



NEWS RELEASE

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SBA Deputy Administrator Participates in Women's Entrepreneurship Conference in Istanbul

WASHINGTON – U.S. Small Business Administration Deputy Administrator Melanie Sabelhaus departed for Turkey today to lead the United States delegation at the 2004 Istanbul Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) Ministerial Conference and Business Symposium. More than 80 nations are sending delegations to discuss issues important to small businesses, with a major focus on women's entrepreneurship. The conference is being co-hosted by the Paris-based Organization for Economic Cooperation & Development (OECD) and Washington, D.C.-based Project Tsunami.

“It is such an honor to lead our outstanding delegation at an event recognizing the important contributions women entrepreneurs are making to strengthen the global economy and create jobs,” Sabelhaus said. “Women are a driving force in the new economy, and this is a great opportunity to share the successes of women business owners in the U.S. and to learn what other countries are doing to promote women's entrepreneurship.”

This is the second OECD Ministerial Conference on SMEs. Sabelhaus and a large U.S. delegation made up of both government and private sector representatives will participate in the three-day conference from June 5 through June 7. Their main goal is to share best practices in promoting the spirit of entrepreneurship, to create jobs and spur economic growth on a global scale.

Recent studies by OECD show that SMEs have better survival rates in the United States and Western Europe than in the rest of the world. The conference will provide a forum to look at what governments can do to improve the environment for small businesses in developing countries, and to strengthen small business communities in developed countries.

Headquartered in Atlanta, Project Tsunami is a global accelerator for women's entrepreneurship and uses a three-pronged strategy to create a worldwide wave of change to advance the women's small and medium enterprises sector. The OECD is an international group representing over 30 countries dedicated to democratic governance and a global market economy.

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