector in Bangladesh. The institute conducts research on various aspects of MSME development, including market trends, technology adoption, and financing. The research findings are used to inform policy recommendations that promote a favorable business environment for MSMEs.

In conclusion, ECI is committed to creating a sustainable education ecosystem that promotes the competitiveness of MSMEs in Bangladesh. The institute's focus on capacity building, vocational training, entrepreneurship development, and policy advocacy is essential for building a vibrant and competitive enterprise sector. By working with partners such as the ITC, ECI is contributing to the overall economic development of Bangladesh.

Enterprise development

Enterprise development is the process of promoting and supporting the growth and development of businesses to improve their competitiveness and sustainability. It encompasses a range of activities, including entrepreneurship, business planning, access to finance, marketing and sales, technology adoption, and human resource development. Enterprise development is critical for economic growth and job creation, particularly in developing countries where small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are the backbone of the economy.

The Enterprise Competitiveness Institute (ECI) is a leading organization in Bangladesh that supports enterprise development. ECI works with businesses of all sizes and sectors to help them improve their competitiveness and sustainability through capacity building, technical assistance, and policy advocacy. The organization's mission is to create a business-friendly environment that encourages entrepreneurship, innovation, and growth.

ECI's enterprise development services are tailored to the specific needs of each client, based on an in-depth analysis of their business model, market environment, and growth potential. Some of the key areas in which ECI supports enterprise development are:

Entrepreneurship development: ECI provides training and mentoring to aspiring entrepreneurs to help them turn their ideas into viable businesses. The organization also supports entrepreneurship education and research to promote a culture of innovation and creativity.

Access to finance: ECI works with financial institutions to create products and services that meet the needs of SMEs. The organization also provides technical assistance to businesses to help them access finance from banks, microfinance institutions, and other sources.

Business planning and management: ECI assists businesses in developing comprehensive business plans, including market research, financial projections, and risk assessments. The organization also provides training and mentoring to business owners and managers to improve their skills in areas such as accounting, marketing, and human resource management.

Technology adoption: ECI helps businesses adopt new technologies and processes to improve their productivity, efficiency, and competitiveness. The organization provides technical assistance and training on topics such as digital marketing, e-commerce, and supply chain management.

Policy advocacy: ECI engages with policymakers and stakeholders to advocate for policies that support enterprise development. The organization provides research and analysis on issues such as business regulation, tax policy, and trade facilitation, and works to promote a business-friendly environment in Bangladesh.

In conclusion, enterprise development is essential for creating competitive and sustainable businesses that contribute to economic growth and job creation. The Enterprise

Competitiveness Institute is a valuable partner for businesses in Bangladesh that want to improve their competitiveness and sustainability. ECI's customized services and expertise in entrepreneurship, access to finance, business planning, technology adoption, and policy advocacy can help businesses achieve their growth ambitions and contribute to the development of the country.

Trade facilitation plays a crucial role in boosting the competitiveness of businesses by reducing trade transaction costs, simplifying customs procedures, and improving transparency and predictability in international trade. In today's globalized economy, efficient trade facilitation measures can be a game-changer for businesses, especially in emerging economies like Bangladesh. The Enterprise Competitiveness Institute (ECI) recognizes the importance of trade facilitation and works closely with stakeholders to improve the trade environment in Bangladesh.

What is Trade Facilitation?

Trade facilitation refers to the set of measures that streamline and simplify the flow of goods, services, and information across borders. It includes a range of activities, such as customs clearance procedures, trade documentation, transport and logistics, and trade-related infrastructure. The goal of trade facilitation is to reduce the time and cost of trade transactions, improve predictability, and enhance the overall efficiency of trade.

Trade Facilitation in Bangladesh

As a developing country with a rapidly growing economy, Bangladesh has made significant progress in improving its trade facilitation measures in recent years. The government has introduced various initiatives, including the implementation of a single window system, modernization of customs procedures, and upgrading of trade-related infrastructure. These measures have helped reduce the time and cost of trade transactions, making Bangladesh a more attractive destination for foreign investment and boosting the competitiveness of local businesses.

