

SEED UN Women

Hogan Lovells together with UN Women and UNIDO is supporting the 2013 Gender Equality SEED Awards which recognise Women's Social and Environmental Entrepreneurship in developing countries and emerging economies.

Founded by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, SEED supports innovative small-scale and locally driven entrepreneurs around the globe which integrate social and environmental benefits into their business model. SEED has a growing programme and the 2013 SEED Awards will recognise up to 35 social and environmental enterprises, two of which will be for enterprises that are led or owned by women.

Hogan Lovells Partner Andrew Gamble will be a member of the independent expert SEED International Jury which will select the 2013 Winners. Each SEED Award winner will receive a package of tailored business support, capacity building services, and a financial contribution; they will be profiled at a high-level SEED Symposium in South Africa in November. The Gender Equality Winners will be offered pro bono support from Hogan Lovells.

Previous SEED winners include:

Uganda: Solar Sister, an African women-led partnership of non-government organisations, women's organisations and solar-lighting producers. This is a direct sales network of women entrepreneurs, selling solar-powered lanterns as a clean and non-hazardous light source for rural households.

South Africa: Reel Gardening providing consumers with a pre-fertilised seed strip that encases seeds at the correct depth and distance apart and offers planting instructions in seven languages. It empowers communities to implement their own sustainable food projects.

The Gambia: "GreenTech Company Ltd" markets briquettes made from waste groundnut shells in combination with fuel efficient stoves produced by local welders. The new cooking stove system is piloted by partnering restaurants and school kitchens and promoted through women's networks.

Ghana: "Ghana Bamboo Bikes Initiative" is a youth-led, non-profit enterprise committed to the economic empowerment of youth by taking advantage of the abundant bamboo raw materials in Ghana to manufacture and assemble high-quality bamboo bikes – suitable for the road conditions and terrain in Ghana and affordable to the poor.;

Kenya: "EcoPost" recycles waste plastic into durable and environmentally-friendly fencing posts, so reducing plastic litter on streets and open fields. By providing an alternative fencing material to traditional wood, EcoPost also contributes towards the conservation of forests.

More information and the Call for Applications can be found at: www.seedinit.org



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Hogan Lovells has a comprehensive strategy to actively integrate diversity and inclusiveness into all activities, which includes several women's initiatives and achievements:

- a global diversity plan which commits to increasing the number of women partners to 25% by the start of 2017, and 30% by the start of 2022; and of women in management positions to 30% by 2015;
- an international advisory practice for social entrepreneurs, particularly supportive of women social entrepreneurs;
- a number of pro bono programmes which relate to the provision of free legal advice to vulnerable women;
- ranking in The Times Top 50 Employers for Women for the third year running in 2013.

www.hoganlovells.com

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