

MEDIA RELEASE

Empowering Creative Rural Women Through Enterprise Development and Global Fashion Opportunities

During 2011, Ms Carol Hanlon, Member and past president of Belmont Business Professional Women (Belmont BPW), CEO of Belmont Business Enterprise Centre (Belmont BEC) and the Textile, Clothing, Footwear Resource Centre of WA (TCFWA & TCF GLOBAL) was invited to speak at two NGO events during the fifty-fifth session of the United Nations – Commission on the Status of Women in New York.

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is a functional commission of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), dedicated exclusively to gender equality and the advancement of women. It is the principal global policy-making body. Every year, representatives of Member States gather at United Nations Headquarters in New York to evaluate progress on gender equality, identify challenges, set global standards and formulate concrete policies to promote gender equality and the advancement of women worldwide. During these sessions many non-government organisations (NGO) also deliver presentations to the thousands of interested delegates that gather in New York during CSW.

This year, the organisations that Ms Hanlon represents above have been accepted to host their own Seminar as part of the NGO events held during the fifty-sixth session of the United Nations – Commission on the Status of Women. The topic will be **'Empowering Creative Rural Women Through Enterprise Development and Global Fashion Opportunities'**.

WORKSHOP: Empowering creative rural women through enterprise development and global fashion opportunities

Date: Friday 2nd March 2012

Time: 8.30am to 10.00am

Venue: 221 East 52nd St, NEW YORK. Venue has capacity for 250 attendees.

During the seminar tips on growing small businesses, community enterprise development and developing fashion incubators will be shared and case studies will be highlighted from fashion enterprise projects from Philippines, South Africa, Afghanistan, Nigeria, Cambodia, Tanzania and Pakistan.

The event will also officially launch the Business Professional Women Business Incubator project providing 'ONLINE' training and mentoring to develop business skills and business growth potential of women in homebased, micro small businesses operating globally. In addition, attendees will learn more about TCF Global sourcing missions to Hong Kong Fashion Week and India Trade Fairs (where some attendees may be eligible for sponsored accommodation and travel).

Carol Hanlon said, "It is a fantastic honour to be offered the opportunity to present a seminar as part of the fifty-sixth session of the United Nations – Commission on the Status of Women NGO events. The hour and a half seminar will provide attendees up to the minute information on global projects that are developing women's skills in micro and small business. I am especially excited to share information about the International Trade Centre (ITC) program 'Global Platform for action on Sourcing from Women Vendors' where women owned businesses in all countries have the opportunity to supply goods or services to Fortune 500 multinational corporations on an international basis."

Friday the 2nd of March is also Artisan Day at the United Nations – Commission on the Status of Women gathering in 2012. TCF Global will have a display table at the artisan fair from 3pm-7pm and will showcase works from TCF Ormoc, TCF Afghanistan, Cambodia, Africa and textile accessories from Indigenous Australians. This event will be held at 777 United Nations Plaza, NEW YORK.

For further information:

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About Participating Organisations

TCF GLOBAL

TCF Global is a non-profit community organisation assisting designers and fashion industry with business skills development, linkages in the global supply chain, trade and industry networks, coordinates village sewing projects and facilitates the International Fashion Incubator Network.
www.tcfglobal.com

BELMONT BEC

Belmont BEC is a non-profit community organisation providing training and mentoring support services to individuals to start or improve their small business and is a specialist in virtual business incubation.
www.belmontbec.com

BPW

The International Federation of Business and Professional Women known as BPW International develops the professional, business and leadership potential of women on all levels through advocacy, mentoring, networking, skill building and economic empowerment programs and projects around the world. BPW in 98 countries and holds General Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).
www.bpw-international.org
www.bpwaust.com.au/belmont



Belmont Business Enterprise Centre Inc.

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