



13TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE & AWARDS

Connecting Women Businesses Globally:
Leading the Way to Innovation & Integration

November 9th to 10th, 2020
#iwecawards

AWARDEE BIOS



Nominated by: Bahrain Chamber of Commerce | Bahrain

KHARIYAH ABDULLA AL DASHTI

General Manager, Capital Trading & Industry

www.ctibh.com

Khairyah is the General Manager and Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors at Capital Trading and Industry Company- a family manufacturing business set up 40 years ago. She helped to grow the business to achieve success in plastic, nylon, polythene and various furnishings. They are Bahrain's leading manufacturer of foam & mattresses and polythene. Khairyah was nominated as the first Arab businesswoman for the Excellent Industrial Field Award 2015 from the World Association of Women Entrepreneurs (FCEM - Femmes Chefs d'Entreprises Mondiales). She also has received many other awards and is very active in economic empowerment and youth.

The company primarily conducts business in Bahrain and wishes to expand in the Gulf area, the Middle East and the United States.



Nominated by: Bahrain Chamber of Commerce | Bahrain

SABAH KHALIL ALMOAYYED

Managing Partner, Intellect Resources Management W.L.L. & Subsidiaries

www.irmbh.com

Mrs. Almoayyed is the Managing Partner of Intellect Resources Management W.L.L., a management consultancy firm and Chairperson of Flat6Labs Bahrain. Intellect Resources focuses on taking measures to contribute to and fostering knowledge creation, embracing innovative technology and support entrepreneurial activities. Sabah also holds the position of Board Member of Lazurde Company for Jewelry (publicly listed) in Saudi Arabia and holds other board seats in important organizations. She is widely recognized as a veteran banker and an advocate of promoting innovation, leadership and entrepreneurship within industries and organization and is a regular speaker at various regional and international forums

The business currently works with international companies and would like to expand further into the Gulf region and the Middle East (Jordan and Egypt).



Nominated by: Bahrain Chamber of Commerce | Bahrain

BATOOL MOHAMMED DADABHAI

Founder, Affinity by Batool

www.affinitybybatool.com

Batool started working in the family business in the travel sector. Later, she joined their advertising & signage business, working there for 15 years as a director where she learned all the basic business skills which groomed her to adapt to the ups and downs of the business world. Her father encouraged her to open her own fashion outlet which she did, calling it Affinity by Batool. The company is a luxury boutique for creative attire using fine fabrics. The boutique customizes each piece and has a collection of ethnic as well as fusion outfits to suit everyone's taste and preference.

The company operates in Bahrain, UAE, and Saudi Arabia and is planning to open an e-commerce portal to extend the fashion brand globally.



Nominated by: Bahrain Businesswomen's Society | Bahrain

FATEMA ABDULKHALIQ AL DILAWER

Managing Director, Nissan Construction & Investment

Fatema started her career working for the National Bank of Bahrain for 23 years. She left the bank and, with her husband, started a family business in the field of transportation and construction in 2004. Under her leadership, the company has transformed into a powerful multi-million dollar real estate business focusing on leasing and properties trading. Moreover, the company constructs multi-story buildings and import building material and furniture. Fatema holds many roles in the community and was honored to represent the Kingdom of Bahrain in attending several international conferences and forums.

The company conducts business in Bahrain, France, Spain, Lebanon, Egypt, Dubai, Oman & China. They wish to expand to Europe.



Nominated by: Bahrain Entrepreneurship Organization | Bahrain

DR. SARA AL REEFY

CEO, London Breast Care Centre

www.londonbreastcarecentre.com

Dr. Al-Reefy is the first female Arab surgeon to qualify as an Oncoplastic breast surgeon from London. With an interest to help change the current management of breast cancer in the Arab world, Dr. Al-Reefy returned to Bahrain determined to implement the necessary changes to provide the best possible care for women diagnosed with breast cancer. Dr. Al-Reefy founded and led the one stop breast clinic at King Hamad University Hospital, prior to opening the London Breast Care Centre Bahrain. She is a winner of the Bahrain Entrepreneurship Award in the category of female entrepreneur of the year 2016 handed by the crown prince of Bahrain.

