

empowerment". The irony of poor Hindu and Muslim women in India trying to improve their lives by making high end Christmas tree ornaments was not lost on her, but she argued the program was working well because Indian women were gaining a better education and access to health care for their families by working with Rupalee Exclusifs.



Aside from meeting with retailers who might be interested in carrying her crafts, Poonam hoped to exchange experiences and information with other fair trade wholesalers. There were many at the conference eager to learn from Poonam's experience, like Henny Prijatna, who came from Seattle, Washington. Henny works for a small wholesaler that sells handbags made by a fair trade women's co-op in Thailand. Like many, Henny Prijatna is just entering the world of fair trade. Her company started last year, but she is hopeful and already talking of expanding production to other South east Asian countries.