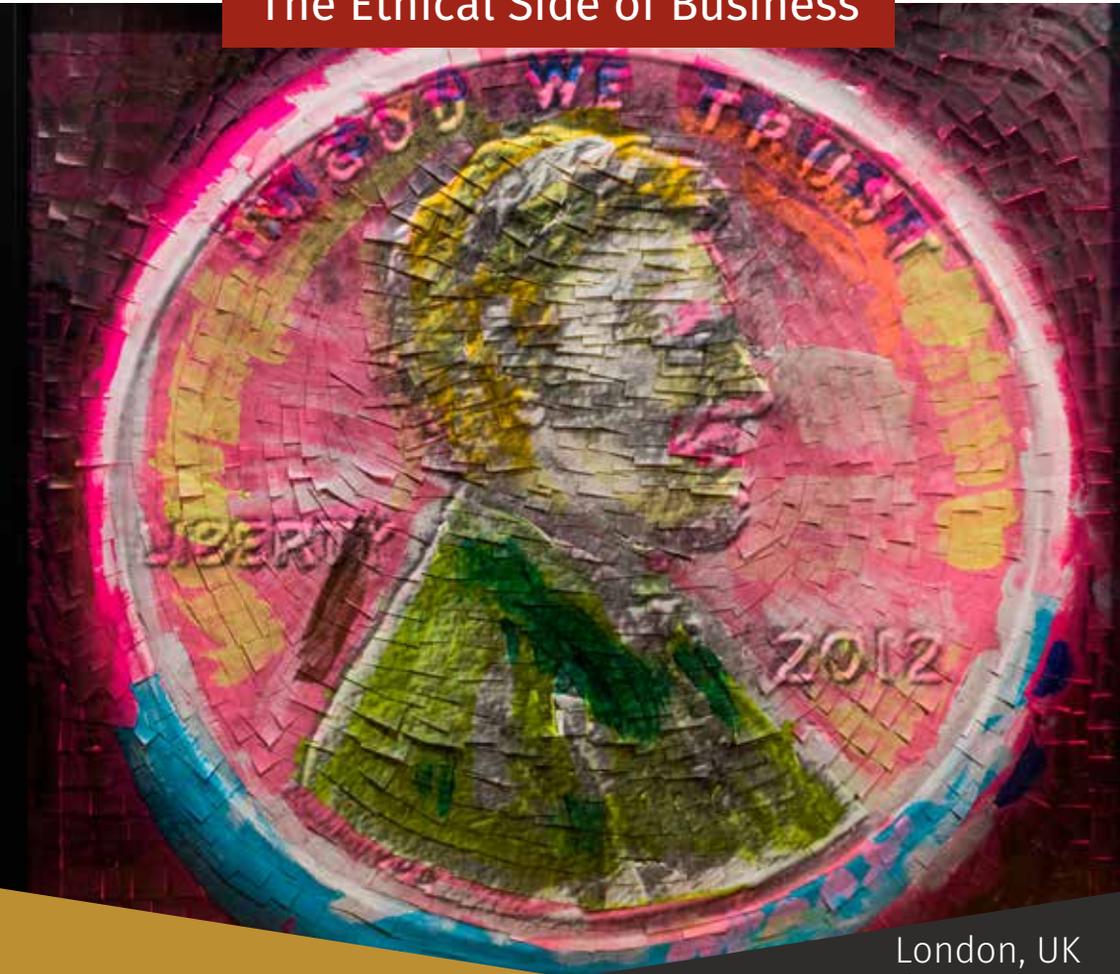


Philanthropy and Positive Change

The Ethical Side of Business



London, UK
December 8, 2016

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Philanthropy and Positive Change

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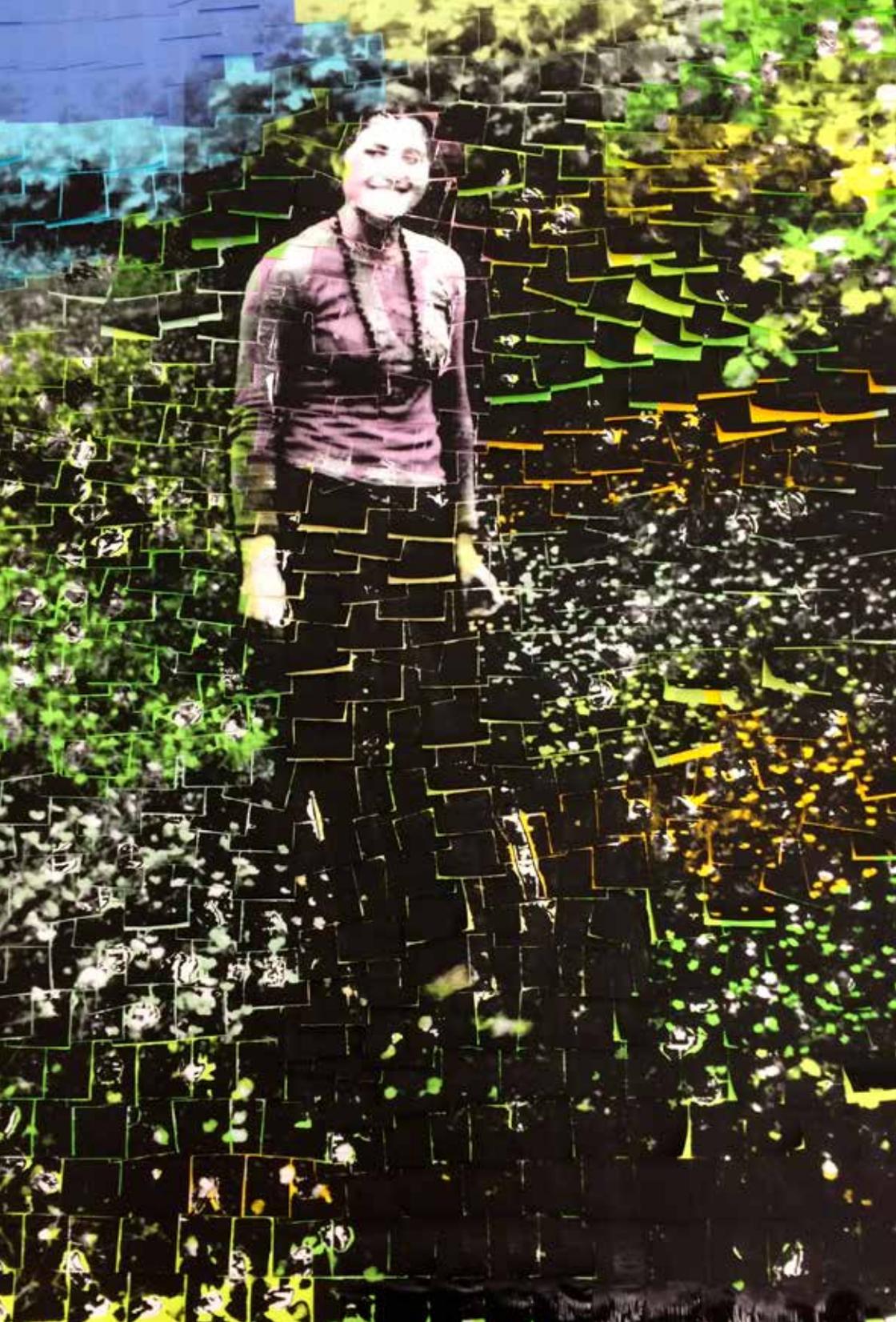
Global Thinkers Forum (GTF) is a global platform that brings together a diverse network of thought leaders to share their visions of the future, create meaningful conversations around them and effect positive change in the world. GTF's mission focuses on three areas: accountable leadership, women's empowerment and youth development. GTF is also a bridge-builder, creating opportunities for knowledge exchange, collaboration, strategic philanthropy and recognition. The Forum is non-profit, London-based and was incubated at Oxford University's Saïd Business School in 2011.

GTF launched officially in 2012 in Amman, Jordan, under the patronage of Queen Rania Al Abdullah and has partnered with some of the world's top brands, organisations and foundations. It features a prestigious Advisory Board with high-profile thought leaders and decision makers from over 20 countries. GTF organises a wide range of activities including seminars, fora, roundtable discussions, workshops, networking events, mentoring programmes and an annual Awards Ceremony.

GTF in Numbers

2012 – 2016

- GTF launched in **2012** in Amman, Jordan, under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Rania
- **6** countries (UK, Jordan, Turkey, Greece, UAE, Saudi Arabia)
- Advisory Board Members from **20+** countries
- **24** Events (fora, awards ceremonies, workshops, roundtables)
- **5** Annual GTF events
- **2** Angel Investors events (Jordan, UAE)
- **16** workshops (Greece, UAE, Jordan, Saudi Arabia)
- **More than 100** speakers
- **4** GTF Awards Galas
- **40** Awards of Excellence in 4 years
- **More than 1,500** participants convened, learned, networked
- **5** annual publications
- **30** participating countries
- Mentors from **14** countries
- Mentees from **13** countries
- **100+** Young Professionals and Entrepreneurs directly benefitted from the GTF network



GLOBAL THINKERS FORUM 2016

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ARTICLE

By Elizabeth Filippouli
Founder & CEO, Global Thinkers Forum

STRATEGIC PHILANTHROPY & DEVELOPING A GIVING CULTURE





The word 'Philanthropy' comes from the Greek words 'philos' (friend) and word 'anthropos' (human being). Our world needs currently more individuals and organisations who are ready to act out of concern towards humanity.

The good news is that this can have tax and commercial benefits too. And there is nothing bad about that at all - Let us get rid of the cliché that philanthropists make donations to avoid taxation. For, even if they do, their donations still benefit tremendously those who are in need.

So, 'Strategic Philanthropy' is the practice of companies by which they target their respective charitable and philanthropic activities around a specific issue or cause that will, in turn, support their own business objectives.

In association with the growth of institutional philanthropy, there is movement, albeit relatively slow, away from traditional charitable giving to more strategic giving aimed at achieving significant social change. Private and corporate foundations are seeking to address complex economic and social challenges, and the underlying causes of poverty and inequities.

The term 'impact investment' is relatively new. Impact investments are investments made into companies, organisations and funds with the intention to generate social or environmental impact alongside a financial return (ROI). Currently, institutional philanthropy is on the rise around the globe. While the factors influencing this growth vary from region to region and country to country, among the key forces are the enormous increase in

global wealth; the opening-up of political space; the shifting roles of the state, market, and civil society; and the increased visibility of philanthropy and its influential leaders. Our world moves towards more strategic giving.

Successful philanthropic endeavours have something in common: they are built steadily over time. The impact ultimately comes, not just from which organisations receive funding, but also the development of positive, lasting relationships between companies and their communities. That is also called 'Stakeholder Bonding' and that can create an ecosystem of close collaboration, mutual support and development. When sizing up a non-profit or a cause, use similar basic criteria that an investor would for a for-profit venture: Take a close look at the organisation's leadership, programmes, activities, and strengths, as well as the risks associated. Do due diligence by assessing their track record and financial stability. Philanthropists are most effective and successful when their charitable giving reflects their personal philosophies. Knowing what they want to achieve with their giving enables them to set standards for how to achieve it. Successful philanthropists are able to translate their giving philosophy into specific strategies and thereby accomplish their short- and long-term goals.

Finally, if you are wondering about measuring the impact of your philanthropic giving or how to select an organisation worth-supporting, I would suggest five questions to consider:

1. How do I define my charitable success?

Identify philanthropic goals and how you will measure progress and achievement.

2. How does philanthropy fit into my overall financial plans?

Determine if the most beneficial time to give is now, later, or year-end. Consider your assets and how they are allocated in your financial portfolio, and identify which assets are most tax-effective to donate.

3. Whom do I involve in my philanthropy?

Reflect on whom you want to include in your philanthropy and to what extent, as well as how they will affect your goals.

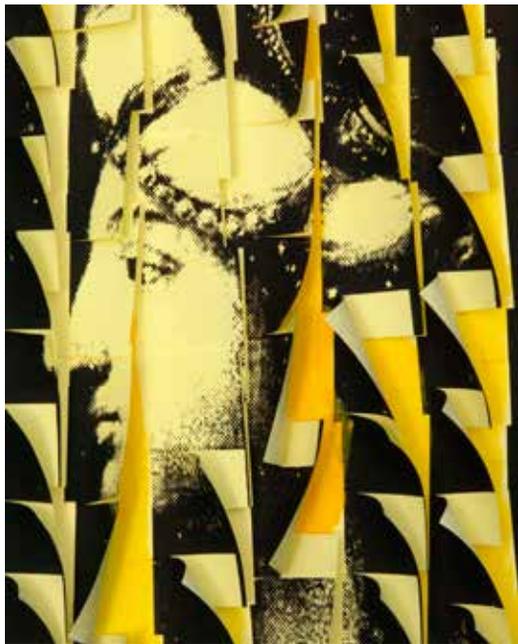
4. What giving tool is best?

Choosing a giving tool to help you with your philanthropic strategy can be difficult. Focus your decision-making process on what best supports your preferences and giving goals.

5. How do I evaluate and monitor non-profit organisations?

When you select a cause, you are not simply giving money; you are aligning yourself with its mission and values. Pick organisations that fit within your overall philosophy and strategic plans, both in how you identify with the cause and their practicality.

As a closure to this article, I would like to highlight the visionary work of a great philanthropist, the late Amira Binkaram, Chairperson of Sharjah Business Women's Council. Ameera, who was lost prematurely in 2016, was a unique advocate of women's empowerment and a role model for her hard work and dedication to positive change. May she RIP. We salute her and thank her for the legacy she is leaving behind.





ARTICLE

By Coline Houssais

Director of Studies & Publications and London Bureau Chief, Thinkers & Doers

SUCCESSFUL PHILANTHROPY ENDEAVOURS NEED COLLABORATION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



Last year, Thinkers & Doers initiated a vast consultation spanning the entire Arab region to assess the main trends of philanthropy and contribute to its development by addressing the obstacles it currently faces. As such, it intended to raise awareness regarding the contribution impact-oriented philanthropy can make to development and pay tribute to the endeavours of philanthropists worldwide.

Based in Paris, and with offices in Dubai and London, Thinkers & Doers, having been formally created in 2013, is a newcomer in the field of organisations that support innovative thinking & doing as a bridge between Europe, the Middle East and North Africa. Despite its recent beginnings, it nonetheless boasts some impressive achievements such as the organisation of its inaugural two-day forum at the Institut du Monde Arabe in Paris in January 2015, which gathered 1600 participants (including business leaders, diplomats, journalists, decision makers, civil society activists, entrepreneurs and artists) and 88 speakers from across the world to discuss topics such as social entrepreneurship, culture, women, energies and cities. French President François Hollande opened the forum that ended with a gala dinner at the Quai d'Orsay. A round of regional conferences followed in Tunis, Dubai and Bahrain.

Entitled "Giving for Good in the Middle East & North Africa", the consultation reached out to the most dedicated and visionary leaders in the field of philanthropy not only in Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Lebanon, Palestine, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, the UAE and Qatar, but also in Europe (France, Belgium, the United Kingdom), the United States and Singapore.

