WKIC CELEBRATES its 1ST ANNIVERSARY

On November 1, 2018, Welcome to Korea International Club celebrated the 1st anniversary of its foundation. The venue was at Korea Press Center, National Press Club, on the 20th floor, where a magnificent view of Seoul could be enjoyed.

At approximately 11 AM President of WKIC, Kim Jungsook, welcomed guests to the Celebration. Afterward, there were many congratulatory messages from guests such as Chung Hyunback, Minister of Gender Equality & Family; Nam Insoon, Chairperson, Committee on Gender Equality & Family, National Assembly; the Ambassador to Taiwan, among others.

Maria Fernanda Arduino, President of WCI, gave the Keynote Speech. She presented the history of WCI and invited WKIC's members to actively contribute to their organization and to WCI through their leadership skills. You may read the speech given by the WCI President below. Following her speech, there was the presentation of Appreciation Plaques.



Maria Fernanda Arduino

Guests enjoyed a congratulatory performance by *Incielo,* a group of Popera—pop and opera singers. *Incielo* sang a selection of songs in Korean, Italian, English, and Spanish. They gave an impeccable performance and the audience enjoyed every minute.

On the following day, Dr. Kim invited Maria Fernanda Arduino to participate in an event organized by the National Convention of Women in which recognition prizes were given to outstanding women who have significantly contributed to Korea. The event was an invitation for women to take a more active role in education, government, arts, and every sphere of the country.

Dr. Kim and WKIC's Board of Directors were most gracious hostesses and extended themselves in their hospitality and kindness. The meals were delicious, and the visits were an excellent opportunity to learn about Korean history and culture, such as the play *Sim Cheong* at the Korea House.



WKIC President Dr. Kim (in red) is flanked by WKIC Board Members and guests



Congratulations WKIC!



At the Korea House



Left – right: Dr. Kim, Maria Fernanda Arduino, Dr. Li

SPEECH GIVEN BY WCI PRESIDENT MARIA FERNANDA ARDUINO

Seoul, Korea
November 1, 2017

Dear Dr. Kim and Ladies from *Welcome to Korea International Club,*

It is a true honour for me to address you at the celebration of the 1st Anniversary of *Welcome to Korea International Club*. You are an inspiration in your determination and persistence to start an International Association of Women who will work together with a common objective-to help women be relevant actors in today's world. International Associations of Women bring in plenty of warmth and wisdom in the array of perspectives from diverse parts of the world. This rich kaleidoscope ensembles the possibility to face current issues in such a way that the alternatives considered can come together to work for the common good.

Welcome Clubs International **is an international consortium** that brings together International Associations of Women to provide a forum for them to communicate, exchange ideas, and grow in friendship and understanding. The genesis of WCI began with Marian Adair's first accomplishment, the Welcome to Washington Club (WTW) founded in 1959. Marian, as the wife of a U.S. Congressman, attended many diplomatic functions. She realized that wives of the diplomats returned to their countries never having made an American friend nor had been in an American home. The International members of WTW not only enjoyed getting to know and befriend Americans, but above all found the concept of the Club very appealing. On returning to their own country they started clubs in the image of Welcome to Washington. As the number of clubs grew it instigated the need for an organization to promote closer ties and encourage communications between member clubs.

Welcome Clubs International **was founded in 1986.** Marian had a vision and a dream 50 years ago. That dream lives on and now encompasses clubs worldwide and WCI serves as a beacon of light bringing women of all cultures together in friendship and understanding. We consider ourselves a grassroots organization and our members serve as citizen diplomats by making it our mission to understand our differences and our way of life. Since its inception, WCI has grown to actually embrace 21 Sister Clubs throughout the world.

As part of the ongoing growth that international organizations must involve in to be relevant in the world, WCI has worked on an **Initiative on Educating Women**. Education means transferred knowledge either through a formal or informal vehicle towards enlightenment. WCI would like to respond to the demands of current times with compassion and sensitivity. This is the reason why we invite our Sister Clubs throughout the world to emphasize projects that deal with education. We believe true understanding is somehow dependent upon education. To achieve understanding we need to know about the other person and about the other culture.

Some of our Sister Clubs have started projects that deal with presentations about the various countries represented in their own Club. Other Sister Clubs are involved in educational projects that help those unable to access education to start their own educational process. WCI as an international organization respects the variety of interests each Sister Club has and the way to implement these activities per the realities of their own home towns and their own Bylaws. WCI invites Sister Clubs to favour those projects that deal with education. The variety of perspectives each Sister Club brings is the very richness of WCI.

As we consider the future, WCI, as an international consortium, would like to establish meaningful partnerships with other international organizations to work collaboratively. We believe the current world requires organizations to come together and in a joint effort, work for a better world. The international arena has grown in complexity and thus, one organization cannot work alone. Therefore, WCI would like to emphasize the ability to reach out to other international organizations to associate with in new projects that deal with the education and betterment of women.

Today, I would like to mention two lovely projects led by women that are inspirational.

