



MARITAGE: The World's Creativity Without Borders Create – Discover – Share & Connect Empowering All Women through the Power of Multicultural Art and Heritage

In honor of the United Nations' celebration of International Women's Month, Multicultural Art and Heritage (**MARITAGE**) will celebrate its first international gathering **on March 28, 2014, at the historical Union League Club on 38 East 37th Street, New York, NY 10016, USA, from 6.30 pm to 9.00 pm.** MARITAGE is a global non-profit initiative, led by its founder together with women leaders in MARITAGE participating countries, multisectoral public and private partners, and high level staff volunteers at various International Organizations of United Nations Agencies in Geneva, that addresses poverty alleviation by creating training and employment opportunities for female artisans in developing countries, while taking into account sound business practices emphasizing the well-being of local communities and their cultures.

This event will be hosted by the Founder of MARITAGE and the conceptualizer of the World's Creativity Without Borders movement, **Mr. Ludy Suryantoro**, along with **Mrs. Coumba Touré**, President/Chairwoman for MARITAGE and Founder of the Advanced Development for Africa; and **Ms. Jeanine Jeo-Hi Kim**, the Acting Chair of MARITAGE USA and Founder of the Women & Fashion FilmFest and Girls Film Festival. **Ms. Cheryl Wills**, award winning news anchor on NY1 and author, will be the Master of Ceremonies of the evening. Attendees to this unique gathering include MARITAGE Honorees **the Secretary General of the International Telecommunication Union of the United Nations, Dr. Hamadoun Touré** for his contribution to women's empowerment through the Art of Technology and Innovation. MARITAGE also pays tribute to **Prof. Jeffrey D. Sachs, high caliber American economist and Director of The Earth Institute at Columbia University** for his contribution to women's empowerment through his strong approach of creative economy, and environmental and poverty alleviation. This unique event will also attract high dignitaries of the United Nations and international governments, as well as global influencers of fashion, art, design, academia, business and philanthropy.

This extraordinary gathering will feature several exciting highlights including the World's Creativity Without Borders Exhibition and Fashion Presentation with designs from Reborn Kyoto of MARITAGE Japan, Dame Trelise Cooper of MARITAGE New Zealand, Chossy Latu of MARITAGE Indonesia, Diarra Bousso of MARITAGE Senegal, and Khadeja Al Buhaliqa of MARITAGE Qatar, as well as a tribute to **MARITAGE Champions for Fusion of Creativity Dame Trelise Cooper of New Zealand, Champion for Art Dedication and Compassion, Mrs. Masayo Kodama of Japan**, President REBORN KYOTO NPO, and our **Champion for Knowledge and Education, Ms. Elizabeth Stroble**, President of Webster University. These designs represent concrete examples of MARITAGE success stories, such as the story of Dame Trelise Cooper, who through her collaboration with Indian garment artisans fuses creativity to directly contribute to the livelihood of India's poorest community. The story of Mrs. Masayo Kodama's kimonos, REBORN KYOTO, dedicated to empowering women in developing countries for more than 30 years, is another success story. Through MARITAGE's collaboration between Rwanda and Japan, with support from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, survivors of genocide and economically disadvantaged women and young men have received training and are achieving economic independence through 100% silk kimono making. At this event, MARITAGE will also introduce its initiative on **the Shawl for All Women – the Women's Journey of Hope, Courage and Wisdom**. A Shawl is a powerful, universal symbol that unifies all women from around the globe. Despite diverse cultural backgrounds, every woman in every culture has a common symbol: a Shawl. MARITAGE seeks to wrap and connect all women of the world with a Shawl as a symbol of unity and to interrelate the themes of art, culture, health and motherhood. **For further information please contact Mr. Glenn Pierre at informationmaritage@gmail.com**

MULTICULTURAL ART AND HERITAGE (MARITAGE) – THE JOURNEY FROM CULTURE TO COUTURE



Mr Ludy Suryantoro



Dame Trelise Cooper



Mrs Coumba Touré



Mrs Jeanine Jeo-Hi Kim



Mrs Elizabeth Stroble



Mrs Masayo Kodama

MARITAGE INTERNATIONAL is a global women's empowerment initiative through the power of multicultural art and heritage led by influential leaders of fashion, design, art, culture, academia, business, and international development who share the understanding of the role and power of multicultural art and heritage in economic and social development. Photo copyright by Ms Antie Rivai for MARITAGE INTERNATIONAL. Logo donated by Ms Carol Denison for MARITAGE. Models volunteered Sita and Liza for MARITAGE.