ECI's Role in Trade Facilitation

The Enterprise Competitiveness Institute (ECI) is committed to enhancing the competitiveness of businesses in Bangladesh by supporting trade facilitation initiatives. ECI works closely with stakeholders, including government agencies, private sector organizations, and international partners, to identify opportunities to improve the trade environment in Bangladesh. ECI provides technical assistance, capacity building, and policy advice to help stakeholders implement trade facilitation measures effectively.

ECI's areas of focus in trade facilitation include:

Simplification of customs procedures: ECI works with the National Board of Revenue (NBR) to streamline customs procedures, reduce paperwork, and improve transparency and predictability in customs clearance.

Trade-related infrastructure: ECI supports the development of trade-related infrastructure, such as ports, airports, and highways, to facilitate the movement of goods and reduce transportation costs.

Capacity building: ECI provides training and capacity building support to customs officials, traders, and other stakeholders to enhance their understanding of trade facilitation measures and improve their implementation.

Conclusion

Trade facilitation is essential for enhancing the competitiveness of businesses in Bangladesh and boosting the country's economic growth. The Enterprise Competitiveness Institute (ECI) recognizes the importance of trade facilitation and works closely with stakeholders to support initiatives that streamline trade procedures, reduce transaction costs, and improve the overall

efficiency of trade. ECI's efforts in this area will contribute to a more favorable business environment in Bangladesh and help local businesses compete more effectively in the global marketplace.

At ECI, we focus on developing and enhancing value chains through a range of activities that include research, analysis, and capacity building. Our aim is to create an enabling environment for businesses to operate, grow and compete effectively in local, regional and global markets.

Value Chain

Our approach to value chain development involves working with key stakeholders in the industry, including producers, suppliers, service providers, and buyers. We help identify areas of inefficiencies and bottlenecks in the value chain, and provide technical assistance and training to improve production processes, product quality, and market access.

We also work to improve market linkages, create partnerships and build networks that promote collaboration and knowledge sharing among value chain actors. Our efforts aim to create value chain systems that are resilient, sustainable and responsive to changing market dynamics.

Through our value chain development activities, we seek to achieve the following goals:

Enhance productivity and competitiveness of enterprises

Promote job creation and income generation in rural and urban areas

Increase exports and reduce imports

Promote inclusive growth and social development

At ECI, we believe that a strong and competitive value chain is crucial to the economic development of Bangladesh. We are committed to working with our partners and stakeholders to create a supportive environment that enables enterprises to thrive and compete in global markets.

Sectoral Competitiveness

In today's global economy, competition among sectors is fierce. Businesses in different sectors are constantly seeking ways to innovate, improve efficiency, and increase profitability. This has given rise to the concept of sectoral competitiveness, which refers to the ability of a sector to compete effectively in domestic and international markets.

At the Enterprise Competitiveness Institute (ECI), we recognize that sectoral competitiveness is essential for sustainable economic growth and development. By focusing on the unique characteristics and challenges of each sector, we help businesses to enhance their competitiveness and achieve their growth objectives.

ECI's approach to sectoral competitiveness is based on a thorough understanding of the industry dynamics, market trends, and global best practices. Our experts work closely with businesses to identify their strengths and weaknesses, assess the competition, and develop strategies that are tailored to their specific needs.

One of the key drivers of sectoral competitiveness is innovation. Businesses that are able to innovate and adopt new technologies and business models are better positioned to succeed in today's competitive landscape. ECI supports businesses in their innovation efforts by providing training, mentoring, and access to resources that can help them to develop and implement innovative solutions.

Another important aspect of sectoral competitiveness is productivity. Businesses that are able to produce goods and services efficiently are better positioned to compete on price and quality. ECI helps businesses to improve their productivity by providing training, tools, and resources that can help them to streamline their operations, reduce costs, and enhance their output.

ECI also recognizes the importance of collaboration and networking in promoting sectoral competitiveness. By connecting businesses with each other, as well as with industry

associations, government agencies, and other stakeholders, we help to facilitate knowledge sharing, partnerships, and joint initiatives that can lead to greater competitiveness and growth.

In conclusion, sectoral competitiveness is essential for driving growth and development in today's global economy. At ECI, we are committed to supporting businesses in their efforts to enhance their competitiveness and achieve their growth objectives. By focusing on innovation, productivity, collaboration, and networking, we help businesses to thrive in their respective sectors and contribute to the overall economic prosperity of their countries.