The business currently works with international companies and would like to expand further into the Gulf region and the Middle East (Jordan and Egypt).



Nominated by: Chittagong Women's Chamber of Commerce & Industry | Bangladesh

FATEMA BEGUM

Managing Director, Daily Fair

Fatema took over her husband's business upon his death. Unable to sustain the company, she closed it and reopened the retail store in 2007 under the name "Daily Fair." Her company has several locations throughout the country and is a pioneer in home delivery as well as a supplier of transportation with competitive prices to numerous small-scale retailers. Daily Fair also export spices, vegetables and different other food products. Their latest project is "One Vehicle, One Stop" mobilizing "vehicle stores" throughout the city. Furthermore, Daily Fair is launching an organic food brand.

The company exports to India and Vietnam as well as the Middle East. With a base in Dubai they source goods from different destinations from around the globe. Fatema wishes to expand to Europe - she is already setting up an office in London -, the U.S. and South America.



Nominated by: Chittagong Women's Chamber of Commerce & Industry | Bangladesh

NOOR JANNAT NIPA

Proprietor, Needle Work

Noor A. Jannat Nipa, Founder & Proprietor of Needle Work, introduced her fashion house in 2000 when she was in school through her first exhibition in Chittagong, Bangladesh. Earlier she had been in London and established a name for herself there. Today, her retail label 'Needlework' looks set to revolutionize the fashion market with its strong focus on wear-ability and glam-quotient and has been recognized as one of the leading manufacturer in the fashion industry. Noor is especially appreciated for her work with raw jute materials nationally. She has received many recognitions and awards in the industry.

The company is currently doing business in the US, UK, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia and India. They would like to expand to UAE and the Middle East.



Nominated by: Chittagong Women's Chamber of Commerce & Industry | Bangladesh

SYEDA MAHBUDA KARIM MINI

Managing Director, Malancha

Syeda Mahbuda Karim Mini, Managing Director of "Malancha," is a successful woman entrepreneur in the Catering and Restaurant business in Bangladesh. She started her business in 1995. Her company caters weddings, conferences and other events. Her restaurant provides high quality food dedicated to local tastes, health and hygienic standards at affordable price within the reach of its target consumers. Now facing the challenges of the Corona pandemic, Syeda has expanded her business to the import of medical equipment such as PPE, masks, oximeters, etc. At her spare time, Mini works as a freelance painter and she has had many solo exhibitions in different places around the world.

The company is importing different items from China and India. Malancha would like to begin importing from the US and Europe and they will continue to import medical equipment from China.



Nominated by: UNIDO | Egypt

ASSA FAHMY

Chairwoman & Creative Director, Azza Fahmy Jewellery

www.azzafahmy.com

Almost 50 years ago, Azza Fahmy started her jewelry company, translating the region's culture and international art and historic references into contemporary jewelry design that reflects her unique research approach and craftsmanship preservation. The company is recognized for establishing Egypt's luxury market and for its handcrafted jewelry, which is created with locally sourced 18ct Gold, sterling silver and stones are from India. They have 14 retail stores and outlets in London and NYC. Azza Fahmy's daughters also work in the business. She is noted as one of Egypt's most influential women.

The company currently does business in Egypt, the MENA countries, London and the U.S. They wish to expand globally with additional pop-up stores as well as new venture into products beyond jewelry.



Nominated by: Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce – FLO | India

RUCHITA BANSAL

Founder, Izhaar by Core Designs

www.izhaar.co.in

Ruchita started designing cards when she was trying to help her son with his school projects. It grew into a small, in-home workshop with no capital and eventually turned into “Core Designs.” What began as a hobby blossomed into a marketing success story that met the demands of a worldwide clientele for something unique, distinctive, exclusive and sustainable. The business grew to include gift packages and creations and became Izhaar (meaning “expression”), which she started in 2013. It is now doing business over across nine cities and overseas with three showrooms, six franchises and a branch in Kathmandu.

The company is currently selling to the Middle East, UK and the US. They would like to approach Europe and the East Asia market as well as further penetration in North America.



