

MEDIA RELEASE

TCF Global CEO Carol Hanlon to attend Global Platform for Action on Sourcing from Women Vendors in Chongqing, China 27 – 29 September 2011

In response to the need to link buyers and sellers, the International Trade Centre (ITC), WEConnect International, the Chongqing Foreign Trade and Economic Relations Commission, the International Federation of Business and Professional Women (BPW), the International Women's Coffee Alliance, SPINNA and Quantum Leaps have organised the 2011 Women Vendors Exhibition and Forum. Carol Hanlon, CEO of TCF Global has been invited to attend in the important event in Chongqing, China.

There is an increasing demand for goods and services supplied by women business owners: Over 90% of Fortune 500 companies have a supplier diversity programme under which they actively seek to source from women. As sourcing is no longer local or national, this presents an enormous opportunity for women across the world, including in developing countries, to sell into global supply chains.

The Global Platform for Action on Sourcing from Women Vendors aims to increase the share of corporate, government and institutional procurement secured by women vendors for the ultimate purpose of bringing greater economic benefit to women and their communities.

45 multinational corporations have joined the Global Platform with the direct benefit of linkages to women business owners across multiple sectors and countries. Women's organisations including the International Federation of Business and Professional Women, have joined to link members to markets.

Signatories to the Global Platform commit to:

1. Create shared value by sourcing from women vendors that offer competitive products and services;
2. Promote the benefits of sourcing from women vendors, educating multinational corporations on the business case and return on investment;
3. Share knowledge on policies and practices to increase sourcing from women vendors;
4. Support, initiate or improve efforts to integrate women vendors into value chains; and
5. Report to the Platform for Action Steering Committee on activities and impact via an annual survey.

Carol Hanlon's diverse small business experience qualifies her well for the invitation to the event. In February and March this year, Carol was invited to present twice at the United Nations Commission Status of Women NGO Forums (UNCSW55). This was in regards to the micro enterprise development projects that she has developed including the TCF Global: Ormoc Village Sewing Project established in the Philippines. The TCF Ormoc project was recently awarded the BPW International 'Power to Make a Difference' Award at the International Congress, Helsinki Finland. Carol is a member of the Asia Pacific Committee for BPW International Inc and has an extensive network of non-profit community organisations that she assists globally as a volunteer.

In March 2011, Ms Hanlon was named as one of the Western Australia's top 100 women in the inaugural Women's Hall of Fame. The awards were part of the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day celebrations, and Carol was deemed 'Business Dreams Champion' and amongst the State's highest achieving women in their respective fields.

Carol Hanlon, CEO of TCF Global said, "It is an honour to be asked to showcase TCF Global at this upcoming forum, and I look forward to sharing our experiences of micro-business with representatives from other countries."

To find out more about TCF Global log onto www.tcfglobal.com or to find out more about the forum log onto www.intracen.org/womenandtrade

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