Non-Tariff Measures

Non-Tariff Measures (NTMs) are an increasingly important aspect of international trade. While traditional trade barriers such as tariffs and quotas have declined in recent years, NTMs have become more prominent. NTMs are regulations, standards, and other measures that governments and other organizations use to control trade flows.

NTMs can take many forms, including technical regulations, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, licensing requirements, product standards, and labeling requirements. These measures can be used for a variety of purposes, such as protecting public health, ensuring product safety, protecting the environment, or promoting consumer rights.

NTMs can have a significant impact on trade flows, particularly for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). SMEs may struggle to comply with complex regulations and may find it difficult to navigate different regulatory frameworks in different markets. This can create significant barriers to entry for SMEs and limit their ability to participate in international trade.

To address these challenges, the Enterprise Competitiveness Institute (ECI) offers a range of services to help SMEs navigate the complex world of NTMs. Our experts can provide guidance on how to comply with different regulations and standards, and can help SMEs understand the impact of NTMs on their business operations.

Through our training programs, SMEs can learn about the different types of NTMs and how to comply with them. We also offer consulting services to help SMEs develop strategies to navigate NTMs and expand their international trade activities.

By working with ECI, SMEs can gain a better understanding of NTMs and how to navigate them. This can help them overcome barriers to entry and expand their global reach, leading to increased competitiveness and growth.

OR

ECI aims to raise awareness among businesses and policymakers about the various types of NTMs and their impact on trade. NTMs include technical barriers to trade, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, licensing requirements, and rules of origin. Technical barriers to trade are regulations that govern product design, labeling, and packaging. Sanitary and phytosanitary measures are regulations that aim to protect human, animal, and plant health. Licensing requirements are procedures that businesses must follow to obtain permission to export or import goods. Rules of origin are regulations that define the origin of a product and determine its eligibility for preferential treatment.

NTMs can be a significant obstacle to trade, particularly for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) that lack the resources to navigate the regulatory landscape. ECI works with SMEs to help them comply with NTMs and access new markets. This includes providing training and capacity building, as well as helping businesses to identify and overcome regulatory barriers to trade.

ECI also engages with policymakers and regulators to promote a more transparent and predictable regulatory environment. This includes advocating for the harmonization of NTMs across countries and regions, as well as promoting the use of international standards and best practices.

Regional integration

Regional trade integration refers to the process of economic cooperation and integration among countries within a specific geographic region. It involves the elimination or reduction of barriers to trade, such as tariffs, quotas, and non-tariff measures, and the harmonization of trade policies and regulations.

Regional trade integration can bring numerous benefits to participating countries. One of the most significant advantages is increased trade between member countries, which can lead to higher levels of economic growth, job creation, and investment. By creating larger markets, regional trade integration can also facilitate the development of economies of scale, making production more efficient and reducing costs.

Another benefit of regional trade integration is the increased competitiveness of member countries. By working together, countries can pool resources and expertise, which can lead to greater innovation, technology transfer, and improved productivity. Regional integration can also attract foreign investment, as investors are more likely to invest in a larger market with a more stable and predictable regulatory environment.

However, regional trade integration is not without its challenges. One of the most significant barriers to integration is the divergent levels of economic development among member countries. Countries with more advanced economies may be reluctant to open their markets to less developed countries, fearing that they may be inundated with cheaper imports and lose their competitive advantage.

Furthermore, implementing regional trade agreements can be a complex and lengthy process, as it involves negotiating and harmonizing trade policies and regulations, and addressing the concerns of various stakeholders. This can result in delays and disputes, which can hinder the integration process.

To overcome these challenges, it is crucial to have strong institutional frameworks and effective mechanisms for resolving disputes. Transparency and stakeholder engagement are also critical, as it can help to build trust and ensure that the interests of all parties are taken into account.

At the Enterprise Competitiveness Institute, we recognize the importance of regional trade integration in promoting economic growth and competitiveness. We work with businesses, governments, and other stakeholders to facilitate trade and investment, promote innovation and technology transfer, and build the capacity of firms to compete in regional and global markets.

Through our research, training, and advisory services, we help to build strong and vibrant regional economies that can drive sustainable development and prosperity for all. Contact us to learn more about our work in regional trade integration and how we can help your business succeed in the global marketplace.

