



Press Release

for immediate publication

W.I.N. Leadership Forum 2007

730 WOMEN LEADERS FROM ALL CONTINENTS MET IN OSLO TO SHAPE THE FUTURE GUIDED BY A FEMININE VISION

Lausanne, Switzerland, 17 October 2007 - 730 women leaders converged on Oslo to be part of the 10th anniversary W.I.N. Global Leadership Forum. Participants hailed from over 70 countries, only 50 being Norwegians: business women, politicians, NGOs, intellectuals, artists, and entrepreneurs. Each came to be a part of a conference that has become a phenomenon in female leadership. "You don't have often the chance to be with such a big group of incredibly busy leaders to reflect on the future, exchange experiences, learn and put together action plans on how to take the next step," said the vice president of a well known American Bank. And a member of the Egyptian womens' association added: "Womens' power is incredible; the energy level in the plenary was extremely sophisticated. If we can bring this to our workplaces and spread it over the globe, we will not only have a more peaceful world, we will also become much more efficient."

The central theme of WIN 2007 was Taking the Next Step. "Our mission is to inspire new approaches to the future," Engvig observes, "to work with awareness of our responsibilities at a global, social, industrial and individual level, taking care to respect the people and the environment around us." More than 80 speakers and workshop leaders displayed a diversity as rich as the participants themselves. They included Liv Arnesen, Polar explorer and educator; Jeanette Huber, acclaimed futurist; Josephine Okot, Managing Director of Victoria Seeds Ltd founded by local women entrepreneurs in Uganda; Norwegian State Secretary Kjell Eric Oie; Margherita Agnelli, Founder and Vice President of Blue Orchard Asset Management; Jane Rivar, American singer and artist; Dr. Amany Asfour, President of the African Alliance for Women Empowerment; Zoreh Tabatabai, Director of Communication, ILO; Brigadier General Kristin Lund, Deputy Commander Norwegian Army Forces.

W.I.N. is the fruit of 10 years work by one woman, Kristin Engvig, a visionary social entrepreneur who has devoted the past decade to promoting positive, feminine, authentic values in leadership, corporate culture and entrepreneurship. Engvig set up WIN in Milan in 1998. Ten years after, the organization that she dreamed up at her kitchen table has come of age: a global phenomenon, with over 80 member associations, an impressive list of major corporate sponsors, business school support and media partners. The scholarship program was substantially developed this year and allowed free entry for 42 women from 23 countries, women who exemplify the potential to become leaders of tomorrow and learn how to best help their people, companies and countries grow. "The openness, the collaboration and the peace experienced among so many people from different cultures, countries, professions, and age groups gives hope. Let's internalize this feeling and make it the leitmotiv for everything we do." said a Swedish human resource director.

The concept of the forum has changed little since its inception a decade ago: day 1 focuses on global and social trends; day 2 on business trends; day 3 on personal growth topics. However, the event has come to maturity: topics are extremely developed, issues focus not only on women but on humanity and how authentic leadership can ensure a sustainable future. Business oriented sessions are complemented by a unique emphasis on individual life balance issues and well being; participants choose from mind and body exercise, personal coaching labs and areas preserved for reflection and quiet meditation.

Planning for the 2008 W.I.N. Forum has started. Scheduled for September, it will most likely take place in another European country.

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About W.I.N.

W.I.N. is an independent, European, mission-driven organization with a global impact. It is run by a team of professionals and supported by a large group of volunteers all inspired by playing a role in shaping the future. Yearly W.I.N. Forums were held in Milan (Italy) Lausanne and Geneva (Switzerland), Rome (Italy), and Oslo (Norway). Learn more at www.winconference.net