

Global Network of 10,000 Women Partners Convenes in Washington, DC

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Goldman Sachs hosted the second annual *10,000 Women* Leadership Academy from June 6 to 9 at the Council on Foreign Relations in Washington, DC.

Building on the success of the inaugural Leadership Academy held in New York City in July 2009, the meeting brought together over 100 *10,000 Women* academic and nonprofit partners from around the world as well as a distinguished and diverse group of dignitaries, business executives and thought leaders.

“On many occasions I've been asked: What's the one thing you would do if you could wave a magic wand and make the world better? And I always come to one as central: I would empower women,” said former Secretary of State, Dr. Condoleezza Rice, who served as keynote speaker.

The participants represented programs in all 20 countries where *10,000 Women* operates, including more than 10 deans and presidents from business schools around the globe. Program participants used the Leadership Academy as a forum to share best practices and offer insight gained through the first two years and from first 2,000 graduates of the initiative.

“10,000 Women is often called a Goldman Sachs program, but it's really a network of partners,” Lloyd Blankfein, chairman and CEO, told Leadership Academy participants. “It is partners like you that have already reached 2,000 women around the world. We would accomplish far less without your guidance and expertise.”

Four *10,000 Women* graduates from Afghanistan, Brazil, India and Kenya, shared their experiences from the program and discussed the significant revenue growth and job creation their businesses' have experienced since graduating.

“Before I started *10,000 Women*, I didn't have a business, I just had a dream,” said Masooma Habibi, a graduate from the program at the American University in Afghanistan. “But *10,000 Women* was like turning a switch. Everything changed. Now I have 22 employees.”

The academy featured plenary sessions and interactive workshops that addressed critical themes of *10,000 Women* as well as broader trends in women's economic empowerment. Melanne Verveer, the Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues, hosted a lunch at the US Department of State, on June 7. John F.W. Rogers, the firm's chief of staff, provided opening remarks and government officials, including the Under Secretary for Management Patrick Kennedy, were in attendance. The event featured a panel that included Nancy Birdsall, founding president of the Center for Global Development; Richard Haass, president of the Council on Foreign Relations; Zainab Salbi, founder and CEO of Women for Women International; and Ruth Simmons, president of Brown University and chair of the *10,000 Women* Advisory Council.

Concurrent with the Leadership Academy, *10,000 Women* academic partners' dedicated monitoring and evaluation staff attended a Liaison Training Academy where they received comprehensive training on data collection processes to track results and inform program management.