Technology

Technology has become a fundamental driver of economic growth and competitiveness across the globe. The use of technology has revolutionized the way businesses operate and has enabled companies to increase efficiency, reduce costs, and enhance their products and services. With the increasing pace of technological innovation, companies that fail to embrace technology risk being left behind in the global marketplace.

At the Enterprise Competitiveness Institute (ECI), we recognize the critical role of technology in driving economic growth and competitiveness. Our goal is to help businesses leverage technology to enhance their competitiveness and stay ahead in today's fast-paced, ever-evolving business landscape.

At ECI, we provide businesses with access to cutting-edge technology solutions, including artificial intelligence, machine learning, and data analytics. We help companies leverage these technologies to improve their business processes, increase productivity, and enhance their customer experience. Our team of experts works closely with businesses to understand their unique needs and develop customized technology solutions that meet their specific requirements.

In addition to technology solutions, ECI also provides businesses with access to training and education programs that help them stay up-to-date with the latest technological advancements. Our training programs are designed to help businesses develop the skills and knowledge they need to take full advantage of new and emerging technologies.

At ECI, we are committed to helping businesses leverage technology to enhance their competitiveness in today's global marketplace. Whether you are a small start-up or a large multinational corporation, we have the expertise and resources you need to succeed in today's technology-driven business world. Contact us today to learn more about how we can help your business thrive in the digital age.

ICT and Outsourcing

Information Communication and Technology (ICT) has revolutionized the way businesses operate globally. Today, companies are able to leverage the power of ICT to gain a competitive edge in the market. One of the key ways businesses can utilize ICT is through outsourcing.

Outsourcing involves hiring external contractors or companies to handle certain business functions that are normally performed in-house. This can include anything from customer service to IT support, marketing, and even manufacturing. By outsourcing, businesses can benefit from cost savings, increased efficiency, and access to specialized expertise.

ICT has played a crucial role in the growth of outsourcing. With advancements in technology, companies can easily communicate and collaborate with outsourced partners in different parts of the world. Cloud computing, video conferencing, and other collaboration tools have made it possible for businesses to work seamlessly with outsourced teams, regardless of their location.

Outsourcing also allows businesses to focus on their core competencies, while leaving non-core functions to specialized service providers. This can result in increased productivity and

innovation, as companies are able to dedicate more resources towards their core business activities.

However, outsourcing also comes with some challenges. One of the key concerns is data security and privacy. When outsourcing certain business functions, companies need to ensure that their data is protected and not exposed to any unauthorized parties. This can be achieved through the use of robust data security protocols and agreements with service providers.

Another challenge is cultural differences and communication barriers. When working with outsourced partners from different parts of the world, businesses need to be mindful of cultural nuances and ensure effective communication to avoid misunderstandings and misinterpretations.

In conclusion, ICT has played a critical role in the growth of outsourcing. With the right strategy and approach, businesses can leverage outsourcing to gain a competitive edge in the market. However, it is important to address the challenges associated with outsourcing, such as data security and cultural differences, to ensure successful outcomes. At the Enterprise Competitiveness Institute, we offer training and advisory services to help businesses navigate the complex landscape of outsourcing and ICT.

Digital Transformation and Industry Collaborations

In today's rapidly changing business landscape, digital transformation has become a crucial driver of success for companies across all industries. By leveraging technology to streamline processes, automate tasks, and create new revenue streams, businesses can gain a competitive edge and boost their bottom line.

However, achieving a successful digital transformation requires more than just investing in the latest technologies. It also requires a strategic approach that involves collaboration with other companies and organizations within the industry.

Industry collaborations can take many forms, from partnerships and joint ventures to consortiums and industry associations. By working together, companies can share knowledge, resources, and expertise to accelerate innovation and drive growth.

One example of successful industry collaboration in the digital age is the partnership between Intracen and WTO. Intracen, a UN agency focused on promoting trade and economic development, has teamed up with the World Trade Organization (WTO) to create a digital platform that helps small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in developing countries navigate the complexities of international trade.

The platform, known as ePing, provides SMEs with real-time notifications about changes in trade regulations and standards, helping them to stay compliant and competitive in the global marketplace. By leveraging digital technologies and collaborating with other organizations, Intracen and WTO are working to level the playing field for SMEs and promote inclusive economic growth.

