WEConnect International Day
Rebuilding Connections
22 June, 2020 | 6 am - 2 pm EDT

Program
@WEConnection #RebuildStrong
On behalf of the entire WEConnect International Team, I would like to thank you for your participation in our annual International Day. While I am disappointed that we all could not be together in person, I am excited that we are able to have even more of our women-owned businesses joining us from around the globe virtually.

As we gather together today – buyers, suppliers and strategic partners – I would like to call on all of us to step up for transformational change to rebuild global business for good as we emerge from the current pandemic crisis. We know that companies and governments proactively investing in supplier diversity and inclusion will reap major dividends, and that women-owned businesses are one of the most significant drivers of innovation and job growth in the world.

The current reality is that women continue to account for only about 1 percent of the global spend on products and services by corporations and governments. Women not only earn less than men but also are less likely to get access to capital for their businesses. When women gain access to finance and their sales increase, they invest in their communities, yielding measurable prosperity for all.

This is not only the right thing to do but is beneficial for corporate bottom lines and government policy. If all entrepreneurs had equal opportunities, including access to markets, global GDP could rise by as much as 6 percent, boosting the global economy by US$5 trillion.

During last year’s event, I mentioned the launch of the Council on Scaling Women-Owned Businesses. WEConnect International was proud to work with the Council to write and launch the new report, “How to Rebuild Global Business for Good,” recognizing that women business owners still face unnecessary barriers when trying to access both markets and capital. For women-owned small- and medium-sized enterprises to grow and scale, they need both to survive and thrive.

That’s why events such as this are so important for creating momentum. Today, WEConnect International has expanded our certification to 46 countries, with more being added each year. As of this June, we have more than 10,000 women business owners who have registered with us in 124 countries.

Our membership also continues to grow with more than 100 large member buyers seeking women suppliers globally. Their commitment to supplier diversity and inclusion has led to the increase of billions of dollars flowing into the hands of women worldwide since WEConnect International was launched 10 years ago.

WEConnect International recognizes that engaging women as business owners from the beginning to the end of global value chains is critical now more than ever, and the payback is worth trillions of dollars if we work together with commitment and urgency.

As businesses work to recover from the COVID-19 crisis and learn from the mass protests for justice and equality sweeping the globe, know that WEConnect International will continue to help lead the effort to rebuild the world’s economy for the betterment of all. Today is your day to help lead the change by teaching, learning, connecting and acting in support of inclusion!

Elizabeth A. Vazquez
CEO and Co-Founder, WEConnect International
I am honored to be attending this International Day as the Incoming President of WEConnect International.

I have been working for more than two decades at one of the largest corporations in the world, ExxonMobil, a WEConnect International member and sponsor of this event. My first introduction to the organization was on stage with Elizabeth at the Mexico Women’s Forum where I was impressed with its mission. I have spent my career in the corporate world as a global business leader, and I have a great appreciation for what it takes to drive change on a global scale. I have also worked informally with WEConnect International to help the organization better understand what motivates buyers and suppliers as well as define its unique position as a global leader in the supplier diversity and inclusion sphere. WEConnect International has a proven track record of success in identifying, educating, and training member buyers and women-owned businesses, and I want to help accelerate growth of the organization to meet strategic goals.

I am now stepping back from my corporate role to take on this exciting new opportunity within WEConnect International. What first attracted me to the organization is the strength of the brand and its core mission to put money into the hands of women, through promoting gender equality and inclusion in business. I want to use my deep expertise to help WEConnect International effect change to help both buyers and sellers scale their business and diversity and inclusion efforts.

This is a pivotal moment in the history of the organization as we begin our second decade of operation. I bring an understanding of how to scale a business to improve women’s economic empowerment while understanding the challenges to promoting inclusive sourcing in a corporate business environment. I also have personal experience in crafting the business case to encourage the buying population to join forces with us.

I understand the needs of women-owned businesses trying to scale their work and what it takes to improve their chances of success. I have spent years coaching and mentoring female leaders to make a difference in business. Together, we can join forces to promote the value and opportunity of certification while building and strengthening this community.