Nominated by: Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce – FLO | India

SHAHNAZ HUSAIN

Chairperson, Shahnaz Husain Group

www.shahnaz.in

After marrying at age 15, Shahnaz decided to devote herself to beauty and wellness, learning cosmetic chemistry and cosmetology. She then worked for leading institutions like Helena Rubinstein, Christine Valmy, Swarzkopf, Lancome and Lean of Copenhagen. While training in London, she studied Ayurveda, which convinced her that it could offer the ideal answers to modern cosmetic care. She started her own business on her verandah in 1971 and has not looked back since then. Today, she is part of the Harvard Case Study on Brand Creation, a subject at Harvard, and part of the business history curriculum on “Emerging Markets” in recognition of the international market she created for Ayurvedic beauty care.

The company conducts business around the globe through franchise networks and by exporting. They will concentrate on international branding and strengthening their global chain of franchise ventures and appointing new distributors in previously unrepresented markets.



Nominated by: Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce – FLO | India

USHARANI MANNE

Founder, Polmon Group of Companies

www.polmon.com

Usharani holds an electronics engineering degree and an MBA and first worked for a large semiconductor company. She established Polmon Instruments Ltd., a company specializing in measuring & control instrumentation and automation solutions for the life sciences industry in 1987. Usha’s foresight and vision have been instrumental in shaping the growth story of Polmon, which today is a successful company with 350 plus employees and a 1,300+ customer base. Usha oversees the key portfolios of Finance, HR and Administration for the company, and she defines systems and policies as well. Usha also has taken over as the 20th Chairperson of FLO Hyderabad for the year 2020-21.

The company is doing business in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, UAE and several African countries. They would like to approach Europe and the U.S., increasing their geographical reach.



Nominated by: British Chamber of Commerce in Indonesia | Indonesia

PRITA KEMAL GANI

Founder & CEO, LSPR Communication & Business Institute

www.lspr.edu

Prita was appointed as the Chairperson of PERHUMAS (Public Relations Association in Indonesia) from 2011 to 2014. She is the only woman ever to be the Chairperson of this organization. In 2015, she was selected as “Asia Pacific Entrepreneurial Winning Women” by Ernst & Young. Today, besides being the Founder and CEO of LSPR Communication & Business Institute, she is also the President of ASEAN Public Relations Network. She has her own radio program called “PR Corner and Woman on Top Empowering Women Through Leadership,” a 60-minute monthly radio program featuring interviews with great women leaders.

The company has 50 partner universities they collaborate with from around the globe. They would like to further develop relationships in the UK where LSPR was started.



Nominated by: British Chamber of Commerce in Indonesia | Indonesia

SHINTA WIDJAJA KAMDANI

CEO, Sintesa Group

www.sintesagroup.com

Shinta took over her family’s 100-year-old business and established the Sintesa Group in 1999. She is responsible for the management and expansion of the group’s interests in Indonesia. The Sintesa Group is an Indonesian business with 16 subsidiaries, which operate in the property, energy, industrial products, and consumer products sectors. Shinta was educated at Harvard and holds several board seats, including at the Indonesia Business Coalition for Women Empowerment. Her company is focused on gender equality and in meeting sustainable development goals. She is involved with the UN Alliance which is committed to accelerate the private sector to reach SDG goals.

The company does business in the United States, Singapore, Japan, China and Europe and wishes to continue to expand their reach to bring other companies across Indonesia.



Nominated by: British Chamber of Commerce in Indonesia | Indonesia

INKE MARIS

CEO, Inke Maris & Associates

www.inkemaris.com

Inke Maris founded Inke Maris & Associates in 1987 in Jakarta, and she has been CEO ever since. She has been responsible for developing and taking IM&A to a leading position in the domestic PR industry by working with government institutions such as the Ministry of Health, Tourism, and Social Affairs. Today, she is contributing to the work of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in Indonesia as consultant and working partner, focusing on financial inclusion and health, and advising national and multi-national companies. Her prior experience was as a newscaster and reporter for BBC London, overseas services, and then for national television.

