

## Citi Celebrates International Women's Day

### Hosts Panel Discussion to Raise Awareness of Women's Roles in Society



**Bangkok** – Citi Thailand marked the annual International Women's Day celebration by hosting a panel discussion on the theme **“Enabling Progress – Connecting Women. Inspiring Change. Making Progress.”** The event featured high-profile female guest speakers including Nualphan Lamsam (businesswoman and manager of Thailand's Women's National Football Team), Umawaorn Winsor-Clive (socialite and volunteer rescuer), and Orawan Othong (endurance cyclist). These inspiring women shared their experiences and views on life, talking about the roles that women play in society, their talents and contributions, and why it is important for women to keep challenging commonly-held stereotypes in society.

Commenting on the panel discussion **Mr. Darren Buckley**, Country Head and Citi Country Officer, Citibank Thailand, said, “Citi is committed to diversity in society and within our own organization. We have development programs specifically for our high-potential women, such as our

“Women Leading Citi” program designed to increase the representation of women in senior management roles. In fact, Citi Thailand can be said to represent ‘women power’ because 75% of our workforce is female, as is half of our senior management team.

In the community we also support the empowerment of women. Through the Citi Foundation, we have invested \$2.3 million in programs across 8 countries in the Asia-Pacific region in 2014. These programs benefit over 78,000 disadvantaged women and girls. Initiatives include helping women to start businesses so as to bring in extra incomes for their families. In Thailand we have initiated the “**At-Risk Women’s Financial Literacy**” project, which has helped over 2,500 low-income and incarcerated women gain a better understanding of the management of personal finances.

Citibank worldwide has arranged activities to celebrate International Women’s Day each March. This year there were more than 220 events, internal and external, organized by Citi around the world. On 8 March [International Women’s Day], Citi Thailand volunteers and the Kenan Institute training team provided financial management education to leading women from 3 Bangkok slums under the Community Organizations Development Institute (CODI). Our successful panel discussion provided a wonderful opportunity for our guest speakers to share their knowledge and talk about their life experiences. Their respective achievements contribute in so many ways to a better society and the examples they set are inspiring to women of all generations.

**Nualphan Lamsam, businesswoman, CEO of Port MTI FC, and manager of Thailand’s Women’s National Football Team** said, “In my current management positions I am almost exclusively surrounded by male colleagues. But I relish the challenge of establishing myself, of being successful. I adhere to the principle of ‘Where there’s a will, there’s a way.’ I try to work with a patient attitude and I generally find that the gentle touch associated with a woman is well received.”

**Umawaorn Winsor-Clive (socialite and volunteer rescuer)** has spent her life challenging herself – learning to cook to a professional level, learning to fly, and mountain climbing being just a few of her achievements. She started working as a volunteer rescuer during the severe flooding in Thailand three years ago and subsequently completed a rescue training course at Rajavithi. Today she takes her place alongside male colleagues in rescue teams, providing vital assistance and a sympathetic ear to the people she helps.

**Orawan Othong** is a woman who knows all about setting and achieving goals. The endurance cyclist has peddled through 43 countries across 6 continents in almost 6 years. Her young dream was to travel around the world and after marrying her husband, who loves to ride mountain bikes, she began to follow that dream. Despite physical hardships and many obstacles along the way, she continues to push herself towards her goals in a way that leaves most men trailing in her wake. “Dream big, set goals, and go after them” is her mantra.

More than 200 people attended the *“Enabling Progress – Connecting Women. Inspiring Change. Making Progress”* panel discussion at the Ballroom, Sheraton Grande Sukhumvit Hotel, including Citi employees and customers, and members of the media. This is the 5<sup>th</sup> occasion on which Citi has celebrated International Women’s Day around the world, engaging employees across 130 cities in 90 countries.

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#### **About Citi**

Citi, the leading global bank, has approximately 200 million customer accounts and does business in more than 160 countries and jurisdictions. Citi provides consumers, corporations, governments and institutions with a broad range of financial products and services, including consumer banking and credit, corporate and investment banking, securities brokerage, transaction services, and wealth management.

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#### **About the Citi Foundation:**

The Citi Foundation works to promote economic progress and improve the lives of people in low-income communities around the world. We invest in efforts that increase financial inclusion, catalyze job opportunities for youth, and reimagine approaches to building economically vibrant cities. The Citi Foundation’s “More than Philanthropy” approach leverages the enormous expertise of Citi and its people to fulfill our mission and drive thought leadership and innovation. For more information, visit [www.citifoundation.com](http://www.citifoundation.com)

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