Despite a very old and deeply rooted tradition of giving, a structured and impact-oriented approach to charity has only recently emerged in Arab countries. As a result, philanthropy has been the subject of surprisingly few studies, although many of the individuals interviewed by Thinkers & Doers have been involved in philanthropic activities for decades. The first comprehensive report on the subject was published in 2008 by Dr. Ibrahim and D. Sharif under the title "From Charity to Social Change: Trends in Arab Philanthropy". More recently, Philanthropy Age launched its Arab Giving Survey. Other publications are issued by financial institutions that recently incorporated the Middle East in their scope of study, such as BNP Paribas Individual Philanthropy Index and Coutts Million Dollar Donor Report.

As a result, Thinkers & Doers' initiative was particularly well welcomed by donors and philanthropy professionals alike, and has issued a number of analyses that include the five following points:

- 1) Philanthropy is a phenomenon encompassing individuals from all paths of life, which shows that there is a potential to enlarge the donor panel and use giving as a way to empower communities worldwide.
- 2) As the traditional heads of the household, men seem to give more than women. However, working and non-working women represent the greater share of volunteers and employees in charity organisations.
- 3) Although health and education remain the most popular causes among donors, a growing trend among philanthropists prioritises issues such as employment and entrepre-

neurship, especially among the youth and women.

- 4) Another key field in the future is the research and exploitation of data pertaining to philanthropy in the region. It is essential that locally based organisations own these data and become the focus point for giving-related research in Arab countries.
- 5) Despite recent improvements, a significant amount still needs to be done in order to ensure that all donors are aware of the necessity of impact giving in order to shift the focus from the act of giving to tangible results. This aim will be achieved through three points: mass awareness, institutionalization & professionalization of philanthropy and better practice sharing between philanthropy institutions.

A similarity of vision for long-term and comprehensive development as well as a strong common desire to acknowledge the efforts made by leading philanthropic figures led Thinkers & Doers to partner with Global Thinkers Forum for the GTF 2016 Awards for Excellence in Philanthropy and Positive Change that

will take place in London this year. This exciting event will be the occasion for Thinkers & Doers to formally unveil in exclusivity the findings of the study in front of a committed audience and call for better collaboration, sharing of good practices and rationalization of philanthropy. "Giving for Good in the Middle East and North Africa" will be available later on on Thinkers & Doers' website. At Thinkers & Doers, we are extremely honoured to be associated to the GTF Awards this year and look forward to increasing our collaboration with the Global Thinkers Forum in the years to come.

In parallel, Thinkers & Doers has launched its new cycle of activities entitled "Connecting Cities, Connecting Innovative Forces" during a conference on May 20th in Paris. This cycle includes the creation of "Mapping Innov'action" a barometer of innovative communities in 20 territories worldwide. Thinkers & Doers' next consultation will concern the employment of women in the Arab world. For more information about how to support this initiative or take part in it please contact ch@thinkers-doers.com.



INTERVIEW

Armand Arton, Esq.

*Founder & President, Arton Capital, Founder, Global Citizen Forum,
Founder & Trustee, Global Citizen Foundation*

TODAY'S PHILANTHROPY IS EVOLVING



Q: Tell us about your story and professional background in your own words.

A: My personal and professional backgrounds are crossing paths and what I do today is the result of my personal experience that has affected my choices in my life and career. I am Armenian by decent so for generations my family has been moving from one country to another. I grew up in Canada where I graduated and discovered how Canada integrates migrants from different ethnicity that have a right to different paths. Canada is one of the most welcoming countries to migration. I started my career in the financial sector in a program attracting high net worth investors allowing foreign families to invest in the country. These investments support SMEs, which represent 40% of the Canadian economy. Ten years ago, I started my own investment firm, I became one of the partners in a private-public partnership with the government on this program and from there onwards over the last 5 years we diversified and took this Canadian know-how to many other countries internationally. We currently work with nine governments including Hungary, Cyprus, Bulgaria and some Caribbean islands that have economic citizenship programs, such as Antigua, Saint Lucia, Dominica and Grenada. In summary, today I spend most of my time working with governments on defining policies and strategies on how to optimize the legislations in the programs and attract the kind of investors and migrants they want in order to have the bigger impact on their economies and social contribution.

Q: How and why did you decide to launch Global Citizen?

A: While working with governments

and various clients we decided that there needed to be a platform of media that describes what it means to be a Global Citizen in today's world. While I'm privileged to work with this 0.1% of the wealthy migrants, who are moving from one country to another by making investments and generating billions of dollars of revenues for the economies, we need to implement a higher impact on the other 99.9% of the migrants, a big number of which are refugees. This is how the Global Citizen Forum last year was focused on the impact that this 0.1% of wealthy migrants can have on the refugee crisis in Europe and we had people like Kofi Annan, José Manuel Barroso, Wyclef Jean, Prime Ministers of countries, Ministers of Migration, Policy making and more. And we have a magazine, which as well goes every two months to the same audience of global thinkers and influencers, called Global Citizen. While we work on a daily basis with clients and governments, we believe that through media, social media, events and the magazine we can spread the message to the larger audience, raising awareness on global citizenship issues and opportunities that exist.

Q: Why do you think that Philanthropy is necessary in our day and age?

A: Today's philanthropy is evolving. Hopefully it will be disrupted by technology in the same way as all industries have been disrupted to increase impact. Even though there is a large pool of donations done worldwide, a lot of them are incentivised from tax perspective to push people to give more. This is what countries from the developing world are doing by giving the tax incentive to donations. The other challenge is with money that is gathered through philanthropy – how the impact can be multiplied. Hav-

ing foundations with billions of dollars in their bank accounts is not philanthropy. So, it is what you do with this money and how you change lives that define the next generation of philanthropists. In our case, again we are trying to create something called the Global Citizen Tax, where we are working with governments to implement something where when a person invests in a country for second residence or citizenship and he is very wealthy we want to have a forced tax of 2% on the investment that will go into a direct refugee European venture fund. This initiative initially will be focused on the European Union, where it is easier to implement such legislation. Today we have 8 countries that are receiving investors and most of these countries are the same that are receiving the refugees, but while the investments in the programs generate money for the different sectors, a very small percentage of this goes back to the refugee programs. About one billion euros can be contributed over the next 3-4 years for the refugees and Europe needs that money for integration.

Q: Do you see any new trends rising in the philanthropic arena?

A: The reports, which we are going to launch as of next month, show that the emerging markets are catching up in becoming a more important factor in the international philanthropic arena. All emerging markets from Asia to Middle East and from Eastern Europe to Africa, produce a new generation of wealth. These new entrepreneurs, new families, must be taught how to become philanthropists, how to give back. We believe that philanthropists are going to come from these places more so than from traditional markets like North America or Europe. I think education and kids' migration are topics that will be mostly encouraged by philanthropists in the next decade. If we want to fight terrorism then this will be more successfully done through education, by providing those kids with the right educational tools, giving them the right choices to make at early life. It is a long investment for a good cause.





ARTICLE

By Demet Özdemir

*EMEIA (Europe, Middle East, India and Africa)
Growth Markets Leader, EY*

ENTREPRENEURSHIP IS NOT A MAN'S BUSINESS IN TURKEY



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How can we make winning women out of Turkey's female entrepreneurs?

As we know, Turkey had a very busy year in 2015. Not only did the country host the world's most important leaders in politics, big business and entrepreneurship at the G20, B20 and G20 YEA Summits, it also took center stage in global discussions on how to speed up the process of achieving gender parity.

Accordingly, it hosted the launch of the W20, a taskforce that is engaging the G20 to achieve global growth through the economic empowerment of women. Furthermore, it was the setting for EY's pioneering Women3.The Power of Three forum. This forum, which is part of EY's Women. Fast Forward global platform, brought together business, entrepreneurial and government leaders from over 20 countries to create practical, but powerful solutions aimed at narrowing the economic gap between men and women.

At EY, we want to explore the challenges that female entrepreneurs in Turkey are facing and help find ways of addressing them because we know that Turkey's community of female entrepreneurs is a huge mine of untapped economic potential.

The \$4 bn. opportunity

In theory, female-owned businesses represent 40% of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) in Turkey, according to the World Bank. Unfortunately, in practice, much of this 'ownership' is on paper only. According to the Turkish Women Entrepreneurs' Association, KAGIDER, women lead just 20% of businesses in

the major city of Istanbul and that figure falls even lower – to 8% – in rural areas.

The World Bank believes that female Turkish entrepreneurs have the potential to contribute \$4 bn. more to the country's economy than they already do. Unfortunately, however, they are held back by cultural stereotypes, a lack of access to funding and inadequate education.

While female entrepreneurs in other countries face similar challenges, these challenges have a greater impact in Turkey due to the country's particularly pronounced gender gap. On the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Index 2015, Turkey ranks 130 on a list of 145 countries.

So, how can we support female Turkish entrepreneurs to scale up their businesses in order to boost the country's GDP and fulfill their true potential?

Action no 1 - Tackle cultural misconceptions

Entrepreneurship is not just a man's business in Turkey – or in any other country for that matter.

Therefore, we need to confront the misconceptions about female entrepreneurs that exist in Turkey – the misconceptions that entrepreneurship isn't a suitable occupation for a woman and that if they are going to be entrepreneurs, they can only do it in certain sectors such as banking and textiles. Role models are crucial to overcoming these misconceptions.

Women make very good entrepreneurs in each and every sector – as long as they have the passion and vision for what they are doing. The government and large corporates can support female entrepreneurs by adopting procurement policies where they buy a certain amount

of goods and services from female-led businesses.

Action no 2 – Enable female entrepreneurs to get access to funding

Female entrepreneurs in Turkey – like female entrepreneurs in many countries – find it a struggle to access funding. Research by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development in 2016 found that just 12% of Turkish women said that access to money was not a barrier to starting a business – compared with 21% of men.

When they start their businesses, female Turkish entrepreneurs often use their own savings or borrow money from friends and family. Consequently, they need to be educated in how they can use third-party funding sources to grow their businesses and they need support to overcome prejudices that borrowing money is very risky.

Turkish female entrepreneurs also need mentorship and advice to help them to allocate capital within their businesses. Capital is very precious, yet capital without mentorship can be easily lost.

Action no 3 – Educate female entrepreneurs in the fundamentals of running a business

Upscaling a business is a challenge, so female Turkish entrepreneurs need education on how they can grow their businesses, manage their businesses, undertake financial planning and connect with funders and mentors.

EY's Entrepreneurial Winning Women™ program can put female entrepreneurs in touch with finance providers and other entrepreneurs, teaching them how to manage their businesses strategically, and assisting them with scaling up.

Through EY's Winning Women program, we want to increase the number of large-scale enterprises that are led by women or where women have an active decision-making and management role.

Hope for the future

Turkey is home to some of the world's most exciting female entrepreneurs. EY wants to enable them to succeed and to act as role models to other women, which is why it has brought its Winning Women program to the country. In addition to Turkey, we are also expanding the program through the EMEA region to Europe, the Middle East and India.

It is my great wish that, through this program, we can support talented female entrepreneurs all around the world to grow their businesses and to make an even bigger contribution to the economies and societies where they live.

To find out more about EY's Winning Women program in Turkey, see www.ey.com/tr/eww

To find out more about Women. Fast forward, EY's global platform to accelerate the achievement of global gender parity, see www.ey.com/womenfastforward



ARTICLE

By Haifa Fahoum Al Kaylani,
Founder Chairman, Arab International Women Forum
and Ibrahim Gambari,
Co-Chair, Commission on Global Security, Justice & Governance

THE ROLE OF WOMEN IS IMPERATIVE FOR PEACE



The logo for the United Nations, consisting of the letters 'UN' in a bold, sans-serif font, set against a light purple square background.

Security Council Resolution 1325 (adopted in 2000) recognized, for the first time, the vital contribution of women in conflict prevention and resolution.

As a symbolic act and practical call to action, the Resolution acknowledged what we have experienced throughout our careers in diplomacy, business, academia, and development: that the involvement of women in peace processes significantly improves the prospects for a more enduring peace. Each year since, the role of women in keeping and building peace has figured more prominently in the commemoration of International Women's Day, today, 8 March. This is rightly so.

And yet, sixteen years on, formidable political, socio-cultural, and economic obstacles remain to the full participation of women in peace efforts, whether as peacemakers or as citizens—something the Resolution was supposed to help overcome. This is a major conclusion of the Commission on Global Justice, Security & Governance, on which we proudly serve.

In our report, *Confronting the Crisis of Global Governance*, we view gender inequality as a fundamental global governance challenge, especially in conflict-affected environments, where, compared to men, women suffer harm differently and disproportionately. Despite the call in Resolution 1325 for greater female participation in peace processes, they remain acutely underrepresented in UN-brokered talks. Research carried out by UNIFEM/UN Women reveals that, in fourteen diverse cases since 2000, women's participation in peace negotiation delegations averaged less than eight percent, and less than three percent of their signatories were women.

Today, only two of twenty-two UN Under-Secretaries-General are women, and in UN Missions, women make up less than one-third of the international civilian staff, 21 percent of senior professional levels, and only 18 percent of national staff. Moreover, the recent Global Study on the Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 found that only 54 countries have formulated National Action Plans for Resolution 1325. Entire regions, notably the Americas and Middle East, are lagging behind.

Meanwhile, the plight of millions of women, men, and children in the Greater Middle East seeking refuge in nearby Europe and beyond reminds us daily of the need for urgent action to prevent and end ongoing wars. From sitting at the negotiating table to building the blocks for long-term reconciliation and peaceful coexistence, women are poised to contribute, when given the opportunity, to the fair and enduring solutions that are so essential to reduce human suffering.

To ensure that women's voices are heard and decision-makers made more accountable, particularly in fragile states, the Commission proposes several innovations to advance a vision of "just security."

First, strengthen the role of women in peace processes. Global and regional institutions should appoint women to prominent peacemaking roles. International actors that support peace processes should demand women's inclusion in negotiating teams and as signatories to ensure that their experiences and priorities are represented.

Second, employ National Action Plans for Resolution 1325 as an effective tool of foreign policy. Incorporating such plans into a country's foreign policy can secure

and sustain political will and resources—two critical components for ensuring that a plan’s objectives are met and leaders held accountable.

Third, tackle the socio-economic factors that disadvantage women’s status in society. The Commission recognizes several such factors, including the lack of access to education, reproductive health services, and decent work opportunities in the formal economy.

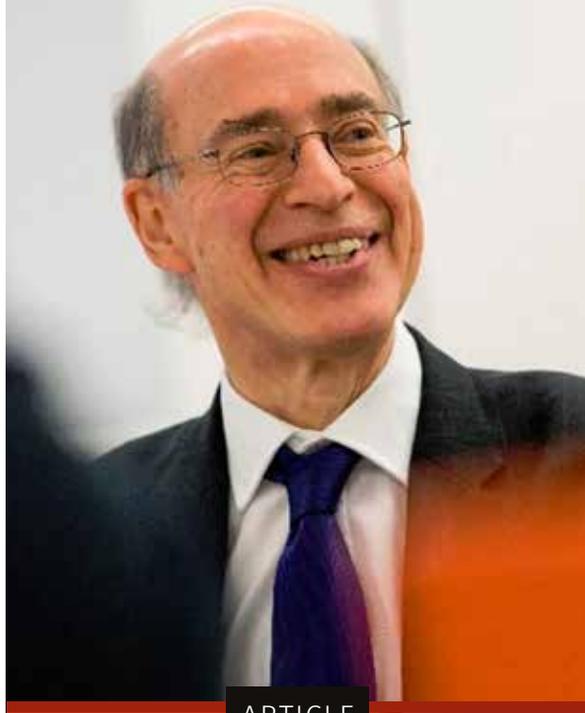
Finally, the Commission strongly endorses the UN’s goal of empowering women to become national and world leaders in the 21st century. The Campaign to Elect a Woman UN Secretary General, organized by a group of female scholars and civil society leaders, is an excellent example toward achieving this goal.

