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UN Global Compact Initiative

Communications on Progress – 2004

The Women's Business Council Philippines, a policy advocacy group, is a signatory to the UN Global Compact Initiative, which was formalized in the Philippines during the 23rd National Conference and Exhibition of Employers in May 2002. This signifies WBCP's strong commitment to uphold the internationally accepted nine principles in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (including women and children); the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development. We also endorse the 10th Principle of Anti-Corruption.

As a tool in its advocacy role, and for the WBCP to articulate its vision, mission, code of ethics and platform for action, a Business Credo was crafted by the undersigned, and was approved by WBCP members in June 2004. It enshrines principles of the Global Compact Initiative and exalts the highest essential purpose of women in business: Entrepreneurship with Dignity.

The WBCP shall continue its practice of Corporate Social Responsibility and shall promote the concept of Business Beyond Profit among its members. We shall also do our share in strengthening the commitment of our members who are signatories of the GCI by way of reminders to accomplish their COPs.

WBCP Business Credo

"We, the members of the Women's Business Council Philippines, Inc., affirm our mission to be a positive influence in business in the country, to be the voice of the Filipino women in business, and to be a major force in global networking.

We pledge to proactively engage government and the private sector to address the concerns of women in business and to integrate the gender perspectives in their respective agenda. We promise to promote initiatives and programs that will allow women to dynamically and meaningfully participate in business as entrepreneurs and executives, employees and workers.

We are committed to reshape globalization in ways that women can organize to enter, challenge and transform the global market through our alliances with other business groups, especially women-owned, women-led, and women-managed businesses all over the world . We advocate for international and domestic fair trade, not unrestricted free trade, for a level playing field among economies and the country with due consideration for the needs of the marginalized sectors of any economy, especially women in business, micro-enterprises and SMEs, through mechanisms such as safety nets and capacity-building measures to make these enterprises viable, competitive and of world-class standard.

In the course of doing our business, we will uphold women's human rights to eliminate gender inequality, we will be guided by the principle of economic justice; and we will advance the empowerment of women in business. We will promote among ourselves good corporate governance "to achieve our respective business' vision, mission and operational goals with Fairness, Accountability and Transparency." We believe that corporate social responsibility is a "continuing commitment by business to behave ethically and contribute to economic development while improving the quality of life of the workforce and their families as well as the local community and society at large."

In view of this, we will work for positive "triple bottom lines" which include not only that which is financial in nature but also those that are environmental and societal in character.

With God's help. our whole-hearted determination and the continuing support, encouragement and action plan/programs/initiatives of our organization, the Women's Business Council Philippines, Inc., we will embody this set of beliefs and principles in our lives and business."

XXXXX



IMELDA M. NICOLAS

WBCP President – March 2004 – March 2006

The following is a summary of our progress for the year 2004

UN GCI PRINCIPLES	RELATED TEXT IN WBCP BUSINESS CREDO	ACTION/STAKEN	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS AND AREAS OF EXPANSION
<p>Principle 1 Support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights</p>	<p>"In the course of doing our business, we will uphold women's human rights to eliminate gender inequality...."</p>	<p>In the August 5, 2004 regular monthly Breakfast forum the WBCP featured Recent Philippine Laws on Women, particularly the Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act of 2004 as part of its information campaign. The forum was attended by representatives from 10 SMEs; 12 NGOs and 1 Government Agency</p>	<p>The WBCP continues to work closely with the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women (NCRFW) and other Non-Government Organizations to promote women's human rights.</p> <p>Cooperates with UNIFEM Phils. on how WBCP can promote CEDAW (Commission on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women).</p>
<p>Principle 2 Eliminate discrimination in respect to employment and occupation</p>	<p>"We advocate for international and domestic fair trade, not unrestricted free trade, for a level playing field among economies and in the country...."</p>	<p>(1) Participated as regular member in the Special Committee on Entrepreneurship Development of the Philippine House of Representatives.</p> <p>(2) In August 2004, the WBCP co-organized the Small Office, Home Office (SOHO) Exhibit and launched the WBCP SOHO primer to assist women and men who wish</p>	<p>January 23, 2004 - Conducted a one-day Informal Education Training on Entrepreneurship at the College of the Holy Spirit. With WBCP graduates as resource persons.</p> <p>October 11-15, 2004 - Conducted a Business Development Course at the TESDA Women's Center with 30 participants.</p>

		<p>to start a business within their homes. SOHO is an option to establish a business in one's home.</p> <p>(3) Regularly conducts Business Start-Up (B-SUC); Business Improvement, Survival and Expansion(B-SEC), and Enterprise Development Courses for women in partnership with the TESDA Women's Center. These Courses are held at least 3 to 4 times a year.</p>	<p>November 15-19, 2004 - Conducted Business Improvement, Survival and Enhancement Course at the TESDA Women's Center for 35 businesswomen.</p> <p>The WBCP continues to work with the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) to provide a venue for entrepreneurship and other livelihood projects</p>
			<p>for women to promote women's economic empowerment.</p> <p>It also continues to evaluate and to upgrade as necessary its entrepreneurship training modules.</p>
<p>Principle 7 Support precautionary approach to environmental challenges</p>	<p>"we will work for positive triple bottom lines" which include not only that which is financial in nature but also those that are environmental and societal in character..."</p>	<p>Because of the alarming increase of air pollution in Metro Manila and environs, the Transportation industry group conducted a brief study on "Air Pollution...A Serious Threat to Survival."</p>	<p>WBCP continues its cooperation with environmental groups in the gathering of data on smoke-belching vehicles and monitoring of compliance of public transportation on the Clean Air Act.</p>