Looking towards the future, we all must work to “Rebuild Strong” following the challenge of the current pandemic. WEConnect International holds tremendous promise given the strength of its team and its proven track record, value proposition and strong brand position.

All of us attending International Day have the underlying goal of making women-owned businesses more successful. We are passionate about matching buyers to sellers in our global marketplace. This is just good business, and we can prove it!

But we can’t do it alone. Please encourage other potential members and women-owned businesses to join in our mission. With your help and influence, together we can change the world!

Rebecca Pearson
Incoming President, WEConnect International
THANK YOU!

ExxonMobil

we-fi

WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS FINANCE INITIATIVE

ups

Dell

IBM

Marriott International

JP Morgan Chase & Co.

Johnson & Johnson
When you invest in her, the returns can change the world.

Studies show that when women have more control over their income, they invest in the education and well-being of their families and communities. That’s why ExxonMobil supports programs proven to help women develop skills in leadership and entrepreneurship. Because when women have more access to economic opportunities, communities are stronger.

ExxonMobil
Energy lives here
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<td>6:00 - 7:00 am</td>
<td><strong>International Salon</strong>&lt;br&gt;Open attendance. Select Europe, Americas, Africa, or Asia Pacific region</td>
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<td>7:00 - 8:30 am</td>
<td><strong>Connecting with Corporations (Sponsored by UPS)</strong></td>
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<td>8:30 - 8:40 am</td>
<td><strong>Technology Break</strong></td>
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<td>8:40 - 8:50 am</td>
<td><strong>Welcome</strong>&lt;br&gt;• Elizabeth A. Vazquez, CEO and Co-Founder, WEConnect International</td>
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<td>8:50 - 9:05 am</td>
<td><strong>Keynote: A Vision of Rebuilding Global Business for Good</strong>&lt;br&gt;• Arlene Isaacs-Lowe, President, Global Head of CSR, Moody’s Corporation and President, The Moody’s Foundation</td>
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<td>9:05 - 9:35 am</td>
<td><strong>International Salon</strong>&lt;br&gt;Open attendance. Select Europe, Americas, Africa, or Asia Pacific region</td>
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<td>9:35 - 10:20 am</td>
<td><strong>WOMEN-TO-WOMEN: LIGHTNING TALKS</strong>&lt;br&gt;&lt;ul&gt;&lt;li&gt;• Staying in the Game while on a Rollercoaster&lt;br&gt;Michelle Booyesen, Group President, Petanque NXT Africa (South Africa)&lt;/li&gt;&lt;li&gt;• Ditching Superwoman&lt;br&gt;Cath Daley, Founder, Cath Daley Ltd (UK)&lt;/li&gt;&lt;li&gt;• The Dreaming Factory&lt;br&gt;Mayuko Horiuchi, CEO, Sensyo Ltd. Co. (Japan)&lt;/li&gt;&lt;li&gt;• Fall in Love with Your Business Again!&lt;br&gt;Catherine Stone, Founder, Crybaby Productions (Australia)&lt;/li&gt;&lt;li&gt;• Niching Towards Super-Niching&lt;br&gt;Chala Dincoy, CEO, The Repositioning Expert (Canada)&lt;/li&gt;&lt;li&gt;• Creating the Future with Exponential Technologies&lt;br&gt;Paola Di Lernia, Founder, Agencia Clepsidra (Argentina)&lt;/li&gt;&lt;li&gt;• In an Uncertain World, Riff On Your Purpose&lt;br&gt;Fiona Blades, CEO, MESH Experience (UK/US)&lt;/li&gt;&lt;li&gt;• Lockdown Lowdown: From Nice to Have to Need to Have&lt;br&gt;Teni Majekodunmi, Founder, Eclectic Chique (Nigeria)&lt;/li&gt;&lt;/ul&gt;</td>
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<td>10:15 - 10:30 am</td>
<td><strong>Technology Break</strong></td>
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<td>Corporate Member Track (All attendees welcome)</td>
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| 10:30 - 11:00 am | Business Continuity Plan - Best Practices, Supporting the Women Business Community During COVID-19  
• Michael Robinson, Program Director, Global Supplier Diversity, IBM  
• Selina McCole, Executive Director, Services, Goldman Sachs                                                                                                                                  | WEConnection Success Stories from Certified Women-Owned Businesses  
• Liz Axten Fjaer-Unneland, Business Development Director, KTS (UK)  
• Maggie Mildare, Owner, Consultoría Informática y Actuarial (Mexico)  
• Helena Chavarría Saxe, President, Premio DMC (Costa Rica)                                                                                                                                   |
| 11:00 - 11:30 am | How to Rebuild Global Business for Good - Exploring the Linkages Between Access to Markets and Access to Capital  
• Chantal Pitre, CPA, CA, National Manager, Women Entrepreneurs - TD Bank  
• Yvonne Greeves, Director Women in Business, RBS  
• Arlene Isaacs-Lowe, President, Global Head of CSR, Moody’s Corporation and President, The Moody’s Foundation                                                                                   | Top Tips for Pitching Your Business to Large Corporations  
• Andrea Fimian, EMEA Supplier Diversity Program Manager, IBM                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 11:30 - 12:00 pm | Global Tier 2 Development and Supplier Engagement  
• Megan Stowe, Europe, Middle East & Africa (EMEA) Strategic Sourcing Director Corporate Strategic Procurement, Intel                                                                                                                                  | EY 7 Drivers of Growth  
• Isabella Martorina, EMEA Growth Markets Business Development Activation Leader, EY                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 12:00 - 12:30 pm | Women Business Perspectives and Challenges in Today’s Climate  
• Gill Thorpe, CEO, The Sourcing Team                                                                                                                                                                                                                | How to do Business with the United Nations  
• Natalia Nedel, Chief, Enabling and Outreach Service Office of Supply Chain Management Department of Operational Support, UN                                                                                                                                 |
| 12:30 - 12:45 pm | Closing Keynote: Rebuilding Value Chains with Inclusive Sourcing  
• Pamela Prince-Eason, President and CEO, Women's Business Enterprise National Council (WBENC)                                                                                                                                                  |
| 12:45 - 1:00 pm | Technology Break                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 1:00 - 2:00 pm | Connecting with Corporations                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
As the CEO of Soft Stuff Distributors, Lois Gamerman not only supplies our properties around the country with the catering and specialty food items our guests crave, but as a woman-owned business, she also offers her unique perspective to promote positive outcomes for us all.

