

World of Difference 100 Awards Winners

The incredible stories behind this years Award Winners

TIAW World of Difference 100 Award Winners

2012

Dr. Shaikha Al Maskari – UAE – Non-Profit/NGO



Dr. Shaikha Al Maskari is a powerful and successful businesswoman who uses her influence to champion greater roles for women throughout the Arab countries. Shaikha's sits on the boards of several non-profit institutions including Women for Sustainable Growth (W4SG) and the powerful Arab International Women's Forum, (AIWF). In 2006 Shaikha co-founded the Diyarbakir Micro-credit Project (Grameen Bank) in Turkey, which has successfully launched over 39,000 entrepreneurs. She advocates inter-faith, cross-cultural understanding and environmental conservation. In 1993, she founded the United Mercy Foundation, UMF. In her professional life, she is Chairperson Al Maskari Holding (AMH) and Tricon Group, and Johnson Controls and Global Communications (JCGC).

Faiza Al Sayed – UAE – Entrepreneurial



Faiza Al Sayed is one of the most dynamic women in Dubai and has had a tremendous impact in helping Emirati women to be motivated, productive, and successful.

Faiza helped establish the Dubai Business Women's Council (DBWC) and in her role a Vice President since its inception, she has helped countless women attain economic empowerment. The DBWC offers educational programming, mentoring, networking, and outreach to both professional and entrepreneurial women; it is the official organization for business women in Dubai. As Hub Manager of the MENA Business Women's Network, Faiza has provided learning opportunities and inspiration for women throughout the Middle East. Faiza not only shares her time, but her first hand knowledge of entrepreneurship, as she has run a home furnishings store since 1993 and started a chain of beauty salons in 2003 (with four locations in Dubai's five-star hotels). As a successful businesswoman, Faiza has been an inspiration and role model for women throughout the Middle East.

Tesfay Alemseged – Ethiopia – Champion of Women's Economic Empowerment



For over 22 years, Tesfay Alemseged has been addressing the issues of poverty, with a special focus on empowering women, with a thorough

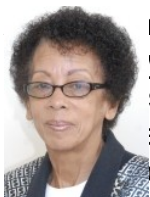
involvement and accountability to the community he serves. Tesfay has implemented successful concepts focused on the introduction of low input agricultural systems, based on a multi-purpose crop known locally as “Beles”. He has successfully created and implemented more than 82 multi-partner sub-projects and trained 17,450 farmers (72% women), all while maintaining excellent community relations. Since 2011 he has been working as manager of community outreach programs for a non-profit partnership initiative focused on empowering local women and institutions in Ethiopia.

Hadra Alsanah – Israel – Non-Profit/NGO



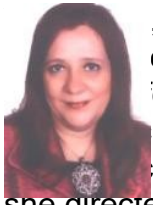
the founders and director of the Bedouin women's organization- Sidreh Hadra has been dedicating her life to the economic empowerment of women in her community. With the aggressive transition from nomadic to urban life over the past decades, there is a serious lack of literacy and modern skills among women, despite their extensive traditional knowledge. By utilizing traditional skills in the modern environment, Hadra enabled women to create marketable commodities using traditional weaving methods. This project today employs over 100 women who are being paid fair wages for their work. Hadra has created a team of dedicated women and supporters who work together to overcome daily challenges and who create new commodities and markets for the Bedouin women. Aware of the acute hardships associated with illiteracy, Hadra created literacy classes for hundreds of Bedouin women, further establishing their independence. The long-lasting effects of the economic empowerment of these women will be evident as they invest their earnings in their daughters' education, creating a new generation of strong educated women in their communities.

Dr. Marilyn Anderson – Jamaica – Education



at the Northern Caribbean University, Dr. Marilyn Anderson has provided the opportunity for junior female faculty to earn salaries while simultaneously developing professional potential. Marilyn has been quietly giving professional business management advice to students and faculty on how to grow their businesses and has provided opportunities for copy and associate editors by pioneering the development and publication of a peer-reviewed Behavioural Sciences journal, *The International Humanities Review*. She encourages women in academia to maximize their potential by looking beyond their basic salary and exploring entrepreneurial and grant-oriented activities, as well as using their skills and talents to support those just behind them both professionally and emotionally. Her structured and non-structured formats provide exceptional practical intervention strategies, personal management techniques and social support services for women with such needs. A woman of substance, Dr. Marilyn Anderson empowers women by exuding a positive self-image, healthy eating lifestyle and encourages women to be the best that they can be.

Dr. Amany Asfour – Egypt – Entrepreneurial



, Dr. Amany Asfour realized the need for an organization targeting the empowerment of women, the promotion of young women entrepreneurs, and for women owners of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). From her belief that financial independence for women gives them the power of choice, a voice, and economic empowerment of African women is the key for Africa's development, she directed her activities in this area. She established the African Alliance for Women Empowerment which has focal points across Africa. The organization targets female entrepreneurs in Africa, establishing projects and marketing products by women entrepreneurs and women small business owners across the continent. Her impact has been tremendous. Amany currently serves as President of the Egyptian Federation of Business & Professional Women. She works in the African, Arab, and Mediterranean regions and on an international level. She is a sought-after conference organizer and speaker.

Priscilla Ayim Mbah – Cameroon – Non Profit/NGO



Priscilla Ayim Mbah is the founder of Special Needs Women Artisans Entrepreneurs, an organization that supports women artisans with disabilities by setting up Self-Help groups and clusters as well as providing advice on product development, technical assistance, mentoring, financial and business literacy training. Due to societal beliefs that disabilities were caused by "witchcraft", as well as gender discrimination, access to education was limited for Priscilla. She was eventually able to gain admission into a secondary school where she excelled and earned Advanced Levels Education Certificates. After the World Women March in 2000, Priscilla was inspired to create the Special Needs Entrepreneurs Group in 2001, an umbrella organization, fighting for economic opportunities for disabled women, and empowering them to start micro enterprises to earn an income. Priscilla served as President and Executive Director during the group's infancy, teaching handicraft skills, organizing on-going workshops and programs, and inviting volunteers from the U.S and U.K to help develop appropriate workshops and training programs to build sustainable income for these women.

Ume-Laila Azhar – Pakistan – Community



Ume-Laila Azhar estimated 50 million people who are currently living below the poverty line in Pakistan. She noted that women and girls in poor households bear a disproportionately high share of

the burden of poverty. The number of Home-based Women Workers (HBWWs) in Pakistan is over 10 million. After extensive consultation with various stakeholders, including the government sector and parliamentarians, Ume-Laila Azhar has spearheaded an initiative to give the same social benefits and rights accorded to formal laborers to these home-based workers. She has also registered unions of HBWWs in Balochistan, Pakistan, where the mobility of women is a great issue due to social barriers, and developed linkages of HBWWs to the market and other benefits such as participation in exhibitions and capacity training.

Michele Bailey – Canada – Entrepreneurial



nder, President, and CEO of a successful creative agency, Blazing THE Michele Bailey looks beyond her own considerable success to support her their pursuit of entrepreneurial success by giving back to her social, topic and business communities. Michele was a founding member of Women s' Organization of Canada, which connects women business owners and WeConnect Canada, an organization that supports the creation and expansion women-owned businesses. Her network of mentors and mentees dates well back to over 18 years when Michele founded her own marketing agency. She was the recipient of the 2010 Oakville Entrepreneur of the Year and puts her strongly held beliefs to practice in her own life and career. Michelle is known for the wide range of sponsorship and pro-bono work she is does, ranging from the Oakville Hospital Foundation to the Alberta Women's Enterprise.

Louise Bergeron – Canada – Public Service/Government



rgeron has spent her entire professional life on improving the lives of women through advocacy. As Head of the Status of Women government department, Louise was responsible for policy formulation to promote the well-being, opportunities, and advancement of women. Long past an age when many ve retired, Louise continues to take on challenging roles nationally and internationally that support the integration of women into the economy. Her achievements include being the senior Government of Canada official who created the APEC Women Leaders Network (WLN) and led the drafting of the WLN Call to Action in 1996. Louise then worked the back offices of all member economies to ensure endorsement and sustainability of WLN

Maureen Berkner Boyt – USA – Corporate (Individual)



As founder and owner of The Moxie Exchange Movement, Maureen Berkner Boyt at it takes to inspire action, encourage collaboration and shake up the status a background in business, organizational development, and managing Maureen is a lover of all things business. She has always known the power of

collaboration between smart women. She has been connecting businesswomen for years through her Estrogen Power Lunches and as Head Moxie at The Moxie Exchange Movement, using her business savvy to connect women across the country. The Moxie Exchange is a national business and professional organization where authentic, wicked-smart women share business savvy and drive business results. Events with The Moxie Exchange Movement are overflowing with innovative ideas, candid conversation, laughter and audacious action. Since 2011, Maureen has established Moxie in over 14 markets nationwide, with eleven more poised to launch in 2012. In total The Moxie Exchange has close to 100 professional women nationwide and is on track to make it 1000 by year-end.

Deema Bibi – Jordan – Education



For the past twelve years, Deema Bibi has devoted her career to empowering women and youth at the local and regional levels. Understanding the complexity of the situation facing women in the Arab world (resulting in growing skills gaps, disconnection, and economic inactivity), Deema realized that capacity-building for women must begin at a younger age in order for them to reach their full potential. Thus, she was drawn to INJAZ, where she has been CEO for eight years. INJAZ is dedicated to long-term, sustainable growth through youth development and stimulation of economic activity and entrepreneurship within the education system. Deema has significantly increased the INJAZ' outreach and impact on youth and young females in particular, who make up 70% of INJAZ beneficiaries. Program topics now include financial literacy, work readiness, business entrepreneurship, and social leadership. Under Deema's leadership, INJAZ has provided opportunities for over 500,000 female students, inspiring and preparing them to realize their potential and become productive members of society and qualified competitors and entrepreneurs in the job market.

Cherie Blair – UK – Public Service/Government



W. Cherie Blair is a leading lawyer and committed campaigner for women's rights, in addition to being the wife of former British Prime Minister Tony Blair. Cherie set up the Cherie Blair Foundation for Women in 2008 to help women build small and growing businesses in Africa, South Asia and the Middle East so that they can contribute to their economies and have a stronger voice in their societies. In addition to her own charity, she is closely involved with others, with emphasis on women and children. Cherie is Vice-Chair of the US Secretary of State's International Council for Women's Business Leadership, a member of the International Center for Research on Women's Leadership council, ambassador for the GSMA mWomen Programme to reduce the mobile phone gender gap for *women* in emerging markets and is and Honorary Chair of the World Justice Project. She studied law at the London School of Economics, was called to the Bar in 1976 and became a Queen's Counsel in 1995. In 2000 co-founded Matrix Chambers from which she continues to practice as a barrister.

Faatin Bux – South Africa – Non-Profit/NGO



Faatin Bux lost money in early business failures that she now describes as 'school fees'. But rising out of these failures she developed a local board-game that teaches young teenage girls, as well as young women in business, the art of “how money works”. Believing that adults and children alike learn most effectively through games, Faatin (astutely labelled the “Money Magnet”) is teaching the invaluable skill of financial literacy through playing games and is reaching young women through strategic partnerships with social impact. Three key organizations that she is already in partnership with are: Project Ignition (a leadership training provider for teenage girls), The Young Women in Business Networks (an affiliation investment group for young women entrepreneurs), and Campaign for Girls (a local non-profit organization that imparts entrepreneurial and leadership skills to young women).

