

## Big Numbers for 100 Women Event

Trade association **100 Women in Finance** is expecting a large turnout for its first global capital-introduction conference.

The virtual event, “2020 Global FundWomen Week,” takes place Nov. 9 to Nov. 13. It so far has enrolled about 150 investors. Some 180 fund managers, all run by women, also have applied to participate.

The event takes the place of separate regional conferences the group has held each year in New York, San Francisco and London. Because of the coronavirus pandemic, those gatherings were canceled in 2020. In previous years, cost constraints kept the events to about 35 investors and 35 fund managers each.

The limited headcounts in part reflected the fact that 100 Women, unlike virtually all other conference organizers, is a nonprofit organization that doesn’t charge managers to attend. Now, it’s taking advantage of rapid advancements in virtual cap-intro technology to extend its reach.

To that end, **iConnections**, the conference business that former **Context Summits** chief executive **Ron Biscardi** founded this year, is donating its services in holding the event. **J.P. Morgan** also is a sponsor.

Another change: For the first time, 100 Women’s conference is attracting significant participation from Asia and Australia. About 15% of the investors and managers are from those regions, including large pension systems in Australia.

**Archer Asia** of Hong Kong is on the list as well. Also among the scheduled attendees are representatives of sought-after investors in the U.S. and Europe that include **APG Asset Management**, **Callan**, **Capricorn Investment**, **California Teachers**, **Commonfund**, **Lighthouse Partners**, **Stable Asset Management** and **UBS**.

To attend, investors must commit to at least three 30-minute meetings.

“Institutional investors know diversification reduces risk and helps maximize the value of a total portfolio,” said **Michael Weinberg**, who oversees hedge fund allocations at APG, a Dutch pension manager that had €512 billion (\$606 billion) of assets



in April. “Women may see opportunities that men don’t, or see a different way of benefiting from the same opportunities. This could result in complementary alpha and less correlated returns, which are accretive from a portfolio construction perspective.”

The mission of 100 Women is to help women raise capital for alternative-investment vehicles they run. The organization has about 15,000 members. It maintains a public listing of about 450 managers, of which about 180 run hedge funds. ❖