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Women are the Economic Foundation of the World – resource notes

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Women contribute 67% of the world's labor in exchange for 10% of its wealth and 1% of its property rights. Research shows that when women are economically empowered with tools such as education, mentoring, resources, and micro-credit they extend economic stability in communities and countries.

I have been learning a great deal about some of the many global initiatives that are supporting the empowerment of women in the last year. As a result, I've been checking out some web sites that I have found very useful in getting a better picture of the issues surrounding girls, women, and the simple idea that when you empower a woman, you empower her friends, family and community. Please take a moment to view www.girleffect.org/ and you will see the message in a very clear and compelling way.

Here are some leading organizations leading the effort to empower women:

www.un.org/womenwatch

www.unifem.org

www.care.org

www.apcoworldwide.com

www.cgdev.org

www.usaid.gov/our_work/global_partnerships

www.vitalvoices.org/desktopdefault.aspx?page_id=54

www.mcc.gov/mcc/about/index.shtml

undp-usa.blogspot.com/2008/02/girls-count.html

www.10000women.org

To learn more about the status of women and to stay current on the worldwide issue of gender equality:

www.catalyst.org

www.worldpulsemagazine.com/magazine/articles/girl-revolution

I also recommend reading the critically acclaimed novel by Nicholas Kristof entitled Half the Sky

For tips on the business culture and customs in countries around the world, try

www.executiveplanet.com

When you are ready to engage, these are organizations I recommend depending on your level of interest...growing your business through international trade, making global friends, or mentoring:

www.tiaw.org

www.owit.org

www.vitalvoices.org

www.connected-women.com

NAWBO members can subscribe to the international community of practice and gain access to a master calendar of world organizational events and other resources.