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BPW International  
BPW INTERNATIONAL E-NEWS October 10, 2011, Issue 17



**BPW International**

Federation of Business and Professional Women

## BPW E-NEWS

October 10, 2011 Issue 17

# Message from the President

Dear **BPW**

I would like to share with you two recent experiences that highlight how BPW women today are bold women. Courageous women. Empowered Women Leading Business. I have no doubt that this triennium will be a "landmark triennium for gender issues" and BPW members are the trailblazers creating history at a time where new levels of leadership are required to drive economic growth and harness the power of emerging markets through greater diversity.

The first experience was being part of the Global Platform on Sourcing from Women Vendors meeting and the inaugural Buyers-Mentor meeting held in Chongqing, China. The meetings were an enormous success that actually put words and ideas into action delivering tangible results. BPW left its hallmark having been well represented at the high level meetings, plenary sessions and buyer-mentor group workshops. I was extremely pleased to lead a delegation of BPW members representing countries that included - U.S.A., Mongolia, Thailand, St Paolo, Australia and Turkey. Over \$14 million of trade opportunities were identified on the first day of meetings with further letters of intent signed. This is now the UN's biggest program on economic empowerment of women through trade and BPW is again in pioneer mode as we are part of this history making event!

Having left Chongqing, China, a few days ago, I am now in Ankara, Turkey, where I presented at a most successful BPW Turkey event. In another first for this country, the President of BPW Turkey, Arzu Ozyol,

brought together the two political parties, high level bureaucrats, civil society organisations and academia at a breakfast meeting declaring that women's issues are not political issues and should not be used as a "political tool" to win elections. I shared views with the Minister of Family and Social Policy, Fatma Sahin, and Former Minister of State for Women's Issues and Immediate Past President of the Parliament Commission for Equality, Guldal Aksit, on the need for determined leadership at this time - with all stakeholders working together.

The meeting was held at the newly restored restaurant at the women's ward of the Ulucanlar Prison, where political prisoners were once held. Under the breakfast theme, Women are Getting United in the Women Ward of Prison for other Women, the meeting called for continual sustainable efforts and cooperation in meeting the needs of women and recognising their rightful place in society. The event attracted a very strong media contingency with news stories in all the major newspapers, TV and radio. A tour of the prison with Minister Sahin followed. A most professional meeting of BPW Presidents was organised by BPW Turkey President, Arzu Ozyol later that afternoon.

Over coming weeks I will be visiting Sicily, Rome and Athens before returning to Australia where I will be joining BPW Australia members and representing BPW International at the Commonwealth Business Forum (CBF) during the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Western Australia. Stay tuned for some exciting announcements!

Everyone plays a role. Everyone contributes. Everyone is part of achieving the gender balance we want to see in the marketplace, workplace and community. Go BPW - the time is ours. The time is now!!!!

*Freda Miriklis*  
*BPW International President*

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## **News from the Executive**

Three fantastic women have been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. Doreen Caravajal, journalist at the International Herald Tribune interviewed [President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf last year as part of the Female Factor Series](#).

*Elizabeth Benahm Immediate Past President*

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# BPW News

**BPW Cyprus** is proud to announce that its nominee, Dr. Erato Kozakou Marcoullis, has been chosen to be one of the twelve women who will be portrayed in the Women Inspiring Europe 2012 Calendar of the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE). Dr. Kozakou Marcoullis is currently the Foreign Minister of Cyprus. She has had a long and successful career as a Diplomat and has received a number of international distinctions.

*Alexandra Galanou - BPW Cyprus President*

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## BPW in the Media

**Austria:** 10th Anniversary of the BPW Club Salzkammergut, in Nachrichten.at. [more](#)

**Germany:** New collaboration of the BPW Germany/Equal Pay Day Campaign and the Equality Office of the Federal administration in Aviva-Berlin. [more](#)

**Germany:** Collaboration of BPW and the Technical University to encourage women to return in engineering, in channel-e. [more](#)

**Korea :** Business women, foreign students : exchange program in Korea Times. [more](#)

**Sri Lanka:** Women business leaders on helping the poor children in Asian Tribune. [more](#)

**Switzerland:** Visit of the BPW Europe Coordinator in Interlaken in Jungfrauzeitung. [more](#)

**Canada:** Workplace bullying a health, safety issue in Calgary Herald. [more](#)

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## United Nations News

**UN Women** is opening some slots for women who would like to participate in a Rio + 20 regional preparatory meeting from 17-20 October in Korea. [more](#)

UN Should Appoint more Female Mediator, said Foreign Minister of

Lichtenstein. [more](#)

**The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women** (CEDAW), 50th Session, works in Geneva, Switzerland till October 20. Reportson Kuwait and Côte d'Ivoire. [more](#)

**United Nations Human Rights Pacific** Office congratulates Palau's human rights progress. [more](#)

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## Worldwide News

**Australia:** Global Ambassador role an important voice for women and girls. [more](#)

**Australia:** Glass ceiling fortified by subtle, 'irrational' discrimination. [more](#)

**Egypt:** Women of the Egyptian Revolution. [more](#)

**European Union:** EU must put an end to 'hypocrisy' and go from talk to effective action to end violence against women and girls in internal and external policies. [more](#)

**European Union:** On September 19-20 The European commission held a two day seminar on Equality between women and men. [more](#)

**France:** Treatment of women in the workplace comes to the fore in France. [more](#)

**India:** Dell Announces India as Location for Third Annual "Dell Women's Entrepreneur MarketWatch". [more](#)

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