



ANKARA - T U R K E Y

BPW ANKARA NEWSLETTER

BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL WOMEN ANKARA CLUB

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BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL WOMEN ANKARA CLUB

Business and Professional Women Ankara Club, works in affiliation with the *Business and Professional Women International* which was founded in 1930 and is holding a *General Consultative Status* with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) since 1947.

Being in the Advocacy Mechanism, BPW's mission is to support and improve the leadership potentials of the professional women at all hierarchical levels and areas of specialization.

Business and Professional Women Ankara Club was officially founded in December 2005 at the international level and in February 2006 at the national level and currently has 21 active members. BPW Ankara is the first BPW International initiative in Turkey under the European Coordination. Following BPW Ankara, BPW İstanbul and BPW Safranbolu Clubs are established.

BPW IS IN TURKEY (*)

"... Depending on its strong body, BPW undertakes activities to support and improve the professional knowhow and leadership capacities of professional women around the world. These activities, which will help women to explore their own potential, can be summarized primarily as leadership programs, including programs for adult education, guidance programs for career development, micro credit supports for young entrepreneurs and other individual projects realized with the consent of the federation. Here, once more, I would like to underline the fact that, we constantly need to feed our roots in order to realize these activities.

We take pride in the high number of women in our membership profile who have access to the decision making mechanisms and the circles of power. However, our main aim is to improve the role of women in social, economic and political life around the world.

Without any doubt, the key to reach our aim lies in the active participation in the international processes and wisely defending women's rights by using the power of our roots.

There are nine committees within the body of BPW International. The main titles of these committees are, Agriculture, Art & Culture, Business-Trade-Technology, Development-Training-Employment, Environment, Health, Legislation and Projects & Public Relations. They are constituted of regional representatives who develop and undertake projects in compliance with the priorities of the institution. Five delegates of each of these committees are elected by the president of the federation from the names nominated by the regions. Of course, being elected as the European Coordinator of the Environment Committee is an honor for me, but the facts of, BPW Ankara being the first club appointed for a task within the International Federation right after its establishment and a representative of a non EU member country representing the whole Europe in all related international processes, and the belief that these will create the synergie among our members to facilitate the institutionalization of our club, are definitely beyond all my personal feelings.

The institutional culture of BPW is based on cooperation and sharing. Therefore, when recruiting members, we take great care that the women who wish to join us have these qualities. The BPW woman must have self confidence, but should never settle down with what she has. Because, at our meetings, we will enjoy the philosophy of life long learning, will always try to learn more and pursue knowledge at all times. The BPW woman looks at the forest from above, never from within. Because, we need to think at local, national and international levels, but act according to the universal rights. The BPW woman should be courageous, as we have to participate in the international processes, establish communication networks, practice mentoring and lobbying. The BPW woman strongly refuses all kinds of discrimination; race, language, religion, political opinion, clothing or gender. As we are focused on our aims, we are impartial, just and unprejudiced. We are powerful, unique and leader women, active in the national and international decision making mechanisms."

ARZU ÖZYOL

President of BPW Ankara

(*) Extracted from the presentation speech.

BPW ANKARA / ACCOMPLISHMENTS

During the last two years since the establishment of the Business and Professional Women Ankara Club, a series of educational seminars are realized, serving the short term goals of "improving the leadership qualities of the professionally active members". The titles of these seminars were:

- "Core Identity, Real and Ideal Ego Perceptions and Self Esteem" Seminar
- "History of Feminism" Seminar
- "Sense, Thought and Behavior Development" Seminar
- "Self Breast-Hatching" Applied Seminar
- "Leadership Capacity Building" Seminar
- "International Gender Equality Regimes: UN, EU and Their Implications for Turkey"
- "Divorce and Prosperity Share Regime According to the New Turkish Civil Code"
- "Basic Knowledge of Women Health" Seminar
- "Power of Thought" Seminar

In the middle range, our goal is to diversify these training seminars and open to public.

Apart from this, our efforts are continuing on the middle term projects in direction of the vision and mission of the club. The first of such projects is *Pace For Employment And Assurance For Respectful Life* (PEARL). The goals of PEARL Project include the building of several training workshops in Atatürk Orphanage in Ankara, the vocational training of the young girls living there and the formation of continuous training centers at all such orphanages in Turkey.