The company does business around the globe with clients in Singapore, Japan, Korea and Austria to name a few. They would like to expand further into Korea and China.



Nominated by: Iwec Foundation Past Awardee

Monica Mohindra | Indonesia

KRISTINA KYTOHARJU

Owner, Griya Villas & Spa & The Santai Hotel

www.thegriya.com & www.santaibali.com

My name is Kristina Kytoharju and I come from Finland, but live in Bali, Indonesia. I am a mother of one daughter, and live together with her, and my husband. Together with my husband, I am the owner of an award-winning hotel called the Griya Villas and Spa, and the owner of Santai Hotel. Before this, however, I moved from country to country as I worked for Nokia for 11 years. In my free time, I enjoy travelling to meditation retreats all over the world and I help other people through guiding meditation groups on a weekly basis.

The business has visitors from around the world but especially from Europe. They would like to expand further into other countries like the US, Australia, Middle East and Asian countries.



Nominated by: Turin Chamber of Commerce | Italy

GABRIELLA FANTOLINO

CEO, Fantolino Distribuzione Societa Agricola, A. R. L.

www.fantolino.it

After a brief experience as a teacher, Gabriella joined the family business as controller in 1985, and in 1999 she became CEO. Fantolino's core business is focused on poultry farming with "cage free", "free range" and "organic" production of fresh eggs for consumption, through large retailers and traditional distribution. In 2016, Gabriella launched a new logo, brand and vehicles adding a new product lines such as egg-pasta, organic sauces, panettone, torcetti, biscuits and rice. Over the years, she has been appointed Director of many boards of agricultural companies and other prestigious institutional positions.

The company is currently doing business in Italy, France and Germany. They would like to expand to more European countries as well as the Middle East.



Nominated by: Turin Chamber of Commerce | Italy

SILVIA STUPINO

CEO, RCA Imballaggi Flessibili SRL

www.rcaimballaggi.com

Silvia started in her family business but in 2002, she took over the business branch related to the design of flexible packaging and created her own company which specializes in printing on complex films, bags and reels of plastic films, coupled with aluminum or laminated by extrusion. Flexible packaging has the primary purpose of packaging and protecting products of different nature from air, dust, humidity and light but at the same time, having an important visual impact, facilitates their sale through advertising that is transmitted with the wrapping. Since the beginning, her business has grown and is constantly evolving.

The company is doing business in France, Luxembourg, Belgium & Germany and wishes to expand to northern Europe and the UK.



Nominated by: CONFAPID | Italy
TANTULLI LEONARDA
CEO, Fibro Service SRL

Tantulli has a degree in surveying and joined her grandfather's building company. Then, she was one of the very few women involved in the building industry. She took the company over in 2014 when she lost her husband. In addition to the building company, they have been focused on environmental recovery and decontamination. Working in this arena, she pursued engagement with public administration in her area which has become one of their main clients. The company will also move into recycling and re-use of waste.

The company is doing business in Italy, France, Luxembourg, Belgium & Germany and wishes to expand to northern Europe and the UK.



Nominated by: Mongolian National Chamber of Commerce | Mongolia
ENKHNASAN LUTAA
CEO, Takhi Joint Stock Company
www.takhico.mn

The company was formed in 1931 as a garment factory but today the business is focused on real estate, property management services and foreign and domestic trade and investment. Enkhnasan has been the CEO since 2010. They continue to expand their client base and will be developing a mixed use "edutainment IT Center" shortly. Enkhnasan's experience includes high-level government civil service as well as business management. Her activities include supporting social responsibility in the areas of the disadvantaged and education.

The company is doing business in Mongolia, Japan and China. They are planning to expand to Russia and to develop further business in China and Japan.



Nominated by: Lima Chamber of Commerce | Perú
MARIA ADELE BENAVIDES
General Manager, Molles del Peru SAC

Maria's family business is Los Incas Lima Hotel, an independent hotel which has done business in the United States, Chile and Brazil. Maria also launched a children's clothing company 30 years ago, Sniff, which focuses on traditional Spanish fashion. They began a franchise in Bolivia and have increased internet sales over the years. She also took on the franchise for Pili Carrera, a Spanish brand which also sells children's clothing. And now, they are selling together and exploring joint internet sales as well to strengthen their distribution and brand.

