



BPW INTERNATIONAL
International Federation of Business and Professional Women

Empowered



BPW
International...
"bringing the
voice of women
to business"

EMPOWERED WOMEN LEADING BUSINESS

More than at any time in our organisation's recent history the members of BPW International want an organisation that unites them in the common purpose of building a stronger, more meaningful and more prosperous international society - a society built on effort, business innovation and the incentive to achieve, yet a society which cares for the less fortunate and promotes equality. With energy, unity and commitment our goals can become reality. *Let us build together and see what we can make.*

Never before in history have there been so many forces working together for gender equity.

Growing research shows that engaging women in the leadership and decision making roles of enterprise and industry results in greater profits and increased productivity. We always knew it was true but now we have the evidence. In our evolving partnership with the United Nations Global Compact we have been able to leverage our work with the *Women's Empowerment Principle's: Equality Means Business* to legitimately claim our status as recognised gender expert in the domain of working women and enterprise – a space where there is currently no other organised gender voice.

If we believe that *human rights are women's rights and women's rights are human rights*, then we cannot accept the ongoing

marginalization of half the world's population. We cannot accept it morally, politically, socially, or economically.

BPW International has a renewed commitment to lead the women's empowerment agenda. We were founded on the vision of achieving workplace equality, right to vote and equal pay. Eighty years on and the issues are still the same but the armoury is different. Today, we are equipped with the vital piece that has been missing for decades - the business case. With this in arm, BPW Affiliates around the world now have a roadmap and vital link that will lead us to equality in the workplace, marketplace and community.

We can now work to Susan Anthony's aim of establishing justice for all - *Men their rights, and nothing more; women, their rights, and nothing less.*



With over 96 Affiliates across 5 continents, BPW International can further develop a more ambitious international cooperative architecture that can empower women, close gender gaps and unleash the potential of women everywhere. We have the skills, we have the resources and we have the knowledge to lead the women's empowerment agenda and for all of us to work together so that we can strengthen the BPW International influence and profile in all countries.

Freda Miriklis
President , BPW International

Empowered Women Leading Business Triennium Sub Themes -

....from the top

- Evidence based business case promoted
- Sponsorship of women into leadership and decision making roles
- Women on Corporate Boards of Management
- Supply chain support for women owned business in corporate and government purchase policy and practice
- Access to capital, funding and equity ownership rights

....at all levels

- Women as a percentage of intake at all management levels in business and government
- Education and development
- Equal Pay
- Mentoring and support to ensure equitable distribution and representation of women in decision making roles
- Transparency, reporting and monitoring

....in the community

- Corporate Social Responsibility

- Local supply chain support for women vendors
- Women's and girl's economic empowerment through education, development and participation
- Solidarity and support systems for women entering non-traditional work roles
- Health and well-being
- Access to micro-finance

BPW International is positioned to lead the Equal Pay Day Awareness Campaign, the *Women's Empowerment Principles: Equality Means Business* (WEPs) consultations and events and the *Global Platform for Action on Sourcing from Women Vendors* (MoU with ITC). This will build a platform to implement enterprise development, supply chain and marketing practices to engage the heart and soul of our organisation - women entrepreneurs - around the world. The initiatives also allow affiliates unique opportunities to grow membership through the engagement with multi-stakeholders - the private sector, non-governmental organisations, academia, the UN and governments to advance and empower women in the workplace, marketplace and community.

It's time to...
"bring the
voice of women
to business"

"We look forward to continuing to work with BPW International to extend the reach of the Women's Empowerment Principles and bring the voice of women to business."

Georg Kell
Executive Director
United Nations Global Compact Office

The XXVIII BPW International Congress will take place in Jeju, South Korea, 23-27 May 2014

See you in 2014 at Jeju Island - finalist for one of the New 7 Wonders of the World!



BPW INTERNATIONAL
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Empowered Women Leading Business

2011 - 2014

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(1881-1955). An American lawyer and feminist, **Lena Madesin Phillips** promoted the interests and concerns of business and professional women. The national and international organizations she established advocated economic equality for working women and men.