

Empowering Women Through Entrepreneurship



Patricia Foley Hinnen, Founding CEO
Capital Sisters International
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Empowering Women Through Entrepreneurship

An international network of women leaders can help create a more inclusive world economy where women's enterprises have a level playing field



Gender Bias Limits Women's Opportunities

- Societal preferences for males is deeply entrenched around the world
- More than 100 million females are "missing" due to gender selection and infanticide because *they are viewed as an economic liability*





The Global Poverty Crisis Disproportionately Affects Females

- Half of the world's 6 billion people live in poverty; **75% of the most destitute – those who live on \$1 a day - are female**
- 85% of the world's population lives in developing countries
- Most women in developing countries lack access to credit, and work in an unregulated, unprotected, underground economy called the "informal sector"
- Women are also largely responsible for the care of the children. In many countries, over 40% of the population is under 15 years old. **30,000** children under 5 die **each day** from preventable deaths



Financial Exclusion Marginalizes Women

- Females own less than **1%** of the world's private property, less than **1%** of the "means of production", and less than **10%** of the world's income
- In many countries, females are denied property, inheritance, and divorce rights, and they represent **2/3** of the world's illiterate
- Market failures and cultural practices discourage women's entrepreneurship
- Public policies and economic development initiatives can reverse these trends



What Can Women Leaders Do To Promote a More Inclusive World Economy?

Never in history have there been more opportunities for Women Leaders to step up and support women Entrepreneurs...by:

- ◆Promoting More Enabling Policies;
- ◆Sharing Best Practices; and
- ◆Supporting Women's Enterprises Around the World



What Can Women Leaders Do To Promote a More Inclusive World Economy?

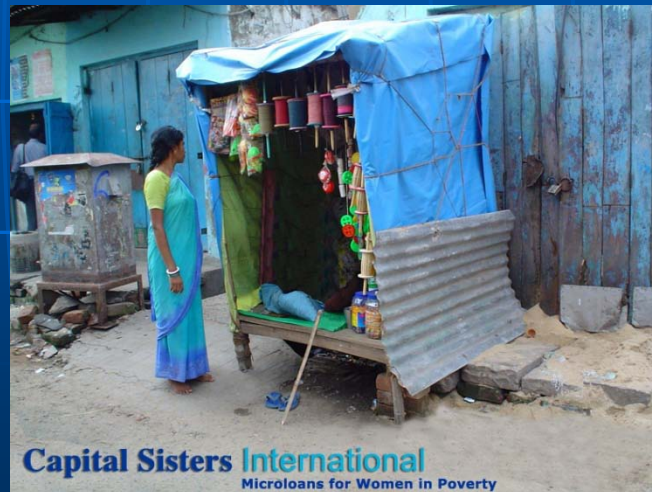
Examples from APEC experiences - I had the opportunity to:

- Help the Advisory Group on Gender Integration create the APEC Gender Focal Point Network
- Assist Mexico, the 2002 APEC Host economy, in establishing a Microenterprise Subgroup in the APEC SME Working Group
- Make recommendations in Statements to Ministers and Leaders
- Organize workshops on Microfinance Best Practices
- Promote poverty alleviation through Enterprise Solutions



Enterprise Solutions for Poverty Alleviation

The mission of *Capital Sisters International* is to raise funds for micro lending institutions that make tiny business loans to impoverished women in developing countries, and to advocate on behalf of the Microfinance Industry.



"Poor people stay poor, not because they are lazy
but because they lack access to capital."

Milton Friedman, Economist



Enterprise Solutions for Poverty Alleviation



Microfinance institutions extend micro loans, often less than \$200, and other financial services (such as savings), to very poor people for self-employment projects that generate income, allowing them to care for themselves and their families. (Microcredit Summit)

Women build their businesses, employ others, and repay their loans so that others can finance their businesses – creating sustainable village economies





Enterprise Solutions for Poverty Alleviation

Through the International Alliance for Women (TIAW), we have raised funds for 48 Village Bank Revolving Loan Funds in 6 APEC economies – giving thousands of impoverished women access to tiny business loans





TIAW VILLAGE BANK REVOLVING LOAN FUNDS IN THE APEC REGION



The International Alliance for Women
Connecting to make all the difference in the world.

