

WEConnect International in South Africa co-hosts enlightening “Procurement” programme with Cummins Inc

(Johannesburg—October 9, 2014) On October 2, 2014, WEConnect International in South Africa and one of its corporate members, Cummins Inc SA, co-hosted a procurement training programme at Cummins Inc South Africa’s offices in Sandton, Johannesburg.

South Africa’s new BBBEE codes have recognized the importance of women in industry and the significant role that they play in the promotion of change in the South African business landscape. These mandatory business codes give preference to enterprises with higher levels of transformation in their organizations, thus encouraging businesses to procure from a diverse range of suppliers. WEConnect International in South Africa and Cummins endeavored to join hands in support of these opportunities by hosting a procurement training programme. The training was attended by close to 50 women business owners from diverse industries including, but not limited to construction, healthcare, manufacturing, and business services.

The programme was conducted by a panel of distinguished women business leaders from Cummins Inc and WEConnect International in South Africa, respectively. The panelists included Ms. Susan Quist, Director & Corporate Counsel, Legal, and Corporate Affairs, who presented an insightful overview of Cummins Inc Africa; and Dr. Nathalie Chinje, Executive Director of WEConnect International in South Africa. Dr. Chinje led an interactive discussion of WEConnect International in South Africa bringing out a distinct message on the importance of women business owners in the economy. This message created a sense of camaraderie among the women. Present as well, was Ms. Jolene Classen, Sourcing Manager of Indirect Purchasing Africa at Cummins Inc.

The procurement programme was informative and a big success overall. Myriads of women business owners attending the workshop left inspired and optimistic about the future of their businesses, through rediscovering their ability to develop and enhance successful procurement strategies in their businesses. When Akhona, owner of Afikho Trading Enterprises, was asked for her opinion on the event, she simply said “The workshop was extremely informative, simply excellent”.

WEConnect International in South Africa believes that women-owned businesses are the backbones of communities. The WEConnect International procurement programme was strategically developed to empower women business owners with the appropriate knowledge and networking opportunities to become formidable competitors in the global business environment.

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