The company conducts business in Peru, the U.S., Brazil and Chile and wishes to expand the brands in other communities around the world.



Nominated by: Lima Chamber of Commerce | Perú

MARIA EUGENIA FEIJOO AVILA

Chairwoman, Maderera Nueva Era, SAC

www.madereranuevaera.com

At 18 years of age, I realized a woman's life could be more than being a mother and wife. Thus, I started working for Maderera Nueva Era, a company specializing in wood and wood products. I began differentiating us from our competitors by demonstrating our active role in society and by identifying five new types of wood that could be commercialized in our country. Our mission is to continue this work to make sure our rainforest is not predated by informal wood companies. We believe it is necessary to find one's purpose in life and we strive to find it through our work.

The company conducts business in China, Singapore, and other South American countries. They would like to expand to the United States, Italy and Finland as these are countries that have mastered the art of wood work.



Nominated by: Banco BPI | Portugal

ISABEL MARIA FURTADO

CEO, TMG Automotive

www.tmg.pt

Isabel has worked in the family business since 1984 and in 2008, she became CEO of TMG Automotive. The company has grown 6-fold since she took over. TMG specializes in supplying interiors for premium car makers and is one of the largest in Europe. They have a joint venture in North America and an industrial plant in China for the automotive business. TMG supplies 40 markets, primarily in Europe. Isabel hopes to expand into the health and wellness market using technical textiles and is a member of the United Nations Global Compact.

The company does business mainly in Europe but also Americas, Africa and China. Isabel wishes to expand to South America and India.



Nominated by: Cape Chamber of Commerce | South Africa

BELINDA FRANCIS

CEO, Tych Business Solutions

www.tych.co.za

Founded in 2009 by Belinda Francis, during the economic recession, Tych Business Solutions was formed. With over 2 and a half decades of field experience in the areas of recruitment and human resources to her name, Belinda's wealth of expertise allows her to penetrate new industries, & establish the best solutions and business practices in an environment of professionalism. Belinda's absolute passion for what she does has made Tych "Rise Above The Rest", to become one of the most diverse and well-established recruitment companies in the country. Belinda says, "we don't force-fit people into jobs or tailor careers around recruits; we find the perfect match for both parties."

The company is working in South Africa and is looking to expand their services in the Middle East in particular.



Nominated by: Cape Chamber of Commerce | South Africa

MARIA TERESA PATUEL

CEO, Cayo Largo Holdings 17 (PTY.)

www.clholdings.co.za

Maria's parents emigrated to SA from Spain in 1961. CL Holdings is the evolution of a family business started in 1989 in Johannesburg and today has evolved into a large business in the recycling sector. In 2016 they scaled down their large business in terms of operations and staff, renamed the company CL Holdings, and became an international commodity trading business, specializing in the trade on Non-Ferrous Metals for export to end users. Maria is the CFO and heads up the financial administration and day-to-day business whilst her partner, based in Vancouver, Canada, trades and prices the material with various suppliers and consumers.

The company does business in South Africa, England, China, the U.S., India, Japan, South Korea and Taiwan. They would expand to other countries where there are major consumers of recyclable, non-ferrous commodities and where transport by sea would be the most cost-effective.



Nominated by: Cape Chamber of Commerce | South Africa

JUDY SUNASKY

Owner & MD, Blendwell Chemicals

www.blendwell.co.za

Judy Sunasky is the owner and MD of Blendwell Chemicals. Judy has developed a company that specializes in manufacturing of green and food cleaning products. Blendwell also offers own label manufacturing services to local and international clients. Judy has brought innovation into the green cleaning space and won awards and recognition in the environmental arena, assuring that all of their products are safe and non-toxic. Judy is also bringing green options into the food manufacturing and agricultural sectors. "Blendwell is growing green, so join them on their journey to a greener, cleaner Africa." Judy was a Cape Chamber participant in IWEC's Beyond Borders mentoring program.

Blendwell is currently doing business in Namibia, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Mozambique and the US. They wish to expand further in the US and also in Canada.



