**Catalyzing Resources for Women-Led Startups**

Cultivating a thriving, equitable, and inclusive entrepreneurial ecosystem across developing economies requires a robust and supportive ecosystem. This is especially true for women in STEM. Supporting women-led startups to commercialize their technologies helps catalyze innovation, spur economic growth, and support women’s economic self-empowerment. The Global Innovation through Science and Technology (GIST) Initiative is continuing its support for women in STEM in developing economies by hosting a GIST TechConnect expert panel on how to build, support, and scale women-led science and technology-based ventures. This edition of GIST Techconnect will take a close look at supporting women in STEM in the Middle East and South Central Asia.

The GIST TechConnect program will air live on Tuesday, September 24, 2019, at 9 a.m. EDT on the GIST TechConnect webpage in English and Spanish.

This GIST TechConnect will be in advance of the GIST APEC Catalyst Pitch Competition in La Serena, Chile, from September 29 to October 4. This competition will highlight leading women-led science and technology startups from across the 21 APEC economies.