



**eFounders Fellowship Programme
Mentorship course for Asian entrepreneurs
Hangzhou, 26 March – 4 April 2018**

INFORMATION NOTE

E-commerce plays an important role in the Asian economy as where the region portrays a large share in national e-commerce markets and is home to some major e-commerce platforms. Despite the opportunities e-commerce offers and the sharp increase of cross-border trade over the last few years, many challenges remain to fully reap the benefits new technologies in trade can bring.

This programme aims to help bridge the digital divide faced by young entrepreneurs in developing countries and allow them to grasp the opportunities an e-commerce ecosystem provides, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), jointly with Mr. Jack Ma, Special Adviser of UNCTAD for young entrepreneurs and small business and founder and executive chairman of the Alibaba Group, set up a capacity building programme that offers mentorship courses under the name of eFounders Fellowship.

Over a period of five years, 1000 entrepreneurs from developing countries will be offered the possibility to take part in the mentorship course of this programme. The next course will focus on entrepreneurs in Asia and will take place at the campus of the Alibaba Business School in Hangzhou, China from 26 March to 4 April 2018.

The UNCTAD secretariat welcomes applications from candidates that meet the following criteria and in particularly encourages female entrepreneurs to apply:

- Under the age of 35
- Proven entrepreneurs in the digital and technology space operating open platforms related to e-commerce, payment, logistics, big data or tourism
- Authentic, open-minded and altruistic leaders of the new economy
- At an inflection point in their careers
- Looking to move from success to significance with integrity, vision and drive
- Founders or co-founders of an officially registered digital technology venture or young entrepreneurs with a proven track record of influential work

The two-week course will comprise of a structured series of classroom workshops and lectures, site visits and a business hackathon, and will primarily be held at the campus of the Alibaba Business School in Hangzhou with site visits and city tours in China.

While the course tuition, accommodation and meals as well as local transportation during the course will be covered for the selected candidates, participants will be expected to apply and pay for their visa application as well as meet their travel expenses to and from Hangzhou, China. A letter of support for a visa request will be provided to facilitate the visa application process.

All enquiries regarding the eFounders Fellowship Programme and the participation in the mentorship course can be sent to the email address unctadyouth@unctad.org.