First, as **founder and CEO of WomenOne, Dayle Haddon** helps women and girls around the world access to quality education. A recipient of the UN's Humanitarian Award, Haddon says that when a girl is educated there are fewer occurrences of HIV-AIDS and violence goes down, making the world a healthier and safer place for all. "A child born to a mother who can read is 50 percent more likely to survive beyond the age of 5," she says. Currently, the organization's focus is on Nanyuki Kenya, where research showed that girls were most at risk. During a recent trip to a Syrian Refugee camp, WomenOne created a media and leadership workshop for Syrian refugee girls from Zaatari Zaatari camp, and their recent Centers of Worth helps adolescent girls stay in school and provides social, emotional, and academic counseling, health education, and financial and digital literacy training.

Second, **Wayetu Moore founded One Moore Book**, a children's book publishing company, in order to provide culturally sensitive and educational stories for children living in regions with low literacy rates and underrepresented cultures. To date, One Moore Book has published 21 titles featuring culturally significant stories for children of Liberia, Guinea, Haiti, and Brazil, written and illustrated by writers and artists from each respective country. They have also donated more than 8,000 books to young readers around the world. "Diversity in storytelling platforms isn't exclusive to culture or race," Moore says. "I would love to see more diverse stories of women as well. Truth is the first way of doing that. Demanding truthful and fair representations is revolutionary." These are some of the best books for both children and adults.

Women can make a difference. Even more so, women working together can make much more of a difference. International Organizations working together can even make a bigger difference. **The synergy of teamwork** makes it possible to work together in a particularly fruitful way that produces an effect greater than the sum of their individual effects; in other words, the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. In this way, individual effort sums to a high level of production and efficiency.

It is in this spirit that we invite you to work collaboratively with each other in the various projects Welcome to Korea International Club has. This is the spirit Welcome Clubs International would like each one of our Sister Clubs to have within the realities of each home town and each Bylaws. WCI would like to instill the spirit of compassion and solidarity as we grow in friendship and in understanding.

We invite each one of you to be ambassadors of goodwill at your own places where you operate. It is in our own places that we can make a difference. If we look inside ourselves, we know where our talents are, and what our strengths are. Based on these talents and strengths, we look around ourselves with open minds to offer what we can give. This is the core of true leadership. Leadership is about service to others. Within Welcome to Korea International Club, you can lead projects for the good of the club. Within Welcome Clubs International, you can actively participate to make a difference in this international organization. Within your communities, you can join programs that offer possibilities to share your time and expertise. Welcome to Korea International Club will be as good as each one of you proactively works to make it outstanding.

Glenn Llopis, in his article, ***The Most Undervalued Traits of Women***, states women are master multi-taskers and highly collaborative (though not afraid to get territorial to protect their domain). They enjoy their own space to test themselves and find their own rhythm. These women leaders are like scientists: many of them want to make new discoveries or solve for problems where others have failed. Women leaders do not stop pursuing until the job gets done. Therefore, they are good collaborative leaders – not afraid of trial and error if they continue to build the resource infrastructure around them that gets them closer towards accomplishing their goals. Competitiveness amongst themselves may really be about looking for validation – an identity that matters and a voice that is heard. Successful women leaders do not rely on favors; they earn respect and truly believe they can influence their own advancement by serving others. Consummate team players, they also seek to prove their value and self-worth by exceeding performance expectations. Looking for respect more than recognition, the most successful women leaders do not seek to become the star of the show – but they enable others to create a great show. In other words, being in the spotlight is not what drives them – but rather it is the ability to influence positive outcomes with maximum impact.

Some of **the traits women leaders** have according to Glenn Llopis are the following: opportunity driven, strategic, passionate, entrepreneurial, purposeful and meaningful, traditions and family. The traits have enabled women to make progress in their professions but also to make significant changes in their families and in their communities. **These traits enable women to be proficient agents in today's multicultural world.** Globalization and migration have brought together men and women from all over the world. The need to relate to one another in understanding requires human beings to have the abilities to communicate successfully with diverse cultures. This exquisite patchwork of diverse perspectives requires those traits women have, to make human relations possible.

The great challenge is to operate in today's world with the traits women have that are true to their nature. It is in this sense that women can help make a difference in growth in understanding and friendship.

To end, I would like to share a few phrases some special women have said.

"When we do the best we can, we never know what miracle is wrought in our life, or in the life of another."
~Helen Keller

"When one door of happiness closes, another opens; but often we look so long at the closed door that we do not see the one which has been opened for us."
~Helen Keller

"We must believe that we are gifted for something, and that this thing, at whatever cost, must be attained."
~Marie Curie

"You may encounter many defeats, but you must not be defeated. In fact, it may be necessary to encounter the defeats, so you can know who you are, what you can rise from, how you can still come out of it."
~Maya Angelou

May these inspirational phrases said by women who have fought for their beliefs and their passion in life inspire each one of us to strive to make a difference in the world. Each one of us can help make the world a better place. ***It is up to us to overcome what needs to be overcome, to make the most of our talents, to look around to perceive where we can best serve others, and not to be afraid to do it.***

Thank you very much.

Dr. Maria Fernanda Arduino
WCI President