

# Cim Finance hosts Semi-Finals of the Women Entrepreneur Awards

By **Staff Writer** October 9, 2023



From left to right: Anne Rajoo, Stéphanie Noëlis, Marie Paule Pierre Louis, Divia Deesha Gungah-Gokool, Sonya Mohadeb, Farrah Jahan (Elizabeth de Marcy Chelin-Chabert missing from the photo)

Cim Finance hosted the Semi-Finals of the Women Entrepreneur Awards in Port Louis on 30 September. Cim Finance Manager, congratulating the women on their achievements. Nine finalists were announced at the event. The final round of the competition on 28 October.

The Women Entrepreneur Awards (WEA) is a concept created to encourage, support and empower and

entrepreneurs from different sectors, and to showcase their contribution in the Mauritian economy. This edition, will recognise the outstanding achievements of women entrepreneurs who have made a significant contribution to their communities. The theme for the Semi-Finals was "Celebrating our Differences".

Commenting on Cim Finance's support for the awards, Chesma Bhundoo, SME Manager, said:

*"It is with immense pride that Cim Finance is partnering with this very first edition of the Women Entrepreneur Awards. Women's entrepreneurship is a powerful growth engine for our economy. The exceptional careers we are showcasing are a source of inspiration for those who hesitate to start, thus accelerating the growth of our economy. This event offers networking opportunities. We believe in the importance of an ecosystem favourable to women entrepreneurs. Thanks to our Noubiznes platform, our support now extends beyond simple financing."*

Commenting on the event and the collaboration with Cim Finance, Kirti Sheonarain, as one of the Co-

*"Cim Finance was one of the first organisations to come on board as they believed in the project since it is so important for Women Entrepreneur Awards to join hands with organisations that understand the importance of women's entrepreneurship. It is one of the core values of Cim Finance. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to Cim Finance for supporting us through this event where we have announced our finalists. Best of luck to our finalists."*



(From left) Priscille Adam-Dahall, Marketing Manager, Cim Finance; Kirti Sheonarain, Co-Founder of the event, and Chesma Bhundoo, SME Manager, Cim Finance.

### **One step away from the finals**

In order to prepare the women entrepreneurs for the final stage, WEA Ambassador Bhoomika Annah (

tips and advice on how to make an effective pitch, including presenting product samples, using facts to engage the audience, among others.

Jury member Marc-Antoine Tschopp spoke on behalf of the jury panel, before the finalists were announced and the winners were crowned. He encouraged the finalists to continue on their entrepreneurial paths:

*"As several participants have said, WEA is a journey where like-minded women entrepreneurs can share their experiences and support each other on this sometimes complex and difficult voyage."*

*"As judges, we have a tough and thankless task. Each participant deserves to be on the podium, such as they are, now entering a phase where some will not be selected for the final. This is in no way a punishment or a commitment. The journey will continue for all of them, and we hope that the links they have forged will continue to support them."*

## **Finalists revealed**

The following candidates were announced as finalists (in alphabetical order by first name):

- Anne Rajoo
- Divia Deesha Gungah-Gokool
- Elizabeth de Marcy Chelin-Chabert
- Farrah Jahangeer
- Marie Paule Pierre Louis
- Sharanaz Subratty
- Sonya Mohadeb
- Stéphanie Bouloc
- Stéphany Noëllis

The finalists will compete in the final round of the competition to be held on 28 October, where they will be judged by a panel of judges, who will then be awarding the winners in the categories of most environmentally sustainable, most promising start-up business.