By partnering with diverse suppliers like Lois, we bring innovation and new ideas together—and that benefits us all.

Congratulations to WEConnect International on ten years of championing women’s empowerment across the globe!

We’re in this together

In today’s challenging times, small and diverse businesses are more vital than ever to keep commerce moving and meet people’s needs. Thanks for all that you are doing. We are proud to work with you.

ups.com/supplierdiversity
LIZ AXTEN FJAER-UNNELAND  
**Business Development Director, KTS**

As Business Development Director at KTS, Liz leads the agency’s new client activity and pitch processes.

With 17 years’ events industry experience Liz has designed and managed a vast array of event related projects for global brands throughout the technology, luxury, automotive and financial services sectors, to name but a few.

Liz also leads KTS’ active presence within the WEConnect International community and a variety of other external networks as the business continues to expand and diversify. KTS passionately produces conferences, exhibitions, incentives, celebrations, product launches and hospitality events for corporate clients. From initial venue find through to the creative and technical production, they offer a full-service approach to event management.

FIONA BLADES  
**CEO, MESH Experience**

Following a marketing and advertising career, Fiona set up MESH Experience in 2006 to fill a gap in data and analytics. Brand growth is driven by all experiences people have with brands, yet half or more typically go unmeasured.

By taking an Experience Driven Marketing approach and capturing how people come into contact with brands in real time MESH helps clients, like LG Electronics, to take quicker and smarter decisions about their investment.