Cristina Caraus – Moldova – Young Women Leaders, under 25



Cristina Caraus is the founder of “Tres Sorores”, a deputy in the Youth Parliament of Moldova, a British Councils Global Changemaker, a One Young World Ambassador, a Future Leaders Exchange Program alumna, a delegate for the 6th World Youth Congress, and a peer facilitator at the international NGO “La Strada”. At her young age of nineteen she has done so much that there are not enough words to describe her involvement and her impact. At fourteen she volunteered at the local NGO “Dacia” holding seminars to underprivileged girls about gender based violence. In 2010 she represented her country at the Global Youth Summit in London, which resulted in her and nine volunteers implementing the global action project WEWAB (Women Empowerment Walk Across the Borders), to raise awareness for women’s rights. At the age of eighteen her aunt’s husband died leaving her with no job and two small children to care for. This tragedy inspired Cristina to open her own NGO which will provide help and support to vulnerable women in need.

Isatou Ceesay – Gambia – Community



Isatou Ceesay is an outstanding leader who has established a program in her village to both clean up the village environment as well as generate income from plastic waste which is used to make handbags and other crafts which are sold at local markets. She has expanded her entrepreneurial influence and now directs The Gambian Women’s Initiative. Isatou teaches women how to generate income by introducing small business skills, using fruit dried by solar food dryers. Through this exercise, women learn the basics of running a sustainable business and then work with Isatou to identify a project that could generate a sustainable income stream. The women who run these projects generate income and the profit is then loaned to women in the villages for setting up their own

income generating projects. Not only has Isatou masterminded these projects and helped hundreds of Gambian women, she has also trained the women in basic business, obtained resources from around the world to fund the projects and most importantly inspired so many young Gambian women to be entrepreneurs.

Cindy Chace – USA – Corporate (Individual)



Cindy Chace's 25-year career has been devoted to the connection and advancement of women both internally and externally at UPS. She champions partnerships with minority and women's business organizations such as the Cuban American National Council, National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO) and Women Presidents Organization (WPO). Cindy conceived and led an initiative to reach NAWBO chapter presidents in the southeast during NAWBO's annual conference in Atlanta. She was already a direct sponsor of a couple of Florida chapters and her purpose was to connect other UPS women to the chapters in the southeast. Perhaps her most significant contribution to women entrepreneurs was the founding of "Go for the Greens" conference, a synergistic partnership that began with NAWBO, UPS and Disney that now attracts entrepreneurs from all over the southeast, providing them an opportunity to connect directly with a multitude of private and public procurement agents.

Wafaa Chafi Fathi – Morocco – Education



Wafaa Chafi Fathi is the Secretary General of the BMCE Bank Foundation, whose mission is to build and manage schools in the rural areas of Morocco. As a volunteer, she is involved in several NGOs with the mission of improving the skills of unemployed graduate women through continuing education certificate programs and initiatives to integrate them into different companies. She is Vice President of the Women Mentoring Networking Association to empower women through mentoring programs. Wafaa helps to build capacity for NGOs by teaching academic courses at Hassan II University within the Micro Finance and Human Development Program for Master Degree students. In the 2011 academic year, she began a PhD program on CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility). She was also a member of a work team that drafted an analytical report on gender issues and women in development. Funded by the World Bank, this project was a great contribution to the amendment of the family code in Morocco.

Therena Cunningham – Bahamas – Education



Therena Cunningham is the creator of S.T.R.A.W. Inc.™ Center for Young Women©, a non-profit NGO focused on mentoring young women when they are most vulnerable to challenges such as peer pressure, low self-esteem and bullying. Under Therena's leadership, the organization has been

organizing a one-day Annual Girls Leadership Conference® which brings together nearly 500 teenage girls and connects them with caring adult professionals to receive leadership training and financial literacy education. This day-long conference is the only gender specific event for teen girls in the Bahamas and is usually hosted near the conclusion of the programming year. S.T.R.A.W. engages young women by providing them with the tools they need to transition and develop into effective leaders. Therenia cites the work of S.T.R.A.W. Inc.™ as “energy to be more creative; to think outside of the proverbial ‘box’ and in tandem with our mission of empowering girls, to become self-sufficient, responsible young adults.”

Ndeye Dague Gueye Dieye – Senegal – Community



Ndeye Dague Gueye Dieye, is known for her efforts in fighting socio-cultural barriers, prejudices and myths that prevent the advancement of persons with disabilities in general, and women with disabilities in particular, enabling thousands of them to regain normal lives through income generating activities such as sewing, shoemaking, traditional dolls, photography, information technology and communications. Ndeye successfully lobbied to obtain scholarships for disabled students, as well as grants and loans for disabled women. She is an active member of several NGOs; COSEDDH Senegalese Coalition of Human Rights Defenders, CLVF Committee for the Fight against Violence against Women and AHS Disability Assistance Senegal. She was nominated as a woman model by FAWE (Forum for African Women Educationalists).

John de Wit – USA – Champion of Women’s Economic Empowerment



John de Wit is the co-founder and Managing Director of The Small Enterprise Foundation, SEF, a South African microfinance NGO committed to the alleviation of poverty. SEF currently serves 87,000 poor people, 99% of whom are women. SEF is distinguished within the microfinance community for its commitment to reaching the very poor who live below half the national poverty line. Under John’s leadership, SEF’s poverty targeting tool, Participatory Wealth Ranking, was one of the first of two such tools adopted by the Microcredit Summit Campaign, receiving the Grameen Foundation Pioneer Award, the International Centre for Research on Women Innovation Award, as well as CGAP Social and Financial Transparency Awards.

Sybilla Dekker – Netherlands – Public Service/Government



Sybilla Dekker recently turned 70 and is still going strong in her successful efforts to persuade and influence political and corporate decision makers to realize the benefits of having more women in senior management positions. A well-respected member of various supervisory and advisory boards and one of the top ranking women in the Netherlands for the past 15 years,

Sybilla is THE role model for professional women in the Netherlands. She began her career in 1965 as an industrial welfare worker. Twenty years later she became the Chair of The Dutch Women's Network, SVN. In her current position as Chair of the Talent to the Top Taskforce, she has convinced 200 organizations to sign "The Charter". This public-private initiative invites companies, government bodies and other non-profit organizations to commit to increase the number of women at all levels of management in the organization and to be monitored on its results. The 200 organizations will impact more than 700,000 employees in the Netherlands, 8% of the total labor population.

Chirin Dirani – Syria – Entrepreneurial



Losing her father at age 19, Chirin entered the workplace at a young age to support her family's importing business. Chirin persevered through the social challenges of being a businesswoman in Syria in the 1990's while studying economics, allowing her to sustain and further grow her business. Even when the crisis erupted in Syria in March 2011, Chirin was able to survive in business and decided to help other females in Syria survive the economic crisis by launching the SABA initiative. SABA is an economic initiative that connects businesswomen, young entrepreneurs and craftswomen from Syria and other Arab countries to create partnerships, increase their business opportunities and contribute to the growth of their countries' economies. Chirin is a woman who, when faced with adversity, not only demonstrates resilience, but shows humanity by helping others with her experience.

Beth Dorfman – USA – Corporate (Individual)



You will not find many women as passionate, focused, and committed as Beth Dorfman is in advancing the accessibility of education for economically disadvantaged high school girls. Beth co-chairs the Future Women of America's (FWA's) Mentoring Committee and manages the Murry Bergtraum High School (MBHS) Mentoring Program. Beth has strategically enhanced the program by creating a clear focus on college admissions and ensuring students are not only maximizing available resources but also giving their personal best. She works closely with the mentors and the school staff to align their efforts. Beth also created a comprehensive college preparatory resource guide, introduced a new SAT preparatory program, provided valuable financial aid information, arranged for "writing the college essay" sessions and hosted meetings with college admissions staff. MBHS has a 65.8% graduation rate and enrolls 42.6% in college; through Beth's efforts 100% of the students in the program graduate on time and enroll in college. Beth is truly making a lifelong impact on the MBHS students.

Luisa Efriani – Indonesia – Entrepreneurial



As a social entrepreneur, Luisa Efriani runs an environmentally-friendly business that produces charcoal from coconut shells, transforming waste into something valuable. She recently dedicated all of the profits from her first book "Cinderella from Indonesia" to poor children in Riau Island. Every month, she visits the island to offer motivation for women and children and also to offer entrepreneurial training to the women. She has been active as an Indonesian delegate to numerous trade missions and in 2012, she received the Indonesia Small & Medium Business Award from the Ministry of Small and Medium Enterprises. She believes she can achieve her goal "to save the world & to share the love" by running her business which creates jobs for the poor, especially those who are single parents, elderly women, and women with little education.

Lee Gelb – USA – Entrepreneurial



Lee Gelb was Senior Vice President of HR at Starbucks when she decided to start Zavida Gemstones to have a personal and direct impact on the lives of others. Zavida gives 25% of profits to support artists struggling in developing countries and proactively works to establish at least one profit sharing project where they purchase jewelry. Their first 'give back' project is Zavida Silversmith in Bhuj, India where a 2001 earthquake destroyed the area renowned for its artisans and jewelry making. Starting with ten families, the Zavida project includes training, market development, a tool loan program and revolving micro-loans. Additionally project funds have established a new program which trains young girls in the silver-smith industry; a role traditionally reserved for men. Using indigenous jewelry artists, Zavida Gemstones purchases all pieces at fair market value which provides the added benefit of bringing the jewelry to a global place that allows further trade opportunities for the artists.

Seema Ghani – Afghanistan – Public Service/Government



Through her active dedication and initiative, Seema Ghani has made an outstanding contribution to economically empowering women in Afghanistan, focusing on building institutions and shaping public policies to establish long-lasting and durable changes for Afghan women in an Afghan traditional society. In 2003, Seema was a founder of the first 'Afghan Women's Business Council' (AWBC) alongside a number of other active women. This provided a platform for Afghan businesswomen to engage in systematic dialogue with key policy makers in a coordinated manner. When she was appointed as the Director General of Budget at the Ministry of Finance in 2004, Seema advocated for the creation of a gender budget, a new window of opportunity aimed at investing in the welfare and empowerment of women in post-2001 Afghanistan. Moreover, as a founding member of the 'Afghan Women Independent Economic Commission', a volunteer body, Seema has made a significant contribution in advising the Afghan government on its programs concerning women's economic status. When Seema was

appointed Deputy Minister of Labor in 2011 she dedicated her energies to addressing the problem of unemployment of women in Afghanistan.

Sumita Ghose – India – Entrepreneurial



Sumita is the founder and managing director of Rangсутra, a community-owned company of 1800 rural artisans (70% of them women), as well as investors and retailers. Rangсутra was created to ensure sustainable livelihoods and work with dignity for rural artisans in India.

Rangсутra combines aesthetics with ethics to produce top quality hand crafted products which are sold nationally and internationally. Rangсутra's artisans are all shareholders, giving them a stake in the enterprise as well as representation on the Board of Directors, ensuring commitment to the success of the enterprise. In a country like India where there is a growing gap between the rich and the poor, her effort is to tap into the strengths of the rural women, so that they too benefit from India's growth. With the courage to start enterprises of their own, the women of India have organized themselves into small production groups in their villages where they get orders from Rangсутra and produce the product locally, ensuring benefit to all in the process.

Ruth Goldway – USA – Non-profit/NGO



Ruth Y. Goldway is an experienced regulatory and public affairs professional with expertise in citizen participation, consumer issues, urban planning issues, women's issues, as well as the mailing industry. Women in Logistics & Delivery Services (WILDS), a non-profit organization, was founded in 2006 by Ruth and attorney Joy Leong to promote opportunities for women in the postal, logistics and delivery services after the two women noted the lack of women attending industry functions and in industry leadership. They set out to form an organization that provides networking, training, and mentoring for women to advance their careers, directly impacting their economic and financial well-being. The WILDS mentoring program matches experienced women leaders with newer members in the industry.