Current possible candidates to succeed Ban Ki-moon include UNESCO’s Director-General Irina Bokova, UNDP’s Administrator Helen Clark, and former Special

Adviser to the UN Secretary-General Amina Mohammed. Their high-level qualifications and proven leadership skills demonstrate that a woman leader can be selected for the UN’s top job based on merit. Whoever is appointed should ultimately place a premium on improving UN recruitment, retention, and the advancement of women to serve in senior posts.

All too often women, especially in violent conflict and post-conflict settings, struggle to achieve dignified livelihoods and exert decision-making power, lack access to critical services, and suffer serious physical and mental harm—a toxic triple threat that devastates lives and undermines women’s ability to contribute to society. The ideas we lay out above should be considered and acted upon with a sense of urgency. We will only begin to meet the most pressing global governance challenges when women, who are disproportionately victims, are part of the solution.





ARTICLE

By John Baguley

CEO, International Fundraising Consultancy (IFC)

THE GROWTH OF PHILANTHROPY



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hilanthropy is one a life's most praise-worthy acts, it is enshrined in many religions from Islam's zakat to the Christian's

tithe and the Buddhist call for alms and is seen as an important part of both spiritual and secular life. Many wealthy people feel that having made their fortune, or at least received somewhat more money than they really need, they wish to move from this material success to greater significance in this world, and philanthropy is often how an individual or a family achieves this position whether this is publically acknowledged or a very private matter.

In working with our clients, we have seen how this is becoming a family affair with decisions perhaps made annually following a family get together, to discuss not just how much they will give that year, but to whom those funds will go. Where this is a family decision rather than one individual's choice, we have noticed that it becomes a family tradition which is passed down the generations.

This is especially true where the family considers what they hope to achieve with their gifts; whether, for example, they are interested in helping children, medical research, education or their religion. Perhaps more importantly within such categories, they consider which organisation is best placed to help them achieve their family aims. Money could be given as core funding to a well-known organisation, like 'Save the Children', but would the family rather it went to a specific country or for children's education or to help orphans? If so, they may want to specify this or to give it to a smaller organisation concerned with just that problem.

Of course, this brings another question: Just how does the family know that the money is well spent? Most well-known organisations are very well run and tightly regulated, though occasionally some, like 'Kids Company', fall spectacularly from grace. Some families have a family office which will not only take care of their finances, rather like a one-family bank, but will also help to plan that family's philanthropy and audit any charity in which they are really interested, relating the feed-back from the charity at the appropriate family meeting, though this is not really part of their specialist skill set. As we have seen in our own work in this field, this is not something to be undertaken lightly and the information in many countries is quite obscure and so time-consuming to acquire, but the result is that the family, or individual's philanthropy is managed as well as their business interests.

At the top end of the scale we have the 'Giving Pledge' for billionaires (www.GivingPledge.org), set up by Bill Gates and supported by Warren Buffet, which asks billionaires to pledge to give away half their wealth to charity in their lifetime or as a legacy. So far, 143 billionaires have made the pledge, which represents a huge sum and will time- transform the work of the organisations to which it is given. This programme follows the US model of gaining respect in society by giving to charity and being seen to give, which is rather different from the British model of 'doing good by stealth' and not boasting about such things. In either case, it is the act of giving that counts.

On a corporate level, philanthropy is on the rise, propelled by the growth of corporate social responsibility (CSR) programmes. Here we have seen a strengthening of the view that CSR is not only

good for corporate public relations but actually has a positive effect on the bottom line. Of course, CSR is a mixed bag, taking in a company's supply chain, the management of its human resources and its operating environment in regard to the community in which its factories or offices are placed. The latter consideration is what fuels a company's local philanthropy, i.e. donations to local charities, or to national charities which take care of problems local to the company.

All this comes, fortuitously, at a time when governments are in retreat of their social obligations, and programmes of austerity are shrinking the ability of the state to cope with all manner of social issues. Instead civil society (the Third Sector) is expected to step up and deliver, though where governments have embraced austerity this has often extended

to charities as well and they too have suffered historically massive cuts.

This leaves private philanthropy as the one area that still has the ability to grow as the well-off have seen their income increase steadily in the past few years, but also many of those who have not previously considered making donation are considering how they can best help society.

Philanthropy need not, however, be the sole preserve of the very wealthy and nearly everyone can become a philanthropist by considering if they or perhaps their family could make a considered annual gift, rather than the occasional token donation we often make when we feel moved or in some way obliged to give. If we could all do this, this could indeed be philanthropy's finest hour.





ARTICLE

By Sharon Schweitzer

*J.D., Cross-Cultural Consultant, International Protocol Expert,
Protocol & Etiquette Worldwide, LLC*

POWERFUL WOMEN – A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE



A

mong the lists that Forbes magazine issues each year is The World's 100 Most Powerful Women.

An occasion that frequently brings attention to the continuing pay disparity between men and women, especially in business. The good news, however, is that the gap is narrowing.

According to a study by executive compensation firm Equilar, in 2015 the top female CEOs in the United States significantly out-earned the men. Although eight of the top 100 CEOs of the largest companies by revenue were female, they earned an average of \$22.7 million, compared to \$14.9 million for male CEOs on the list. What's more, Safra Catz of Oracle tied with her co-CEO, Mark Hurd, for the title of highest-paid chief executive.

Looking to the 2015 Forbes list, the world's most powerful woman is German Chancellor, Angela Merkel, with U.S. presidential hopeful, Hillary Clinton, coming in at #2. It's important to note that within the top 25 women on this list, several of them are female presidents, including Geun-Lye Park (#11) of South Korea and Cristina Kirchner (#16) of Argentina.

Turning our attention to the business arena and the kinds of industries and sectors that powerful women globally inhabit, let's look at, not only the women in leadership positions, but also the kinds of businesses that they lead. When Fortune magazine analyzed the top industries headed by women CEOs from among their Fortune 1000 list, they found that the most common were specialty retailers; food production, products & services; and gas and electric utilities.

The results of a Social Trends survey from the Pew Research Center also found that

among their respondents, 46% believed that men have the edge when it comes to running a large oil or gas company.

What you might be surprised to learn, is how many women around the world have been heading up industries that many people seem to more closely associate with men, and for quite some time. The following is only a selection of the many examples:

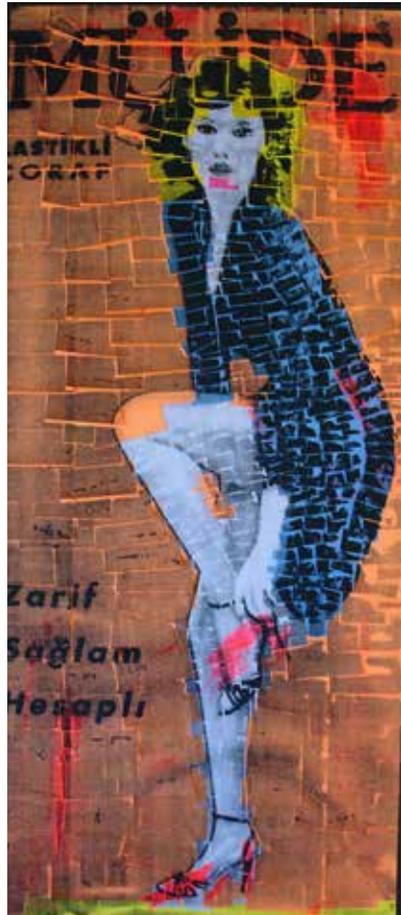
- Elizabeth Filippouli, Founder & CEO of Global Thinkers, a UK-based and internationally operating strategic communications and business development consulting firm, as well as Founder & CEO of the Global Thinkers Forum, inspires others through a focus on women's empowerment, social entrepreneurship, innovation, future trends and visionary leadership.
- Mallika Srinivasan is Chairman and CEO of TAFE (Tractors and Farm Equipment Ltd), a \$1.4 billion (INR 93 billion) business based in Chennai, India, where she has worked since 1986.
- Fellow Indian, Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw founded Biocon in 1978, India's largest publicly traded biopharmaceutical company. In 2014, she won the Chemical Heritage Foundation's Othmer Gold Medal for contributions to science through entrepreneurship, as well as Germany's Keihl Institute Global Economy Prize for achievements in business.
- Africa's "richest self-made woman," Folorunsho Alakija of Nigeria (#87 on Forbes Power Women list) is not just Executive Vice Chairman of Famfa Oil, but has a license "for one of the most lucrative oil fields" in the country.
- Ana Patricia Botín of Spain became the first woman to head a major European

lender in 2014 when she stepped up as Executive Chairman of Santander Group, the largest bank in the eurozone by market value.

- In South Korea, Hyun Jeong-eun, has been Chairman of car giant Hyundai since 2004. In 2015, she was named one of Forbes Asia's "Asia Power Businesswomen," her second time being recognized on the list.
- Isela Costantini assumed her role as President and Chief Executive Officer of General Motors Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay in 2012, the first woman to hold the position.
- In 2011, Christine Lagarde of France took over as Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund, the organization which serves as economic advisor for 188 countries.
- Ranked the "#1 Most Powerful Arab Woman" in the family business category by Forbes Middle East in 2014, Raja Easa Al Gurg, has been instrumental as Managing Director in expanding UAE-based Easa Saleh Al Gurg Group's trade and commerce to include 24 companies and 370 international brand partnerships.
- Australian Gina Rinehart has been Executive Chairman of mining company, Hancock Prospecting, since 1992, and ranks second on Forbes Australia's Richest People list.
- In 2006, Griselda Hernandez became the first female country manager to lead Mexican operations of UPS (she now leads its North Latin America operations).
- And in 1995 in China, Zhang Xin co-founded (and is currently CEO) of

one of China's largest property developers, SOHO China. She and her husband Pan Shiyi also established the SOHO China Foundation, a charity with the mission of alleviating poverty through the advancement of education.

Therefore, we celebrate the gains and significant strides women have made worldwide over the years, especially in cultures with different expectations about marriage, career, children, and elder care. As such, it's invaluable to take a global perspective to see where women have made great inroads in business and politics.





ARTICLE

By Elif Shafak
Author

I AM A WORLD CITIZEN AND A GLOBAL SOUL





come from a land where words are as heavy as stone tablets. Every writer, poet or journalist in Turkey

knows that because of words you can get into trouble. Because of a poem, a story, a novel, a sentence in an interview or even a tweet, in one day, you can be stigmatized and blacklisted; you can be almost lynched in social media and attacked in pro-government media. All of a sudden, you can be labelled as “a traitor.” “A betrayer.” You can be sued, put on trial, detained, arrested or even imprisoned. You can be exiled too. All because of words.

As a result, there is widespread self-censorship among Turkey’s intellectuals and artists. But this is a subject that is rather difficult to talk about; let alone, admit. It is also a bit embarrassing. Very few people will openly acknowledge it. But the truth is, in today’s Turkey, there is too much tension, too much persecution, too much pressure, too much fear. And wherever there is all these four elements at once -tension, persecution, pressure, fear - it means, there is self-censorship.

For women journalists, intellectuals and writers the climate of fear is especially hard because the kind of hate speech that we receive is almost always tainted with sexism, misogyny, swearing. A male novelist is regarded as a novelist, and that’s it. Nobody will mention that he happens to be a man! There is no need. For female novelists it is usually the other way round. You are seen as a ‘woman’ first and foremost, and then, as an intellectual or a writer. Turkey is a deeply conservative, patriarchal, male-dominated and homophobic country. And the literary

circles, though liberal and Western at first glance, are, in truth, not that different. Being a Turkish novelist means worrying about your motherland all the time.

As attached as I am to Istanbul and its stories, I am a nomad. A commuter. I am connected to the Balkans, the Aegean, the Mediterranean, there are elements in my soul from the Middle East, I am a European by choice and the fundamental values that I embrace, I am a Londoner, a world citizen and a global soul. I refuse to be reduced to a single identity. I believe in multiple belongings.

* * *

I once read an American writer claim that the reason why she wrote about love and heartbreak was because these were the main things that people talked about around dinner tables. The statement made me pause. At dinner tables in Turkey we have another favourite subject: Politics! True, we also talk about love and heartbreak when we get together, but we spend equal time, if not more, sulking about politics. And as the political situation gets worse and worse, we spend more and more time talking about politics. In Turkey daily politics is aggressive, masculinist, pervasive and divisive. And emotional. It is emotions that guide politics; not reason, not logic. Turkish politicians get upset too easily: they get cross, they get angry at Europe - as though Europe were a boy they quarrelled with on the street while playing marbles. Everything is based on the principle of tit-for-tat. If European leaders criticize Turkey, Turkey’s politicians criticize back, never for a moment thinking if there might be anything valuable in the criticism.

My writer friends from Pakistan and Egypt and Columbia tell me it's more or less the same for them. That is why, if you happen to be a novelist from such "failed democracies", you do not have the luxury of being apolitical.

* * *

My new novel, *Three Daughters of Eve* (forthcoming February-2017, published by Penguin), tells the story of three young women from Muslim backgrounds. One of them is Shirin, a British-Iranian, child of exiled parents. As an atheist and a feminist she is very critical of Islam's treatment of women. The second young woman is called Mona, who is a practising Muslim. She is Egyptian-American and she often complains about Islamophobia.

The third young woman is Turkish. Her name is Peri. She has hundreds of unanswered questions and unsolved riddles swirling inside her mind. Together, these three girls are *The Sinner*, *The Believer* and *The Confused*.

My novel mostly focuses on the journey of *The Confused*, asking difficult and timely questions about identity, nationality, Islam, feminism, sexuality, faith, belonging. At some point in the story, Mensur (Peri's beloved father) says, 'Travel the world you shall see. In a democracy, when a man gets drunk, he cries, "What happened to my sweetheart?" But where there is no democracy, and little hope for its restoration, when a man gets drunk, he cries, "What happened to my sweet country?"'





INTERVIEW

Lucian J. Hudson

GTF Advisory Board member, Chair-Elect of Earthwatch Europe and Director of Communications, The Open University

INFLUENCING WITH IMPACT AND INTEGRITY



Q: You yourself are an active member of a collaboration between academics, policy-makers and practitioners. Tell us more about that area of activity.

A: For the past three years, I have been a contributor, a section editor and now a senior editor of an annual publication that captures learning in cross-sector collaboration and interaction between business, civil society and public sector.

The Annual Review of Social Partnerships (ARSP) is an annual journal, aiming to bridge theory and practice of cross-sector partnerships. It does this by using innovative, open-access publication formats, engaging an international and cross-disciplinary Editorial Board and ensuring the cross-fertilisation of insights from both academics and practitioners. The ARSP is a public good with more than 50,000 direct recipients and, through its partnership with Greenleaf Publishers, is categorised and available via Ingenta Connect, one of the largest databases for professional publications and books.

My section particularly is focussed on practitioners such as myself, reflecting on their experience of collaboration and sharing that learning.

Q: Why is collaboration and partnership so important to you?

