



Europe

BPW INTERNATIONAL
Business & Professional Women

My heart is full of joy,
Full of admiration for you.
Full of respect for your President Madame Arzu Özyol and her team.
Full of enthusiasm to be able to be among you. Thank you very much!

Dear BPW Ankara members, distinguished guest.

Welcome, youngest BPW Club worldwide!

I think it is the first time in the history of BPW International, that a Club has been build in such an Express-Time as yours!

You are a role-model in the belongings of how administrative and constitutional issues can be done in just "no time". The strong will, the strong wish to belong to our Organisation, made it possible.

Thanks to the very good and deeply researches of Madame Arzu Özyol, your President, it was in fact possible to accomplish the application form in this short time. And another thing was of course very important: I had the most pleasant opportunity to visit you here last year and to start all the paper works together with you. And furthermore, during the first meeting in January in 2006, with the BPW International in Thailand I was able to inform the Executive Board in all details about you, your projects and your planned work. Your application Form has been accepted without hesitation.

So, this is for me a very proud moment, to be part of your opening ceremony, to take part in your first Candle Lighting Ceremony and to have the possibility to get to know all of you personally.

You know, in the first month of the year all over the world, each BPW Club is celebrating the Candle Lighting Ceremony. And for the first time the Name of your Country "Turkey" will be called by ALL Clubs and all will think of you.

Isn't that wonderful to feel we belong together?

And that is the real impact of BPW, Business and Professional Women. Beside to feel we belong together, we all work for the same issues. No, we are not a Coffee-Drinking-Women-Club! By all means no! We have Ideas, We have Projects, we have Work to do:

Candle lighting ceremony is an opportunity for BPW members to remind ourselves that we are not alone in our effort to achieve the aim of *developing women professional and leadership potential at alllevels*. We are a part of network that makes a different world-wide.

The new Dimensions of Leadership. Our goals are clearly formulated in our papers, but we have to live them, we have to struggle, still, even in the year 2006. And we know that it will be a long way, until in all countries the Women and Girls will have the same rights.

The network we are belonging to, is THE platform for our work. Daily. In our families, and in our work. Let me even add: we need you; BPW needs the diversity of Culture, of History, of Women-

Stories to make our Network a lively one.

And I know and feel, that you will play an important part and take responsibility in this diversification.

Welcome, a very warm welcome to you all.

Thank you

Gabriella Canonica
Regional Coordinator Europe
2005 – 2008

Ankara, 11th February 2006

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