Dame Mary Goudie – UK – Public Service/Government



A senior member and life peer of the British House of Lords, Dame Mary Goudie is a global advocate for the rights of women and children. Mary was actively involved one of the government's major reforms, The Equality Act 2010 and served as Vice-Chair of the All-Party Group on Global Education. Mary is Chair of the Women Leaders' Council to Fight Human Trafficking at

the United Nations and is involved with the G8 and G20 promoting women and children. She is a founding member of the 30% Club which influences chairmen to bring more women onto UK corporate boards. Mary is also a patron of the Community Foundation of Northern Ireland, an organization which benefits numerous charities focused on assisting women and children and she has been instrumental in efforts to ensure its sustainability.

Carmen Graham – Peru – Corporate (Individual)



Carmen is a seasoned executive with extensive experience working in Peruvian and multinational environments focused on governance, innovation, and development. She is the Founder and an Institutional Committee Member of the Organization of Women in International Trade (OWIT) in Perú; Founder and Chair Member of Women Corporate Director Perú (WCD); and member of Asociación Mujeres Batalla (AMUBA). With 18 years experience at IBM, she became a representative for the Americas at the Women’s Steering Committee of IBM and led the organization to implement programs for women’s development and raising executive positions. For her support to women’s and social initiatives she has been recognized by the Nation with the Decoration “Orden al Mérito de la Mujer 2010” of the National Secretary of Women and Social Development.

Nigest Haile – Ethiopia – Entrepreneurial



Nigest Haile is an activist in the promotion of women entrepreneurs, with particular focus to women exporters. In the last 13 years of her position as Head of the Women’s Affairs Department in the Ministry, she has been able to propose policy ideas and recommendations to support a more conducive business environment in Ethiopia for women entrepreneurs. In 2004, she founded the Center for African Women Economic Empowerment (CAWEE), the only NGO working in the country providing capacity building support service targeting women exporters. Nigest’s efforts now reach well beyond Ethiopia, as an active representative on many boards and groups representing the continent. She is a board member of FEMCOM (Federation of Women Entrepreneurs of COMESA), AWEP (African Women Entrepreneurs Program) Ambassador to Ethiopia, member of the Global Platform for Action on Sourcing from Women Vendors, and promoter, founder, and current board member of the first commercial women’s bank of Ethiopia (ENAT Bank). She is the co-developer of ABW Connected – the first continent wide trade expo for women entrepreneurs in export.

Rodger Harding – Canada – Champion of Women’s Economic Empowerment



A recipient of Order of the Star of South Africa (non-military) for his diplomatic service, Rodger's career has taken him through Europe, Africa and North America, giving him a global view of the benefits of women harnessing their own economic power. Rodger immigrated to Canada and set up a corporate consulting business which, in the last 15 years, has come to focus almost entirely on the career advancement of women. Rodger goes well beyond the framework of his practice to support women's advancement by volunteering as a mentor, coach, sponsor and teacher. There are hundreds of women who have benefitted from his workshops on leadership, negotiating skills and other topics that specifically train women to advance. Furthermore, there are dozens of women he has personally coached and mentored to help break through personal and systemic barriers standing in the way of key career goals. Perhaps his greatest gift is that, as he helps women to understand and access their innate abilities, he is also able to help them pursue their goals by being themselves and being true to their own values, not those imposed by the expectations of others.

Corinne Heijn, - Netherlands - Entrepreneur



In 2008, Corinne Heijn founded United Succes, the first and the only global organisation of hand-picked women business owners who abide by a strict Code of Ethics. UnitedSucces accelerates the growth of women's businesses by providing a platform where like-minded women of substance can connect, interact and do business with their peers across the globe. Driven by passion and the desire to make a difference, Corinne has transformed her dream into reality by building a powerful global network of thriving female business owners, who also want to make a difference. Corinne travels to all corners of the world, meeting and connecting with potential members who are selected for their credibility and sincere yearning to see other women succeed. The common thread that runs through all these women, irrespective of culture or creed, is their passion for business and their deep sense of responsibility to make a positive impact on the world.

Kshanika Hirimburegama – Sri Lanka – Community



Kshanika Hirimburegama is a university scientist who has been a trailblazer in combining the application of biological sciences to improve the life of the rural poor in Sri Lanka and the use of women-managed technology applications. Since 1985, she has developed and disseminated tissue-cultured banana production technology at a rural village level, managed by 30 village girls who are empowered to introduce novel agro-technologies to rural communities. Under her leadership, the project has increased the farmer's average income more than 10 times. Now about 5,000 farmers are gaining considerable benefit through this women-driven technology. She initiated an e-diploma program in agro-technology in 2009 and in 2012, she started a new program titled "Rural Entrepreneurship Development" as a challenge to make agriculture an attractive job, particularly for young women. In recognition of her contributions to national

development she has received numerous awards including the “2006 Zonta Woman of Achievement,” and the “2009 Ariyabhata International Award, India.”

Kamel Hothi – UK – Corporate (Individual)



Kamel Hothi is a top ten diversity champion recognized recently by the UK Prime Minister and is well known across the Asian community where she has made it her objective to create and facilitate opportunities for other women from Ethnic minorities. A 33 year veteran of the Lloyds Banking Group, Kamel currently supports the group CSR initiatives on a number of multi million pound community Enterprise investment programs. She is one of the driving forces behind the bank’s Ethnic Minority Network and a non Executive member for the Women’s Network. Over the next five years Kamel hopes to improve over 800,000 lives and create approximately 2,500 jobs as well as generate over £10million a year for charities. Since 1998 the network has helped improve Ethnic minority employee numbers by 87% and people moving into management positions by 242%.

Shaina Hyder – USA – Young Women Leaders, Under 25



Shaina Hyder began her work with women's economic empowerment at the age of 18, teaching at Nari Jibon, a non-profit organization providing technical skills to underprivileged young women in Dhaka, Bangladesh as they pursued bachelor's degrees as first generation college students. She traveled to Dhaka on a Fulbright Fellowship to study women's empowerment and financial independence amongst garments workers, the first large scale class of working women in Bangladesh. She charted the factors that lend themselves to economic empowerment and found that young, unmarried migrant workers around the ages of 18 to 22 were most likely to be financially independent and self-sufficient followed by women in their late 30's with long-term experience in the garment industry. Shaina's research tracking women's financial self-sufficiency contributes to the understanding of factors that affect women's economic empowerment. She is now a first year law student at Berkeley Law and is an Associate Editor on the Berkeley Journal of Employment and Labor Law.

Aloisea Inyumba – Rwanda – Public Service/Government (deceased)



Rwanda’s Minister for Gender and Family Promotion, Aloisea Inyumba grew up in a refugee camp in Uganda after her family was forced to flee Rwanda. While in college in Uganda, she joined the Rwanda Patriotic Front, the liberation movement that ended the Rwandan Genocide. Aloisea has

become an iconic role model and personifies the efforts towards empowering women and gender equality, a hallmark of Rwanda's recovery and development since the 1994 Genocide. Aloisea served as the first Minister of Gender and Social Affairs, championing the establishment of a national women's network to adjudicate family and property issues arising from the Genocide. She served as Executive Secretary of National Unity and Reconciliation, promoting the role of women as leaders of community efforts to foster unity and economic development. Aloisea served as a Senator and was a member of the Rwanda Women Parliamentary Forum. (Today women comprise 56% of Parliament, the highest percentage in the world.) Aloisea is a revered source of courage and hope for all women in East Africa.

Fitriani Ismail – Indonesia – Community



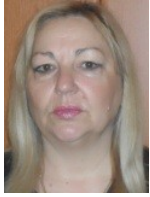
Fitriani Ismail works tirelessly to solve the daunting challenges faced by the women in Aceh with a focus on economic empowerment. There are many complicated problems: a 32-year war between government and the Aceh free movement; the 2004 earth quake and tsunami that destroyed Aceh; and gender mainstreaming in a country where women are unequal to men. Fitriani has provided Life Skill training to 150 women in the poorest area of North Aceh. The women have been trained to sew and promote their products not only in Aceh but also all over the archipelago. In collaboration with SERASI-USAID, she has provided assistance to 23 remote areas around North Aceh to design a building planning program, in order to empower the economic and political welfare of a society. Fitriani served with the Women Economic Empowerment to establish government-funded cooperatives and small and medium enterprises. In addition, Fitriani is serving as the Head of the Female Division of Central Executive of Islamic Association of University Students.

James Jesse – Tanzania – Champion of Women's Economic Empowerment



James Jesse is the driving force for two non-profit organization dedicated to the welfare of women, men and children in Sub-Saharan Africa and the United States. A Fulbright Scholar, James is Director for Administration and Finance for AGEN and board member for AGEN-USA Inc. The two not-for-profit organizations were recently established as International NGOs dedicated to the welfare of women, men and children in Sub-Saharan Africa and the United States. The organization has leveraged \$25,000 in support from the US government into \$300,000 in resources to transform the lives of over 400 rural women entrepreneurs. While going into the field and meeting grassroots women entrepreneurs, he has managed to implement an innovative micro-credit project. As an experienced lawyer with expertise in local and international law, he has facilitated the registration of AGEN as a local NGO in Tanzania.

Miroslava Jovanovic – Serbia – Non Profit/NGO



Miroslava Jovanovic's mission is to seek employment opportunities for women victims of domestic violence. Miroslava established an association of single mothers which has counted 7,000 women members over the years, with 700 active members at any given time. Her organization has an excellent reputation in Serbia, gaining support from local and municipal governments, as well as within the private industry. She recently secured jobs for 25 women at the newly opened Benetton garment factory by providing the women with specialized seamstress training. She has also organized job skills workshops for women to increase their qualifications for employment, thus empowering them with tools for their economic independence. Her association is very involved in many volunteer activities with Roma communities offering free lessons in writing, reading, mathematics, and tutoring to children who are victims of domestic violence.

Sharmila Karki – Nepal – Non-Profit/NGO



Sharmila Karki is the Secretary General for the NGO Federation of Nepal. NGOs are active in the sector of community mobilization focusing on women who are marginalized and comparatively backward in socio-economic development in under-developed and developing countries. Many NGOs are helping in remote and urban areas to form women groups that coordinate to initiate economically empowering activities. Sharmila supports workshops and interaction programs which have resulted in the establishment of beauty parlors, small retail shops and other income generating activities. Saving and credit groups are gradually changing the living standard of women while NGOs are playing a major role by raising awareness. Jagaran Nepal, a non-profit in which Sharmila is founder and president, has supported women with seed money. They formed a number of groups of up to 35 women, in which they collected 25-100Rs per month as their income. Each group now has money amounting to around 500,000Rs and most groups have been converted into cooperatives. These play a major role of economic empowerment among women in villages that are gradually elevating their standard of living.

Shariffa Keshavjee – Kenya – Education



Kenya has made major strides in education over the past few decades providing free primary education, subsidized secondary education and loans for tertiary education. However, some youth, mainly girls, fall through the cracks, ending up as domestic help, in prostitution or scavenging for food as their ultra-poor families cannot afford to pay for uniforms, books and

transport for schooling. After talking to some girls she met scavenging for food, she realized that they needed basic life skills, combined with strong preparation for techno-vocational training. Shariffa mobilized several volunteers to teach sections of the curriculum on basic life skills; English, Math, and computer literacy. They develop these skills over a one year period and afterward easily gain admission to techno-vocational colleges. Well-wishers pay for the fees after interviewing the girls and they are tracked to ensure eventual employment. The Centre has found gainful employment for 200 girls over a ten year period, of which 40% have jobs in IT, 20% in catering, 20% in hairdressing and 10% are self-employed seamstresses.

