

PRE CONFERENCE

of the “Cairo International Women’s Conference”
Mena House Hotel, Cairo, Egypt, 27th April 2015

“Cross Cultural Understanding & Cooperation of Organizations”

S P E A K E R S



Dr. Amany Asfour, Egypt

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Dr. Amany Asfour is graduated from Faculty of Medicine – Cairo University and had her Master Degree & M.D. degree in Pediatrics. In her academic career she is a Lecturer of Pediatrics at the National Research Centre of Egypt. She joined the private sector since she was a student at the Faculty of Medicine. Within a few years she was also able to establish a company for Medical equipment with more than 30 brands of medical equipment. Her interests were not limited to establishing her private Business only but soon she realized the importance of creating an organization targeting Economic Women Empowerment & Youth Women Entrepreneurship Promotion. She established the Egyptian Business Women Association in 1995 with the objectives of promoting young generations of Women Entrepreneurs & giving guidance to women business owners of Small & Medium enterprises. From her belief that financial independence gives the Power of Choice & Voice, she directed her activities towards Economic Empowerment of Women. She stressed on equal opportunity for girls, youth and youth in science and technology and in building partnerships with their colleagues in Africa and all over the world. As Economic Empowerment of Women is a must for Economic Growth and development she has been advocating for women Empowerment on the African, Arab and Mediterranean regions. She founded BPW Egypt and established “The African Alliance for Women Empowerment”. Dr. Asfour was awarded from all over the world



Elizabeth Benham, USA

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Elizabeth “Liz” Benham is President of Enterprising and Professional Women USA (EPW-USA) an affiliate of IFBPW and Past President of BPW International 2008-2011. She is an appointed delegate of IFBPW to the United Nations in New York. She is Treasurer of CoNGO (2013-2017) and President of the Sel Group International, Inc (1988-present). Her outstanding achievements were acknowledged by the woman of the year award by BPW New York and with proclamations from the United States House of Representatives recorded in the 111th Congressional Record of Congress and from the Council of the City of New York.

Born and educated in South Africa, Liz Benham has a full and varied professional and business career. She has more than 20 years of import export, sales, marketing and management experience, competently serving customers which included major retailers and wholesalers like Home Depot and Georgia Pacific. While working in the industry and living in a beach home she recognized a need and became the inventor of a gadget called "the Footle" www.thefootle.com a hands-free attachment for a sliding screen door The tagline "instead of a Hand-le you now also have a Foot-le!" has been used to successfully market the product on the Web.



Elisa Guerra Campos, Brazil

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Chair Peace and Intercultural Understanding Taskforce of BPW International since 2005, - author of the project "Let us build together and see what we can make, - Past president of BPW Club São Paulo, Brazil (1998 and 2005-2006), - Speaker in several Peace workshop for private companies, Founder of the Center for Peace, CEPAZ, São Paulo, Brazil since 1996, - Author of the book "The dance of the peace in the music of life", 1998, -Producer and Presenter of TV show "Peace Planet", São Paulo, 2003-2005, - Speaker at the BPW International workshop "A World of Peace" parallel event during the 49th Commission on Status of Women, New York, 2004, Author of BPW Brazil campaign that has collected 50.000 signatures in support of the UNESCO Manifesto 2000, Decade for the Culture of Peace, 2001-2010 , - Presenter in Intercultural Understanding Workshops in Argentina, Chile, Brazil, Australia, Switzerland, Mexico, Finland.



Dr. Omnia Ahmed Fahmy, Egypt

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*Education Qualification: Qualification & Year Awarded:
B.S.C. Medicine and surgery – December 1987, M.S.C.
in Pediatrics – 1990*

*PhD in Pediatrics – 1995, Bucharest University
, Romania.*

Activities in Non Governmental Organizations:

- Vice President BPW-Egypt)
- Vice President Egyptian Business Women Association (EBWA)
- Vice President for North Africa of African Alliance for Women Empowerment
- Vice Chair Egyptian Romanian Business Council
- Vice Chair of Egyptian Society for Health Awareness



Ursula Funk, Switzerland

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Ursula Funk is a Swiss socio-cultural anthropologist and gender and development expert with specialization in African studies. She has a Master of Arts Degree from Stanford University, USA (1980), where she also completed most of the doctoral program. After field research in Bolivia and Guinea-Bissau, West Africa, she published on Market Women in Cochabamba, Bolivia and on Gender, Culture and Economic Issues in Guinea-Bissau. She taught as Acting Assistant Professor and Lecturer at Stanford University and the University of California, Santa Cruz. From 1982-1985, she acted as the Coordinator for the Swiss NGO Swissaid in Guinea-Bissau. From 1990 to March 2015, she worked for the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs. Among other she was in charge of the development programs supported by Switzerland in Mozambique and South Africa, from 1999 to 2005 Country Director of the Swiss Development Cooperation in Benin, as well as responsible for the diplomatic representation and consular affairs, from 2006 to 2010 Country Director with the same functions in Niger, from 2011 manager of the relations of Switzerland with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN- Women) as well as with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) including in the Executive Boards, oversight over the advancement of gender in the UN and the World Bank, and responsible for managing the Swiss support to global programs on ending violence against women, women's economic and political empowerment and gender responsive governance.



Dr. Anne Hilty, Hong Kong

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Anne Hilty, PhD, is a psychologist, writer, and the director of EastWest Psyche Ltd, a global consulting firm. From New York, she has lived abroad since 2005, in Hong Kong, South Korea, Spain and UK, and traveled in 40+ countries. Anne has written 4 books and 200+ articles on the matrifocal culture of Korea's Jeju Island, and has given multiple presentations on topics of cultural health psychology and intercultural competency skills; her clinical work is focused in the areas of expatriate integration and women's empowerment. Anne is a member of BPW International's New York City chapter and served as Congress & Program Coordinator for the 2014 BPW International Congress, with 100 speakers and a total of 800 attendees from 50+ countries. She is currently facilitating the establishment of a new.



