

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Citibank, N.A.

A lively IWD panel discussion for clients in Thailand



Citi Thailand marked International Women’s Day on March 8 with a panel discussion featuring prominent local professionals and Citi women seniors, discussing their views on making progress and inspiring change.

The luncheon talk, held at the Grand Millenium Sukhumvit Bangkok, was attended by over 100 guests including Citi clients, senior colleagues and members of the media.

Welcoming attendees to the event, CCO Thailand Darren Buckley said, “Citi embraces diversity in its offices worldwide. In Thailand, a majority 74% of Citi Thailand’s employees are female and half of our senior management team comprises women.”



Panelists Supaluck Umpujh (second left), Kobkarn Wattanavrangkul (third left) and Amporn Chotruchsakul (right) with moderator Pavin Rodloytuk (left).

“In the latest 2012 Women’s Economic Opportunity Index, Thailand ranked number 47 in the world out of 128 countries in terms of progress made in the economic advancement of women. Among ASEAN countries, Thailand ranked second. Despite an improving trend of women’s opportunity in Thailand, there is still much to do to promote equality for women, in terms of customs, attitudes, practices and access to education, here and across the world,” Darren added.

The panelists – Supaluck Umpujh, Vice Chairman, The Mall Group; Kobkarn Wattanavrangkul, Chairperson, Toshiba Thailand; and Citi Thailand Operations & Technology Head Amporn Chotruchsakul then took to the stage to start off a lively discussion. Moderated by Citi Thailand Strategic Initiatives Head, Pavin Rodloytuk, the ladies discussed how women can successfully climb the corporate ladder to take on top management positions.



Darren Buckley welcomes clients and colleagues to Citi Thailand's IWD 2013 celebration

The event provided a rare opportunity to hear directly from Supaluck, owner of nine shopping malls including The Emporium, and a key business partner of Citibank Credit Cards. Supaluck shared, "My foundation of success came from the caring and sincere partnerships I built which also, sometimes, evolved into good friendships. I always practice this approach with my internal team, business partners, premise tenants and customers. Change is constant and I believe that to be the leader, you need to be creative/think out of the box and dare to innovate."

Kobkarn Wattanavrangkul who is known as an "Artist of Business" for her unique management style spoke sentimentally on how she maintained Japanese investors' confidence and faith in Thailand though their nine manufacturers were stuck in deep floods at the end of 2011.

"The first thing I did was to send an email to the Toshiba Chairman in Japan to apologize for the severe crisis and accept it as my own mistake. I requested that Toshiba not leave Thailand and he gave me a chance to try and restore the business. Although it was a difficult time, we had strong support from our dealers who we treat and approach as long-term partners. I think accountability and sincerely are crucial to gaining trust from others," said Kobkarn.

My work philosophy is "responsibility, honestly, creativity and to work with heart", she added.

As one of three female Managing Directors at Citi Thailand, Amporn is an inspiring example to colleagues. She articulated the factors that enabled her progress as she said, "I could climb the corporate ladder because Citi offers opportunities to anyone who performs, regardless of gender. I believe that growth comes from ourselves as well as our relationships and connections. Most important, great teamwork is fundamental to success. I also fully believe in change. Believing in change inspires others to change. I think it's important to establish a common goal with proper execution and joint accountability in a team to be able to drive change."



Amporn Chotruchsakul shares her success story with attendees

Sharing his thoughts on the discussion, Samart Lewsriskul, Citi Thailand Commercial Banking Head said, "This event has not only showcased Citi's commitment to diversity but helped us strengthen relationships with clients. Our clients have given us some very positive feedback. Many found the discussion inspiring and beneficial to advancing their own career and lives."

Rawewan Viracho, CitiPhone Head added, "This event reinforces how Citi values and recognizes female employees who have contributed significantly to our organization. Being invited to attend this great panel session has given me more perspective on how other female professionals have progressed in their careers and in society."



####

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.

Additional information may be found at www.citigroup.com | Twitter: @Citi | YouTube: www.youtube.com/citi | Blog: <http://new.citi.com> | Facebook: www.facebook.com/citi | LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/citi