

News & Events

In And Around Shanghai

If you have just had a grand opening ceremony, special company event or some interesting news, we would like to hear about it. We want to get people talking and improve communication and sharing of information between our members.

BUSINESSWOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARDS Shanghai 2005

Three German Business Ladies in the Limelight!



Left to right: Brigitte Sitzberger, Doris Rathgeber, Maren Brockmann, Brigitte Wolff

Breathtaking - the unbelievable happened one March evening in Shanghai: Brigitte Sitzberger received the Young Businesswoman of the Year Award: She was one of the three German business ladies who actually won in her category.

Doris Rathgeber, the famous TCM doctor, had been nominated in the Businesswoman of the Year category and Brigitte Wolff, CEO of a management consultancy, had received her nomination for the Entrepreneur of the Year award.

On Saturday, 5 March 2005, The Expatriate Professional Women's Society (EPWS) recognized Shanghai's exceptional businesswomen with the first annual 'Businesswoman of the Year Awards.' The awards ceremony was held during a gala dinner celebration at the Grand Hyatt Hotel, Pudong, with 270 attendees in black tie and evening robes.

The March date of this event coincides with the International Women's Day.

Awards were presented in the following categories:

- Businesswoman of the Year
- Young Businesswoman of the Year
- Entrepreneur of the Year
- Contribution to Society
- Leadership in Business Award
- The Excellence in Education Award

The awards recognize the enormous contributions women make to the business community and provide an opportunity to showcase their varied talents and achievements. The nominations came from

the community. The nominees were some of the truly remarkable and perhaps unsung, female business leaders and entrepreneurs whose career paths and individual achievements inspire businesspeople, if not around the world, at least here in Shanghai and China.

Although many successful businesswomen are modest about their ability to inspire others by what they accomplish both professionally and personally, that is exactly what they do every day.

Besides the Oscar-like presentation of the awards the evening's highlight was certainly the refreshing speech of the guest of honour Jacqueline Gold, who came to China for the first time especially to attend this event. Ms. Gold is running the lingerie empire Anne Summers and Knickerbox, which is run by women for women, and is now one of the most successful privately held companies in the UK. She highlighted the importance of the role of women in business. Speaking about being an entrepreneur and being a woman in the male dominated sex toy and lingerie industry, her speech was very inspirational and received enthusiastic reviews from the attendees.

Among the group of 30 Chinese and international nominees, only three German businesswomen were nominated:

Doris Rathgeber, nominated in the Businesswoman of the Year category, is Chairman of Body & Soul, the first foreign TCM clinic in China. She is making Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) accessible to foreigners and is also working with western medicine to achieve the best results. Doris studied TCM at the Shanghai TCM University and graduated in 2003. She founded her TCM Clinic in 2004. Practicing herself and employing TCM specialists allows Body & Soul to establish and offer a variety of medical services under one roof. After leading German magazine Stern published an article about Doris, even patients from abroad consult the clinic (www.bodyandsoul.com.cn).

The Businesswoman of the Year Award went to Cherry Chu who is Vice President of Jiangyin Venture Interior System. She has made a significant contribution to creating, building, developing and running one of the leading automotive interior systems suppliers in China.

Brigitte Sitzberger has been Founder and Managing Director of B! ASIA Human Capital Consulting Ltd. since 2004. (www.b-asia.biz) She previously established a corporate management development Asia presence in China for German publishing company Bertelsmann that was a huge achievement and brought her this nomination. Whilst operating in a unique cultural environment, she has showed a high degree of flexibility and self-initiative. Now she works with Fortune 500 companies to plan their human capital management, including recruiting practices, education and training strategies, as well as HR development. Her outstanding achievements at this young age were rewarded with the Young Businesswoman of the Year Award.

(continued on the next page)