Fiona leads the Women in Research (WIRE) New York networking event and was honored that MESH won the Delta Air Lines women-owned business of the year, 2017.
Michélle Booysen
Group President, Pétanque NXT Africa
Michélle describes herself as a solutions designer, focusing on making matters practical in life and in digital transformation journeys. From this baseline she enjoys working with the Pétanque NXT Team to bring smart tech to processes, resulting in clarity, efficiency, and reduced waste.

With substantial experience in strategy and business road-mapping, process optimization and implementation, she enjoys simplifying complicated business matters for role players by creating award-winning storyboards.

She holds a law degree and a PhD in Economics, is based in Cape Town, South Africa and is the co-founder and Group President of Pétanque NXT with offices in South Africa and Europe.

Helena Chavarría Saxe
President, Premio DMC
Helena Chavarría always had an entrepreneurial spirit, which led her to start Camino Travel while studying Business Administration in 1991. Since then, she has grown Camino Travel from a one-person operation into a respected leader in the industry in Costa Rica. They have expanded into Camino Group, a synergistic group of companies encompassing an incoming tour operator, a destination management company, and a specialist in team building activities, corporate social responsibility, and interactive business games.

All of the companies share her passion for Costa Rica and a strong desire for excellence. They provide innovative products and superior service to a client base primarily from North America and Europe. As a leader in sustainable tourism, they hold the highest-level designation under the Certification in Sustainable Tourism Program of the Costa Rican Tourism Institute. They are also members of the National Chamber of Tourism, the Costa Rican National Tour Operator Association, Costa Rica Convention Bureau, LATA, SITE, Euromic, and they are the exclusively-licensed partner of Catalyst Global for Costa Rica and Panama.
Paola Di Lernia
Founder, Agencia Clepsidra
Paola Di Lernia runs Clepsidra Agency, a Google and Hubspot Partner digital marketing company.

In 2015, she participated in a design thinking program about the possibilities in digital, with Hyper Island, Stockholm’s renowned digital innovation school, that took place at Google’s offices in Buenos Aires.

In 2015 and 2016, she was invited to Google in Silicon Valley, and Singularity University, where she was hand in hand with those who are building the future of the digital world. Paola has also been a professor at the University of Buenos Aires, Argentina, for more than 20 years.

She is very curious about new technologies, artificial intelligence and design thinking, and how all of this will challenge our thinking about digital and to create our own future. She thinks that in an era of exponential technologies and in which entire populations begin to gain access to information, a new model for creating the future needs to be applied to countries and companies around the world.

Cath Daley
Founder, Cath Daley Ltd
A highly sought after Transformational Women’s Leadership Coach, Speaker, Trainer, Mentor and Author, Cath is passionate about helping women to move from surviving to thriving to become the extraordinary leaders who can make a bigger difference in the world.

Her innovative Lead Like a Woman™ and Speak Like a Woman™ programs are specifically designed for women who are serious about realizing their untapped potential and who want to reach a much higher level of fulfillment both personally and in their business.

Her global clients, across a variety of sectors, range from Senior Leaders and CEOs to Business Owners and Entrepreneurs.
CHALA DINCOY
CEO, The Repositioning Expert

Chala Dincoy is the CEO and Founder of The Repositioning Expert (a division of Coachtactics).

She is a Marketing Strategist who helps B2B service providers reposition their marketing message to successfully sell to corporate clients. In her former life, Chala was an award-winning marketer at companies such as Pepsi, Pizza Hut, Frito Lay, Diageo, Playtex and BIC Inc for 18 years.

Now she’s a successful entrepreneur, and the author of 4 books including Gentle Marketing: A Gentle Way to Attract Loads of Clients. Chala is also an expert featured on major television networks such as ABC, NBC, CBS, Fox, as well as a frequent speaker at Nasdaq, Harvard Club of Boston and International Business Conferences.

ANDREA FIMIAN
EMEA Supplier Diversity Program Manager, IBM

An engaged supplier diversity leader, located in Zurich, Switzerland, Andrea Fimian has run the supplier diversity program for Europe, Middle East and Africa for IBM since the beginning of 2015.

