

CONNECT

Organization of Women in International Trade

Newsletter November 2016
Volume 2, Issue 3

OWIT Board Meeting in Geneva a Resounding Success

Big Thank You to OWIT-Lake Geneva!

Kudos to OWIT-Lake Geneva for hosting the OWIT Fall 2016 International board meeting - held September 23-24, 2016 - marking the first time this meeting was held in Europe. Lake Geneva also provided support for several other activities during our presence in Geneva. Thanks also go to sponsors Cargill and Thomson Reuters for their generous support.



This issue is devoted to presenting highlights of our week in Geneva, which included the Board meeting as well as high-level meetings with Ambassadors and international trade organizations and participation in the World Trade Organization (WTO) Public Forum.

About the OWIT International Board

The OWIT International Board is our primary decision-making body. It is comprised of a representative from each OWIT chapter and the OWIT Executive Officers. The Board meets monthly, most often via one-hour teleconference calls. Twice each year, the Board convenes for an all-day meeting which facilitates deeper discussion on the organization's mission and direction.

Our Geneva Activities At-a-Glance

In addition to our Board meeting, it was a week packed full of business activities...and some pleasure on the side. [Read more](#)



What Do They Think?

OWIT members who were part of the delegation in Geneva [share their perceptions](#).

Key Outcomes of OWIT Fall 2016 Board Meeting

1. Strategic Plan 2025 Adopted

At the Fall 2015 Board meeting (hosted by OWIT-South Florida), the Board launched Strategy Quest- a year-long conversation to determine the OWIT we want to see in 2025. This process culminated at the Fall 2016 Board meeting in Geneva. With expert facilitation by OWIT's VP-Strategy, Violette Ruppanner of OWIT-Geneva, the Board developed and adopted a [Strategic Plan through 2025](#). The first six-month implementation plan was also developed.

2. Small Business Sponsorship Program Launched

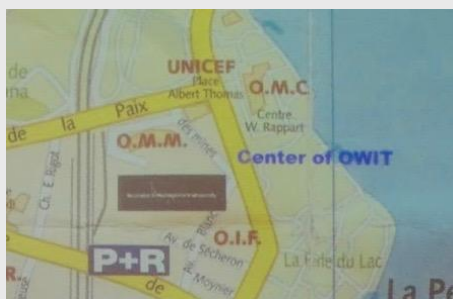
Are you a woman-owned small business (WOSB) looking to showcase your business on a global platform? For an investment of \$300, you can become an OWIT sponsor for three years and receive a [number of benefits](#). This opportunity is open to all OWIT members. Join those who have already signed up as WOSB sponsors. Contact vp-partnerships@owit.org or jen@diaztradelaw.com to sign up.

3. Vital Voices Partnership Forged

OWIT International is now a Nominating Partner with Vital Voices Global Partnership, an international NGO that identifies, trains, and empowers emerging women leaders and social entrepreneurs. We can identify nominees for its annual awards and business accelerator program in Latin America (Peru), the Caribbean and Africa. Stay tuned for more information.

4. New Executive Members Voted In

Welcome to Suely Argenias from OWIT- South Florida as Co-VP, Programming, and Carol Brewer from WIT-DC as Co-VP, Chapter Support.



OWIT Strategic Plan 2025

Dreaming big!

Could OWIT headquarters be a possibility in the future?

Check out our preview of the [OWIT Strategic Plan for 2025](#).

WTO Public Forum 2016 - OWIT International Panel

Shaping the Rules to Facilitate Active Participation of SMEs and Women in Global Markets

The OWIT International panel of members

discussed how SMEs and women can more effectively participate in international trade and lessons to be learned to help shape the rules that govern international trade. The Moderator, Andrea Ewart, CEO, DevelopTradeLaw, LLC, and President of OWIT International, posed questions to the panelists, who spoke from the perspectives of: (1) corporations working to incorporate SMEs into their supply chain; and (2) women-owned SMEs operating in global markets. The experience of two IT firms operating in Kenya and in California was also represented on the panel.



[Click here](#) for a full summary from the panel.



Joint OWIT-International Trade Centre Panel on Inclusive Trade

Expanding Participation of Women in Small & Medium Size Enterprises

[Click here](#) for a summary of the different points raised by women involved in trade from the business community, the ITC and OWIT during the panel discussion.

UNCTAD Seeks Mentors for Empretec Women in Business Finalists

Empretec is the global entrepreneurship training program of the United Nations Conference on Trade & Development - UNCTAD. Its biannual Women in Business Awards celebrate businesswomen who have excelled since completing their programs. The 2016 finalists were selected from over 50 nominations submitted by 23 countries.

UNCTAD is seeking experienced women entrepreneurs who are willing to act as mentors - in-country or virtually - for the [2016 finalists](#).

Welcome to our new newsletter format!

We hope you like the new look and will find it easier to navigate and read. If you have news to share, please send it our way:

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About Organization of Women in International Trade (OWIT)

The Organization of Women in International Trade (www.owit.org) is a non-profit professional organization dedicated to advancing global trade opportunities for

women by providing networking and educational opportunities. It has over 26 chapters in countries worldwide as well as a virtual chapter.

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