A: There has never been a more important time for individuals, teams and organisations, as well as sectors, to consider very actively the scope and limit of collaboration and partnership. I have never taken the view that collaboration works in every case for everybody, but thanks to the great people I have worked with, I have developed a methodology that obliges me to think

very hard about the opportunities and risks inherent in setting up a collaboration and making it work.

We know from recent events that we face uncertain and turbulent times in 2017, and one way through the time of crisis and uncertainty is to think and plan more collaboratively – while at the same time, acknowledging that collaboration and partnership may not be always appropriate and may have severe limitations. We saw with the global financial crisis just how important it was that there was international cooperation, if not collaboration. I think we are facing again many wicked problems that can only be tackled through countries, sectors and organisations, where appropriate, working much more closely.

Q: In what ways is collaboration and partnership important for The Open University and its subsidiary, FutureLearn?

A: The Open University is the largest player in the Lifetime Learning sector, recognising a major opportunity for this country to make the most of its workforce by upskilling or reskilling. The OU is working with governments, business and civil society to put value on part-time learning and to address the issues that prevent people from studying.

Part of the OU's mission is to ensure equality of access to and success in high quality higher education for all those with the desire and potential to achieve. The OU's Centre for Inclusion and Collaborative Partnerships (CICP) is proud of its work to widen access to and success in higher education, working collaboratively with external organisations through validation and the Social Partnerships Network and developing research and scholarship via the Access Observatory.

Another powerful example of successful collaboration is FutureLearn – a social learning platform, designed to support learning through conversation. It offers free online courses from 62 world-leading UK and international universities and 40 centres of research excellence and specialist education providers like the British Council, Creative Skillset and European Space Agency.

FutureLearn was formed by the OU in 2012, following the rapid development of massive open online courses (MOOCs) in the global higher education sector, led by American providers like Coursera and edX. It has reached over 5 million learners, studying over 12 million courses between, from more than 190 countries and territories around the world.

Q: Collaboration for you has worked in other roles you've done, particularly when you were Director of Communications at the Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO). Please say more about that.

A: I am very pleased to welcome the publication of a new volume of the British Public Diplomacy and Soft Power series: Diplomatic Influence and Digital Disruption, by

James Pamment. This latest study outlines two decades of reforms at the Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO), British Council and BBC World Service – the so-called Public Diplomacy Partners. Its timely publication includes the initiatives, campaigns and publications I was responsible for between 2006 and 2009 – a pioneering time, a time of effective influence – which focussed on how the UK could play a more pro-active role in working with other countries to deal with challenges of the day, such as climate change. What is even more important in today's conflicted world, is the value of thinking about strategic communications globally and campaigns that carry support from different countries, with different backgrounds and priorities but a shared purpose. We must not lose sight of how much more can be achieved if we work together.

Overall, the book is rich with unpublished documents and case studies, and is the most detailed study of the FCO and British Council in the contemporary period. This work will be of much interest to policymakers and advisors, students and researchers, and foreign policy and communication specialists.





INTERVIEW

Lorraine Hariton

Senior Advisor, Global Business Partnerships, Transnational Strategy Group

KNOW YOUR PRIORITIES TO ACHIEVE WORK-LIFE BALANCE



Q: How did you start?

A: I was lucky that when I was a freshman in college, I took Calculus and my maths professor took a personal interest in me. He encouraged me to develop my natural talents in Mathematics and analytical thinking. He gave me a teaching assistant job and suggested I learn about computers. Since Hamilton College in 1972 did not even have a class in computer science, I did an independent study course and loved it. My first computer program was the game of “Life” and I got hooked. I ended up transferring to Stanford and changing the trajectory of my life. After college, I became a computer programmer in the operations research department of American Airlines but decided to go into sales for IBM to have more people interaction. My IBM sales training and my computer science training have been the foundation for all that came.

Q: What were the major obstacles to overcome?

A: Balancing career and family has been a challenge and a guiding principle for me all my life. I chose to go back to IBM after business school because they respected family and balance. I prioritized my focus down to what was most important to do successfully in these two worlds. I never tried to do it all, and I had a number of failures along the way. These caused me to introspect and re-direct my efforts, but never stopped me from moving forward.

Q: Did you have a mentor or a role model?

A: My most powerful and enduring role model has been my mother, who had a highly successful career at a time when that was rare for a women. She valued independence and critical thinking and had tremendous resiliency. She believed in me and gave me the confidence to be my best self.

Q: How did you develop key partnerships?

A: Partnership are based on friendship and trust. I was once told ‘relationships first’ and I keep that in mind when I forge partnerships. I find partnership opportunities in the most unlikely places. One never knows where a brief conversation can lead. I try to help wherever I can, because I like to and want to.

Q: What was unexpected?

A: I decided to become involved with politics and help Hillary Clinton with her presidential run at 50. It was my passion and became my second act and opened up a whole new world. Who would have guessed?

Q: What has been your biggest lesson so far?

A: “To thine own self be true”. The more you understand yourself - your strengths, your passions, what makes you tick and the more you are able to authentically follow that inner voice - the more successful, the happier and the more able you will be to give to others.

Q: How can we help more women become entrepreneurs or claim higher board positions?

A: We need to build the self confidence of women so they “Lean In” and enable them to be their best selves. We need to be aware of unconscious bias that is just as common in women as men. We need to look for opportunities to mentor and support. We need to demand diverse slates in any hiring process we are involved in. We need to lead by example. Madeline Albright said “there is a special place in hell for women who do not help other women”.

Q: What is one piece of advice you would give to an aspiring entrepreneur?

A: Pursue a big idea, constantly test and adjust, involve the very best people and surround yourself with great mentors.



INTERVIEW

Martina Macpherson

*Managing Partner, SI Partners, Head of Sustainability Indices,
S&P Dow Jones Indices, and Chairperson,
GTF Non-Executive Directors Board*

SUSTAINABLE INVESTING FOR THE ENVIRONMENT & SOCIETY



Q: How did you start your career?

A: I started my career in financial services during the final years of my studies, at first through internships and work experiences. And I have continued to work and study simultaneously, ever since.

I am a great believer in a multi-disciplinary approach and whatever I have learned, professionally and personally, I try to interconnect. Specialism is helpful, but does not help with understanding the big picture, especially if specialists operate in ‘silos’.

Q: Tell us more about your area of professional expertise.

A: I am working in an area called ‘ESG’ – environmental, social and governance research and sustainable investing.

ESG responsible and sustainable investing encompasses a variety of different approaches, including screening, integration as well as engagement and active ownership. ESG factors offer investment managers added insight into the quality of a company’s management, culture, risk profile and other characteristics.

ESG has moved from the fringes to mainstream investing. Nowadays, almost 1,500 investors and service providers with a total AUM of US\$59 trillion (up from US\$4 trillion at the PRI’s launch in 2006) are committed to adhere to the 6 UN-backed Principles for Responsible Investing (PRI).

Q: What were the major obstacles to overcome?

A: A few years ago, ESG and sustainable investing was a niche area. There was, and is still, a great deal of confusion about definitions and I have made an attempt to identify common themes and

differences between sustainable investing, impact investing, philanthropy and venture philanthropy, by co-publishing a book on the ‘Fundamentals of Modern Philanthropy’ (2014).

Capacity building remains a challenge. When I worked for a major ESG research, ratings and analytics house, I always told our research, product and client service teams that we were still creating a demand, and were not yet servicing it. So I worked intensely on an integrated marketing strategy (brand, partnerships, products and themes) to make a socio-economic concept become an investment reality.

Today, many ‘ESG pioneer friends and colleagues’ and I are proud that after years of education, capacity and awareness building, the page is finally turning - ESG is getting into the mainstream - and we have actively contributed to this process.

Q: Did you have a mentor or a role model?

A: I strongly believe in mentors, role models and thought leaders. I was lucky enough to have mentors and role models in my life. One of them kept me interested, aware and engaged on key (ESG) issues and active ownership. I have learned a lot from him.

On a side note - unfortunately, I rarely found these thought leaders among my direct managers.

Q: What habits helped make you successful?

A: There are a few habits that I feel are important in (my) personal development - again, no habit or concept works in isolation: Being dedicated, inquisitive, ambitious, flexible, passionate and compassionate - and being able to listen, learn and to apply.

Q: What was your biggest mistake?

A: There were, and hopefully will be, a few! I believe that we learn more, get focussed and ultimately grow, professionally and personally, by making mistakes - and by overcoming challenges and obstacles. As Henry Ford once said, "Obstacles are those frightful things you see when you take your eyes off your goal."

Q: What has been your biggest lesson so far?

A: I think there are many lessons that have made an impact on my life and career. But there are a few common themes that are surfacing over and over again: 1) that this is the age of the universalist, 2) that values and purpose are universal concepts, that they matter and they can drive positive performance (in any context), 3) and that cross-fertilization and collaborative actions can help to achieve even bigger goals.

Q: How can an executive minimize the unknowns?

A: Through research, learning and ultimately by promoting learning. Our age is driven by innovation, change and speed - and ambiguity and uncertainty have become the norm.

A decade ago, Philip Hodgson and Randall White have developed a concept to identify eight broad strands of behaviour that seem to help people (executives) cope with ambiguity and uncertainty. They have called these behavioural skills

'Enablers' and they include 'The Mystery Seeker', 'The Risk Tolerator', 'The Future Scanner', 'The Tenacious Challenger', 'The Exciter', 'The Flexible Adjuster', 'The Simplifier' and 'The Focuser'.

I think this is an interesting concept, and I can see myself in almost all of these 'enabling' roles.

Q: How can we help more women climb up the corporate ladder and break 'glass ceilings'?

A: There are various challenges for women (and men) of all ages, ethnic groups and across organisations - these challenges are linked to organisational design, managerial credibility and talent management.

Over the last couple of years, the glass ceiling has become ever more thicker, 'managing upwards' (not necessarily leadership) has become the norm, while managing and training the next generation of leaders is often no longer seen as a pre-requisite.

Mentorship and diversity programmes as well as women's networks are important to raise awareness around the issues. But in order to achieve sustainable transformational change, we also need to work with all stakeholders towards creating a more 'inclusive' corporate culture - where vision, mission and values are fully aligned, top down.

I have taken the first actions and have gathered a group of experts to join me on the journey - together, we explore 'human governance' models that can help to 'Value Your Talent'.

More information is available upon request!



INTERVIEW

Özlem Denizmen

Founder Chairman, FODER (Financial Literacy and Inclusion Association)

FINANCIAL LITERACY IS THE SOLUTION



Q: How did you start?

A: I always wanted to give back to society for what I have received. I had dreams and targets and I was lucky to accomplish most of them during the journey. I needed to find something that I am passionate about - something that would touch millions and would change their lives.

Having this in my mind, one day it just happened! On my way to a meeting in the summer of 2009, I was reading The Economist on a flight. The picture of an Afghan man with a child bride deeply hurt me. I wanted to change the fate of the child. Not only that one but many others who suffer; to cope with what life has dealt them.

There should have been a solution. There should be something to change the injustice. And there should be something that I could do instead of just feeling hurt. My answer was very clear. Economic freedom is the solution to have the power to change one's dreams. That can only be achieved by financial literacy.

Q: What were the major obstacles to overcome?

A: In society, there are very strict traditions about money issues, especially if it is about your personal financial needs and situation. I needed to start by convincing the individuals to talk about money. Yet whoever I shared my mission with came with the same resistance: people will not talk about money openly. They will never state how much they earn and what their debts are. We needed to start somewhere, and I strongly believed that we needed to reach millions. Therefore, we start-

ed with a TV program about personal finance. It was a tough job to convince the TV channels. But as it started, millions started telling me all about their financial lives on air LIVE!

Q: Did you have a mentor or a role model?

A: I believe success stories are built upon inspiration and belief. This can be achieved by curiosity based on facts. Therefore, I read everything that I could find about personal finance psychology, neuro-economics, behavioral finance and the history of money. My team and I investigated the international models. I was also lucky to have a supportive boss, Mr. Şahenk, the Chairman of Doğuş Group, who made it possible for me to pursue my dream. First of all, I was allowed to devote time to my passion and felt his full support, because he also believed on the cause that financial literacy will change the destiny of others.

Q: How did you learn from failure?

A: Life is a learning journey. Failures are actually our motivation to restart and are a learning process. So if I spend a day without learning that will be failure to me. I failed several times, especially regarding my digital initiatives.

Q: What has been your biggest lesson so far?

A: There is no such thing as a small change. Change has a snowball effect. As we change the meaning of money for individuals, it will not only change their life, but also the future of their nations. One's relationship with money is an expression of one's self values, principles, discipline, psychology, and spirit. And that can change!

Q: What would you have done differently?

A: Trust my instincts even more...

Q: How can we help more women become entrepreneurs or claim higher board positions?

A: Inspire. Open roads for equal opportunity. Invite them to networks. Sponsor them. Work with men for solutions.

Q: What is one piece of advice you would give to an aspiring entrepreneur?

A: Think without limits. Like Neo in the movie Matrix.

Q: What is FODER's mission?

A: Financial Literacy and Inclusion Association is a non-profit organization which aims to increase the percentage of financially literate people and raise awareness on financial inclusion in Turkey. It works in cooperation with many governmental agencies, private entities and other NGOs. Another aim of FODER is to support the creation of the necessary eco-system for financial literacy in Turkey.

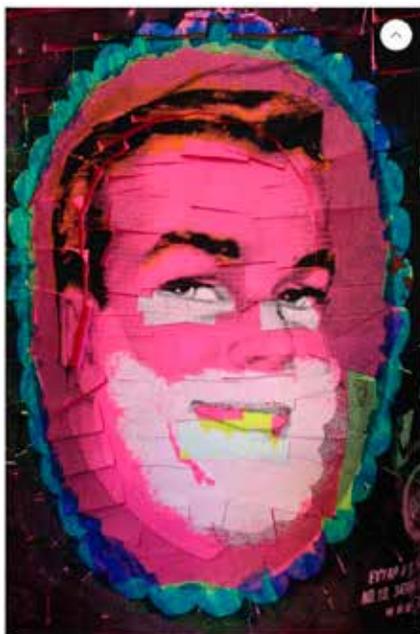
Q: Share with us some success stories of women involved with FODER.

A: As I travelled throughout Anatolia for a Financial Literacy education session, I met a woman in her 40s with two kids. After the session, I learned that she was following my educational courses, newspaper articles and never misses my TV program (Para Durumu) and while doing so, she learned how she could manage the money that she earned.

She got into the business life by getting micro credits to raise her kids better,

to give them a good education and a peaceful retirement. She earns her living in a self-opened little diner where she cooks homemade meals for her customers. Even though she says that she gets tired from time to time, earning her money all by herself is worth all of it.

Although courageously getting into business life, being a woman in a small mining town called Soma, business terrified her at the beginning, but you could see the pride of the success that came afterwards in her eyes. She says that her husband had some concerns, but after she continued her business with great profits and proved herself, he gave her his full support. To touch women in a way that they are able to stand on their feet, to be able to see the tangible effects of affecting the lives of their families and other individuals gives me great pleasure.





INTERVIEW

Shahira Amin
Award-winning Journalist, Egypt

DON'T BE AFRAID TO ASK QUESTIONS



Q: How did you start?

A: I started my career working as a program presenter on Abu Dhabi Radio.

Q: What were the obstacles you had to overcome?