She is driven by spreading the word about supplier diversity in European countries where this topic is rarely known, by showing the impact supplier diversity has to the economy, for corporations and diverse owned businesses.

In 2017 IBM won the European Diversity Award for their global supplier diversity programme and Andrea won the first prize at the IT Female Awards 2019 in the category Outstanding Diversity Commitment presented by the Women IT Network organization in 2019.
Mayuko Horiuchi  
CEO, Sensyo Ltd. Co.

Sensyo Co. was established in 1932 as a third-generation plating factory. In 2011, Mayuko Horichi took over the business.

After paying off 1.2 billion in debt, the company made capital investments and developed human resources to build three plants in nine years, focusing on promoting women in manufacturing companies. Mayuko was the first female board member in the 100th anniversary of the Osaka Plating Industry Association.

She then became the president of the Women’s Section of the National Federation of Plating Industry Associations and is a member of the Osaka City Council for Small and Medium Enterprises and the Central Minimum Wage Council, Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare.

Yvonne Greeves  
Director Women in Business, RBS

As National Women in Business Manager for NatWest, The Royal Bank of Scotland & Ulster Bank, Yvonne is responsible for designing and implementing the Women in Business Strategy working with key stakeholders both internally and externally across the UK.

With over 450 WIB specialists across the country she is also responsible for supporting this network to collaborate, build relationships and influence senior stakeholders, strategic partners and external organizations across the UK to drive the WIB proposition for the bank.

Yvonne’s passion is to champion female led businesses and is a member of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Women in Work at Westminster and the Cross-Party Group for Women in Enterprise at the Scottish Parliament. In addition, Yvonne is a member of the Women & Girls Sports Advisory Board and the Women in Enterprise Advisory Council for the Scottish Government.
Teni Majekodunmi
Founder, Eclectic Chique

Teni Majekodunmi is an International Trade lawyer and founder of Eclectic Chique, an African-inspired accessories brand that trains and supports female and male artisans in Nigeria to produce high quality exportable products to eight countries.

Eclectic Chique has a flagship store in Lagos, Nigeria, and a production hub in the UK and the United States. She obtained a Bachelor's degree and a Master’s degree from the University of Warwick, UK. As a lawyer, she trained and practiced for several years and has written several articles on legal issues relating to international trade negotiations, climate change, carbon credits, and climate finance.

Teni is a member of the Nigerian Bar Association, a US State Department Alumnus under the President Obama’s Young African Leaders Initiative, and a Cherie Blair Institute for Women & a World Bank Scholar. She serves on the Trade & Impact Advisory Board. She mentors youths and potential leaders and is a motivational speaker. She has a weekly column in 2 national newspapers in Nigeria.
INVESTING IN WOMEN’S SUCCESS

Through our supplier diversity program we open new opportunities for women business owners, creating a positive impact on the communities we serve together. We are proud to support WEConnect International.

JPMorgan Chase & Co.

jpmorganchase.com/supplierdiversity

Welcoming Women-Owned Businesses to the Johnson & Johnson Family of Companies where:

Together, Making a World of Difference.

Our legacy and commitment to our diverse suppliers aligns with our Credo responsibility to the communities in which we live and work. We believe in the power of inclusion to deliver innovative products and services, that support our mission of caring for the world, one person at a time.
Selina McCole
Executive Director, Services, Goldman Sachs
Selina McCole is the Head of Goldman Sachs’ Sustainable Supply Chain Program, which focuses on driving a responsible and inclusive global supply chain.

Selina had Environmental, Social, Governance (ESG) and Vendor Diversity responsibility for the firm’s new headquarters in London, Plumtree Court, which opened in 2019, where she oversaw delivery of the firm’s commitments to the City of London to prioritize spend with local and small businesses and hiring apprentices and local workers.

