

International Women's Day

fwa.org/spotlight/international-womens-day-2/

During the week of International Women's Day, which occurs on March 8th, the FWA participated in an engaging discussion with international delegates from the U.S. Department of State during the "Women and Entrepreneurship" visitor program. This is a multi-regional project encompassing 21 leaders ranging from women entrepreneurs, business leaders and government officials to academics and economic journalists from 21 countries who sought best practices and lessons learned from the FWA's successful mentoring programs.



FWA President Kimberly Weinrick speaks with U.S. Department of State "Women and Entrepreneurship" Delegation, with representatives from more than 20 countries

Key Facts and Figures:

- Women control more than \$20 trillion in consumer spending
- By 2018, in the U.S over 50% of the new jobs in the SME sector will be created by women entrepreneurs
- Emerging markets – Women's income is growing at 8.1% compared with 5.8% for men

The Potential:

- *Closing the gender gap in employment alone will increase:
 - American GDP by 9%
 - Eurozone GDP by 13%
 - Japan GDP by 16%
- Closing the credit gap for women business owners will increase per capita income by 12%

*Research by Goldman Sachs

This project aimed to illustrate the impact of women-owned businesses on the U.S. economy as well as to explore the progress of women around the world when participating more fully in the global economy. With the session led by FWA President Kimberly Weinrick, participants discussed the social and economic factors that influence and encourage women as

entrepreneurs and owners or managers of small, medium and large sized businesses. The program highlighted topics related to training, mentorship, community and corporate engagement. Specifically, the FWA session was intended to illustrate the essential role of non-governmental and grassroots organizations that support and empower the development of women-owned businesses.



FWA President Kimberly Weinrick speaks with U.S. Department of State "Women and Entrepreneurship" Delegation, with representatives from more than 20 countries

Distinguished Participants Included:

Program Officer: Linda Piccirilli

Office of International Visitors, United States Department of State

Featured Speaker: **Kimberly Weinrick**, President FWA

Ms. Rubina ARAKELYAN, Armenia

Director, Young Family Support Foundation

Ms. Claire ROBERTSON, Australia

Co Director, The Founder Institute Perth Chapter

Ms. Lara MANDANI, Bahrain

Manager Director, Gro Capita BMC

Ms. Patience BARANDENGE, Congo, Democratic Republic of the
Women Market Manager, RawBank

Ms. Kiviok KREUTZMANN, Denmark

Independent Film Maker and Journalist

Mrs. Sara GEZHAY, Eritrea

Owner, Sara Flower Shop and Desk Top

Ms. Jennifer BROCK, Ghana
Founder and Executive Director, Beyond Aid Project

Ms. Zankhana NARULA, India
Program Director, Entrepreneurs and Mentoring Program, The Indus Entrepreneurs (TiE)
Stree Shakti

Ms. Eva AMALIA, Indonesia
Director, PT. Tanjungpinang Makmur Bersama

Mrs. Maya BAKHAZI EP ZIAD NOUN, Lebanon
CEO of Acquisitions M sal,

Ms. Violeta NALEVSKA, Macedonia
Coordinator for Gender Quality, Council for Local Economic Development, Bitola City
Government

Ms. Haydee MORENO SERNA, Mexico
Marketing Manager, Planigrupo

Ms. Ruth MATA, Mozambique
Co-Founder and Managing Director, ELIM Servios Consulting

Ms. Olufunmilola TINUBU, Nigeria
Executive Director, Bella Rouché

Ms. Jumana SALOUS, Palestinian Territories
Program Manager, Business Women Forum

Ms. Olga KOZIEROWSKA SKWARLO, Poland
Author and Senior Editor, “Success Written with Lipstick” Program, TVN24

Ms. Ana PONTES, Portugal
Editor, “Human Capital” TV Program

Ms. Milica STANKOVIC, Serbia
Associate, Ministry of Finance and Economy

Ms. Nthabeleng LIKOTSI, South Africa
Executive Chairperson, Young Women in Business Network

Ms. Firuza NABIEVA, Tajikistan
Head, Human Resource Division, Imon International

Ms. Esra OZDEN, Turkey
Founder, Refleks Economics Newspaper

The International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) is an official U.S. government exchange program administered by the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural

Affairs <http://exchanges.state.gov/education/>. The objective of the program is to advance U.S. foreign policy goals by increasing mutual understanding between the people of the United States and those of other countries.