

Women for Housing (WFH) Celebrates Women's Day with Transnet and Corobrik

8 August 2008

On Friday 8 August, Women for Housing (WFH) celebrated Women's Day and the achievements of women in the construction sector with Transnet and Corobrik. WFH is a non-profit company encouraging transformation in the industry. Over 50 women from across the sector came together to mark the advancement of women and to gain insight on the future of the sector.

The Corobrik sponsored breakfast event took place at GIBS Business School in Illovo. Corobrik's Tshepo Leshoeli welcomed the participants and gave a brief overview on Corobrik. The main presentation was given by Ann Wilson, the Chief Procurement Officer from Transnet Capital Projects. Ann shared both her personal story having developed a successful career as a woman in the industry and Transnet's long-term expansion plans. Ann spoke strongly about the possibilities for women in the industry and the need for women to equip themselves with the skills and knowledge to be able to play a role in some of the major projects in the pipeline.

Ann has significant international experience and noted that in addition to the requisite technical skills, women bring many valuable talents and perspectives to the industry including flexibility, creativity and energy. She encouraged the women to "know who you are, what you want to be, and where you want to go." About 20 of the participants are women involved in WFH's Re a abelana Professional Development Programme for Contractors. This programme aims to promote long term planning and business growth by providing the contractors with greater access to industry information, knowledge, skills and interaction with key industry roleplayers.

Ann gave an overview of Transnet's own growth plans and related opportunities for business and career development. Transnet's infrastructure investment and expansion plans were outlined within the 5 year R80 billion rolling plan and 30 year framework based on market predictions and customer requirements. Among the rail, port and pipeline expansion projects outlined were Durban Harbour, Richards Bay Harbour, the Cape Town Container Terminal and the Port of Ngqura.

While the current economy may be experiencing some bumps it is clear that the long term prospects for the construction industry remain strong. Women looking to develop businesses and careers in the sector are encouraged to develop their skills and take advantage of the opportunities.

Contact WFH at 011 275 0268 or www.wfh.org.za