Stella Kilonzo – Kenya – Public Service/Government



Mrs Stella Kilonzo, Chief Executive of Capital Markets Authority, has been instrumental in promoting women's participation in the traditionally male-dominated securities industry. Her influence has contributed to increased women investors through financial literacy initiatives championed by the CMA at grass roots and professional levels through several mediums. By facilitating new services to improve access for women to the securities industry through electronic and internet trading, the increased opportunity to participate in the securities market has given rise to retail investors being called "wanjiku" in reference to the common woman. Recently, she has spearheaded the development of a policy framework for listing SMEs on the securities exchange, expected to open more opportunities for women-driven businesses. Stella's strategic leadership has influenced global policies impacting women, while she contributes to New Faces, New Voices, founded by Graca Machel Mandela, to empower women in finance. As part of the 20 Youngest Powerful Women in Africa in *FORBES, 2011*, and 100 most influential persons in Africa *New African*, Stella is a value-based leader promoting financial inclusion of women in Kenya and East Africa.

Elia King – Peru – Entrepreneurial

Elia King has worked tirelessly to give employment opportunities to Peruvian women by recruiting them to sell world-class Peruvian natural products. Elia researched and started her own company, RAIS VIDA / SAYSI. At RAIS VIDA / SAYSI, every sales representative is given the opportunity to participate in workshops, receive job performance feedback and be recognized for achieving goals and/or helping improve the daily operations of the company. Elia is a founding Board Member of the Asociación Mujeres Batalla which runs a program for physically and emotionally abused women in a town in the Peruvian jungle. There, women and girls are given psychological support and are trained to grow and care for exotic plants that are exported to the capital and other countries around the world, allowing them to establish a sustainable source of income. Elia is also a Board Member of Aprenda, an education and training institute for microentrepreneurs in Peru. Salta – one of Aprenda's programs has trained over 60,000

women throughout Peru on various issues regarding entrepreneurship, and plans to reach 100,000 women by 2013.

Sefakor Komabu-Pomeyie – USA – Non-Profit/NGO



Sefakor Komabu-Pomeyie, a physically challenged person, has a strong passion for her fellow physically challenged women. She organized the association of Ghana Society for the Physically Disabled in the Akwapem South Municipality to stop them from begging in the town. Sefakor fought for the allocation of the District Assemblies Common Fund for the physically disabled. Members of the Federation began getting employment through learning trades such as dressmaking and hair dressing. She organized workshops for the members to learn soap making and waste paper recycling as a source of financial independence. Sefakor was among eight delegates to attend the 56th United Nations Commission on the Status of Women in New York while pursuing a Masters degree in America. She was passionate about disability rights and made sure to give voice to the women of Ghana during the UN sessions on Women's Social and Economic Empowerment in Africa. She organized the first ever SIAT Disability Forum on campus with the full support of the SIAT Disability Director. Described by others as an eye opener, she received the IFP fellowship award on International Women's Day.

Dr. Carmen Z. Lamagna – Bangladesh – Education



Dr. Carmen Z. Lamagna, Vice Chancellor of American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB), is the first female among private and public universities in Bangladesh. For more than 15 years, she has advocated for women seeking higher education, championing policies for equality in both student admissions and the hiring of faculty, providing opportunities for more women and recognizing exemplary performance of students and staff. These actions have increased the female representation to 30% at AIUB. Carmen has created a learning environment which has inspired greater confidence for female students and instilled in them the belief that they can build a successful career. The university has contributed to the achievement of Bangladesh's developmental goals by providing access to affordable, world class education. Carmen's efforts and achievements will inspire the educators of Bangladesh to continue developing women of strong vision and character and provide them the tools to drive them towards success.

Sue Lawton – UK – Non-Profit/NGO



Sue Lawton is a true champion for women business owners. Sue is now the Director for Education and Innovation at WEConnect after serving as Executive Director for Europe and part of the WEConnect International team since its inception. She has worked at creating the first UK pilot, building the

Canada program and expanding WEConnect throughout Europe.. Sue has broad business experience in both public and private sector organizations, across gender and enterprise development, and has worked extensively in the area of not-for-profit business development and microfinance. She has worked within the UK, the USA and Central America. Sue has an MA Human Resource Management, an MA Social Enterprise Management and is a Chartered Member of the Institute of People Management. She is also a Visiting Fellow at the Small Business Research Centre at Kingston University

Joy Leong – USA – Non-profit/NGO



Joy Leong, founder of the Leong Law Firm PLLC, founded the non-profit organization Women in Logistics & Delivery Services (WILDS) in 2006 alongside postal regulatory commissioner Ruth Goldway, to promote opportunities for women in the postal, logistics and delivery services. Joy and Ruth noted the lack of women attending industry functions, particularly in leadership positions, and set out to form an organization geared towards women in the industry. Through networking, training, and mentoring, WILDS provides an opportunity to help women address industry issues and to advance their careers, directly impacting their economic and financial well-being. The WILDS mentoring program matches experienced women leaders with newer members in the industry, providing them a comfortable venue to ask questions, solicit advice and learn from each other. With role models and visionaries like Ruth and Joy, current and future generations will enjoy the results from the WILDS founders' efforts towards economic empowerment.

Rhona Levine Ruben – Canada – Corporate (Individual)



Rhona Levine Ruben is a longstanding champion of women in business. She was responsible for bringing the (Women Presidents Organization) WPO to Canada. Rhona is currently on the Board of Directors of the WPO in New York, on the Advisory Boards of The Learning Partnership and the Muriel McQueen Fergusson Foundation Fundraising Committee, and is a member of International Women's Forum. In her own career, Rhona is president of RLR & Associates Inc., a consulting firm specializing in designing, facilitating and implementing strategic business relationships for corporate women and women entrepreneurs. Prior to operating her own business, she enjoyed fifteen years with the Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC), creating the Bank's national market strategy for women in business. Rhona is a recipient of the United Nations Award for Volunteering, the BDC Innovation Award for Women Entrepreneurship and the WPO President's Leadership Award and Adrienne Hall Award for Breaking Down International Barriers. Most recently, she was recognized by WXN as one of Canada's Top 100 Most Powerful Women.

Dafna Lifshitz – Israel – Non-Profit/NGO



Dafna Lifshitz is a visionary who believes dreams should be realized through actions and that everything can be achieved. As the CEO of the Israeli NGO Appleseeds Academy, Dafna focuses on providing equal opportunity for women in the work force and bringing technology and life skills to disadvantaged communities in Israel. Women are under-represented in the high-tech industry and in technological professions, with women comprising 34% of Israel's high-tech industry, and 16.5% in management positions. Through Appleseeds' women-only vocational training initiatives, participants enjoy about 33% increase in potential earning. Dafna's influence is evident in Appleseeds' operating model which creates cross-sectoral cooperation between NGOs, the public sector and corporations. Dafna's vision led Appleseeds to Africa, where it shares its knowledge with local partners to use technology for socio-economic advancement. Dafna's vision is use technology as a bridge between Arab, Orthodox-Jewish, Palestinian and Christian women where political and social barriers created gaps. Her vision has impacted nearly half a million women, increasing their capabilities, freedom and quality of life.

Glynis Long – USA – Non-Profit/NGO



Glynis Long has been an international SME speaker and innovator on women's issues for two decades, participating in multiple entrepreneurship conferences, the World Bank's International Finance Corporation Gender programs, Women's World Banking, Young Americas Business Trust and the Rotary Club Breast Cancer Network for under-served women. She promotes small business, internet and innovative entrepreneurial development, both in the USA and globally. Glynis leads initiatives for the DC Rotary Club and the national organization; Leadership America. As CEO and Founder, Glynis is developing a global network of international breast cancer centers for under-served women. She works with the U.S. Small Business Administration on the Women-Owned Small Business Program and has developed the Online Women's Business Center for SBA into 9 languages. Glynis is also a mentor with the I Love to Lead program where she helps young women prepare for careers and leadership roles in the public and private sectors .

Gloria Lorenzo – Spain – Corporate (Individual)



After working internationally in technology, this Spanish woman became Director of Software Development at Oracle and developed the Spanish section of the Oracle Women's Leadership program, to foster leadership

amongst women in the organization. Gloria realized that internal resources were not enough to help her colleagues and found external resources to mentor high potential women at Oracle. Alongside two members from Coca-Cola and AMEX, she launched a Cross-Company Mentoring Program where top talent women are mentored by top Executives. Now in its 3rd edition, the program has become also cross country and replicated to other offices in EMEA. It has helped women of these three organizations progress in their careers. Gloria is constantly looking for best practices, which she shares in an informal forum with a wide range of professional women. Looking to connect women from their earliest developmental phase, she sponsored an agreement with Florida Universitaria in Valencia (Spain), to provide young undergraduate women their first work experience at Oracle.

Rasel Madaha – Tanzania – Champion of Women’s Economic Empowerment



Dedicated to emancipating women and other disadvantaged groups from abject poverty in sub-Saharan Africa, Rasel has volunteered his time, energy, money and expertise to realize this goal. He has steered the creation of AGEN, an international NGO based in Tanzania, in collaboration with other U.S. Fulbright Alumni, as well as establishing a separate U.S.-based organisation AGEN-USA Inc. Among his countless ventures, he coordinated Tanzania’s Fulbright scholars in April 2011 to undertake an important project entitled “Women Empowerment in Rural Sub-Saharan Africa through Capacity Building and Training” and received a grant of \$ 25,000 to implement the project. While still in the USA, he directs and receives all information and reports from Tanzania regarding the progress of the project implementation. Rasel is recognized for his tireless work efforts and his unwavering dedication to his causes.

Alison Maitland – UK – Education



Alison Maitland is a business author, journalist and speaker who specializes in leadership, gender, and the changing world of work. A former Financial Times journalist, she is co-author of Future Work, published in October 2011, and of the bestseller “Why Women Mean Business.” She regularly writes articles and columns for the Financial Times, The Conference Board Review and other media. Alison directs The Conference Board’s Council for Diversity in Business and is a Senior Visiting Fellow in the Faculty of Management at Cass Business School, London. She speaks and moderates at many public conferences and internal corporate events. Based in the United Kingdom, her recent speaking engagements have taken her all over Europe and to North America. She has been widely interviewed by national and international media on gender and work.

Kathy Marshall – Ethiopia – Entrepreneurial



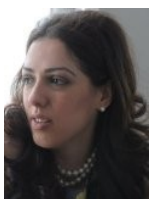
Sabahar was created in 2004 by Kathy Marshall with a vision to combine the 'wild' silk recently introduced in Ethiopia with ancient skills and traditions to produce exquisite, handmade textile products for the global market. It was also designed to be an enterprise that creates positive work opportunities with an emphasis on the employment of women. Early on, Kathy saw the potential to make an impact on poor households by diversifying the crops they are dependent on for survival. She believes that by promoting silk, her organization can have a positive impact on people by creating beauty with the silk. It also helps to preserve a rich tradition. Sabahar is guided by three core values: Sustainability, Innovation, and Caring for each other.

Lisbeth McNabb – USA – Corporate (Individual)



Lisbeth McNabb, CEO of w2wlink, is a leader with passion, purpose and strength that she channels to maximize the potential of women around the world. As a rising corporate executive, Lisbeth became a talented innovator. She took those gifts and built w2wlink, a professional women's community that champions social responsibility and provides tools and mentorship for professional women. W2wlink provides coaching and mentorship, giving women access to crucial advice and guidance in their business and entrepreneurial endeavours. She currently has over 12,000 subscribers in the USA, Europe and China, and is soon to be in India. Lisbeth also mentors men and women around her and routinely includes her extensive network of executives, entrepreneurs, and thought leaders in her mentorship forums to enrich the the experience for all involved.

