

# Insights on Funding Options for Entrepreneurs

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BANGKOK, Thailand: Connecting Founders is preparing its November edition of Women in Business at the Residence of the Dutch Ambassador, his Excellency Mr. Karel Hartogh, in Bangkok. This time the focus will be on funding options for both new and seasoned entrepreneurs.

On November 16, 2016, from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm, Connecting Founders will discuss different ways women can secure funding for their companies. Three successful businesswomen with local and international experience have been invited to share their insights on this important topic.

“Promoting female entrepreneurship is a key priority of the Dutch government. The position of women in Thailand is very strong. Half of entrepreneurs are women and Thailand has the highest number of women CEOs in the world. But it remains a man’s society in many ways and you have to work twice as hard to reach the highest levels. I commend the ladies here for sharing their knowledge and experience and for supporting other women that are still at the beginning of the journey,” Ambassador Hartogh explains.

One of the speakers is Ms. Vicharee Vichit-Vadakin, gathered valuable knowledge during her time at Boston Consulting Group and has many years’ experience working for leading retailers such as Victoria’s Secret and Bath & Body Works in the United States. Today she is the co-owner and founder of theCOMMONS at Thonglor, a new lifestyle mall that offers open community areas and invites guests to spend time outdoors close to their neighborhood. It was recently featured in the New York Times as one of the coolest and most cultured new malls.

Ms. Soonhee Kim, CIO and partner of OPT SEA, is another speaker invited for this event. Over the past 15 years she has gathered extensive experience in a large number of investment activities and has worked on many business development projects. Since she joined OPT in 2005, she has managed overseas business development for a number of countries including the United States and Korea. Currently based in Thailand, she is serving as the COO, CIO and partner at OPT.

Shannon Kalyanamitr, the moderator for this event, has a strong background in international business development, project management and marketing. Shannon was named Singha’s youngest Director of International Corporate Planning & Strategy. She continued her career at Altus, a financial advisory group she founded together with two former colleagues. There she participated in building several TV channels and Thailand’s most popular e-commerce website, Lazada. In 2012 Shannon started MOXY, now Orami, an e-commerce website that quickly expanded to Indonesia and united several existing e-commerce platforms. Today Shannon is heading the marketing department at Orami as the Group Chief Marketing Officer.

“I grew up in the United States and was fortunate to have great tools available for development, including guidance and mentorship. Coming here, I saw the lack of this in Asia, especially for women. By sharing my experience at the Women in Business Series I hope to help women improve this situation,” says Ms. Kalyanamitr about attending the event.

With this experienced group of speakers, Connecting Founders will be able to create another stimulating and thought-provoking event, that will help young businesswomen expand their horizons and make valuable new connections.

For further information and images please contact:

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#### About Connecting Founders

Launched in September 2015, Connecting Founders is dedicated to promoting women-led business in Thailand and South-East Asia. By hosting events such as the Women in Business South East Asia series, it gives successful businesswomen a way to communicate their knowledge and experience to the next generation of female entrepreneurs. These events teach women more about building their business and offers places where they can connect and build their network.