

**Thematic Session 1: Science, Technology and Innovation at the
COVID-19 Conjuncture**

Speech on

Digital Design · Women Empowerment

5 May, 2022

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Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen! My name is Ying Fangtian, and I'm talking to you from World Eco-Design Conference. I would like to express my gratitude to UN DESA for your interest in our organization.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the World Eco-Design has centered on Design, Technology and Culture, to assist in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for the SDGs. Today I would like to focus on the theme of Digital Design · Women Empowerment, and introduce you 3 case studies to share the works that we have been doing during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Firstly, the program for digital design and women's poverty alleviation. We had a joint program with UNIDO for elevation of industrial capacity and poverty reduction in Chengbu County, China. The program has trained over 1200 rural women and assisted over 200 rural women to get jobs to achieve poverty alleviation by being trained with digital design, which combines embroidery design, production and sales.

Secondly, the One Village One Product Program. We empower rural industry by digital art and design, and balance the economic value, cost effectiveness and environmental protection to achieve coordinate symbiosis. Until now, we has served 20 villages in the field of industry in local areas,

volunteered to develop over 50 products, and completed over 100 brand design services. The Program has promoted the technology's empowerment to the industrial development of digital art, created digital art works by artificial intelligence technology, and promoted the level of rural women's entrepreneurship. At present, 6 digital art enterprises have been incubated, where 45% employees are female. As of April, 2022, the average annual per capita income of local residents in 2018 has been tripled in 2022.

Last but not least is the design education program. It is called International Design Education Program jointly initiated with the UN Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries. For each year, we will select 50 students from the world's least developed countries, cultivate them to become interdisciplinary industrial design engineering professionals with providing full scholarships. This can enhance the capacity building of the LDCs students, and close the gap of technology application among the least developed countries, developing countries and developed countries.

In addition, we have also worked with UNIDO to launch the Eco-Design Leading Talent Training Program. Currently, we have cultivated nearly 100 representatives from more than 40 countries in Asia-Pacific region and African region, where 48% trainees are female. They discussed with each other about edgy technologies and experiences in design, digital economy and innovation system area, which has significantly facilitated the building of partnerships.

As an NGO with the UN Consultative Status, the World Eco-Design Conference advocate the WEDC Women Empowerment Mode. With the

guidance of the Mode, women, ecology, digital technology and creativity interconnect and interact with each other, assist women to develop with creative design and digital technology in the post-pandemic period. We will take this mode as an example, to apply on areas of youth development, ecological construction, women empowerment, partnership building etc., and make contributions to achieve the 2030 Agenda for SDGs adopted by the UN.

That is all for my speech. Thank you for your time!