Mehrak Mehrvar – Cambodia – Entrepreneurial



Mehrak Mehrvar is a truly extraordinary champion of women's economic empowerment, both personally and professionally. In her career she works through policy and advocacy to defend and expand women's rights. In Cambodia, she is fighting to support women's registration of property in their own names so they can build a financially secure life. She has used her own money to start a microenterprise that supports the economic future of a special group of women in Cambodia, the silver weavers. These highly skilled women weave fine strands of silver into objects like purses and earrings, using intricate traditional designs. Globalization has pushed these treasures aside in favour of international brands and with no direct domestic markets; the artisans must deal with middlemen who pay a pittance in monthly wages. Mehrak developed a new model buying the product direct from the artisans and guaranteeing them a fair wage. She imported the purses to Canada and sold them to women at events she organized, providing an excellent return to the silversmiths while offering exquisite works of art with intrinsic value (silver) at a reasonable price to Canadian women.

Heather Melville – UK – Corporate (Individual)



Heather Melville has had a successful 30-year career in banking and is currently Regional Director, SME London, Cash and International Trade at the Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS). Five years ago, Heather founded, and continues to chair, the RBS Focused Women's Network (FWN). It has grown from zero to 1800 members and is actively supported by the bank's chair and group chief executive. It forms a clear and critical aspect of the RBS Diversity and Inclusion Strategy. As part of her mentoring initiatives, Heather created "The Little Book of Inspiration" a collection of stories from RBS employees who have made a difference to their customers, colleagues and the organization. Now she is making her plans global – the world may not know what has hit it as Heather opens new networks in India, Singapore and everywhere else that RBS has a presence. Her success over the years has been acknowledged by numerous awards: the IBM National Excellence Award, the European Federation of Women Business Owners and Professionals Award & External International Professional Award. She is a Justice of the Peace in the Youth Court and is working on the Board of Working Families, a forum set up by Ernst & Young.

Shelley Milano – USA – Entrepreneur

Shelley Milano was Executive Vice President and general counsel at Starbucks, and additionally responsible for ethics and social responsibility, when she started creating the business model for Zavida Gemstones with former Starbucks exec and Zavida founder, Lee Gelb. Together, they change lives at a grass roots level in developing countries. Zavida Gemstones purchases all pieces of jewelry at fair market value which provides the added benefit of bringing the products to a global marketplace. Zavida gives 25% of its profits to support artists struggling in developing countries. Their first 'give back' project was Zavida Silversmith in Bhuj, India where an earthquake had destroyed the area renowned for its artisans and heritage of jewelry making. Zavida started the project with ten families, providing training, market development, tool loan program and revolving micro-loans. They also established a new program which trains young girls in the silver-smith industry; a role traditionally reserved for men.

Eleanor Mills – UK – Corporate (Individual)



Eleanor Mills is currently Associate Editor of The Sunday Times and was shortlisted for Feature Writer of the Year at the British Press Awards for her long-form writing in the Sunday Times magazine. The commended entries were an intimate portrait of Samantha Cameron and a piece about women in China called Tiger Mothers. The long series of stories revealed and

shattered stereotypes of women in the business world, challenged conventions of women worldwide and their pressures to succeed, and propelled her to be a spokesperson for women worldwide. She has strived to promote the work of other female writers with her publications such as *Cupcakes and Kalashnikovs: the best journalism by women from the last 100 Years*. She appears regularly on television and takes great personal pleasure in giving inspirational talks to women at all stages of their careers. She is a UK Director of the Centre for Work/Life Policy think tank based in New York, adding further depth to her work in revealing women's challenges in the business world.

Liat Molcho – Israel – Entrepreneurial



Liat Molcho, a self-employed entrepreneur and owner of Tarbut-Molcho Press, realized in 2008 that she was shortchanging both herself and her employees. Currently the law in Israel dictates that employers must create pension accounts for their employees and the level of contribution by employees and employers to these accounts. The self-employed and entrepreneurs are not required to have pension savings, and many do not receive any tax benefits from contributing to pension savings plans as their income is too low to qualify for these benefits. Liat, who had been involved with Supportive Community since 2005, an organization that empowers and supports women micro-entrepreneurs, did not take long to realize that her story was indicative of what was happening to independent businesswomen nationwide. Liat developed and now directs a program that brings attention to the need for proper pensions for women, with an emphasis on owners of micro-businesses. The program raises awareness and educates women about their financial needs in the future; negotiates and pursues benefits for women; alerts women to the changes in pension laws; and creates accessibility by advocating for changes in pension legislation and regulation.

Sajda Mughal – UK – Community



Sajda Mughal has contributed invaluable to the economic empowerment of black, Asian, minority ethnic, and refugee (BAMER) women in Haringey, London over the past 20 years. She has developed a number of free workshops on topics such as financial literacy, opening a business, and CV writing to BAMER women who might not otherwise be able to access this kind of information and training. The financial literacy workshops are designed for women who find it difficult to understand mainstream financial processes and covers areas such as types of bank accounts, opening a bank account, and claiming back unfair charges and loans. JAN Trust's workshop on opening a business covers all the relevant information the women need in order to open a small business. Additionally, she has developed confidence building workshops that tie in with the CV writing and interview techniques workshops which are vital in gaining employment for these women.

Dr. Rabi'u Musa Kwankwaso – Nigeria – Champion of Women's Economic Empowerment



Dr. Rabi'u Musa Kwankwaso has contributed greatly to the economic empowerment of women across Nigeria. During his first tenure as a governor, women received free maternal healthcare and services, 55,000 women received training and grants to establish small scale industries and adult literacy centers were established for women in rural communities, as well as free education for girls. He was re-elected as a governor in 2011, where he continued with his contribution towards empowering women, starting by appointing women to key positions. To date, 44,000 women have been trained as first batch beneficiaries for his women empowerment scheme and each of these women will receive a take-off grant. 44,000 women were trained in poultry farming and received take-off support. Furthermore, he has facilitated the rehabilitation of maternal health centers and free medical care, encouraged women to take their children for routine immunization, and supported condition cash transfers (CCT), an initiative to encourage girls' education up to junior secondary level.

Emelda Mwamanga Mtunga – Tanzania – Community



Emelda Mwamanga Mtunga is the CEO of Relim Entertainment Ltd, a company responsible for publishing a lifestyle magazine called Bang! Magazine (Believe And Never Give up). Over the years Bang! Magazine has played a supporting role in helping change the outlook of Tanzanian society and open avenues for female local designers, models, and artists. Each publication has a motivating message, intimate tone and culturally relevant editorials which inspire, entertain and empower women. Emelda is a role model for women and has been recognized both in her community and internationally for her innovations for girls and women empowerment. Emelda launched Dare to Dream mentoring program in 2009 which has empowered, educated and supported over 280 women to grow at various stages of life, exchange business and life strategies, and become self sufficient. D2D touches the lives of more than 11,000 university girls every year.

Phyllis Mwangi – Kenya – Entrepreneurial



In 2006, Phyllis Mwangi was selected for a U.S. State Department Leadership Mentoring Program, where she was mentored by the President of Wells Fargo Bank and in 2008, she was co-recipient of the Goldman Sachs Rising Star Award. Phyllis now helps women and youth through both volunteer projects and her company, Edge Consult; she is a facilitator and

mentor with the Goldman Sachs 10,000 Women's Initiative, a Certified Growth-Oriented Women Enterprises Facilitator for the IFC in East Africa and a Certified Facilitator for the International Labor Organization's Women Entrepreneur Associations program. Phyllis has funneled her energy and enthusiasm into a uniquely Kenyan project - "Zingira Wasanii" (embracing the artisans). This project helps identify and improve the quality of products created by Kenyan artisans living in low income areas. She even creates domestic and international corporate partnerships to provide the artisans with market access.

Dr. Zenobia Nadirshaw – UK – Community



Zenobia Nadirshaw's 38-year career as a consultant clinical psychologist has directly led to women in the most vulnerable black and minority ethnic groups in London, returning to the workforce to make an economic contribution to their families, communities and society. Countless women who have been battered, raped, fallen into drug abuse, stereotyped because of their migrant status, class, background or belief system have been empowered through Zenobia's work. She ensures that professional women achieve their economic potential: as Assessor at the UK's Department of Health, she gauges the eligibility of clinical psychologists for consultant grade jobs –as roughly 80% in the field are women, her role ensures that the best qualified women reach the top of their profession. She volunteers back in India, empowering women with teaching and training strategies to take fuller control of their lives and livelihoods. Zenobia sits on the Race Equality Foundation Trust Board and six committees of the British Psychological Society. Her photograph has been hung in the National Portrait Gallery as a 'Woman of Inspiration'.

Grace Nanyonga – Uganda – Entrepreneurial



Grace Nanyonga is young entrepreneur who started her business when she was 12 years old, in her local community. As an orphan, she roasted chicken along the streets of Kampala and educated herself and her siblings. Now at the age of 28, she owns a company that smokes oil free fish from the fresh waters of Lake Victoria, a process that she has trained over 80 women in. She has mentored a significant number of youth both in and out of school as well as women in business by sharing her story at national and international forums. Michelle Obama, while visiting Soweto, South Africa, acknowledged Grace's work in supporting her fellow women. Grace is a true inspiration and role model and she professes that "Your background does not determine your future; the power is in your hands to take charge of your destiny." Grace was honored at the Fortune/US State Department Mentoring Program and CCTV recognized her as one of the Faces of Africa. Her story has become a case study and reference for the empowerment of girls and women globally.

Alexia Naris – Namibia – Community



Alexia Naris is a motivated and selfless volunteer who, through her Pots of Hope Women's Empowerment Programme (POHWEP), has helped HIV/AIDS infected/affected women in the rural and underdeveloped Kunene region of Namibia gain economic control over their lives. As a trained counsellor, Alexia understands the devastating nature of HIV/AIDS and social side-effects including stigma, discrimination, domestic violence, and unemployment. She founded the rural development project, POHWEP, with financial support from the U.S. Embassy's Self-Help Program, and initially trained over 40 women in designing, producing, and marketing quality earthenware products throughout Namibia and abroad. Alexia continues to volunteer and trains women with previously limited economic options as potters. The program also provides tuition assistance to young girls to provide subsequent generations of women more economic, educational, and employment opportunities. Alexia's goal is not just to create long-term employment opportunities for women, but also to break down traditions of shame and blame surrounding HIV/AIDS. Her energy and continued efforts translate to jobs and a renewed sense of hope for many women.

Ramanou Nassirou – Togo – Champion of Women's Economic Empowerment



Ramanou Nassirou demonstrates a strong commitment to the development of women in Togo. He was the chief project director of WAGES (Women and Associations for Gain both Economic and Social), a microfinance project founded by CARE International in Togo. The project was scheduled to be completed after 6 years by reaching the socio economic needs of 3900 women in the capital city.

Ramanou managed the project so effectively that they exceeded their goals by providing more than 6,000 women access to loans. In 1999, WAGES became a national microfinance NGO in Togo. After political turmoil put WAGES on the verge of collapse, Ramanou took the lead in a new activity that included meeting people at their workplace to encourage them to save and then collect their money every day. After two months, WAGES had collected more than \$400,000. In 2012, WAGES serves more than 160,000 Togolese - 70% of whom are women - employs more than 410 people, and delivers training at more than 15 branch offices. Their current credit portfolio is more than \$ 22 million.

Diago Ndiaye – Senegal – Education



As a young girl who was born into privilege, Diago Ndiaye started collecting food, shoes, and clothes for child beggars in Senegal. Her natural-born compassion towards the underprivileged drove her to embrace a career in social services, launching her teaching career in an all girls' school at age 19. Committed to the cause of education and training of young girls and

women, Diago became a member of various organizations and networks dedicated to the promotion and respect of women and children's rights, as well as the eradication of female genital mutilation. In the 1990s, she led a nation-wide project funded by the Ministry of Women, Children and Family whose mission was to promote feminine entrepreneurship and early childhood education. This program spanned seven years and produced over 25,000 female entrepreneurs and 5,000 children graduates from the child literacy program.

