

Brookings Executive Education

A Partnership of the Brookings Institution
and Washington University in St. Louis

Women's Leadership Workshop: Connecting Across Cultures

September 9, 2009

The Brookings Institution
Washington, DC

This iteration of the *Women's Leadership Workshop* series explores the continually evolving nature of culture – organizational, national, and international – and what these changes mean for 21st century women leaders. How do the competencies and leadership skills in which women often excel make them more successful leaders today? We will examine how to approach cultural differences and challenges, such as navigating a new organization's culture, succeeding in a traditionally male-dominated culture, or working internationally with people from cultures unsupportive of female leaders.

Wednesday, September 9, 2009

8:30 – 9:00 am

Program Intro and Welcome

9:15 – 11:15 a.m.

Exploring the Effects of Culture on Leadership

How do cultural differences impact women's leadership, communication and success in the workplace? Cultural issues are often difficult to recognize, let alone address and overcome. In this session we will explore the importance of cultural differences, and learn how to improve our leadership styles to work effectively across cultures, time zones and borders.

- Maya Hu-Chan, international management consultant, executive coach, and co-author, *Global Leadership: The Next Generation* (confirmed)

**11:30 a.m.
– 12:30 p.m.**

Breaking Through the Brass Ceiling

Women working in defense confront cultural issues every day. While more women are moving into senior ranks in active duty and civilian positions, the field of defense is still very male-oriented. Nominated as the first woman in the Marine Corps to attain a three star rank, Lieutenant General Carol Mutter will explain how she has overcome difficult challenges to succeed in this environment.

- Lieutenant General Carol A. Mutter, (retired), US Marine Corps (confirmed)

Wednesday, September 9, 2009 (continued)

12:45 – 2:00 p.m.

Lunch: Leadership Abroad

Ambassador Verveer is the first person to serve as Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues at the State Department. The position, established by President Obama in April 2009, allows her to work on a number of efforts relating to women's political, economic and social advancement around the world. She will share strategies she has used to work effectively across cultures, advancing women's rights, leadership and American interests.

- Ambassador Melanne Verveer, Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues, US Department of State (invited)

2:00 – 3:15 p.m.

Bridging Cultures in the Workplace

How can we overcome office culture challenges to ensure that our voices are heard? This session allows participants to synthesize the morning sessions and apply the lessons learned to their particular circumstances. We will also examine interpersonal skills and the interplay between emotion and culture.

- Maya Hu-Chan, international management consultant, executive coach, and co-author, *Global Leadership: The Next Generation* (confirmed)

3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Making a Difference in the Middle East

Women in many Middle Eastern countries face very different realities from those in the West regarding their position and rights within society. Through hearing Haleh Esfandiari's compelling perspective as a political prisoner in Iran, participants will learn about progress for women in the Middle East and how Haleh's resilience and strength helped her survive her ordeal.

- Haleh Esfandiari, Director, Middle East Program, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars (confirmed)

4:30 – 5:30 p.m.

Book Signing and Networking Reception

My Prison, My Home: One Woman's Story of Captivity in Iran by Haleh Esfandiari