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## ICCIM Organizes International Conference on Women and Trade

The First International Conference and Exhibition on Women and Trade was held in Tehran, Iran from 13 to 14 July 2010, under the auspices of Iran Chamber of Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Mines, and close cooperation of UNCTAD.



*The First International Conference and Exhibition on Women and Trade held in Tehran, Iran in session.*

### Conference Objectives

The main objectives of the Conference were: (a) to promote women entrepreneurship, (b) to enhance women presence in foreign trade; (c) to identify legal, structural and cultural challenges women

face in their economic and social activities, offering some possible solutions; (d) and to explore a partnership among the chambers, national governments and international organization to assist women in international trade.

### Issues and Topics

The Conference provided an opportunity for the women entrepreneurs to bring to the attention of national governments some of their major problems. Among others, the delegates identified several obstacles to greater benefits and increased growth of enterprises run by women, and therefore prevent an equitable women's participation in economy and trade. These obstacles include: (a) limited access to credit for women entrepreneurs; (b) cultural barriers that may restrict women's contacts with institutions; (c) women's lesser control over capital assets that could be collateralized to secure credit; (d) lesser networking opportunities including for access to information, and their lesser access to skill development and capacity building programmes. ■