

Article Alert from the Public Affairs Section, US Embassy Lusaka

A compilation of abstracts of current articles from US publications and authors
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Women's History Month

Theme: Economic Growth and Development

March, 2012

If we decide — as societies, governments and businesses — to invest in women and girls, we will strengthen our efforts to fight poverty, drive development and spread stability. When women thrive, families, communities and countries thrive — and the world becomes more peaceful and prosperous.” - Secretary Clinton

1. Presidential Proclamation – Women's History Month, 2012

As Americans, ours is a legacy of bold independence and passionate belief in fairness and justice for all. For generations, this intrepid spirit has driven women pioneers to challenge injustices and shatter ceilings in pursuit of full and enduring equality. During Women's History Month, we commemorate their struggles, celebrate centuries of progress, and reaffirm our steadfast commitment to the rights, security, and dignity of women in America and around the world. We see the arc of the American story in the dynamic women who shaped our present and the groundbreaking girls who will steer our future. Forty-one years ago, when former First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt confronted President John F. Kennedy about the lack of women in government, he appointed her the head of a commission to address the status of women in America and the discrimination they routinely faced.

<http://tinyurl.com/73yrd78>

2. USAID Launches New Gender Policy

USAID is taking steps to reduce gender inequalities. How are women and girls treated in your country? Washington — The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is launching a new policy to better integrate gender equality and female empowerment throughout its activities. The plan seeks to erase gender inequities by accounting for gender differences in the planning, implementation and assessment of USAID programs. “While we have made great strides toward equality, we cannot rest until our mothers, sisters and daughters assume their rightful place as full participants in a secure, prosperous and just society,” [President Obama said](#) in a March 1 proclamation on

Women's History Month.
<http://tinyurl.com/75876po>

3. Clinton Says Women Are Key to 21st Century Economic Growth

Washington — Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton says increasing women's participation in the economy will be a critical source of growth for countries around the world in the 21st century. "When we liberate the economic potential of women, we elevate the economic performance of communities, nations and the world," Clinton said in remarks September 16. In her keynote address to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum's Women and the Economy Summit in San Francisco, Clinton praised the group for preparing a declaration to affirm its commitment to "improving women's access to capital and markets, to building women's capacities and skills, and to supporting the rise of women leaders in the public and private sectors." Clinton said women are already making valuable contributions to economies across the globe.

<http://tinyurl.com/7zfgqo8>

4. Women Farmers Could Increase Food Supply, Reduce Hunger

Women farmers have the potential to reduce world hunger and undernourishment by as much as 17 percent, according to findings from the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), if governments and societies would give them a chance. FAO released that finding in the April report *The State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA) 2010–11, Women in Agriculture, Closing the gender gap for development*. Delegations from FAO member nations are meeting in Rome for a discussion of policy changes that could give women a greater opportunity to increase their yields.

<http://tinyurl.com/757xwuy>

5. Global Women's Mentoring Partnership – Fortune/U.S. State Department

The *Fortune*/U.S. State Department Global Women's Mentoring Partnership connects talented, emerging women leaders from all over the world, who are between the ages of 25-43, with members of *Fortune*'s Most Powerful Women Leaders for a month-long internship program. The program begins with an orientation in Washington, D.C., where mentees meet with senior women leaders in government, business, academia, civil society and the media. Participants are then paired with one of *Fortune*'s Most Powerful Women Leaders from companies like Time Inc., Google, Inc., and Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. in cities across the United States. <http://tinyurl.com/yd6xykq>

6. 'Why the Global Economy Needs Business to Invest in Women'

Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues Melanne Verveer and President of the Women in the World Foundation Kim Azzarelli co-authored an [opinion piece](#) that appears today on *The Daily Beast* website. In the piece, Ambassador Verveer and Ms. Azzarelli underscore why the global economy needs the "other 51 percent." An excerpt of their article follows below. "Businesses are starting to understand what development experts have long known: investing in women pays dividends. Women are more likely than men to put their income back into their communities, driving illiteracy and mortality rates down and GDP up. "Now a corporate revolution is at hand, one that is moving beyond philanthropy, making women partners in business at all levels." This was an important theme at the World Economic Forum in Davos which hosted a plenary session entitled 'Women as the Way Forward' on the potential impact of women on the global economy. <http://tinyurl.com/7vf4rp5>

7. APEC Event Showcases Women Innovators

"When women thrive, families, communities and countries thrive and the world becomes more peaceful and prosperous." — U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, March 8, 2011

Encouraging and increasing women's economic participation is a priority for the Obama administration. The United States is sponsoring the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Women and the Economy Summit (WES) in San Francisco September 13–16. Participants will exchange ideas and make recommendations for concrete policies and projects supporting women's involvement in economic growth in the Asia-Pacific region. While WES focuses on women from APEC member economies, there are inspiring women around the world who are setting an example through their entrepreneurial spirit. Read about six of them here.

<http://tinyurl.com/7hz86o2>

8. eJournal USA: Enterprising Women, Thriving Societies

Women worldwide overcome barriers and fear of going on their own to pursue their ideas and generate income through entrepreneurship. Remove barriers and they'll "fly" even higher. Policymakers and business experts have pitched entrepreneurship to women as a way to realize their aspirations and make a good living. Several multinational corporations have programs to promote women entrepreneurs, including Goldman Sachs' 10,000 Women, Ernst & Young's Winning Women, Coca Cola's 5 BY 20, and Walmart's Global Women's Economic Empowerment Initiative. All of this activity begs the question: Is this merely good corporate public relations, or is there actually a business case for women's entrepreneurship?

<http://tinyurl.com/6s8gfub>

9. Break the Silence to End Violence Against Women

The United Nations says violence against women and girls is an abuse of human rights. How is women's safety protected in your community? Globally, one in three women will experience violence in her lifetime, according to the National Network to End Domestic Violence. The Washington nonprofit cosponsored the World Conference of Women's Shelters, which brought together more than 1,400 women's advocates from 96 countries February 27–March 1 in Washington. Actress Reese Witherspoon told attendees that when one sees violence, one should never ignore it. "There is a real need to speak out," she said. Witherspoon, a mother and an ambassador for the Avon Foundation for Women, a conference sponsor, underscored the importance of openly communicating the problem of domestic violence as a first step in stopping it. She named four winners of the foundation's communications award.

<http://tinyurl.com/7pnl4zg>

10. Women's History Month 2012 – Women in U.S. Defense

The Defense Department supports the continuing education and empowerment of military women as they risk their lives to protect the U.S. This American Forces Press Service special report takes a closer look at the contributions of women in the U.S. armed forces as they continue to lead the nation's defense into the future.

<http://tinyurl.com/7zzoy77>