Similarly, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has launched several initiatives aimed at promoting digital transformation and industry collaborations. One such initiative is the eTrade for Women Network, which brings together women entrepreneurs from across the world to share knowledge and best practices for leveraging digital technologies to grow their businesses.

Through these and other industry collaborations, organizations like ITC, WTO, and UNCTAD are working to promote digital transformation as a means of driving economic growth and promoting global competitiveness. By sharing knowledge and resources, companies can accelerate innovation, create new business models, and stay ahead of the competition in an increasingly digital world.

Digital Economy and e-Commerce

The digital economy and e-commerce have become integral components of modern business practices. As the world becomes increasingly connected and technology advances,

businesses of all sizes are embracing digital solutions to improve their competitiveness and reach new customers.

At the forefront of the digital economy is e-commerce, which involves buying and selling goods and services online. The growth of e-commerce has been exponential in recent years, with online sales accounting for a significant portion of total retail sales in many countries. In Bangladesh, for instance, e-commerce has seen a rapid growth over the past decade, with an increasing number of businesses and consumers turning to online platforms for their purchasing needs.

The benefits of e-commerce are numerous. It offers businesses the ability to reach a wider customer base, reduce costs associated with physical storefronts, and improve the efficiency of their operations. For consumers, e-commerce provides convenience, flexibility, and access to a broader range of products and services. Furthermore, e-commerce can contribute to the development of a more inclusive economy, providing opportunities for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to access new markets and customers.

However, the digital economy and e-commerce also present unique challenges that need to be addressed to ensure sustainable growth. These challenges include issues related to data privacy and security, intellectual property rights, and consumer protection. Additionally, the digital divide – the gap between those who have access to digital technologies and those who do not – remains a significant concern, particularly in developing countries.

To fully realize the potential of the digital economy and e-commerce, it is crucial to foster an enabling environment that promotes innovation, investment, and competition while also addressing the challenges and risks associated with these technologies. This includes creating a regulatory framework that balances the interests of businesses, consumers, and society as a whole.

The Enterprise Competitiveness Institute (ECI) recognizes the importance of the digital economy and e-commerce in promoting economic growth and competitiveness. ECI is committed to supporting businesses and entrepreneurs in Bangladesh by providing access

to knowledge, skills, and resources necessary to thrive in the digital age. Through research, training, and advocacy, ECI is working to create a supportive ecosystem that encourages innovation, investment, and growth in the digital economy.

In conclusion, the digital economy and e-commerce have the potential to transform the way we do business, creating new opportunities for growth and prosperity. However, to fully realize these benefits, it is essential to address the challenges and risks associated with these technologies while promoting a regulatory framework that supports innovation and investment. With the support of organizations like ECI, businesses in Bangladesh can leverage the opportunities presented by the digital economy to improve their competitiveness and achieve sustainable growth.

Innovation, Technology Access and Inclusion

In today's increasingly competitive business landscape, innovation and technology are vital to the success of any enterprise. However, access to these resources is not always equal across different sectors of society. This is where the concept of inclusion comes in. In order to ensure that everyone has a fair chance to participate and benefit from innovation and technology, we need to work towards creating a more inclusive environment.

At the Enterprise Competitiveness Institute (ECI), we believe that innovation and technology are key drivers of economic growth and development. That's why we are committed to promoting the development and adoption of new technologies, as well as ensuring that these resources are accessible to everyone.

One of the ways in which we work towards promoting innovation and technology is by conducting research and providing training to businesses and entrepreneurs. We aim to provide them with the knowledge and skills they need to adopt new technologies and stay ahead of the curve.

However, we also recognize that access to technology is not evenly distributed across different segments of society. That's why we work towards creating a more inclusive environment by providing resources and support to underrepresented groups. For example,

we offer training and mentoring programs specifically targeted towards women and other marginalized groups.

Another way in which we promote inclusion is by advocating for policies that support equal access to technology. This includes advocating for policies that promote affordable broadband access, as well as supporting initiatives that seek to bridge the digital divide.

In conclusion, innovation, technology access, and inclusion are critical components of a thriving economy. At the ECI, we are committed to promoting these values and creating a more equitable business landscape for everyone. Through our research, training, and advocacy work, we hope to contribute towards a more innovative and inclusive society.