

"Beyond Boundaries", a focus on Inspiration, Leadership, Empowerment and Innovation



Her Excellency Dr. Maryam Matar, Genetic Diseases Association UAE, MD Founder & Chairperson

The IEEE Women in Engineering International Leadership Summit took place at American University in Dubai under the theme "Beyond Boundaries". The summit was opened by Dr. Boutheina Tlili, WIE chair UAE section and the summit chair. She briefed the audience about IEEE and WIE. The summit had more than 150 attendees from

academia and industry. The summit focused on *Inspiration, Leadership, Empowerment and Innovation* aiming to bring together a global gathering of women in technology who aim to inspire, engage and empower other women. **H.E. Dr. Eesa Bastaki, President – University of Dubai** took to the stage as the keynote speaker where he stressed the importance of investment in education to close the gap in the gender disparity. He urged delegates not to be stagnant but to continuously innovate. He echoed the sentiments of H.H. Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan who once said *"if we invest in education now, then after 50 years we will be able to celebrate when we export the last barrel of oil."*

Christine Dal Bello, Public Affairs Officer at the US Consulate General Dubai spoke on behalf of **H.E. Ambassador Barbara Leaf, US Ambassador to the UAE** acknowledging the gender gap that exists today with women comprising only 12% of the engineering field and 26% of the computing field in the US. She emphasized the US government's dedication to encourage women to join and remain in STEM-related fields through academics and professional tracks.

The event welcomed distinguished guest speakers **Her Excellency Dr. Maryam Matar, Genetic Diseases Association (UAEGDA) UAE, MD Founder & Chairperson** and **Sultan Al-Hajji, Total E&P UAE, Vice President & Chief Strategy Officer**.

The second half of the summit was filled with a notable line up of panels with industry experts leading discussions on leadership, empowerment, innovation and new trends in technology, and inspiration. Speakers were from GE, IBM, EMC, **Center for Cyber Security, ABB, SAP, Emirates Nuclear Energy Corporation, Atkins, MWH Global, Dubai Electronic Security Center (DESC), potential, Center of Digital Innovation, Khalifa University and University of Sharjah**. The summit offered a unique opportunity to share valuable experiences and the exchange of ideas in the Middle East and throughout the world between the audience of industry professionals, academics, and students.

The event was made possible by support of Inspire Partner, General Electric; Empower Partner, ABB Group; and Engage Partners, SAP and Al Aan TV. Our supporting partners were Rochester Institute of Technology Dubai and Dubai Business women council.

Pictures:

<http://www.ieee-wiesummit2016dubai.org/Gallery.asp>