Selina’s background is in procurement and supply chain. She joined the Goldman Sachs EMEA procurement team in 2005 and has since held a variety of roles, including planning operational services for Bengaluru and London campuses, before taking on her current position at the end of 2016. She was responsible for the publication of the firm’s first Vendor Code of Conduct, creating the strategy for the global Vendor Diversity Program and embedding ESG requirements for the firm’s supply chain into procurement and vendor management processes.

Isabella Martorina
EMEA Growth Markets Business Development Activation Leader, EY
Isabella Martorina is the EY Growth Markets Business Development Leader for Europe, the Middle East, India and Africa.

She focuses on supporting ambitious middle market and private companies to realize their full potential through EY’s bespoke programs for entrepreneurs, including the EY 7 Drivers of Growth framework which helps leaders to think differently about their businesses, and successfully deliver their growth strategy.

Born and educated in Milan, and now based in Paris, Isabella is also a passionate advocate of the ‘EY Women. Fast forward’ program. She ran the EY Winning Women program in Italy for many years, served as a member of the 30% Club Italy steering committee, and raised the profile of EY’s Diversity & Inclusiveness activity among key stakeholders and public institutions.
MAGGIE MILDARE
Owner, Consultoría Informática y Actuarial
Maggie Mildare studied Actuarial Sciences in Universidad Anahuac in Mexico City.

Being passionate about technology, she founded Consultoría Informática y Actuarial in 1993.

She credits her WEConnect International certification to helping her business take a huge leap in 2016. The company currently supplies to Accenture, AT&T, Dupont, and SAP.

NATALIA NEDEL
Chief, Enabling and Outreach Service Office of Supply Chain Management Department of Operational Support, UN
Natalia Nedel is the Chief, Enabling and Outreach Service of the United Nations Office of Supply Chain Management based in New York.

Prior to her current role, she has held several positions with the United Nations Procurement Division including as Chief Corporate Procurement Section and Chief Peacekeeping Procurement Section.

Before joining the United Nations, Natalia held various jobs in the construction industry in different procurement and financial roles. She also worked in Ernst & Young as a Human Capital account manager. Natalia is a Certified Public Accountant and holds a degree Business Administration.
Pamela Prince-Eason
President and CEO, Women's Business Enterprise National Council (WBENC)

Pamela Prince-Eason assumed her current role in 2011 after holding the position of Vice President of worldwide Procurement for Pfizer Inc.

In 2014 Pamela was appointed to the National Women’s Business Council (NWBC), a non-partisan federal advisory council who advises the President, Congress, and the U.S. Small Business Administration on economic issues of importance to women business owners. Pamela’s dedication to women’s business leadership is illustrated in her many professional and personal roles advancing women’s excellence and opportunity.

She serves on the advisory committees of several Corporations including the Ernst & Young Entrepreneurial Winning Women Program, the Dell Women’s Entrepreneur Network, Walmart’s Women Owned Business Advisory Council, Shell Diversity & Inclusion Collaboration Partners, Macy’s Supplier Diversity Advisory Council, as well as the Coca-Cola Company’s 5by20 initiative.

CHANTAL PITRE
CPA, CA, National Manager, Women Entrepreneurs, TD Bank

Chantal holds a CA and CPA designation and has truly grown her financial acumen and ability to get things done.

She started her career in finance in 2009 at Ernst & Young, after several years working in marketing. She then became a Senior Account Manager where she demonstrated her expertise in business development, with a focus on entrepreneurship through finding solutions and building their networks, all with the goal of successfully growing their businesses.

She is focused on empowering and connecting individuals and teams, to help unlocking the potential of those around me. She worked many places in North America which gives her a broad comprehension of business. She now leads the development and execution of women entrepreneur strategy across Canada for TD.
Catherine Stone
Founder, Crybaby Productions
Catherine has had a long and varied career. Starting as creative at Publicis Mojo, a journalist at a national Australian public network, she launched a national Indigenous news network and had a successful four-year career as a producer at MTV.

Her highlights have been EP’ing the 2014 Sydney New Year’s Eve online broadcast, achieving a total of 38 million viewers overnight and developing the successful MTV Style with Ruby Rose – a sponsor-driven series that established Ruby’s career. Catherine has now founded creative content agency Crybaby.