Nominated by: Barcelona Chamber of Commerce | Spain

MERIXTELL BAUTISTA

Co-Founder Fibracat & President Fibracat TV

www.fibracat.cat & www.fibracattv.cat

Merixtell co-founded Fibracat which is the leading global telecommunications operator in Catalonia and she holds the position of president of Fibracat TV as well. She is focused on giving visibility to women who work in the IT sector who often are very powerful but invisible. Today she is a tireless fighter for making ICT Women visible in the telecommunications sector and for women's empowerment in positions of responsibility in creating an egalitarian society. 60% of her management team are women. Merixtell just received the 2020 DonaTIC award from the government of Catalonia for her successful business career.

The company offers IP Voice services to more than 80 countries-mainly in Latin America and Africa. They would like to expand in Europe, taking advantage of offering roaming agreements with their 380 operators around the world.



Nominated by: CaixaBank | Spain

LINA MASCARÓ

Chairwoman, Grupo Mascaró

<https://www.mascaro.com/en/>

Lina Mascaró is the chairwoman of Grupo Mascaró, which includes the brands Mascaró and Pretty Ballerinas, dedicated to footwear manufacturing and commercialisation with headquarters in Menorca. She joined the family business after a time and with her sister, a new stage of international development was opened, with a focus on the creation of brand and design, and strengthening the network of its own stores. In the last year, the company has produced 420,000 pairs of shoes and exports 70% of its turnover (around €30 million), compared to the barely 5% it exported when the sisters joined the project started by their grandfather.

The company has a network of 75 stores across the world and this year it will open its first point of sale in Abu Dhabi. They are also expanding to China and they hope to further develop international markets for their footwear products.



Nominated by: UNIDO | Sudan

FADIA SULIMAN HUSSIEN

Co-Founder, Suliman Hussein Academy

Fadia is school principal, entrepreneur, and civically active citizen. Fadia worked for the Bank of Khartoum for 10 years as an accountant before pursuing her passion in the educational sector, starting Suliman Academy with her sister. Fadia enjoys volunteer work and also wrote four books for preschool and kindergarten. Fadia serves as the deputy financial secretary for the Room of Health, Education and Training Services and helped to translate books for 8th & 11th grades with the Ministry of Education. In addition to being the president for the Kindergarten Association in the chamber of commerce for the Khartoum province.

The company, an international school, is engaged in education in the Sudan. They hope to expand in the region through continued education and through establishing educational publications.



Nominated by: UNIDO | Sudan

FADWA SULIMAN HUSSIEN

Co-Founder, Suliman Hussein Academy

Fadwa has two degrees, one in Architecture and one in Accounting. She joined an Architectural Office for 9 years and left to start work in a Kindergarten in 1989 where she “found herself in teaching kids.” She went on to start her own kindergarten with her twin sister in 1994 and then added Nursery, Primary and Secondary sections, becoming Suliman Hussien Academy. Fadwa is an executive member in the education union, a member of the steering committee for translating books for the Sudanese curriculum, a board member for Normiss mining company, a member in the Arab women leadership union, and a member in Arab Investors Union.

The company, an international school, is engaged in education in the Sudan. They hope to expand in the region through continued education and through establishing educational publications.



Nominated by: Make Trade Sweden | Sweden

KATJA LINDVALL

Vice President and Co-Founder, Moving Floor Gotland AB

www.movingfloor.se

Katja's background is in the farming industry. She joined the company 10 years ago in its early stages. The idea of Moving Floor is to keep farm animals on rotating floors in order to clean efficiently, prevent diseases and in the end secure food safety. Moving Floor is the first product to automatically clean the area where the animals lay. The company is an important component to the world's food supply, assuring that in raising livestock there is less use of antibiotics, a 95% lowered ammonia emission and increased profitability for the farmers. Katja has initiated the Chinese market entry and is a crucial part of that team.

The company does business throughout Scandinavia and is working with universities in The Netherlands, Germany, Austria, Japan, Russia and China. They are focusing now on China as well as Brazil due to their large pig and dairy populations.