Alyse Nelson – USA – Non-Profit/NGO



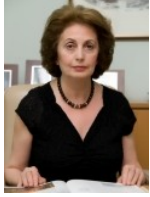
Alyse Nelson is president, chief executive officer, and co-founder of Vital Voices Global Partnership. Alyse has worked with women leaders to develop training programs and international forums in over 140 countries and has interviewed more than 200 international leaders, including presidents and Nobel Peace Prize laureates. Under her leadership, Vital Voices has tripled in size and expanded its global reach to serve a network of over 12,000 women leaders in 144 countries. Alyse has designed and implemented Vital Voices initiatives throughout the world and aided in the commitment of Hillary Clinton and Madeleine Albright to promote the advancement of women as a U.S. foreign policy objective. Alyse worked with the President's Interagency Council on Women at the White House and attended the UN Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing. She serves on Hillary Clinton's Advisory Committee on Strategic Dialogue with Civil Society and is a Board member of Running Start. Alyse was named one of "Ten Women to Watch" by Washingtonian Magazine, and was featured in Newsweek as one of "150 Women Shaking the World."

Birgit Neu – UK – Corporate (Individual Women)



Birgit Neu is one of the most respected COO's at HSBC Investment bank and across the City of London. She is one of the founding members of Women on the Wharf (WoTW), which is a network of corporate women's networks in the City of London. Birgit founded WoTW to develop external knowledge around gender diversity and to ensure that corporations were sharing their ideas and collaborating to ensure the progression and economic empowerment of women. She is also an active participant and advisor to The Network of Networks (TNON), which extends to 42+ multinationals (both banking and non-banking across London). Birgit is a highly sought after speaker, a trusted advisor, and an individual who is constantly called on for advice and guidance by a myriad of senior leaders across the City. She has already been awarded "Mentor of the Year" by one of the most elite bodies for female recognition in the UK and is described as a "connectpreneur", an educator, and an amazing individual who shares, collaborates and actively encourages Women to fulfill their potential.

Venera Novakovska – Macedonia – Education



Head of Nova International Schools, a coeducational, liberal arts school, Venera Novakovska is a leader in educational practices and opportunities for young women in the Republic of Macedonia and the greater Balkans. When she started the school, one of her goals was to provide sustainable equity opportunities for young girls, as well as young women professionals, offering both a safe and intellectually challenging environment. As the school has expanded its mission, goals and size, Venera's personal and professional life creed - 'when you educate the girls, you educate the country' - has become an institution in its own right. In the capacities of teacher, mentor, employer and colleague, her guidance is an incredible gift to all. It has been said that "once a student of hers, always a student of life-long learning". The value of brave individuals like Venera is paramount; a woman who understands the importance of going against the complacent current and educating society on the significance of female empowerment and economic independence.

Magda Nowak – Thailand – Corporate (Individual)



As a key human resources leader at PepsiCo over the past decade, Magda Nowak uses the UN Women's Empowerment Principles to increase female representation in her business. By identifying inclusion as the precursor to diversity, she has increased executive female representation within PepsiCo from 12.9% to 31% globally, with 32% of all PepsiCo managers being women. Her efforts have profoundly impacted the local communities in over 180 counties where PepsiCo operates, particularly in developing nations. Magda was involved the creation of a women's council in Pakistan and an initiative to establish child care facilities that enabled mothers to return to work, empowering not only employees, but also their families and communities. Since becoming Senior Director of HR for the North and South Asia Business, Magda has continued her challenging agenda, with her region now comprising 35.6% female executives.

dt ogilvie – USA – Education



dt ogilvie's contributions to empowering women entrepreneurs and students in the United States are nothing short of inspiring. She is the founding director of The Center for Urban Entrepreneurship & Economic development (CUEED) at Rutgers Business School. Under her leadership, CUEED's programs train, provide capital, and create a network that enables many women entrepreneurs to grow. What is most inspiring about dt is her genuine attention to empowering entrepreneurs. She is a much sought after speaker and was invited to the White House to talk about entrepreneurship and economic development to minority serving and historically black colleges and universities. She also founded a Scholars Training and Enrichment Program to help women minority students to successfully obtain their undergraduate degrees and maintain a GPA equivalent to non-minority students. Her passion to empower women propelled her to

start writing a book about strategies women executives have used to break the glass ceilings.

Adanma Ogumka – Nigeria – Non-Profit/NGO



Adanma Ogumka has advanced the business opportunities for women in rural Nigeria through the Super Guides Women and Youth Empowerment Organization she founded. Super Guides provides access to micro finance, leadership and business skills training and hosting rural women network events that connect them to resources. As Executive Director of World Women Trade Fair Nigeria, she is also dedicated to strengthening women's economic empowerment and access to global trade opportunities, focusing on benefitting the 80% of Nigeria's population living in rural communities. She recently organized a high-level business mission to the U.S. to study and examine excellent examples and models of how small rural communities have built cultural economy through cultural heritage preservation, sustainable tourism, handicrafts and the arts and nature. The impact of her work "ShowCase Nigeria" is greatly contributing to Nigeria's women being able to earn a sustainable living through the reviving of lost textile skills and techniques while accessing profitable markets in the U.S.A.

Omowale Ogunrinde – Nigeria – Entrepreneurial



Omowale Ogunrinde founded the Foundation for Skills Development to empower women and youths with vocational and entrepreneurial skills, enabling them to start up businesses and economically transform their lives. Her work has effectively trained about 3,000 women and more than 1,000 women have set up businesses in different parts of Nigeria. In 2010, she introduced the Women in Small Business Seminars, which host about 200 women each time and aim to equip, ensure and enable women's businesses to grow. It links the women with funding sources, government developmental agencies and business mentors. These programs, held three times a year, include successful entrepreneurs, public and private sector professionals that teach and equip women with entrepreneurial skills required to start, grow and sustain their businesses. A most important part of the program is the segment tagged "Telling my Story"; where a successful entrepreneur shares their inspiring business story.

Bisi Olateru Olagbegi – Nigeria – Non-Profit/NGO



Bisi Olateru-Olagbegi is the Founder, Executive Director, President, and Legal Practitioner of Women's Consortium of Nigeria WOCON. Since its inception, WOCON has been engaged in various programs and activities for the enforcement of the rights of women and children, particularly in Nigeria. Gender violence disproportionately affects more women than men and

more children than adults and as in most African countries, Nigerian women and children suffer from this form of violence on a daily basis. The most pervasive form of gender violence is the growing trade of human trafficking. Hundreds of Nigerian women and girls are trafficked each year into forcible prostitution. WOCON is stepping up its efforts to expose and eradicate this abusive and illegal practice. Bisi works on the premise that Nigerian women with economic independence will not be as exposed to human trafficking.

Dr. Pushkin Phartiyal – India – Champion of Women’s Economic Empowerment



Dr. Pushkin Phartiyal works on economic empowerment through sustainable use and management of natural resources in the Indian Himalayan state of Uttarakhand. 70% of the population of Uttarakhand earns a living from agriculture and allied sectors making the productivity of natural resources the key to alleviating poverty among women. Collection of fodder, water, and firewood imposes a harsh work day of 16-18 hours on most women. Pushkin identified the traditional system of VP- term referring to locally governed communal forests- as a means of reducing drudgery and improving livelihoods. In 1997 he formed 1200 new VP’s that influences policy toward increasing women’s representation in the VP management committee. Pushkin introduced material ropeways to improve access to markets, low cost irrigation techniques, and alternative energy options. Pushkin’s innovations have saved hundreds of work hours per year for countless women in the region. For Pushkin, the development of productive skills was a key strategy in the economic empowerment of women. The concept of all-women Self Help Groups and the use of time saving for natural resources based on income generation activities has increased women’s income by 60 to 80% in the intervention areas.

Carina Pierre-Rochard – France – Corporate (individual)



Carina Pierre-Rochard is a regional director within Europe at the International Herald Tribune/New York Times group and the initiator and Project Leader of "The Female Factor" Series. Articles in this series examine the most recent shifts in women’s power, prominence and impact on societies around the world, and attempt to measure the influence of women on early 21st century development. It is the first time a mainstream international daily newspaper has devoted a complete regular section to women and women achievements around the world. During the past two years the Female Factor Series has gained in size, influence and popularity in Europe. Using her position, Carina has brought awareness and unity to the accomplishments of women around the world, furthering the efforts towards economic empowerment for women.

Dr. Alice Pollard – Solomon Islands – Community



Eighty percent of women in the Solomon Islands (SI) have no access to formal banking services. Dr. Alice Pollard has worked to ensure that local women are equipped and empowered to not only earn money but save and manage it themselves. Alice established the West Are'Are Rokotanikeni Association (WARA), which began with business training and now operates a revolving loans fund that has provided access where commercial banks have not. In 2006, a Savings Club was launched and is used by small-business women in rural areas. More than USD \$65,000 has been saved, with about 15% withdrawn mainly for school fees. Each year Alice must raise USD \$2,000 to \$2,500 for the boat costs to collect and transport the savings from southern Malaita for safe deposit in the commercial bank. "Leadership is a key ingredient for WARA" says Alice. "All executive positions are voluntary, and our work is and must be founded on trust. Working with marginalised groups can be risky, costly and requires great patience and commitment. But it is so rewarding when we see ordinary rural women demonstrate leadership and become economically active and responsible."

Sanja Popovic-Pantic – Serbia – Education



With a national unemployment rate of nearly 24%, work opportunities for Serbians, and especially Serbian women, can be hard to come by. Sanja Popovic-Pantic is working to change this desperate situation. In 1998, she recognized the need to connect Serbian business women to each other, leading her to be a founder of the Serbian Association of Business Women (ABW), which today includes 230 members (mostly micro- and small-business owners throughout Serbia). As President and Executive Director of the ABW, Sanja is the driving force behind the organization's success. ABW has built an extensive mentoring program and targets the next generation of Serbian women by supporting youth programs that provide women with the tools they need for success. As a change agent, Sanja is also a visionary. Recognizing that ABW membership consists overwhelmingly of women with Belgrade-based companies, she is now focusing on rural areas, where economic conditions are more challenging. She aims to help connect women, empower them, and promote sustainable economic development. The stronger the network becomes, the greater influence the group has in policy advocacy. In short, under Sanja's guidance, the ABW is successfully fostering women's entrepreneurship in Serbia.

Elena Proskurnya – Russia – Corporate (Individual)



For over 20 years, Elena Proskurnya has been the Managing Partner of one of the largest Russian audit and consulting companies. FBK was started from scratch and has grown into a leading company. Within her own company, Elena demonstrates active support to women. Today, of nine FBK Board members - five are women. Four of them first came to FBK to occupy minor positions, and with their professional development, they took their positions among company partners. Gender-sensitive programs are developed in

FBK and working mothers enjoy flexible schedules and the possibility of part-time employment. Elena's public activities are intended to support and develop businesswomen and women leaders. She is a member of the managing board of the Committee of 20, one of the most reputable organizations of Russian women business leaders and is also an active member of the Council of Women Leaders and Entrepreneurs of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs (RSPP) which aims to widen the participation of women leaders and entrepreneurs in RSPP at the federal and regional levels. As the sign of her merits, Elena was awarded the the "Best Manager of the Year" nomination.

Diana Rivington – Canada – Public Service/Government



For more than twenty years, Diana Rivington led Canada's international development policy and programming work on behalf of the world's poorest women. Her belief is that if women could be empowered and the balance of power between women and men could be altered, positive change for families and communities could occur and poverty would be reduced. Diana was instrumental in Canada's central role in the creation of UNWomen.