A: The obstacles were many. There was no Internet in those days so news gathering was much harder than it is today. I had to rely on newspapers and magazines as my sources in addition to interviews. Nowadays, new technology makes news gathering a great deal easier except, of course, for the fact that one has to be more careful in verifying the authenticity of the available material.

Q: Did you have a mentor or role model?

A: Having a mentor or role model is an absolute must. My mentor was Peter Hellyer, a British journalist who taught me the tricks of the trade and who was generous with his time. I was extremely fortunate as I could turn to him for advice and guidance. If it had not been for him, I would not have gotten far, or at least, it would have taken longer for me to make progress, as I would have had to learn from the mistakes I made.

Q: How did you get credibility quickly?

A: Credibility is everything to a journalist and broadcaster. Fact checking is of utmost importance. Never take anything at face value or for granted. Doubt everything you hear or read and don't be afraid to ask lots of questions. It's the only way to get the correct information. A journalist is a seeker of truths and nothing but the truth.

Q: What has been your biggest lesson so far?

A: My biggest lesson is that success doesn't last nor does failure. If you fail, you simply lick your wounds and start over. If you succeed, do not let it get to your head. Build on your successes and make sure to leave your failures far behind and not let them haunt you.

Q: How did you test your assumptions?

A: There is better way of testing your assumptions than through trial and error. If you have an idea, don't be afraid to express it... not just express it, but pursue it. Give it your all and try and try, try and try... you will succeed at last and it will be worth it in the end because success only comes to those who take risks and go the extra mile.

Q: How can we help more women reach higher positions?

A: We can do that by reaching out and giving other women a helping hand. Training and mentoring are of vital importance. Don't be stingy with your knowledge, advice and guidance... just as you had people that helped you along the way, help others. Giving is even more rewarding than being on the receiving end.

Q: What advice would you give an aspiring entrepreneur?

A: Go for it! Your idea can only be beneficial if it is out there, not if it remains an aspiration. Don't be afraid to fail and ask lots of questions, don't be afraid to take calculated risks, share knowledge with others and do your homework before you start a new venture.



ARTICLE

By Michael E. Economakis

Executive Vice Chairman/ CEO, A.G. Leventis (Plc) Nig

PHILANTHROPIC GIVING IN AFRICA



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According to the Africa Wealth Report the number of high net worth individuals in Africa grew by over 150% between 2000 and 2013, more than double the global rate. This means that Africa today has about 165,000 HNWI collectively worth over \$660 billion, who have given rise to a formalised philanthropic giving culture across the continent.

Most of them are channeling their giving through their businesses and private foundations. For example, Nigerian Aliko Dangote, Africa's richest man, made his money selling cement, sugar and basic commodities and is estimated by Forbes to be worth \$15.6 billion. He has signed a pledge committing to give away a majority of his wealth to charitable causes. The Dangote Foundation is active in health, education and disaster relief. Mo Ibrahim, Patrice Motsepe, Tony Elumelu, Strive Masiyiwa and Manu Chandaria are only some of the many African philanthropists who have realized the importance of strategic giving as a way to give back to society by returning some of the wealth they have made.

Their foundations aim to tackle a number of different challenges and support social causes – entrepreneurship and youth development for instance – but they also give directly to community needs for medical expenses and scholarships, as well as responding to emergency situations such as Ebola outbreaks and famine.

An interesting trend in African philanthropy has been the use of mobile money to raise money for causes. In 2011, 'Kenya for Kenyans' raised £6m from 250,000 individuals to provide famine relief to over 3 million Kenyans. Backed by leading telecoms company, Safaricom,

a rapid awareness campaign coupled with the MPesa mobile payments platform quickly brought in contributions. A similar appeal has been made to combat Ebola in West Africa and the Garissa attacks in Kenya also saw widespread use of mobile in fundraising for victims.

What is necessary for philanthropic giving to be effective, is to make sure that it benefits all involved stakeholders. A successful pathway to building natural alignment among all stakeholders is to base a strategic philanthropy programme on a foundation of values. As such, leadership that is based on values and ethics is essential to professionals working on the strategic philanthropy spectrum, since it can effectively improve the bottom line of a strategic philanthropy programme or initiative, while bringing natural alignment to all stakeholders involved.

This is a principle under which the A.G. Leventis Foundation in Nigeria has been operating for decades now. Established in May 1979, it is the outcome of the vision of the Cypriot entrepreneur Anastasios G. Leventis (1902-1978), who laid the bases of its focus on society, education and culture.

Now in its fourth decade, the Foundation retains its adherence to these priorities, keenly supporting the dissemination of Greek and Cypriot cultural heritage, as well as extensive public benefits programmes, pioneering environmental protection projects, and medical research.

To this end, its activities range from the reconstruction of a large number of classical, Byzantine, and post-Byzantine monuments, and the enrichment and presentation of Cypriot antiquities collections in museums around the world, to the systematic granting of scholarships, and sponsorship of nature con-

ervation and sustainable development projects in Southern Europe, Africa and world-wide. In West Africa, an area long connected with the Leventis family, the A. G. Leventis Foundation Nigeria was set up in 1988 to continue an already existing philanthropic programme. It has established seven agricultural schools for young farmers in Nigeria and Ghana.

An important aspect of the dynamic presence of the A. G. Leventis Foundation in cultural affairs is the Foundation's art collections: the Paris Collection of European Art, the Collection of Works by Greek Artists of the 19th and 20th Centuries and the Collection of Works by Cypriot Artists. These three collections, which afford a unique aesthetic and educational experience, will soon be united and housed in the new A. G. Leventis Gallery being built

in Nicosia, designed by Feilden Clegg Bradley Studios, Architects.

Giving and charity is deeply rooted in African culture. Africa must not be seen as the 'poor, needy relative'. African talent and potential must be appreciated for its massive capacity, and giving should be allocated in ways that release and enable this talent to shine, on its own. I will conclude this article by calling on Nelson Mandela's words: "Like slavery and apartheid, poverty is not natural. It is manmade, and it can be overcome and eradicated by the actions of human beings. And overcoming poverty is not a gesture of charity. It is an act of justice." Positive change for Africa means to not just ease the symptoms of poverty, it means enabling African talent to eradicate poverty as a disease.





INTERVIEW

Souad Talsi MBE
Founder, Al-Hasaniya

AL HASANIYA: SUPPORTING AND EMPOWERING WOMEN FOR THIRTY YEARS



Q: Please tell us the story behind Al-Hasaniya.

A: Al-Hasaniya Moroccan Women's centre for Arabic-speaking women living and working in London and their families was established in November 1985. It is a multi-award winning organisation that aims to provide support in all matters concerning the health, welfare, education and cultural needs of this client group. It is the first port of call for those who are often vulnerable, marginalized and experiencing oppression and injustice, whether through civil wars or indeed repeated and chronic domestic violence. www.al-hasaniya.org.uk

Q: What process do you follow?

A: The project has a multi-facet purpose, yet all activities are interlinked to support the women. These are the domestic violence, mental health, older people and young vulnerable girls' projects. The weekly luncheon club where over 40 to 50 women from Morocco, Egypt, Yemen, Soudan, Palestine, Syria and Iraq, get together, chat and share cultural activities and have a wholesome couscous, serves as a formidable social hub for these women who are often isolated. In 2015 we dealt with over 4000 contacts. This is huge and our resources are stretched to the absolute limit.

Q: You have been awarded an MBE from HM Queen Elizabeth II. What does this honour mean to you and your work?

A: The MBE award was received with great humility. It is an award I consider to be on behalf of all Arab women who seek justice and equality for their fellow women wherever they may be. When I embarked on my journey at the age of 16, to combat inequality and eliminate discrimination as the daughter of an immi-

grant in the UK, I did not do so to gain an award, but indeed I did it, and still do, because of my strong conviction and belief that we all need support and encouragement to fulfil our full potential. To support and represent the concerns of those who often have muted voices is a superb privilege. It is frustrating when the message one tries to transmit is slow if not blocked by erroneous narratives from both sides, such as how we as Arab women, Christians or Muslims are portrayed. The media and indeed the ultra-religious community have much responsibility to bear in this regard.

Q: What are the common stereotypes and clichés projected around Arab women?

A: Challenging clichés and stereotyping is an ongoing struggle and the best way to deal with it is to concentrate on what positive contribution we can make to the society we live in. Doing anything else, the stereotype becomes a self-prophecy and that's far more dangerous than anything else. The way I was brought up meant I never saw my gender or my ethnicity as a hindrance. We, as Arab women, bear some of the responsibility in the way we are portrayed. We need to be more proactive, as too often we seem happy to take a backstage seat and allow others to act on our behalf. Education, education and education!

Q: Can you give us an overview of the cultural and social differences that exist between the Arab countries?

A: I think Arab women across the Arab world have a rich common history, cultural bonding and indeed a marvellous religion we all share. There are subtle differences in the way we behave in our respective societies and indeed the way our civil laws govern our ability or oth-



erwise to partake our just and right role in our respective societies. This mandate makes all the difference. The Moroccan 2011 constitution has gender equality firmly embedded and we are free and independent, yet we have not reached our full potential because the main ingredients are missing and that is knowledge, education and self confidence.

Q: Do you have a role model?

A: My late father was a great believer in human ability to do well and reach full potential regardless of gender, and so I was brought up in a household that did not treat me differently from my brothers. I was encouraged to speak my mind and share my views. To aspire to bigger things in life and ensure I make a difference to those who cross my path. The world is full of great women and I feel privileged to have the freedom to look at their achievements and be inspired by these.

Q: As a woman, what has been the biggest challenge for you in life?

A: As human beings we are constantly being tested and indeed facing challenges, some surmountable others testing and taxing. What is very important is to always remember that we can do anything we want. Hard work, conviction, perseverance and diplomacy always prevail in my opinion. For me the biggest challenge, I think, has been dealing with a much unexpected near fatal diagnosis I had in June 2013. I was diagnosed with double breast cancer during a routine check-up. For a moment my life came to a halt; however, this did not last long, and I soon composed myself and dealt with it accordingly as if it were a winter flu! I stayed positive and determined that cancer was not going to win....and so far I'm winning.



INTERVIEW

Abdelrahman AlSaifi

Global Thinkers Forum Mentee

JORDANIAN YOUTH HAS BIG DREAMS



Abdelrahman AlSaifi is a young engineer from Jordan who volunteers for the IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers). The strategy they created in Hashemite University Student Branch has rocketed the student branch to winning the awards of Best Student Branch in Jordan, Exemplary Student Branch in Europe, Middle East and North Africa, and Most Active Student Branch in Middle East, in addition to becoming one of the largest and most diverse student branches in the region.

Q: Tell us a few things about your country, and also your life's story!

A: Jordan is often described as the 'Silicon Valley' of the Middle East due to the huge number (not due huge of startups it incubates. It's also a pivotal point in the current turmoil facing the region despite its lack of resources, but it stands strong because of its people and its leadership. Jordan has a very high youth population, which makes it ideal if they're given the opportunity to lead and display how they can push the country forward. My life took a turning point when I decided that I wanted to do something to make this world a better place, but to get to that point, first you have to start with yourself, then your community, then your country and then you'll be able to move forward with confidence. And that's how I started. I was a young boy who had dreams as vast as the skies, but where do I start? I started volunteering, and that was the most vivid experience I've ever had in my life; it changed every perspective of mine and it gave me the depth and maturity I needed to start planning on taking on the world. I was very fortunate to work with international organizations such as IEEE, which is the experience I'm most proud of, I worked beside student leaders from my university, my region and from all over the world to develop the skills and the knowledge quality of en-

gineering students and youth around the world.

Concurrently, being the tech geek that I am, I was volunteering as a logistics coordinator in a major monthly technology event called Amman Tech Tuesdays, which created an ecosystem for tech startups in Jordan and succeeded in connecting a great deal of founders with investors, in addition to raising awareness to every technology topic that needed to be discussed, or the controversial issues related to technology like internet censorship. These experiences allowed me to get accepted in an exchange program funded by the US Department of State, called MEPI Student Leaders Program, and that was when my life took a huge turning point: it put all the energy and scattered accomplishments here and there in line, and then it all made sense. During the six weeks I spent in the US, I got to live with 19 of the most genuine and selfless people in the region, who are trying to make an impact on their communities and the world around them. I thus got to learn a lot about myself and how far I can go, I learned that there's no such thing such as "just a dream", where there's a will, there's a way. And now here I am, not the same person I was yesterday, not the same person I was a year ago, not the same person I will be tomorrow. All those dots only make sense when you look at them backwards.

Q: What is your view of the world as it is today? And how do you define the concept of a better world?

A: The world today is an unfair place, full of wars, inequality and injustice. And despite all the technological, scientific and societal advancement, it's just inhumane to ignore all the bad things that are happening around us. But hope remains, the hope for a peaceful world where people respect their differences and opinions,

where we focus more on evolution and advancement rather than killing one another.

Q: What are some of the key challenges in your society?

A: I've always seen the challenges that my society is facing as the following: Education, Energy & Environment. We're going through a hard time when it comes to Education and Energy in Jordan. Moreover, when it comes to the Environment, Jordan is facing a big challenge, considering that it is the 2nd poorest country in water resources, according to the latest studies.

Q: As a young individual what are a few of the hurdles that you had to overcome up until today?

A: I had fear of public speaking, I didn't know how to motivate and lead people around me, I lacked goals and purpose and I was often demotivated from doing the things that I always wanted to do. I had to work on every single one of these points, because I didn't like the person I was back then and I knew I couldn't get to the places I aspire to reach without overcoming them. Now I can easily take on an auditorium full of people, I can bring out the best of people around me and push them to do what they do best, I started planning my life and I know what I want from it.

Q: Why is the role of a mentor important for you?

A: I feel that the need of being mentored in this stage of my career is essential in order to increase my capacity in leading a career in engineering and combining it with my enthusiasm of the business world. I feel the need to be mentored because I often feel I need help to understand my potential and stick to my ambitions no matter how far they seem

to be or hard to achieve. I feel the need to be mentored to be held to my goals and plan achieving them accordingly in a shorter time than I would need to do it myself. I feel the need to be mentored because I find it difficult to put my thoughts and ideas in motion and start implementing them, I feel the need to be mentored because I believe I can go a long way from here in the guidance and inspiration of an experienced, wise, strong-willed professional who succeeded in making their career a life lesson for youth to look up to.

Q: Do you have a lesson that life has taught you and you would like to share?

A: Don't forget your surroundings, don't forget the people who stand alongside you while you're so busy trying to change the world around you, make time to live as you make time to work, don't take them for granted even if they sacrifice too much for you.

Q: Name a project, a foundation or a person in your country that you think is doing great work in helping improve other people's lives!

A: The examples are countless, but one of the people I'm proud that I'm a friend of, who is continuously inspiring me and everyone around him, is Mustafa Al Momeni, Chair of Young Professionals Community in IEEE Jordan Section. Mustafa is a young man who is doing an amazing job in empowering the youth's lives and I believe he is the kind of leader and human the world needs.

Q: Share with us a phrase, a poem or a story that you love or you find interesting!