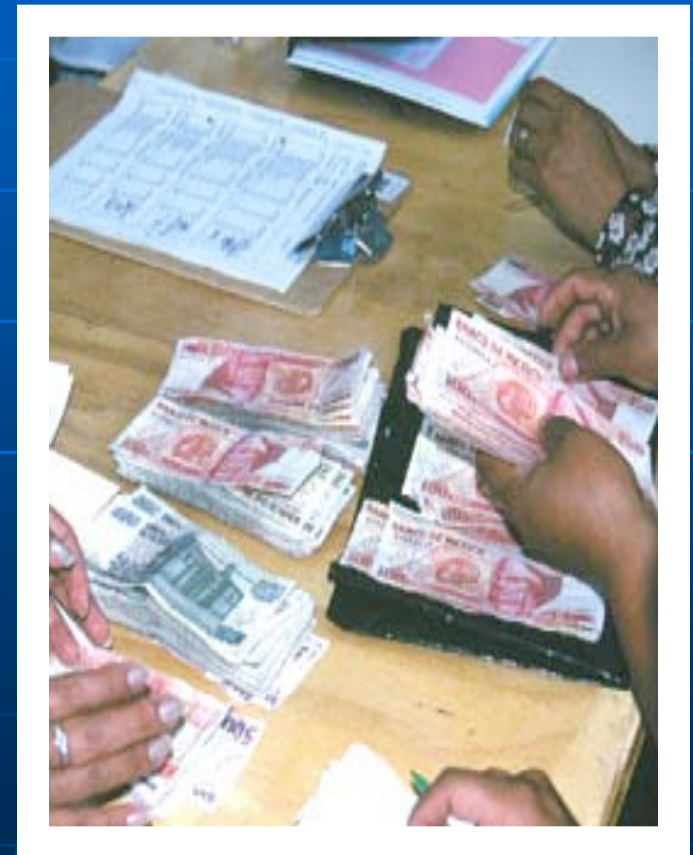
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	Mexico	Thailand	Philippines	Peru	Chile	Indonesia
2002	1					
2003	3	2				
2004			3			
2005					1	
2006	1	1		1		
2007	4		3			
2008	3	1	6	7		
2009	1	1	3			3
2010	1					2
Total	14	5	15	8	1	5
Total TIAW Village Banks in APEC Economies						48



Meeting Demand for Micro Loans

- Microfinance institutions are only reaching about 10% of the global demand for micro loans
- Predatory Moneylenders in the informal sector charge interest rates that are 3 to 5 times higher than commercial rates
- Giving impoverished women access to affordable credit for income generating activities allows them to provide for their families and live with dignity
- Adopting more enabling policies and practices leads to an Inclusive Financial Sector, and more prosperous communities





Best Practices in the Microfinance Industry APEC Microfinance Workshop - Singapore

Category:	Guiding Principles
Access to Finance	Expand access to appropriate financial services – customize products to take women’s needs into account (e.g., collateral substitution)
	Gender equality should be an integral criterion for donor and investor funding decisions along with requirements for sustainability
	Establish a gender baseline and collect sex disaggregated data to monitor regulations and practices - identify and eliminate gender based discrimination



Best Practices in the Microfinance Industry APEC Microfinance Workshop - Singapore

Category:	Guiding Principles
Business Development Services	Facilitate access to legal and other professional advice and training, market information, product design expertise, service centers, product pooling venues, communications technology, etc.



Best Practices in the Microfinance Industry APEC Microfinance Workshop - Singapore

Category:	Guiding Principles
Enabling Environment	Overcome the informality hurdle – recognize the importance of micro-enterprises to the private sector
	Remove access barriers faced by informal sector microenterprises, especially women-owned enterprises

Credits: USAID's Microenterprise Office, Development and Training Services (dTS), Women's World Banking, Capital Sisters International, and APEC WLN



Conclusion: What Role Can International Women's Networks Play in Advancing Women's Economic Prosperity?

- Collaborate across the public, private and NGO sectors to advance the status of women
- Educate policy makers and other leaders about the benefits of more inclusive development
- Increase the number of women in policy making positions
- Help shape more enabling public policies to improve women's access to financial services and market opportunities
- Expand access to micro loans and business development services



Women Leaders Drive Change for a Better World

Women leaders can advance economic prosperity for females much more powerfully if they *align with other women leaders* in organizations like the APEC Women Leaders Network and UNIFEM.

Women leaders can also be the voice for those who have no voice...creating a more inclusive world economy.





When Women Leaders Promote Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Development Everyone Wins!

