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Global Entrepreneurship Week - good resources for entrepreneurs

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When Germaine hit upon the bright idea to ‘retail’ her woven bracelets at a tidy little profit, her teachers were not too excited about it when they found out. She was forced to wind up her brisk (though short-lived!) business and return all the earnings, much to her chagrin. I was somewhat flummoxed too, given that the government is spending [S\\$4.5 million in schools](#) to encourage entrepreneurship, but that’s a story for another day.

Now that we are technically moving into an economic recession, I feel that it is a good time to pick up some skills that enable you to start a business while you hold on to your job (as an additional income and something to fall back on) - I also started my [business](#) when holding on to a full time job. Picking up some knowledge and skills is also beneficial if the stability of your job is in question.

I think the [Global Entrepreneurship Week](#) (the Week) that is aimed to encourage and support young people in entrepreneurship, innovation and creativity is a great initiative. Basically, countries around the world will simultaneously host the Week from 17 - 23 November 2008 on home ground. In Singapore, it is hosted jointly by [NUS Enterprise](#) and the [Action Community for Entrepreneurship](#) (ACE). Partner organizations will conduct a range of activities designed to inspire, connect, inform, mentor and engage the next generation of entrepreneurs.

Whether you are looking to go into business, a budding entrepreneur or a growing business, here are some resources you can tap on - a guide to [starting your own business](#) or [growing it](#) and [funding and financing options](#). The Week also has some [business workshops and talks](#) lined up so do leverage on these learning opportunities.

A good start would be to [learn how to write a business plan effectively](#). If you are interested to pick the brains of CEOs like Claire Chiang (Senior Vice President, Banyan Tree Holdings)

and William Lim (CEO, Old Chang Kee), there is the [CEO unplugged session](#) where you can attempt to learn the secrets of their success. For personalized attention, the '[Essentials for Business Seminar](#)' touches on business essentials and you get to sit through a one-to-one dialogue session with the participating organizations.

If your target market comprises of ladies, you might want to attend the '[Enhancing Market Access](#)' workshop conducted by Shiseido Singapore. Although it is geared towards the cosmetic industry, I believe that covered topics like 'Enhancing Market Access through Branding' and 'Understanding Business Etiquette' will come in handy in the course of your business.

I might just send Germaine to the [YMCA camp for 10 - 12 year old kids](#) where they would get a basic shot at 'entrepreneurship', but I don't think I want to get another call from her teacher again. 😊