Crybaby produces unique and engaging premium content specialising in the craft of video, stills and digital expertise. They’re all about making BIG ideas on a budget whether it’s executing a prescriptive brief or coming up with an idea that’s bang on brand. In the last few months, they’ve produced digital and cross-platform campaigns for brands like Microsoft, Giorgio Armani, L’Oreal Group and Estee Lauder.

Michael K. Robinson
Program Director, Global Supplier Diversity, IBM
Michael is responsible for leading IBM’s supplier diversity initiatives worldwide.

In this role Michael, and his team, focus on the utilization, development and mentoring of diverse suppliers who can provide value-add to IBM’s Supply Chain. Michael’s team is also responsible for IBM’s Supplier Connection initiative which provides small businesses access to large corporations.

Under Michael’s leadership, IBM has spent in excess of $2Billion, 1st Tier, annually worldwide with diverse enterprises since 2006 and in excess of $1B, 1st Tier, annually with diverse enterprises in the U.S. since 2000.

He attended the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta, Georgia; received his BS from Cheyney University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and his MBA from Atlanta University, Atlanta, Georgia.
Megan Stowe

Europe, Middle East & Africa (EMEA)
Strategic Sourcing Director Corporate Strategic Procurement, Intel

Megan has been at Intel for 23 years working in Australia, Hong Kong, Singapore and the UK.

She has predominantly held global positions, setting global procurement and supply chain sustainability strategies, performance metrics, and managing global teams. She has worked and lived in Asia Pacific and EMEA.

Currently, she looks across the indirect services/procurement supply chain working with the different verticals (sales & marketing, HR, travel, IT, Logistics, facilities etc.) within the EMEA region, implementing global strategies locally and driving local strategies where needed. In addition to this, she manages the International Supplier Diversity & Inclusion Program, which has a key focus on women and minority-owned business in the supply chain.

Megan is Irish/Australian/South African by nationality and grew up in Africa. She graduated from the University of Cape Town, South Africa with a MD Psychiatry/Sports medicine.

Gill Thorpe

CEO, The Sourcing Team

Gill has a 30-year buying experience, gaining her Chartered status through The Chartered Institute of Procurement & Supply (CIPS).

Having launched The Sourcing Team in 1996 designing and creating marketing materials that bring brands to life, Gill developed a passion for ethical and sustainable purchasing and diversity in the supply chain. She has been at the forefront of driving change to develop more sustainable procurement practices to protect both people and planet. She works with like-minded clients to help them on their sustainability journey and collaboratively with suppliers and factories to help them improve human rights and build more sustainable supply chains through best practice and innovation.

Gill has also been a strong advocate for gender diversity. She is a supporter of WEConnect International in Europe which led Gill to set up and Chair the WBE (Woman’s Business Council) in the UK since 2015, helping to build a fantastic, collaborative group of women-owned businesses and bring content, thought leadership, and practical advice through events.
ELIZABETH A. VAZQUEZ
CEO and Co-Founder, WEConnect International

Elizabeth a world leader in women’s economic empowerment and global supplier diversity and inclusion.

She is the co-author of the book, “Buying for Impact: How to Buy from Women and Change Our World.” She sits on the Walmart Global Women’s Economic Empowerment Initiative’s International Advisory Council, the Procter & Gamble Supplier Diversity Advisory Council, the Global Citizen and CHIME FOR CHANGE Girls’ and Women’s Committee, is a Cartier Women’s Initiative Awards Jury Member for North America, and a W20 and B20 Representative to advance G20 commitments.

She also served as a member of the UN Secretary-General’s High-Level Panel on Women’s Economic Empowerment with the heads of the UN, the World Bank, the IFM, IKEA Switzerland, the President of Costa Rica and other distinguished world leaders. Elizabeth was born in Mexico, has a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Arizona State University, and a Master of Arts in Law and Diplomacy from the Fletcher School.