A: "I'd rather be a superb meteor, every atom in magnificent glow, than a sleepy and permanent planet"



INTERVIEW

Max Höchsmann
Global Thinkers Forum Mentee

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY CAN DELIVER WEALTH FOR THE WORLD'S POOREST



Max Höchsmann is from Germany and is an energy analyst with an MSc in Carbon Management on a full academic scholarship from the University of Edinburgh. Aside from his interest in politics, economics and climate change, Max is also involved with AIAS e.V., an organisation dedicated to fighting leukaemia. Furthermore he achieved a second prize in a state-wide start-up competition as one of three co-founders developing and selling a social product focused on early childhood education.

Q: Tell us a few things about your country, and also your life's story!

A: I was born and raised in Germany. Like most places in the world, I experienced it as a country with its up- and downsides. While the quality of life is high and most people have a high level of awareness for sustainability issues, the global perspective on things can get missed out sometimes. Here are a few cornerstones of my life so far. I did my A-Levels in Munich, Germany, focusing on English, History and Geography. After my A-levels, I did a (back then mandatory) year of community service, which I chose as an alternative to military service. This was followed by a Bachelor's degree in Political Science and Sociology at the LMU University. During my undergraduate studies I developed a keen interest in business and social entrepreneurship. As a student consultant I advised organisations in a range of sectors ranging from blue-chip companies, such as Siemens, to pro bono consulting for non-profit organisations addressing societal welfare instead of improving the bottom line. Furthermore, I won, along with a team of gifted students, the second prize in a state-wide start-up competition. My desire to widen my perspective and address large-scale challenges led me to

my master studies of Carbon Management at the University of Edinburgh. As a class representative for 32 students from seven nations, I studied with great passion in a world-leading programme about the economics and science of climate change and sustainability. Currently, I am working as an entry level energy analyst at an Ecova UK, an energy consultancy.

Q: What is your view of the world as it is today? And how do you define the concept of a better world?

A: While we have seen an unprecedented success story of poverty alleviation in the last two decades accompanied by an increasing awareness about climate change, emancipation and equality of rights, I feel that the world will also need to address some key challenges to move forward. A better world needs to establish and implement a shared understanding of true sustainability. We will need to find a way to utilise our resources so that they benefit societies around the globe as a whole, instead of a narrow focus on the bottom line. Instead of striving for an equality of outcomes, we could lay the foundation for a more just society by creating equality of opportunities in the first place. Welfare-oriented economic frameworks which stringently internalise external costs can deliver practical solutions for a more just political framework, while technological advantage offers us tools to create a better life on the micro level. Besides a responsible integration of AI into our societies, sustainable energy will be the most promising solution to deliver wealth for the poorest parts of the world. The correlation between energy prices (and access to energy) and poverty is remarkable in a sad way. By promoting research on increasingly sophisticated and cheap storage and re-

newable energy technologies, we have a clear pathway to support those who did not have the chance to benefit from previous developments.

Q: What are some of the key challenges in your society?

A: I believe that one of the key challenges for Germany will be to find an answer on what is currently described in the media as the refugee crisis. The dimensions of this challenge are three fold: 1.) Integrating arrived refugees profoundly so they have the best possible opportunities in finding access to the job market and the educational ladder, 2.) Promoting a dialogue with our European partners to actively address the challenge together, to maintain the pillars of the European Union: Solidarity between its member states and the freedom of movement and, 3.) Scale up support of political, monetary and other resources to promote a constructive peace process in the Middle East.

Q: As a young individual what are a few of the hurdles that you had to overcome up until today?

1.) Stretching my knowledge in various fields beyond my core academic programme during my undergraduate studies to constructively engage in a student-led consultancy that would allow me to gain real life experience in the third sector and business world and, 2.) Successfully preparing and applying for a full scholarship at the University of Edinburgh to overcome my financial constraints which would not have allowed me to study abroad otherwise. My sincere thanks at this point to the University of Edinburgh and the Scottish government that made this possible.

Q: Why is the role of a mentor important for you?

A: While I have the belief that my past experiences provide a sound basis for my future endeavours, receiving feedback and guidance from experienced thought leaders will be crucial to develop my skills and take my ambitions and goals to the next level. This will help me to aim and achieve higher, while learning a great deal about ethical leadership and thereby serve the global community in the best possible way.

Q: Do you have a lesson that life has taught you and you would like to share?

A: Be persistent, but know the odds. If your chance to succeed is one in ten, beat the statistics by trying more than ten times. Try to get a grasp of the odds beforehand though, and ask yourself if you are willing to invest what it takes to beat these odds.

Q: Name a project, a foundation or a person in your country that you think is doing great work in helping improve other people's lives!

A: AIAS e.V., an organisation who raises awareness for leukaemia and promotes stem cell donations. A great, young and inspiring team which achieved much with little resources.

Q: Share with us a phrase, a poem or a story that you love or you find interesting!

A: The future depends on what you do today.



ARTICLE

By Dr. Agni Vlavianos-Arvanitis

*President, Biopolitics International Organisation, Athens, Greece
President and Founder, Hellenic Chapter of the Club of Rome*

BIOPOLICY – INSPIRED ENTREPRENEURSHIP



E

ngaging entrepreneurship in building a society of hope

Entrepreneurship is crucial in driving energy, innovation and opportunity into the economy. Empowering ethical entrepreneurship and inspiring an inclusive view of businesses is essential in long-term economic growth and global competitiveness. As we are currently faced with a deep crisis in values and leadership, we need to appreciate our place in the universe and encourage creative and global thinking to uplift the spirit of the world.

A commitment to innovation and entrepreneurship provides great hope for the future. It is essential to develop and inspire people everywhere to explore their inherent capabilities by capitalizing on their entrepreneurial talent. Entrepreneurs are the source of innovation and can help to solve social and environmental problems by creating successful enterprises. In this effort, it is crucial for business, communities, industry, government and citizens to come together to drive innovation and progress. By bridging differences and sharing knowledge, we can create the right framework for change.

Times of crisis can also become opportunities, spurring the search for the proper perspectives and ethics. When we know our values and our responsibilities as human beings on this planet, we can expand our potential. Searching for these ethics and values can help us to discover our inner strengths and assets, and with the right leadership qualities we can build momentum to expand these assets.

In our unprecedented drive for economic power, we have forgotten the value of a vision of hope and mutual understanding. On a cosmic scale, we know of no

other planet in the universe where life exists. This makes it all the more urgent to elicit a global commitment to protect the continuity of bios – all forms of life. But on the microscopic level as well, the world of the cell unravels an infinite potential for humanity and consolidates the marvel of this unique gift. The revelations are dazzling; 650.000.000.000.000 molecules of hemoglobin are produced every second in the human body. We cannot grasp this measurement in a single lifetime, yet, besides hemoglobin, thousands of other proteins are produced by the millions in every cell, providing just a small example of what is taking place every fraction of a second in every living organism. Albeit, our arrogance is not allowing us to appreciate this miracle and we continue to be caught up in a dangerous web of environmental destruction and abuse.

In the face of these critical dangers, the need for thoughtful engagement in environmentally ethical decision-making has grown increasingly urgent. Because the burden of establishing ethical practices falls on all members of society, this need includes every human endeavor and entrepreneurship is key to meeting this challenge. Socially responsible entrepreneurship can be enriched by the harmony of life and become an inspirational force in the race to save the environment.

Sowing seeds of innovation

In an increasingly complex and rapidly changing world, innovation will be key to meeting the challenges ahead. Innovation in education, in the application of new knowledge, and in developing commercial enterprises and social service and civil society organizations can spur leaders to espouse change. Entrepreneurs with the education and skills to launch and develop new enterprises and

to contribute to the growth and impact of existing companies and organizations will be important to the future of their communities and the world.

The development of ideas and the sharing of knowledge with a broad market requires the application of new dimensions in science and technology that will stimulate economic growth. The cooperation of techne and technology is vital in this context, as it is only through synergy among different fields that leading innovation can be achieved.

The “bio-assessment of technology,” which evaluates progress based on its contribution to the environment, promotes dialogue and cooperation through a thesis, antithesis and synthesis of new values. In serving society, it is essential for entrepreneurship to expand its impact by bringing great benefit from the new knowledge created

In this context, bioculture can inspire us to deepen our culture of innovation and entrepreneurship through the application of new knowledge and the development of new entrepreneurial enterprises. By mobilizing an educational and cultural commitment, bioculture will encourage the next generation of entrepreneurs to bring benefit to society. Literature and the arts can be an enlightening force in this effort, supporting mutual enrichment and helping us to view our differences as a source of inspiration provided by bios.

To overcome the crisis in ethics and values, enlightened leadership is required in every sector. Strict regulations are not

the answer. What is urgently needed is a vision that can infuse society with inspiration and hope. Biopolicy – policy with bios at the heart of decision-making – catalyzes tools and guidelines for the promotion of dynamic relations between the environment, society and policy and inspires people everywhere to take urgent and concerted action to mitigate climate change and save life on our planet.

Changes and reforms ought to be based on immediate action, having as a target the transformation of our global society. Enough with misery and hunger, lack of water and food, toxic pollution and wasting of valuable resources. We need to proceed with expedient plans for zero emission cities, clean energy, green jobs. The evaluation of technological progress with bios in mind can prevent Pandora’s Box from spreading destructive trends and can open up the pathway to amazing possibilities for the mobilization of every individual on our planet, thus enhancing entrepreneurship, creating millions of new jobs and moving forward with increased momentum and hope. Awareness of our interdependence and appreciation of diversity through “biodiplomacy” can lead to a healthy and happy existence. The body of humanity, part of the wondrous body of bios, if guided by enlightened leaders, can develop and prosper through a conscious commitment and pledge to secure the survival of our planet. Ethical and inspired entrepreneurship can speed up the needed action to safeguard the continuity of bios and enhance lives and livelihoods. This is the most profitable return on investment.



ARTICLE

By Zeynep Bodur Okyay
President and CEO, Kale Group

WE SHOULD SUPPORT INNOVATION IN BUSINESS



A

s Kale Group, we strive for excellence toward the goal of bringing to life our common cause, which is to be the Pioneer in our field deriving from our industrial heritage and entrepreneur mindset, respectful of People and of Nature, leading to sustainable added value. In line with our common cause, Kale Values are trust, justice, sincerity, passion, responsibility and curiosity. As a legacy of İbrahim Bodur, my father and the Founder of Kale Group, the human-centered approach prevails and reigns not only in discourse but in actual implementation. This understanding and the values are mainstreamed into corporate culture as well as *modus operandi*.

We have a pledge of leadership. This is by itself the blueprint for ethical leadership. It is an open call for inclusive communication, transparency, innovation, co-creation and inspiration recognizing that our actions influence and impact our customers, our company, our society and the environment. In all our business operations, while bridging technology and design, we believe in sustainable and eco-friendly solutions. We take into account the international standards in the value and supply chain ranging from investment plans to production facilities, from transportation to end-products. We believe and advocate that organizational success is not just about profits, but about ethical leadership. While ethical behavior drives good business, it is most of all about building relationships to spur the energy and creativity of people inside and outside the organization to work together to make a difference.

At Kale Group, while we maintain strong ties with the past and the founding values that cultivate this blueprint, we closely follow global trends and collab-

orate at national and international levels for designing the future. We believe in Industry 4.0 and try to integrate new technologies such as Internet of Things (IoT), cloud computing, augmented reality, artificial intelligence etc. into our core business. But we believe more in People. For us, the key asset has always been People. Industry 4.0 will surely change the thinking, production and communication patterns. But the changes will most dramatically impact the workforce. Providing them with the right tools so that they can reach their potential will be key in this transformation.

In our view, technology is an enabler and an accelerator. It should be used in a smart way to enhance lives of People. Therefore, it is critical that people or the workforce is equipped with the skills of the 21st Century to be fully prepared for the profound changes to come. We are also investing in and encouraging soft skills that will be in demand in the future, which are the abilities to negotiate, motivate, persuade, and co-ordinate. We gladly observe these good old-fashioned human skills are not becoming less valuable, on the contrary they are becoming more valuable.

We also strongly believe in the transformative power of civil society, that it should have a strong voice in the policy-making and decision-making mechanisms as a way to enhance welfare in all spheres. To this end, I am the founding member of various influential business NGOs, and active participant in many others. In line with my leadership and steering role in civil initiatives, most notably C20 (Civil 20) during Turkey's Presidency of G20, I became more aware and engaged with problems on the ground related to women's participation in the workforce and possible remedies to address these. As a business person and an industrialist

in a male-dominated sector leading national and international operations and investments, and a firm believer in civil society and its transformative power, ensuring gender equality is one of priority areas. Only by mobilizing the entire population and integrating women into the workforce, can creativity, innovation, and productivity flourish.

Guided by the belief that education is the best tool and leverage for empowered individuals and generations to come, through Kale Foundation, we give scholarships to students from various age groups and from low socio-economic status. Through scholarships and vocational training we help individuals to overcome their socio-economic disadvantages by breaking the pattern of learned helplessness. Vocational training in the field of ceramics helps women and men to acquire technical skills much needed to be employed and integrated into society.

Yet another focus area is regional development. Since its inception, Kale Group encourages the participation of its people and contributes immensely to the socio-economic development of Turkey and Canakkale in particular, where it was born in 1957 but also the wider area

of South Marmara region. Each year, we celebrate the anniversary of the foundation of Kale Group together with our People, employees and the local inhabitants on 27 July in Çan, Çanakkale, as the Ceramics Festival of Turkey.

Apart from numerous social and cultural activities, the Ceramics festival is about celebrating production and opening up of new factories and expanding the existing ones. Through its investments, in line with the social fabric and taking into account the specificities of the region, Kale Group works to take forward the investment model created by İbrahim Bodur, which favours industrialization of Anatolia together with creating a global brand guided by the motto of “trade makes people, but industry makes societies richer” and creates significant employment and life opportunities for people and their families, deterring migration to other cities and even encouraging reverse migration. Through its investments, Kale Group also reinforces its position as one of world’s leading producers. It is an indication of the vision, the strength of intuition and courage; it is making possible what is deemed impossible. A successful blend of local and global guided by ethical leadership.



Genesis Energy (Genesis) with its vision of “Lighting Up Africa One Community at a Time” is engendering multiple clean energy investments across Africa, with the mission of creating desired positive change in African societies.

Genesis is delighted to be collaborating with and supporting the very laudable initiative of the Global Thinkers Forum Awards for Excellence 2016, as it rewards individuals and entities who have contributed immensely to our global community, and who are recognised to have demonstrated high integrity as role models in bringing about positive change.

We welcome all invited guests, participants, Mentees and the GTF esteemed Mentors to this great Award Evening of celebration of Philanthropy and Positive Change.

December 3 & 4 2013



GTF 2016 AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE

GLOBAL THINKERS AWARDS FORUM



HRH Prince Alwaleed bin Talal
Chairman, Alwaleed Philanthropies

SPECIAL AWARD FOR CONTRIBUTION TO HUMANITY

Alwaleed Philanthropies



Prince Alwaleed is perhaps best known internationally as the chairman and controlling shareholder of Kingdom Holding Company, one of the world's most influential investment companies.

Outside of business, Prince Alwaleed is widely respected for his philanthropic work as the founder and patron of the Alwaleed Philanthropies, dedicated to supporting global cultural understanding, disaster recovery, women's empowerment, and community development projects in Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, and around the world.



