

## PRE CONFERENCE

of the “Cairo International Women’s Conference”  
Mena House Hotel, Cairo, Egypt, 25<sup>th</sup> April 2015

### “Cross Cultural Understanding & Strategies for the Development of Women’s 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 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. 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 As Economic Empowerment of Women is a must for Economic Growth and for 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. Since 2014 she is First Vice President of BPW International*



#### **Prof. Dr. Catherine Bosshart, Switzerland**

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*Catherine holds a PhD in History and German Philology. Since 1991 she has been teaching contemporary history at the University of Fribourg in different functions, since 2010 as an honorary professor. Her main field of interests are gender history, American and colonial history, history of the family and methodology of history. She is main Representative of BPW International at UN in Geneva since 2012 and since July 2015 she is Hon. Secretary of BPW International*



### **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



### **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.*



### **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.*