As part of PEARL Project, with the young girls from Atatürk Orphanage, during the Dance Contest of Anatolian Universities held at the Sports Center of Hacettepe University, Ankara

PACE FOR EMPLOYMENT AND ASSURANCE FOR RESPECTFUL LIFE (PEARL)

With the aim of making the best of the European Union's grant given in the framework of *Promotion and Protection of Women's Right Grant Scheme* and the *Strengthening Civil Society in the Pre-Accession Processes Grant Facility*, we, as the Business and Professional Women Ankara, are realizing our project called "*Pace For Employment And Assurance For Respectful Life*" with our Romanian partner *Equal Opportunities for Women Club*.

This project envisages a multi functional support programme for young girls between 13-18 ages who are deprived of family support and care, living in an orphanage. Besides the training programs that are planned to increase the young girls' employment capacity, the project combines psychological support packages, programs for improving self confidence and building a good citizenship consciousness, counselling services and social activities.

Through PEARL Project, four new vocational workshops are built in Atatürk Orphanage in Ankara, and equipments are provided for the existing three vocational workshops.

The 75 young girls living in Atatürk Orphanage will have vocational trainings of their choice for a year among the seven different profession workshops, such as cooking, hair dressing or serigraphy. The girls who successfully complete the training will receive official vocational training certificates approved by the Ministry of National Education.



As part of PEARL Project, at Kafe's Restaurant together with the young girls from Atatürk Orphanage.



The vocational training workshops built in Atatürk Orphanage through PEARL Project / Kitchen



The vocational training workshops built in Atatürk Orphanage through PEARL Project / Beauty Workshop Equipments

THE BPW MEMBERS ELECTED TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE TURKISH FEDERATION OF WOMEN CLUBS

At the Executive Board Elections held during the 16th Regular General Assembly of Turkish Federation of Women Clubs, the president of BPW Ankara, Arzu Özyol is elected as the 2nd President of the Turkish Federation of Women Clubs; the vice president of BPW Ankara, Burcu Göğüş is elected as member of the Executive Board; and the president of BPW Safranbolu, Özlem Urgancıoğlu is elected as reserve member of the Executive Board.

As BPW, we are proud that three members of our club take part in the Executive Board of the Turkish Federation of Women Clubs, which gathers the 14 women clubs in Turkey and has over 50.000 members. We congratulate our members and wish success in their new endeavors.

YOUNG BPW – TURKEY WEEKEND PROGRAMME

Young BPW Ankara, in cooperation with Young BPW İstanbul, organized a weekend program in İstanbul on May 16-18, 2008. During the Young BPW Turkey Weekend Programme, young BPW International members from Germany, Spain, Austria, Finland, Pakistan and India had a very fruitful and fun weekend in İstanbul.

At this three day event, the BPW Turkey members represented our club and our country successfully. The guests visited the famous touristic and historical places in İstanbul. The event ended with a brain storming session held on May 18, 2008.



The members and the guests participated in the Young BPW Turkey Weekend Event



A group of members and the guests participated in the Young BPW Turkey Weekend Event

OPENING OF BPW SAFRANBOLU CLUB

The opening ceremony of BPW Safranbolu Club is held on May 19, 2008, with the valuable attendance of BPW International European Coordinator Gabriella Canonica, President, Executive Committee Members and the members of BPW Ankara, representative of Young BPW İstanbul, members of BPW Safranbolu, the invitees from the city of Safranbolu and the members of the press.

At the ceremony, BPW International European Coordinator Gabriella Canonica, President of BPW Ankara Arzu Özyol, and President of BPW Safranbolu Özlem Urgancıoğlu gave opening speeches.

We would like to welcome BPW Safranbolu Club among us and believe that we will work and successfully carry on many projects in cooperation.



The President and the members of BPW Safranbolu



The members of BPW Ankara at the opening of BPW Safranbolu Club

AGENDA /

THE CEREMONIES OF THE FOUNDATION OF ATATÜRK ORPHANAGE / CHARITY FETE

SEMINAR / "IMPROVEMENT OF THE CAPACITIES OF THE ORPHANAGES IN TURKEY"

A Charity Fete will be organized as part of the ceremonies of the Foundation of Atatürk Orphanage on Saturday, June 7, 2008, which can be counted as one of the many "firsts" initiated by BPW Ankara in this institution. The handicrafts produced by the young girls at the vocational workshops established by PEARL Project will be displayed for sale.

A seminar on the "Improvement of the Capacities of the Orphanages in Turkey" will also be held during this event on June 7, 2008..



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