Ibtisam Hussien Ben Amer, Libya

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*Born in Benghazi, Libya on November 27, 1949. Wife of Libyan Ambassador Moustafa Mahmoud Dreiza stationed in Tokyo and Manila. Very active in social work, volunteering and actively participating with the Down's Syndrome Society in Tripoli. One of the few early Libyan women in business. According to Forbes Magazine was listed as number 28 of the 50 strongest Arab businesswomen in 2006. Ran for the first Libyan elections to the National Congress in 2011. Active guide in the Libyan Scouts. Actively involved in international workshops and conferences such as: business and culture and mentoring in business. Speaks Arabic, English, and French. **Work experience:** Founder and member of Women in Business Committee 2012 – present; Board Member of Tripoli Chamber of Commerce 2010 –present; Member of Oya International Club (Chair 2005-07); Owner of Jeff de Bruges 2003-present; Member of International Ladies Club 1985-present. **Education:** B.A. English Literature: University of Philippines, Manila; Interior Design: Philippines School Interior Design (PSID); Ikebana Flower Arrangement, Philippines*



Susan Jones, Australia

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Susan Jones has been a business owner for thirty years and a director of several diverse Australian Companies with a background in economics, tax accounting and corporate governance. She is also an adjunct lecturer at the College of Law, teaching Trust Accounting and Practice Management to law firms. Susan has held directorships in both small business and the not-for-profit sectors, including the board of the Australian Council of Businesswomen, a government appointment. She has been a Trustee on CEDA, Committee for Economic Development of Australia and was nominated by the State Government for the Telstra Business Woman of the Year Award. In 2007 she was awarded the Jean Arnott Award in recognition of outstanding commitment and service to women through BPW.

Susan is currently the elected executive board member of BPW International representing Asia Pacific and is a Director of Project Five-O, a corporative organisation between five international women's organisations. She has been a member of BPW for twenty years.



Johanna Marius, Germany

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Intercultural Trainer, Member of the Board of BPW Germany. Johanna started out on the road to becoming an intercultural trainer with a translator/interpreter diploma. Originally from Munich, she lived in the USA, Italy and Western Samoa before finding her way back to Munich. She now owns an intercultural training institute and specializes in preparing her clients for working internationally and living abroad. She serves on the board of BPW Germany where she is responsible for leadership and lifelong learning programs. In this capacity and based on her experience as a successful entrepreneur, she gives support to women who wish to develop their leadership skills.



Daniela Rigassi, Switzerland

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Daniela Rigassi has a bachelor's degree in German, English and History and master's degree in economics. She worked for 2 years as a teacher at a grammar school, 10 years as an IT specialist (application development) for an insurance company and 17 years as a project and process manager - mainly for financial enterprises. Since 2010 she has been working as a project manager for an international printing and data management company. Since 2005 she is member of BPW Switzerland and acts as a delegate of the club on the national level. She is interested in the international activities of BPW.



Dr. Antoinette Rüegg, Switzerland

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Antoinette Rüegg attained a degree in Biology. For twenty years, she taught biology at a Grammar School and held the post of Head of the Biology Department. She used her skills to focus on learning behaviour and headed for 10 years the Committee 'Learning Behaviours and Working techniques' of the Swiss Office for In-service Training of Upper Secondary Teachers. In 1991 she established her own consultancy business. She made second studies in applied Psychology and specialized in Career Development, Leadership and Emotional Intelligence. From 1995 to 1999 she was elected President of 'Business & Professional Women Switzerland' and from 2002 to 2005 of 'Business and Professional Women International'. From 2007 – 2010 she conducted lectures on gender issues at the University of Fribourg, Switzerland.



Dahlia A. Salem, Egypt

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My name is Dahlia Salem; I am graduated from faculty of Economics and political Sci. Cairo Univ. I worked as a banker in Commercial international Bank then I got married, and I moved to Holland, Ethiopia and then South Korea. In Ethiopia, I worked as a volunteer in the UN Women's Assoc.; I also participated in several sessions of awareness for teenagers. I wrote an article under the title "Lack of Communication between Teenagers and their Parents" that published in the Newsletter of UN families on Dec.2002. I participated in cross-cultural debates with different nationalities in South Korea. I also participated in the 6th African Congress for Women Entrepreneurs organized by EBWA, in Apr. 2011, and then I wrote the conference report. I presented a session in the German School, in Cairo, under the theme "How to avoid Culture Shock" on Nov.2012. Currently I am a member of the Board of Directors of Diwan of Knowledge for Cultural Development Assoc.



Dr. Chonchanok Viravan, Thailand

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Dr. Chonchanok Viravan is past International President of BPW International (2005-2008) and President of Pathanasomdoon Company Limited. The company aims to train and coach younger generation to advance on international stage. Dr. Chonchanok received her Ph.D. in Computer Science from Purdue University, USA. She began her career as the Head of Software Lab at NECTEC, Ministry of Science and Technology. Later, she worked as Vice President of Bank of Asia on e-business and e-Partnership. During 1999-2009 when she served on BPW international's executive board, she enhanced BPW collaborations with United Nations, APEC, Global Summit of Women, Project 5-O and initiated BPW International's competition "Beyond 2000: Helping Women Help Themselves" (now called "BPW Power to Make a Difference). Dr. Chonchanok received Badge of Honor award from BPW International in 2014; Women who make a difference Award from Thailand Tatler Magazine in 2011 and many other awards in her career.