



GLOBAL BANKING
ALLIANCE FOR WOMEN
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GLOBAL BANKING ALLIANCE FOR WOMEN HOLDS 9TH ANNUAL SUMMIT IN SINGAPORE

Exchange of Best Practices to Support Women's Businesses in Current Global Economic Climate

Singapore, October 26, 2009 – The Global Banking Alliance for Women, the leading organization for financial institutions driving women's wealth creation worldwide, will convene its Ninth Annual Summit of senior banking executives here Wednesday.

Financial institutions from Asia, Africa, North America, Europe, and Australia will be represented at the industry's key exchange of best practices for profitably enabling growth among small and medium women-owned enterprises. At the heart of the discussions will be the challenges and dynamics of building sizeable and successful women's businesses within the current global economic environment.

"Women's businesses have proven time and again to be the engine for the economy," said Larke Riemer, Chair of the Global Banking Alliance for Women. "Yet today many are confronting an urgent need for liquidity and resources. That is why this Summit will be crucial for our financial institutions to share creative strategies for jump-starting and extending women's business growth."

Candid discussions of best practices are the hallmark of the Global Banking Alliance for Women, which links banks that have developed best practices to those who are aspiring to them – on the web, in face to face meetings, and at the annual Summit which is held in a different city each year.

The Ninth Annual Global Banking Alliance for Women Summit will take place at the Marina Mandarin Hotel in Singapore. Standard Chartered Bank is the Host Bank of this year's Summit.

Front-burner issues at the Summit include:

Crisis or Opportunity: the Financial Crisis and What it Means for Women will feature the Standard Chartered Bank Chief Financial Officer Joanna Fielding as moderator of a panel of experts from around the globe: Mary-Ellen Iskenderian, CEO of Women's World Banking; Amanda Ellis, Lead Specialist at the World Bank and a member of the Board of the Global Banking Alliance for Women; Larke Riemer, Head of Women's Markets Westpac Bank, Australia, and Theopista Ntale Sekitto, Head of Wholesale Banking DFCU Bank, Uganda.

Microfinance to Mainstream: Myth or Reality. While women's businesses have excellent track records in repaying microloans, have they been as successful in growth? The panel will explore how financial



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institutions can urge and support this expansion. Amanda Ellis will moderate a panel of experts including Mary Ellen Iskenderian; Mizinga Melu, CEO Zambia Standard Chartered; Dr. Victoria Kisyombe, Founder and CEO Selfina; and Mrs. S.M.J. Mwambenja, CEO EXIM Bank; and Chikako Kuno, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD).

Diversity and Inclusion: Getting it Right Internally before Marketing Externally. This session looks inward at financial institutions' ability to "walk the talk" and empower their own women's success through diversity and inclusion initiatives. Leading organizations will discuss when "equal" is "fair" rather than "the same," and their internal efforts to manage the difference. Moderated by Betty Wood, Global Banking Alliance for Women Treasurer and Corporate Secretary and Principal, W Consulting Group, the panel includes Niki Kesoglou, Head of Diversity Credit Suisse; Kari Reston, Head of Diversity Standard Chartered; Bianca Stringuini, Head of Diversity AMEX, and Ulla Florin, Head of Credit Nordea Bank.

On Thursday, the organization will present the finalists for the Global Banking Alliance for Women Innovation Award. The award will be presented at the Gala dinner that evening.

New Program Announcements

This year at the Summit, the organization will launch the latest generation of its strategic web-enabled social network with greater speed, efficiency and connectivity than ever before. Teri Cavanagh, Head of Strategy and Marketing at the Global Banking Alliance for Women and international gender and business strategist, will demonstrate how this member-to-member connection will extend the exchange of ideas and resources beyond the Summit and fuel business enhancement throughout the year. The system provides a robust repository of subject matter experts, databases, research and other vital resources.

The Global Banking Alliance for Women is also announcing a new mentoring program among its members. "This new program will deepen the level of collaboration that leads to creative new programs," Riemer added.

Zouera Youssoufou, Head of International Finance Corporation's Gender Program and a member of the board of the Global Banking Alliance for Women, will lead a discussion of future member benefits.

About the Global Banking Alliance for Women

Founded in 2000 on the belief that cooperation will lead to programs that benefit financial institutions and the women's businesses they serve, the Global Banking Alliance for Women provides vital access to capital, markets, education and training for small and medium sized women-owned businesses.

Its uniquely collaborative network enables members to accelerate the growth of women in business and create a cascade of prosperity to their families and communities.

"The impact of our collective success is an economic multiplier – more jobs and better education for children – that is especially profound in developing or underperforming economies," Riemer adds.



The result of this exchange of information, research and resources is that the Global Banking Alliance for Women elevates the quality of its members' programs and services, and the potential for success among the women's businesses enterprises receiving them. The organization also connects people, information and resources – including government agencies, NFPs, NGOs, university, research groups and the media. This benefits members and showcases the successes and needs for women-owned businesses on a global scale.

The Global Banking Alliance for Women engages an Advisory Board of experts and leaders in the realm of women entrepreneurship, to provide additional perspective to our members. Additionally, it has had the advice and support of the International Finance Corporation's Gender Entrepreneurship Markets Unit (a World Bank Group member company) since 2005.

The Global Banking Alliance for Women is a global nonprofit whose mission is to accelerate the growth of women in business and women's wealth creation, while generating superior business outcomes for member financial institutions. Through a uniquely collaborative network for exchanging best practices and research, members catalyze sustainable success among women's businesses by providing vital access to capital, markets, education and training. To learn more contact info@gbaforwomen.org or www.gbaforwomen.org.