Without her fine strategic abilities, rich understanding of the intricacies of the UN system and her immense credibility and solid international reputation, Canada would not have been able to lead on this issue as it did. The beneficiaries of her mentorship can be found across Canada and around the world in important positions in bilateral development agencies, international institutions and non-profits. In her "gap year" after retirement, she has been approached to continue teaching and has also been invited to participate in international work so we can be sure that her passion for women's empowerment will continue to keep her fully occupied.

Chinara Sadykova – Kyrgyzstan – Non-Profit/NGO



Chinara Sadykova, is a Committee Member on the Central Asian Women Economic Symposium follow-on activities, playing a key role in uniting successful women entrepreneurs to follow recommendations developed during the Symposium. She has implemented a number of projects with the U.S. Embassy-Bishkek funds, including sewing courses by famous designer Dilbar Ashimbaeva for rural women, a financial literacy project by leading investment company "Senti", and business development training by the Civic Fund of Micro-crediting. In 2012, Chinara initiated the registration of the non-profit, civil society organization "Women's Forum Kurak". WFK's members have more than 20 years of experience in implementing programs aimed at women's financial and legal literacy, business laws development and lobbying, rural women entrepreneurship, technical assistance and consulting, management of micro-crediting, fashion industry development, sustainable development and the promotion of civil society. Kurak is a Kyrgyz word meaning "patchwork". The organization was so called because it unites women from different spheres like business, education and civil society.

Jessica Sager – USA – Non-Profit/NGO



When the USA reformed welfare, low-income women (especially single mothers) struggled to find both work and child care for their children. Believing that women shouldn't have to choose between economic survival and their children's well-being, Jessica and Janna founded the non-profit All Our Kin. AOK provides resources and training women need to open their own home-based child care programs. A study conducted by the University of Connecticut confirmed that AOK's programs have significant effects on women's economic well-being. Nearly 60% of participants earned at least \$5,000 more the first year after participating in AOK's Licensing Project; over 45% earned at least \$10,000 more the second year. Graduates report an average wage 10.4% more than the typical wage for industry counterparts. After completing the program, 55% of graduates were able to use their increased income to pay down debt, 42% had opened a savings account, and 31% had moved to a larger apartment or house. By facilitating access to child care, the program also makes it possible for parents, primarily mothers, to find and retain employment.

Dr. Pratibha Samson Gaikwad – India – Community



Pratibha Samson Gaikwad, has used her position, knowledge and experience as a champion for women's empowerment for the last 16 years. Experiencing the underprivileged state of women in her native village, she has been teaching and designing courses for female students from the surrounding areas which will pave the way for financial independence. She holds an M.A. and a Ph.D. in Economics and as a member of the Board of Studies, she has been instrumental in framing curriculum, and increasing the employability of women. By establishing a Women's Development Cell in her college, around 1500 girls and women from the surrounding areas are given access to job/skill oriented courses every year. She also established a Shalom self-help group wherein 15 underprivileged women were provided funds to start their own businesses. Recently, she was awarded the 'Bharat Shiksha Ratna Award' by the Global Society of Education and Social Service.

Namizata Sangare – Cote d'Ivoire – Non-Profit/NGO



Sangare Namizata, National President of the Organization of Active Women of Cote d'Ivoire (OFACI) has been fighting since 1999 for the economic and social empowerment of women. To that purpose, the International Visitor alumni operates, by raising women's awareness about their potential and outlining the necessity for the state to promote gender equality. Her commitment on that matter earned her four national awards: two awards from a national women's organizations and two from the State. Under her leadership,

OFACI undertook many activities relating to economic empowerment of women in the country, with support from donors such as the United Nations, the European Union, Canada, and GIZ In 2001 her organization implemented small projects for the economic integration of young prostitutes. This project allowed these young women to build a worthy life and abandon prostitution. In 2007, 250 were supported in terms of income generating activities with significant results. Today most of them enjoy sustainable livelihoods. Now she is supervising 400 young women from six main regions in the country to initiate and manage small enterprises.

Marianne Schoenig – UK – Corporate (Individual)



Marianne Schoenig is a passionate, dedicated supporter of the economic empowerment of women in her role of driving Accenture's global programs to make supply chains more inclusive of women-owned businesses. Marianne is a Board Director of WEConnect International, a nonprofit organisation which strives to level the playing field for women in global supply, as demonstrated by the award winning diversity and inclusion program that Marianne co-created and leads. Marianne also represents Accenture in the World Bank Global Private Sector Leaders' Forum focused on 'Gender Equality as Smart Business' and within La Pietra Coalition: A Breakthrough Initiative to Advance Women and the World, influential at G20 level. Marianne has been instrumental in a pilot to open markets for vulnerable women in India, enabling women who were formerly waste-pickers with negligible earnings and hazardous work conditions to now produce stationery products from recycled paper with productivity and earnings increased tenfold.

Rita Shah – Ireland – Entrepreneurial



Rita Shah is the CEO of Shabra Plastics/Recycling Ltd and a founding member of Shabra Group. Having first-hand experience of the difficulties faced by women in business, Rita believes that everyone must contribute to this life and assist others. Rita is an excellent motivational speaker and mentor, giving speeches and presentations in Ireland, United Kingdom and Kenya and she was recently invited to speak by the European Parliament in Brussels at European SME Week Summit 2011. Rita mentors in the Women in Business Program, Going for Growth, and has nurtured hundreds of women in small business. She has also spoken at many Annual National Women's Enterprise Days. Rita and her business partner Oliver are the founder members of their own charity named Shabra Charity Foundation supporting underprivileged girls to attend secondary school in Nigeria and building an orphanage in Kenya for poverty stricken children.

Willa Shalit – USA – Entrepreneurial



Willa Shalit is an artist, theatrical and television producer, author/editor, socially-conscious entrepreneur and philanthropist, who has devoted much of her life to economic empowerment of women. Working with for-profit and non-profit organizations, she has brought economic opportunity to women in post-conflict zones and communities devastated by natural disasters by creating markets for products developed jointly by Palestinian and Israeli women, women survivors of the Rwandan genocide, and the artisans of Haiti. Willa has produced important women's theater including "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom" and "The Vagina Monologues." Willa co-founded the non-profit V-Day organization that has thus far distributed more than \$20 million initiatives that work to stop violence against women and girls. She also founded Fair Winds Trading, a company dedicated to promoting economic self-sufficiency among women in nations throughout Africa, Asia and the Caribbean. She is a consultant devoted to women's economic empowerment, has served as a Special Advisor to UNIFEM, and was named by Women's eNews as one of the "21 Leaders for the 21st Century".

Hassina Sherjan – Afghanistan – Education



Hassina Sherjan, founder and president of Aid Afghanistan for Education (AAE), an organization that operates 13 schools in nine provinces with a total enrollment of 3500 students. Hassina is an Afghani native who was educated in the West, and is significantly impacting the lives of women and girls in Afghanistan. She is educating a generation of females who were unable to attend school during the Taliban era in Afghanistan. During the Taliban rule, Hassina operated 5 underground schools for female students, meeting in private homes. After the Taliban, she worked to establish and staff schools using curricula, tests, books and supplies all approved by the Ministry of Education. AAE's teachers are certified by the ministry of education, so that an AAE degree is recognized throughout Afghanistan, enabling a generation of girls regain their lost education. Most recently Hassina has started a design company employing Afghans to produce indigenous products for foreign export.

Zolaykha Sherzad – Afghanistan – Entrepreneurial



Zarif Designs employs both women and men, who work side by side to complete tailored and hand-embroidered garments. Both of Zarif's locations are an oasis for its women employees, who are often learning to read and write in addition to earning incomes that change their lives and empower their families. Zolaykha Sherzad is committed to her employees as if they were family and committed to the preservation of Afghanistan's heritage in textiles, at tremendous personal cost. Zarif uses traditional fabrics and craftsmanship to

create rich designs that blend Afghan culture and the modern world. Zolaykha is an entrepreneur, struggling to bring the best of Afghan tradition to the world and to create opportunities for the women and men she employs. She seeks no personal credit or gain from her work, but strives to empower her Afghan staff and create more opportunities for them to learn and for the business to grow. This honor may help draw additional attention and much-needed investment to Zarif Designs, so that she can continue this invaluable work to empower Afghan women.

Ynes Silva – Peru – Entrepreneurial



Ynes Silva, a single mother of six, began her career as a teacher in the northern Andes of Peru. Confronted by the profound poverty that fuels the recurrent social unrest of her region, Ynes began to work in her spare time with the city government to develop a training program for women entrepreneurs. She is now the coordinator of a women's artisan association with 280 members, most of them indigenous women from the surrounding highlands. Ynes opens up her home to them, instructing them on the use of organic dyes, and teaching new styles of knitting. Ynes also teaches the women how to prepare for and participate in artisan fairs, in order to attract buyers from all over Peru. Ynes recently participated in business training and English classes organized by the U.S. Embassy in Lima in coordination with the Goldman Sachs Foundation and has passed on what she learned in that training to the 280 women in her association. She is well recognized in her community and among local and regional authorities as a force multiplier, empowering the women around her to greater economic self sufficiency.

Alison Smale – France – Corporate (Individual)



Alison Smale is the Executive Editor who created the International Herald Tribune (IHT), the global edition of The New York Times, and "The Female Factor", a series of reports since 2010. Thanks to Alison Smale's visionary leadership, the IHT has been carrying out an intensive examination of where women stand 100 years into empowerment. Alison Smale and Carina Pierre-Rochard have been a particularly influential team since the creation of the Special Report. The IHT series examines the most recent shifts in women's power, prominence and impact on societies, and try to measure the influence of women. As AP Vienna bureau chief for Eastern Europe, Ms. Smale covered stories of major historical importance in the 1980s and 1990s. Ms. Smale organized much of the prize-winning New York Times coverage of the war in Afghanistan and the later war in Iraq.

Laura Small – Canada – Corporate (Individual)



CEO of Women Entrepreneurs of Saskatchewan Inc. (WES), Laura Small has been instrumental in helping WES become a 'best practices' model for

assisting women's economic empowerment. WES has empowered over 700 women to start, expand, or purchase a business; provided business advice to over 3,782 women, and helped over 6,000 women reach their goals through their services. Their lending program created 633 businesses and 1,023 jobs. She was nominated in the Professions category of the YWCA Women of Distinction Awards. In May 2006, she was recognized as one of the province's most influential women in SaskBusiness Magazine, and named one of Saskatoon's 100 People, 100 Reasons—a centennial initiative recognizing community leaders. She was the Chair of the Celebrate Success committee, an initiative that recognizes business achievement.

Anna Stella Fomumbod – Cameroon – Community



70% of Cameroonian women live by farming; though they produce more than 80% of the food, they own less than 2% of the land cultivated and derive a benefit of less than 5% of the income from the sales. To reduce these economic gaps, Anne Stella Fomumbod set up a series of innovative programs to help out the rural women by educating women on women's rights and to encourage them to re-examine traditional practices. This resulted in several village charters, including the "Metta charter on widowhood Jan 2010;" the first in the history of her country protecting women's rights to land ownership, personal income and RH vis a vis HIV/AIDS. Stella created a fund called "Rural Women's Empowerment Fund" which provides micro credit to buy farmlands, improve seeds and set up alternative income generating activities; trains women in modern agricultural skills for commercial farming and markets their produce. Through her organization "Interfaith Vision Foundation Cameroon" (IVFCam), Stella mobilized the most culturally marginalized women (young widows) and enabled them to be supported in transporting their goods from farm to market, positively impacting more than 3000 lives.

