

# Entrepreneurship key to progress for these foreigners

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Ahmedabad:** They are from war-hit, underdeveloped countries and small islands, here to learn how to create new opportunities through innovative means. They are charting a golden future for their nations through entrepreneurship.

These are 24 participants



Participants from different countries at EDI

from 19 countries, part of an international programme on entrepreneurship & small business promotion at Entrepreneurship Institute of Development (EDI).

Betsy Cortes Herrera of ministry of public education from Costa Rica sees entrepreneurship as a necessary tool to support the growing number of single mothers in her country. "It is important that women are self-dependent and can support their family. Tourism is still the main resource for revenue for us. But, we are trying to add value to it by initiating small businesses in ornamental flowers and recreational activities, among others run by only by women," says Herrera.

Most participants in the course belong to Africa, Asia and South American countries. Ronald Edward Mukasa, 28, from Kampala, Uganda, says his country has

come out of the dark history of despotic rule of Idi Amin.

"Pulling people out of poverty is the biggest challenge at present. Entrepreneurship can make a lot of difference in this direction," says Mukasa.

"Uganda has huge natural resources, fertile soil, regular rainfall and sizeable mineral deposits. We have a

young population which is a big plus for entrepreneurship," he adds.

Dimcho Stefanov Dimov, 29, hails from Bulgaria.

The country continues to rank as one of the lowest income member of the European Union.

"India's rapid growth has evinced a lot of interest. We are learning about the successful business models," says

Dimov. Norma Jean-Louis 45, of Small En-

terprise Promotion Agency (SENPA) from Seychelles, an archipelago nation of 115 islands in the Indian Ocean, says, "The global downturn affected the tourism, the mainstay of our nation. We are channelling resources towards starting enterprises in food processing, handicrafts and other areas."

Another participant, Tom Mboya Onyina of ministry of gender, children & social development, Nairobi, Kenya, pins hope on entrepreneurship to battle 60 per cent unemployment in his country. More than 350 international participants have graduated from the programme so far. RB Sareen, co-ordinator of the programme says, "The course equips participants with new tools and techniques to facilitate growth of new small enterprises, thereby intensifying efforts towards economic development."