

*The 29<sup>th</sup> BPW International Congress* took place in Cairo 20 – 29 October 2017 under the patronage of H.E. Abdel Fattah Al Sisi, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt.

This Business and Professional International triennial event was another triumph of 650 women from 73 countries from all five regions coming together to share their knowledge and experience, celebrate their fellowship and achievements, decide upon their advocacy for fairness, equality and peace and improvements for living conditions, health and education.

Hosted by BPW Egypt which was led by Dr Amany Asfour, International Voce President and Dr Omnia Fahmy, President BPW Egypt with Dr Chonchanok Viravan from Thailand, Past International President, as Congress Organiser, the Congress was held at the historical Mena House Hotel right beside the Pyramids which provided a magnificent background.

The Congress programme, built around the General Assembly chaired by International President Dr Yasmin Darwich from Mexico who was completing her three year term, provided some excellent plenaries and workshops featuring top class speakers such as special guests, H.E. Prof Ameenah Gurib, the President of Mauritius, H.E. Gertrude Mongella, Secretary General , the Fourth Women's World Conference, Beijing China and First President Pan Africa Parliament and representatives from ITC and UN WOMEN and leading global business organisations.

The BPW International General Assembly debated key resolutions on climate change, zero hours contracting, pay equity, elimination of violence, mental health; health of women in prisons, alcohol use and breast cancer on which they will conduct advocacy programmes around the world for the next three years.

UK members took an active part with past BPW UK President, Ann Swain making a valued contribution to the organisation in managing the

**credentials for the meeting; BPW Bristol member Jo Kinsey made valuable contacts with members from all regions and past BPW International President, Sylvia Perry, in her role as Chair, Constitutional Advisory Committee, chaired some General Assembly sessions. At the Opening Ceremony, Sylvia was privileged to be awarded the BPW International Badge of Honour.**

**Special commemorative evening events were held at the Pyramids, the Citadel and the Manial Palace.**

**At the closing ceremony Dr Amany Asfour, was installed as the new International President and will serve with a full international team for the next three years until the next triennial congress in Orlando Florida in 2020.**