Ruth Stergiou – USA – Education



Ruth Stergiou is the CEO and Co-Founder of Invent Your Future Enterprises, specializing in creative programs that address the retention, development and acceleration of woman leaders. Ruth has produced educational conferences in the U.S. and international markets and has major conferences for businesswomen reaching more than 200,000 women. These conferences include the highly-acclaimed California Governor's Conference for Women; Professional Businesswomen of California Conferences; Grace Hopper Celebrations of Women in Computing; and Invent Your Future Conferences. She has produced several "Dare 2B Digital Conferences", a hands-on learning event for girls that encourage young women to look at careers using computing technologies. Just as pilots learn to fly using simulators, Ruth created the Business Simulation Challenge that lets business people simulate real life business decisions in a fun, realistic and safe environment. Ruth has been recognized for her achievements and

works hard to help develop and educate women to their full potential through conferences/training/webinars.

Charlotte Sweeney – UK – Corporate (Individual)



For well over a decade, Charlotte Sweeney has driven significant culture change in the Financial Sector to advance and empower women in business. Charlotte's leadership has come to fruition in the form of committees and initiatives with proven results that reduce bias, provide support for women executives with dependants and improve maternity leave programs. As the first diversity professional ever hired at Nomura International, Charlotte has saved over 100 business days for her colleagues with an initiative to provide emergency and permanent support for those with dependents. Her revised maternity leave programs include coaching before and after leave, health and well-being interventions, parental buddy support within the business, and educational seminars for parents which include infant first aid and support from a local hospital; this program, developed by Charlotte, has been recognized as the best support program in the UK. Charlotte has been lauded for her ground-breaking work, receiving the Champion of Women award from Women in Banking and Finance in June 2012. She is also a recipient of the 2012 TIAW World of Difference 100 Award.

Gulmira Temirbekova – Kyrgyzstan – Non-Profit/NGO



Gulmira Temirbekova designed and implemented several projects to support women, including one to develop the economic activity and sustainability of vulnerable women (widows, single mothers, low income) by introducing the so-called 'social enterprises' among them. These social enterprises are business entities with a social mission. The profit is not distributed among the members of organizations but is used for social and other goals that benefit women. Under the project, the women are trained on basics of business planning and accounting. Further women's groups that are registered as NGOs receive grants to start up their social enterprises, mainly in the field of agriculture. The social enterprises were created with the rotating fund, in which women who became economically independent were replaced by the needy ones. The project experience showed that increase in women's income had a positive effect on the local communities since the most of the income was spent on family needs, such as nutrition and health. Today these social enterprises are sustainable and among successful in local communities.

Nimia Teresa Vargas – Colombia – Non-Profit/NGO

Nimia Teresa Vargas-Colombia is an Afro-Colombian woman with a passion for community service. After volunteering to teach basic business and literacy skills to street vendors, she co-founded the RED Departamental de Mujeres Chocoanas, an

NGO aimed at the economic empowerment of women entrepreneurs and their organizations. It started with seven organizations and has grown to 52 NGOs and 16 independent female entrepreneur-affiliates. RED serves over 1,000 women from Chocó, a region subject to both legal and illegal armed groups. Violence against women and the violation of their economic, social, physical and cultural rights is prevalent. RED also works towards the political empowerment of women with the "School of Political Training for the Empowerment of Chocoan Women." Nimia's organization was awarded a grant by the Madeline Albright Foundation in 2010 for phase III of the program. Thanks to the RED's work, women in decision-making political positions in the region of Chocó went from 3% in 1997 to 19% in 2012.

Pham Thi Huan – Vietnam – Entrepreneurial

When the 2003 avian influenza epidemic threatened the existence Vietnamese farmers, many of them women, Pham Thi Huan (aka Mrs. Ba Huan) vowed to save the poultry industry and the livelihoods of countless women farmers and their families. Investing over 20 billion Vietnam Dong in an automated production line that produces 99.9% clean eggs, she advanced money for farmers to re-establish their flocks, using advanced breeding techniques and providing guaranteed consumption for the women and their farms. With this model, she has empowered thousands of women farmers and has boosted the economy of the country through her tireless efforts.

Silvia Torrez – Nicaragua – Community



Silvia Torrez has worked on rural issues since the 1980s when she helped create two of the current national rural organizations. In 2005, she led the creation of an integrated aid organization, solely comprised of rural women. In 2005, after leading an advocacy process to integrate women in the USA development program Millenium Challenge Account (MCA-N), she became Nicaragua Gender Director. During her tenure in MCA-N, the program achieved its goal to integrate 30% of female partners in the rural business project, and obtained 10% of female employment in road construction. Under her leadership, the project in Nicaragua won numerous awards and achieved "best practice" status for assuring that analysis of social gender differences and inequalities were fully integrated in all phases of the program.

Dr. Prakash Tyagi – India – Champion of Women's Economic Empowerment

Dr Prakash Tyagi is a medical doctor and Director of Gramin Vikas Vigyan Samiti – a not-for-profit organization based in India that has reached out to over 50,000 pastoral families across 850 villages in Rajasthan. In 2007, Prakash organized a vocational training program for women to nurture their skills development. In 2007, he launched a new venture 'Kriya', to develop leadership and income generation capacities of women

Self Help Groups (SHGs). The KRIYA project has supported women in the region to establish micro-businesses, and provided women SHGs with access to wider markets. Prakash has extended his influence by spearheading several developmental programs on livelihood security, health, and education. Under his dynamic leadership, GRAVIS has made significant efforts to bring women to the forefront of its various rural development interventions. USIEF strongly endorsed his nomination, as he is working tirelessly to provide livelihood options to the women in a region which lacks basic infrastructure in education, health care and economic opportunities. Prakash's innovative microfinance schemes have enabled women SHGs to undertake several activities, such as tailoring, handicrafts and food processing, empowering 13,000 women to become self-reliant through 1,100 SHGs.

Carmen Velasco – Peru – Non-Profit/NGO



Carmen Velasco is a major force in supporting poor women in Latin America through micro financing, business training, and healthcare support. Carmen co-founded Pro Mujer, an international organization dedicated to providing microfinance options and human development for impoverished women. Through her leadership and expertise, Pro Mujer has developed training programs in business development, empowerment and healthcare which have helped countless women and achieved a reputation for excellence across the globe. Carmen has served as Economy Director for Pro Mujer in Bolivia, been responsible for providing technical assistance to the organization's operations in Argentina, Mexico, Nicaragua and Peru, and currently serves on the Executive Committee of the Social Performance Task Force for the Microcredit Summit Campaign. Carmen's work has not only touched the lives of women all over Latin America, but has also drawn public attention to her cause in the media and with the Business Woman Award of the Veuve Clicquot economic development initiative in France.

Lutisha Vickerie – USA – Young Women Leaders, Under 25

At 25 years old, Lutisha Vickerie is an inspiring PhD student with a focus on Entrepreneurship and Global Affairs. She contributes to the economic empowerment of women through her support of and work with non-profit causes and organizations. In July 2011, Lutisha raised \$1,500 by organizing an art show that displayed her younger sister's artwork. One-third of the money was used to buy materials for the maternity ward in a Women's Clinic in Kumasi, Ghana and the rest of the funds are being used to buy start-up supplies for a select group of women from Ghana in an entrepreneurship program. Her greatest economic impact for women's rights will come this summer, when she will conduct research in Liberia for six weeks on female entrepreneurs. Lutisha's study will test whether NGO training in business education or in a business activity actually leads to women starting and maintaining their businesses over a specified period. In essence, this study will show whether foreign aid actually leads to economic empowerment for female recipients.

Vanita Viswanath – India – Non-Profit/NGO



Vanita Viswanath is the CEO of “Udyogini”, which in the Hindi Language means "woman in industry". Udyogini was a pioneer in microenterprise management training even before microfinance was common. A customized curriculum, visual-based training materials and a participatory delivery method has enabled several hundred thousand poor, illiterate women in India and several parts of the world to access business training in World-Bank financed projects that would normally be reserved for MBA classrooms. Some parts of the curriculum have now been co-branded with Intel and are being mainstreamed under the joint banner of Intel-Udyogini School of Entrepreneurship. Udyogini has selected a few products, such as lac (a resin and incense product) in which women could be involved in skilled operations for manufacturing, grading, sorting, pricing, and packaging for various market segments. Simple value additions have enabled Udyogini to create models for gender-inclusive value chains that have been replicated by other NGOs and their producers. A former executive with the World Bank, Vanita was recognized by Synergos Institute, USA as Senior Fellow in 2011 for her leadership.

Janna Wagner – USA – Non-Profit/NGO

When the USA reformed welfare, low-income women (especially single mothers) struggled to find both work and child care for their children. Believing that women shouldn't have to choose between economic survival and their children's well-being, Janna and Jessica Sager founded the non-profit All Our Kin. AOK provides resources and training women need to open their own home-based child care programs. A study conducted by the University of Connecticut confirmed that AOK's programs have significant effects on women's economic well-being. Nearly 60% of participants earned at least \$5,000 more the first year after participating in AOK's Licensing Project; over 45% earned at least \$10,000 more the second year. Graduates report an average wage of \$23,000; 10.4% more than the typical wage for industry counterparts. After completing the program, 55% of graduates were able to use their increased income to pay down debt, 42% had opened a savings account, and 31% had moved to a larger apartment or house. Moreover, by facilitating access to child care, the program makes it possible for parents, primarily mothers, to find and retain employment.

Barbara Williams – Canada – Corporate (Individual)



Barbara Williams is the kind of leader and champion of women that every corporation should have. As well as being an excellent role model for achievement in a challenging career arena, Barbara has ensured that other women's careers can flourish by being an extraordinary mentor to dozens of women. She has dedicated significant amounts of her personal time bringing her leadership skills to organizations whose mandate is the

economic empowerment of women through career development, including Women in Film and Television - Toronto and as a member of the board and Chair for two years, of Canadian Women in Communications. In addition to making connections between women herself, she has hosted events in her own home on behalf of a number of women's organizations. On top of all this, she frequently speaks on panels to other women to share her own career experiences and advice and was named Mentor of the Year by Canadian Women in Communications for her generous support of others. She is truly a champion of women's career and economic advancement.

Flutura Xhabija – Albania – Non-Profit/NGO



Flutura Xhabija is truly an inspiration as a woman who has spent over three decades advocating for better economic opportunities for Albanian women. Flutura has focused on strengthening women's business development and training support, leading to greater cross-border cooperation between Albanian women in the Balkan and European Regions. She is the President of a number of business organizations in her region where she is bolstering the economic empowerment and visibility of Albanian women and, in turn, their contribution in the economy. Her most recent accomplishment is the National Business Women Handicrafts Association, which transforms home-based craft businesses led by women into viable micro and small businesses. She has assisted members through business skills training, exhibitions, trade missions, conferences and a monthly newsletter she publishes. In 2008, she led a delegation of Albanian women handicraft entrepreneurs to Los Angeles to open new markets for the beautiful hand-woven and hand-embroidered handicrafts.

Dr Sakena Yacoobi – Afghanistan – Education



Dr. Sakena Yacoobi is the founder and executive director of the Afghan Institute of Learning (AIL), a NGO dedicated to training female Afghan teachers, supporting education for Afghan children, as well as providing health education for women and children. Realizing that education is the key to economically empowering women and girls, she founded AIL which has educated and trained over 9 million Afghans. Seventy per cent of those are females, including 3,000 girls in 80 home schools under the Taliban. In one year she increased the number of girls in refugee schools from 3,000 to 15,000. Along with literacy programs, AIL and Sakena have trained women in job skills so that more than 14,000 Afghan women have successful jobs or have opened their own businesses. Their holistic approach to economic empowerment includes human rights, women's rights, and peace education that provides a diversity of knowledge and new ways of thinking to take these women to the next step of self-reliance.