HRH Princess Lamia Al Saud
Secretary General and member of the Board of Trustees, Alwaleed Philanthropies

HRH Princess Lamia Al Saud is the Secretary General and member of the Board of Trustees at Alwaleed Philanthropies. For over 35 years, Alwaleed Philanthropies has supported and initiated projects in over 124 countries regardless of gender, race, or religion. The foundation collaborates with a range of philanthropic, government, and educational organizations to combat poverty, empower women and youth, develop communities, provide disaster relief and create cultural understanding through education. Working with its partners, Alwaleed Philanthropies seeks to build bridges for a more compassionate, tolerant, and accepting world.



Peter Maurer
President, International Committee of the Red Cross

EXCELLENCE IN POSITIVE CHANGE

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)



Established in 1863, the ICRC operates worldwide, helping people affected by conflict and armed violence and promoting the laws that protect victims of war. An independent and neutral organization, its mandate stems essentially from the Geneva Conventions of 1949. It is based in Geneva, Switzerland, and employs some 14,500 people in more than 80 countries. The ICRC is funded mainly by voluntary donations from governments and from national Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.



EXCELLENCE IN PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY

Elif Shafak, Author, Columnist, Speaker and Academic

Elif Shafak is an award-winning novelist, women’s rights & LGBT rights advocate and an inspirational public speaker. She writes in both Turkish and English, and has published 15 books, 10 of which are novels, including *The Bastard of Istanbul* and *The Forty Rules of Love*. Her novels have been published in 47 languages and she has been featured in major newspapers and periodicals around the world. Shafak has been long listed for the Orange Prize, MAN Asian Prize, the Baileys Prize, the IMPAC Dublin Award; shortlisted for the Independent Foreign Fiction Prize and RSL Ondaatje Prize. She was awarded the title of Chevalier de l’Ordre des Arts et des Lettres.



EXCELLENCE IN WOMEN’S EMPOWERMENT

One Heart World-Wide



Arlene Samen
President & Founder, One Heart World-Wide

One Heart World-Wide (OHW) is a 501(c)(3) organization with over 15 years of experience implementing maternal and neonatal mortality prevention programs in areas where women often die alone at home giving birth. Its aim is to improve access to, and utilization of healthcare services to reduce the risk of maternal and neonatal mortality in the most remote, rural areas. It operates on the belief that all women and newborns can receive the quality healthcare services they deserve during pregnancy and childbirth, anytime and anyplace.



EXCELLENCE IN PROMOTING PEACE & COLLABORATION

The Lord Alderdice
Chairman for the Centre for Democracy & Peace Building, Belfast

As Leader of the Alliance Party of Northern Ireland, Lord Alderdice played a significant role in the Talks on Northern Ireland including negotiation of the 1998 Good Friday Agreement. He was the first Speaker of the new Northern Ireland Assembly and on retirement in 2004 was appointed to the Independent Monitoring Commission, tasked with closing down terrorist operations and overseeing normalization of security in Northern Ireland.

Programme

18.30-19.10

Guests Arrival – Cocktail Reception

19.15

Announcement – Opening

19.15

Stephen Cole Welcomes Guests

Opening by **Global Thinkers Forum CEO, Elizabeth Filippouli**

Welcome Greeting by **Tobias Ellwood MP, Minister for Middle East and Africa**

19.25

'On Peace & Collaboration' by **The Rt. Hon. the Lord Alderdice**

19.30-19.40

Live Concert Part 1 conducted by **Sir Dirk Brossé**

Maya Levy, Violin

Matthieu Idmtal, Piano

19.40-20.10

First Course

20.15-20.40

Awards Ceremony

20.40-20.45

Giving for Good in the Middle East and North Africa

Coline Houssais, Studies Director, Thinkers & Doers

20.45-21.25

Main Course

21.25-21.45

Live Concert Part 2 conducted by **Sir Dirk Brossé**

Maya Levy, Violin

Matthieu Idmtal, Piano

21.45

Dessert / Networking

22.30

GTF 2016 Awards Gala Concludes



Sir Dirk Brossé

Music Director of The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia

Sir Dirk Brossé, born in Ghent, Belgium, in 1960, is a multi-faceted composer and a respected conductor on the international music scene. He is currently Music Director of 'The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia', Music Director of the Filmfestival Ghent and Music Director and Principal Conductor of the 'Star Wars in Concert World Tour'. Sir Dirk Brossé began his music studies at the Music Conservatories of Ghent and Brussels. He subsequently specialised in conducting, which he studied in Maastricht, Vienna and Cologne.

Alongside his many guest professorships, he is currently Professor of Composition and Conducting at the Royal Conservatory of Music in Ghent. Dirk Brossé has conducted all the leading Belgian orchestras, among them, the Brussels Philharmonic, the Royal Flemish Philharmonic, the Orchestra of the Flemish Opera and the National Orchestra of Belgium. Outside his native Belgium, he has conducted the London Symphony Orchestra, the London Philharmonic Orchestra, the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra London, l'Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, the Philharmonic Orchestra of Shanghai, the Vancouver Opera, the KBS Symphony Orchestra of South Korea, l'Orchestra de l'Opéra de Lyon, the World Symphony Orchestra (Japan), the Philadelphia Chamber Orchestra, the Ulster Symphony Orchestra of Northern Ireland, the Camerata St Petersburg, the Hong Kong Philharmonic, the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra and the National Orchestras of Venezuela and Ecuador.



MASTER OF CEREMONY

Stephen Cole

Stephen Cole is an international broadcaster and presenter. Stephen is a veteran of international television news having fronted Al Jazeera English, Sky News, CNN, BBC World and BBC News 24 for the past 22 years. In addition, he was the inaugural host of the respected BBC News technology programme Click which he presented for six years. Stephen is also an accomplished and respected corporate speaker who has chaired and moderated panels comprised of presidents and prime ministers at prestigious events across the globe such as the World Economic Forum in Davos.



GTF 2016 ADVISORY BOARD & GLOBAL GROWTH BOARD





Victoria Budson

Founding Executive Director Women & Public Policy Program, Harvard

Victoria A. Budson is a founder and the Executive Director of the Women and Public Policy Program (WAPPP) at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government. WAPPP is the preeminent institution for advancing interdisciplinary research on approaches to closing gender gaps, educating students and leaders on gender policy.



HRH Princess Sumaya bint El Hassan

President, Royal Scientific Society

Her Royal Highness Princess Sumaya bint El Hassan of Jordan is Founder and President of El Hassan Science City, President of the Royal Scientific Society and Chair of the Board of Trustees of Princess Sumaya University for Technology. HRH is also Director and Chair of the National Campaign for Public Awareness of the Drivers of Change.



HRH Queen Sylvia Nagginda

HE Nnabagereka (Queen) of Buganda Kingdom, Uganda

Her Royal Highness the Nnabagereka Sylvia Nagginda is the wife of the King of Buganda, King Ronald Muwenda Mutebi II. She is a traditional and cultural leader of the people of Buganda, the largest Kingdom in Uganda. The Nnabagereka carries out charity work for and through the institution of the Kingdom of Buganda, international, national and local organizations and the Nnabagereka Development Foundation (NDF) which she founded in 2000.



Maxime Chaya

Adventurer, Public Speaker

Lebanon's foremost sportsman and climber, Maxime Chaya was the first person from his home country to hoist its flag atop Everest. He did so at the climax of his challenge to ascend the highest mountain on every continent – the Seven Summits – while also skiing to the North and South Poles.



Femi Oke

Host at Al Jazeera English

Femi Oke is an international broadcaster, journalist and writer. She is currently based in Washington D.C. where she hosts the interactive current affairs show “The Stream” for Al Jazeera English. Femi’s work has been recognised by The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the African Communications Agency and InterAction.



David Rodin

Carnegie-Uehiro Senior Fellow, Global Ethics Fellow

David Rodin is a leading authority on the ethics of war and conflict. He is a Senior Fellow at the Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs in New York and Senior Research Fellow at the University of Oxford.



Greg Beitchman

VP Content Sales & Partnerships, CNN International

Greg Beitchman is VP Content Sales and Partnerships, CNN International. In this capacity, he is responsible for overseeing and developing the network’s content sales business internationally, with a focus on leveraging its broadcast and digital assets.



Hakan Altınay

Senior Fellow, Brookings Institution

Hakan Altınay is the President of the Global Civics Academy. Altınay is a global ethics fellow at the Carnegie Council, a world fellow at Yale University and the Director of the European School of Politics in Istanbul.



HE Ameera Binkaram (1978-2016)

Chairperson, Sharjah Business Women's Council

Ameera was focused on Arab women's empowerment and leadership in the region. A true ambassador for progressive values, she was focused on a broad range of human, animal and environmental issues. Since 2010, Ameera had been the Chairperson of Sharjah Business Women's Council.

Ameera lost her life tragically and prematurely on October 22, 2016 along with her mother and sister. She will always be remembered as a pioneering change maker in the field of women's empowerment.



Reem N. Bsaiso

CEO G-TeN, Senior ICT Expert

Reem is a Senior Consultant specializing in knowledge economy policies and public reform; her focus is on merging ICT in Education and national training schemes, working with international agencies on ICT in Education in the MENA region, such as World Bank, UNESCO and EU Investment Bank.



Sir Dirk Brossé

Conductor

Sir Dirk Brossé is a multi-faceted composer and a respected conductor on the international music scene. He is currently Music Director of 'The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia', Music Director of the Filmfestival Ghent and Music Director and Principal Conductor of the 'Star Wars in Concert World Tour'.



Mrs Haifa Fahoum Al Kaylani

Founder & Chairman, Arab International Woman's Forum

Mrs Haifa Fahoum Al Kaylani, Founder Chairman, Arab International Women's Forum is well known in international government and business circles as a high-impact change agent focusing on leadership in cultural and gender issues.



Lucian J. Hudson

Director Of Communications, THE OPEN UNIVERSITY UK

Now in his fifth communications chief role, Lucian J. Hudson helps transform top organisations through strategic communications. He has held top communications posts in four UK government departments, including Director of Communication, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and Director of e-Communications – the first holder of this post.



Muna AbuSulayman

Co-Host, Kalam Nawaem MBC

Muna AbuSulayman, named one of the 500 Most Influential Muslims in the World in 2009-2012 for her work in media, gender, leadership and education, is a very popular Arab media personality and humanitarian.



Valerie Keller

CEO, Veritas & WEF Young Global Leader

An entrepreneur, consultant and public policy advocate, Valerie Keller's work bridges sectors and industries. As CEO of a social enterprise she focused on sustainable models for economic development including field research and pilot programs serving more than 20,000 in the poor regions of the U.S. along the Gulf Coast.



Elizabeth Filippouli

Founder & CEO, Global Thinkers Forum

Elizabeth Filippouli is an entrepreneur and global leadership expert with particular focus on accountable leadership and inclusive growth. She is the Founder & CEO of Global Thinkers Forum (GTF), an international organization that works as an agent for positive change by connecting international thought leaders and promoting values-based leadership, collaboration and cross-cultural understanding. GTF is a London-based and UK registered social-purpose organization with presence in 6 countries: UK, Jordan, Turkey, Greece, UAE, Saudi Arabia and a fast growth rate. It was launched in 2012 in Amman, Jordan under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Rania and is proud to have Board members representing more than 20 countries.



Roya Mahboob

CEO, CITADEL

Roya Mahboob was named to TIME Magazine's 100 Most Influential People in the World for 2013 for her work in building internet classrooms in high schools in Afghanistan and for Women's Annex, a multilingual blog and video site. Roya is an Afghan entrepreneur and businesswoman. She is the founder and CEO of the Afghan Citadel Software Company, a full-service software development company based in Herat, Afghanistan.



Lucian Sârbc

Editorial Director and Board Member, Euronews

Lucian Sârbc serves as the Editorial Director and Member of the Board of the global news channel, Euronews. Since 2009, Lucian has been in charge with the editorial strategy of the most viewed news broadcaster in Europe.



Saskia Sassen

Columbia University

Saskia Sassen is the Robert S. Lynd Professor of Sociology and Co-Chair, The Committee on Global Thought, Columbia University (www.saskiasassen.com).



Michael E. Economakis

Executive Vice Chairman A.G. Leventis Group (PLC)

Michael E. Economakis is Executive Vice Chairman of AG Leventis. He started his career 34 years ago, in Coca-Cola Hellenic, the 2nd biggest bottler of The Coca-Cola Company in the world. As of November 2012, he was appointed Board Director and one year later Executive Vice Chairman of A.G. Leventis Group (Plc), a conglomerate which operates in Nigeria almost 80 years. Michael E. Economakis is, also, member of the Board of Directors of GNCCT (Greek – Nigerian Chamber of Commerce and Technology), and member of CEO ASSOCIATION GREECE.



Dr Roger Hayes

FCIPR, Member Emeritus IPRA

Dr. Roger Hayes (FCIPR, Member Emeritus IPRA) is a leading international public relations and public affairs professional with 30 years experience in trade associations, corporations and consultancies and has also advised governments.



Akinwole Omoboriowo II

CEO, Genesis Energy

Akinwole Omoboriowo II (AOII) is a 1993 graduate of Economics from University of Jos, alumni of the London Business School, from where he acquired specialist training in Electricity Pricing & Modeling course in 2006, and a 2011 Post-Graduate Diploma Alumni in Strategy & Innovation from the Prestigious Oxford University's Saïd Business School, U.K. AOII has over 16 years of experience in the Oil & Gas Sector and Power Sectors in Africa.



Dr Daniel Fung

Vice Chairman, Salzburg Global Seminar

Daniel R. Fung, SBS, SC, QC, JP, is the first person of Chinese extraction who served as Solicitor General of Hong Kong (1994-8) under Chris Patten, the last Governor of the British Crown Colony of Hong Kong and the Honorable C H Tung, the first Chief Executive of the Hong Kong SAR, is a specialist in complex commercial litigation and in public law.



George Mavrelis

International Consultant, Insurance Industry Life

George Mavrelis is a senior business executive in Greek insurance industry since the decade of 1990, holding diversified positions in the Commercial and Operational sectors of Insurance Companies.



Gary Horsley

International Communications Consultant

For more than 30 years Gary has been a consultant on international communications issues, helping to shape strategies that reach out to client audiences, markets and partners across the globe.



Marc Ventresca

Fellow and University Lecturer, University of Oxford

Marc Ventresca is an organisational and economic sociologist who teaches strategy, leadership and organisation theory at Said Business School with a focus on innovation and on how new markets get built.



Dr Agni Vlavianos Arvanitis

President, Biopolitics International Organisation, Athens, Greece-President and Founder, Hellenic Chapter of the Club of Rome

Dr. Agni Vlavianos Arvanitis founded the Biopolitics International Organisation (B.I.O.) in Athens in 1985, to promote international cooperation and education for the environment.



Geraldine Sharpe Newton

President, UK Media Society

Geraldine has had a 35-year career in media relations and corporate communications. She has been head of communications for three of the worlds major news organisations, CBS News (in New York), ITN (in London) and CNN International.



Salim Amin

Chairman, Camerapix & Africa24

Salim Amin is Chairman of Camerapix, founder and Chairman of The Mohamed Amin Foundation and co-founder and Chairman of A24 Media.



John Baguley

CEO, International Fundraising Consultancy Group

John Baguley is the CEO of the International Fundraising Consultancy (IFC), which he founded in 2000. IFC works to ensure that civil society organisations have the most effective fundraising expertise to fulfil their humanitarian goals.



Nikos Koumettis

President, Central and Eastern Europe of The Coca-Cola Company

Nikos Koumettis is appointed President, Central & Eastern Europe Business Unit of The Coca-Cola Company, based in Athens, effective August 1st, 2016. The Unit will comprise 26 diverse countries, with new additions, Russia, Belarus & Ukraine. He was previously appointed President, Central & Southern Europe Business Unit of The Coca-Cola Company on April 1st, 2011, a unit comprising 23 European countries.



Sharon Schweitzer, J.D.

Cross -Cultural Consultant, International Protocol Expert, Protocol & Etiquette Worldwide, LLC

Sharon Schweitzer is a cross-cultural consultant, business etiquette expert, international business consultant, sought-after speaker and award-winning author. She has built her career helping business leaders and organizational teams understand cultural differences.



Chris W. J. Gaunt

Chairman, British Chamber of Commerce Turkey

Chris Gaunt is a highly accomplished and respected businessman with invaluable international experience across a number of key business sectors. Having graduated in UK with a degree in Modern History. In January 2013 Chris was appointed Vice Chairman of the British Chamber of Commerce Turkey and elected Chairman in July 2013.



Shannon McElya

CEO, Green Successes

Shannon has a unique talent as a technology and partner evangelist to translate technology vision into compelling customer and partner benefits and create a partnership ecosystem.



Lili Hall

Founder and CEO, KNOCK

Lili Hall is founder and CEO of KNOCK, inc., an independent branding and design agency. Commencing in 2001, the firm creates impactful brand stories and retail experiences by leveraging strategy, design and culture. Hall was honored as one of Ernst & Young’s Entrepreneurial Winning Women and received the WBE Star Award recognizing her industry contributions.



Deema Bibi

CEO, INJAZ

Deema Bibi is currently the CEO of INJAZ, a non-profit organization established in 2001 with a mission to inspire and prepare youth to become productive members of their society and accelerate the development of the national economy.



Achilles Tsaltas

Vice President, New York Times

Achilles Tsaltas is Vice President of The New York Times' International Conferences, primarily overseeing sponsorship and business development, harnessing the full power of The NYT's and INYT's operations and platforms.



Louise M. Guido

CEO and Managing Partner, ChangeCorp

Louise M. Guido is the CEO and Managing Partner of ChangeCorp, a mobile content services and app developer that creates and distributes highly relevant, localized content for 'mobile-only' middle class consumers in emerging markets.



Robert Davidson

President, Arundel Consulting Inc.

Robert is the President of Arundel Consulting Inc. . Arundel Consulting develops business and tax strategies, marketing and communications for entrepreneurs with international ambitions. It works extensively with professional services firms, with clients in the contemporary arts world, and with leaders in the pharmaceutical and health-care fields.



Sue Phillips

Founding Director, The Frontline Clu

Sue Phillips career spans more than 30 years in high profile- news broadcasting. Sue is a founding Director of the Frontline Club in London a vibrant venue where a diverse network of journalists, photographers, aid workers and diplomats discuss, debate and network.



Hani Masri

President, Tomorrow's Youth Organization

A long time advocate for Middle East peace and children's issues, Mr. Masri founded Tomorrow's Youth Organization. This non-profit organization provides programs in Technology (IT), Arts, Sports and Health for impoverished children aged 4-8, as well as social and economic development programs for women.



Stephen Cole

International Broadcaster

Stephen Cole is a veteran of international television news having fronted for Al Jazeera English, Sky News, CNNI, BBC World and BBC News 24 for the past 22 years. In addition, he was the inaugural host of the respected BBC News technology programme Click which he presented for six years.



GTF 2016 NED BOARD & EXECUTIVE TEAM



Martina Macpherson

Managing Partner, SI Partners, GTF NED Board Chairperson

SI Partners is an independent consulting firm specializing in strategic Economic, Environmental Social and Governance advisory and research, investment content as well as education services. Clients include international asset management firms, pension funds, family offices, philanthropists, service providers, FinTech start-ups, charities and academic institutions.



Alireza Zaimi

Managing Director, Global Equity Division of Bank of America

Alireza is a Managing Director within the Global Equity Division of Bank of America Merrill Lynch in London. He heads the Asset Owners Groups in Europe, Middle East and Africa with a mandate to cover the most prominent private investment offices, asset managers and wealth funds for the firm across various asset classes.



Mir Kazim Ali

Member, Advisory Council Dhahran British Grammar School

Mir Kazim Ali is actively involved in the development of youth and serves as Board Member at VISL WES School for Children with Special Needs in Karachi, Pakistan. He is one of the founding members of the institution and collaborates with the school management to improve performance and generate adequate funds.



Attiya Mahmood

Pakistani Diplomat

Attiya Mahmood has served as a Pakistani diplomat for over 35 years. Her credentials include Ambassadorial posts to the Kingdom of Morocco, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Republic of Indonesia. Following her retirement, she has joined Ahemed E.H.Jaffer Foundation, a Not-For-Profit organization in Karachi, as its Chief Operating Officer. Besides, she is also the Chief Executive Officer of Pakistan First Initiative (PFI), and she also serves on the Executive Board of All Pakistan Music Conference (APMC) Karachi.



Francois Blanc

Co founder and Managing Director, Aerocom Ventures

Francois is an ex Mobile Telecom executive and Entrepreneur focusing on large consumer facing opportunities enabled by digital transformations. He is now advising CMO and CTO in the Telecom and Banking sectors. He is an Angel investor and Mentor in Startup accelerator programs, and developed Training Courses on Intrapreneurship and Open Innovation for large Corporations and Government bodies.



Fernando Salvetti

Founder and Managing Partner, Logosnet

Fernando is a pioneer of immersive experiences, augmented reality and holography for visual communication, interactive learning and people development. An Italian epistemologist, anthropologist and lawyer, he is from Turin (Piedmont) and is used to travel all year round spending some weeks in a number of interesting places.



HE Burak Akçapar

Ambassador at Turkish Embassy New Delhi, India

Ambassador Burak Akçapar is a career diplomat, scholar and columnist. He has been serving as Turkey's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to India, Nepal and Maldives since 2011. Previously, he was accredited as Ambassador to Sri Lanka.



Souad Talsi MBE

Founder, Al-Hasaniya Moroccan Women's Centre

Born in Morocco, Souad came to the UK as a young child and has lived and worked here in London ever since. As an active member of her local community, she saw the need for a centre to serve women of Arab origin and founded Al-Hasaniya Moroccan Women's Centre.



Reem N. Bsaiso

CEO G-TeN, Senior ICT Expert

Reem is an independent Senior Consultant specializing in knowledge economy policies and public reform; her focus is on ICT in Education and national training schemes, working with international agencies on ICT in Education in the MENA region, such as World Bank, UNESCO and EU Investment Bank.



Gary Horsley

EUROMED & Media Networks

For more than 30 years Gary has been a consultant on international communications issues, helping to shape strategies that reach out to client audiences, markets and partners across the globe. During that time he has worked with major industrials, professional services, government departments and NGOs, helping them to communicate effectively across different cultures.



Ellie Papoutsani

Projects & Partnerships Associate

Ellie is a project & events management professional. She has studied Modern Languages (BA) at the University of Essex, before focusing on PR & Events with an MA in Media & Public Relations from the University of Newcastle and an MSc in Tourism and Events from the University of Sunderland. She has substantial expertise in entrepreneurship & startups' education, acceleration, promotion & networking, working with ID-GC, an international organisation promoting entrepreneurship, and extensive experience in events management, working with international impact & entrepreneurship events such as Disrupt Startup ScaleUP, Global Entrepreneurship Week Greece & Cyprus and TEDMED Live Athens.



Katherine Barger

Katherine Barger - Senior Editor, Global Thinkers Forum

Katie graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a degree in Journalism and a concentration in Public Relations. Prior to joining GTF, she worked as an attorney for several years, focusing primarily in religious asylum and international human rights, notably those of women affected by China's One-Child Policy.



Dayang Milic

Executive Business Support

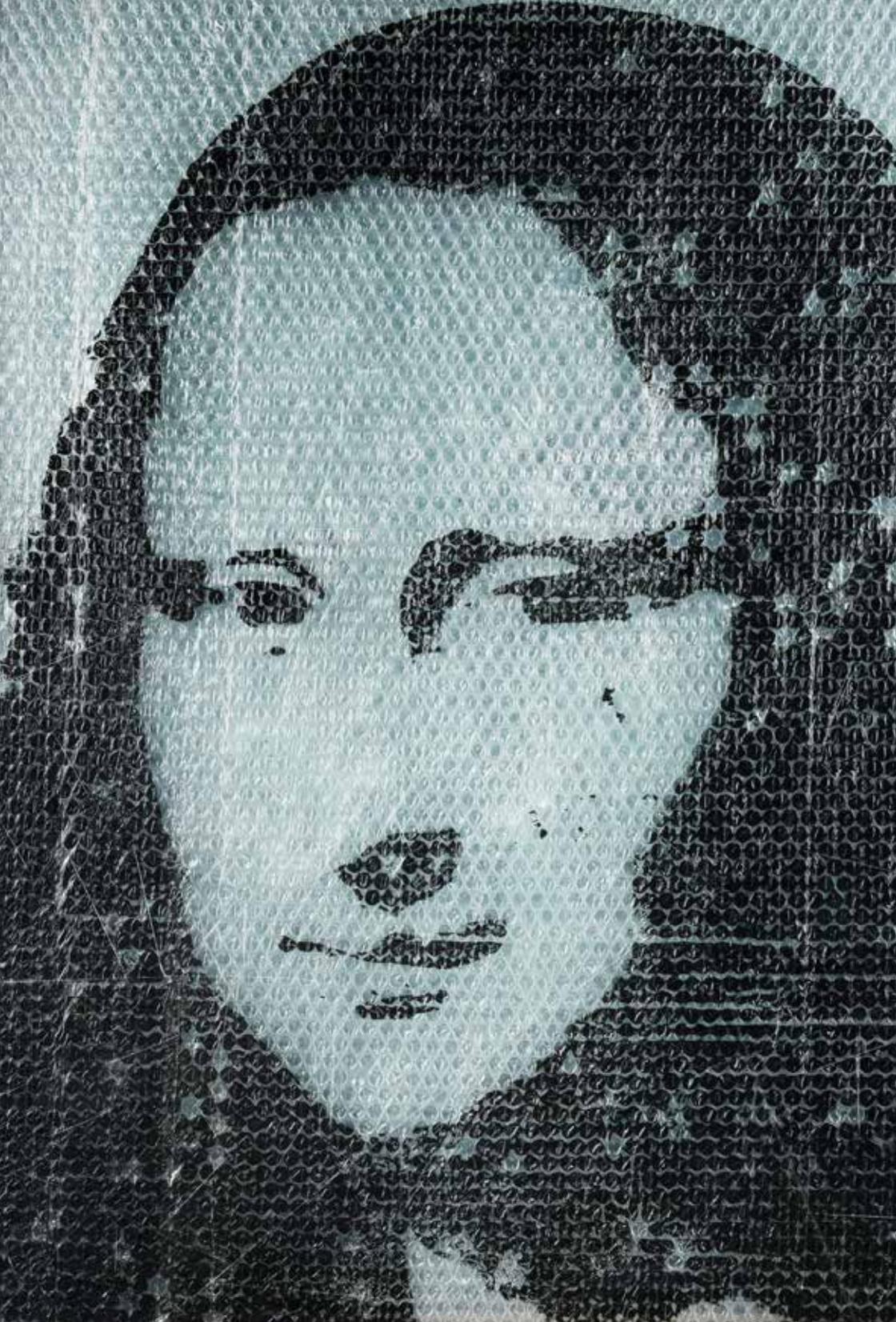
Dayang graduated cum laude from the University of the Philippines with a Bachelor's Degree in Broadcast Communication. She started her career in tourism and hospitality in her native country before joining the luxury hotel chain Jumeirah Group in Dubai, UAE. She then moved on to office management and administration for Emirates Beton, before joining Jetex Flight Support at the Dubai International Airport.



Konstantina Ntogka

Digital Marketer

Konstantina Ntogka is a Digital Marketer with an entrepreneurial mindset. She has worked on digital innovation projects and has travelled across Europe as a Youth worker, collaborating on European youth projects and promoting social responsibility. She has implemented a series of entrepreneurial ventures working with the European Parliament and the Centre of Promoting Young Entrepreneurship and Technology. She has been nominated as a World Youth Alliance Change Maker since 2013.



Looking ahead to GTF 2017

GTF continues to dedicatedly work towards the promotion of accountable leadership. We have a never-ending commitment to empower women and youth and also develop robust relationships of trust with thought leaders around the world. In 2016, we staged some exciting new partnerships, GTF-hosted networking opportunities and events.

In 2017, we are excited to grow further our Mentoring Programmes and expand our international presence to new countries and continents.

GTF welcomes ideas for topics, speakers and possible strategic partnerships. We also welcome introductions to our global community, applications for the GTF Advisory Board and nominations for the GTF 2017 Awards for Excellence.

Special Thanks to:

The GTF Advisory Board, the Global Growth Board, the NED Board for their continuous support, insights, guidance and contributions.

They are all Ambassadors of Excellence and Ethos. Gratitude for their trust and dedication to GTF.

Profound thanks to all article authors for contributing their thoughts and expertise. The views reflected in their articles and interviews are independent. GTF is a platform that promotes thought diversity.

Special thanks to Turkish artist Ardan Özmenoğlu for her beautiful artwork that is featured throughout this publication.

Particular thanks to the amazing GTF 2015-2016 Team members for their commitment, ideas, words of wisdom and team spirit:

Eleni Reppa
Sally Scamell
Dayang Milic
Ellie Papoutsani
Priya Jain
Katie Barger

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“ I implore you to begin a journey together. It requires us to have open minds to the endless possibilities and opportunities that come with partnerships.

”

HRH Queen Sylvia Nagginda of Buganda, Uganda - Global Thinkers Forum Advisory Board Member



A platform of visionary leaders from over 25 countries, who are committed to promoting accountable leadership through knowledge exchange and they love what they do!



Global Thinkers Forum taps on its exceptional international network of 10,000+ leaders, decision makers, experts, academics, media to promote partnerships, collaboration and positive change.



GLOBAL THINKERS FORUM

currently welcomes applications for Membership in our Global Growth Board 2017. Support an organization that advances ethical leadership.

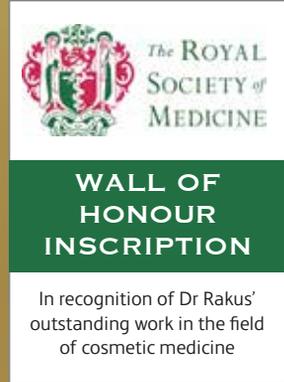
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“Thank you for creating this opportunity for me! Hopefully I’ll be able to implement this learning in the future!”

Paul-Angelos Filippakis, Greece, 21,
Global Thinkers Mentors Alumnus 2016

Avantika Shrivastava, India, 27,
Global Thinkers Mentors Alumna 2016

To support the programme or to receive more information,
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globalthinkersforum.org - globalthinkersmentors.org

In the 21st century philanthropy earned a strategic dimension. At the core of this transformation is the will to expand and nurture the notion of values-based leadership and ethical organisations.

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Global Thinkers Forum celebrates shining examples and role models in positive change.

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