Nominated by: Make Trade Sweden | Sweden

PEG SODERBERG

CEO & Co-Founder, Moving Floor Gotland AB

www.movingfloor.se

Peg is the owner, CEO and part of the founding family at Moving Floor. She has been the CEO for the past 10 years and has brought the company from early R&D stages to full commercialization. Moving Floor is automatic cleaning for animal pens. The system automatically cleans 15 times per day which increases hygiene, saves labor and improves production results. Peg has great entrepreneurial skills and has succeeded in commercializing the company's innovation bringing it to over 100 farms. In addition, the company has initiated collaboration with numerous universities and industry clusters. Her background is in international business and also from the farming industry.

The company does business throughout Scandinavia and is working with universities in The Netherlands, Germany, Austria, Japan, Russia and China. They are focusing now on China as well as Brazil due to their large pig and dairy populations.



Nominated by: Istanbul Chamber of Commerce | Turkey

PROF. AYTUL ERCIL

CEO, Vispera Information Technologies

www.vispera.co

Prof. Erçil has 25 years of experience in academia. She was the founding partner and CEO of Vistek which focused on applying research results to solve business problems. She later sold the company to a German corporation, ISRA Vision A.G. She then co-founded Vispera which is a retail image recognition and analytics company serving grocery and supplier retailers allowing the companies to have a digitized view of their stores. Vispera is one of the 2 world leaders in image processing solutions for retail monitoring. She is also co-founder of Rebuslabs. Aytul is also an angel investor and board member at Kagider – Turkish women entrepreneurs organization.

The company does business in 18 countries and is opening offices in India and the Netherlands as well. They wish to expand to the Middle East and the United States.



Nominated by: Istanbul Chamber of Commerce | Turkey

DR. ASLI ZULUG

CEO, Guru Saglikli Gida Sanayi Limited Sirketi

www.pachasips.com

Dr. Zulug holds a Phd and has both a business and food engineering background. After working in food safety, she created a functional food for people needing extra collagen to help heal their bones and strengthen them in general. Her company is the producer of PACHA, the world's first and unique natural collagen and protein chips. She developed the brand in her laboratory at Ozyegin University and worked with the Ozyegin University Gastronomy and Culinary Arts department, which inspired her to produce a source of collagen not only in a very natural and practical, but also a very delicious form of food.

The company does business in Turkey and the US and wishes to expand to Europe, the MENA region, the Far East and Australia.



Nominated by: WeConnect International | UK

GILL THORPE

Founder & CEO, The Sourcing Team

www.sourcing.co.uk

Gill has 30 years as a qualified buyer with The Chartered Institute of Procurement & Supply. She is founder of The Sourcing Team which was established in 1996 (and is now a certified B' Corp) and focuses on creative, sustainable marketing and branded products. Gill has a passion for ethical and sustainable sourcing particularly around human rights, focusing on supporting gender diversity, driving change for more sustainable procurement practices and collaboration to protect both people and planet. She has won several awards including WEConnect Europe Woman's Business Enterprise of the Year Award 2020. Since 2015, she is also Founder and Chair of the WBE Council.

The company does the majority of their work throughout the UK but distributes to markets around the world. They wish to expand to the US and Canadian markets and to develop strategic partnerships throughout the globe.



Nominated by: IBM | USA

ROHENA MILLER

CEO, Niche Marketing

www.nichemktg.com

Since 1990, Rohena Miller has been a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Strategist who partners with corporations developing internal and external programs to expand their inclusion footprint in corporate social responsibility and supplier diversity. As a solution to inequity in supplier diversity, Rohena also developed Planet Mogul, a company which works to diversify the pipeline by providing tools for middle school students to explore industries through the proprietary Moguls-in-Training Workbook which helps to influence studies in science, technology, engineering and math. Rohena has been recognized as one of the Top 45 most influential figures in the 45-year history of the National Minority Supplier Development Council.

The company does business in the United States & Africa and is interested in growing wherever there are needs to create further diversity acceptance and growth.



Nominated by: IWEC Foundation | USA

LILIANA GIL VALLETTA

CEO, Cien+ & Culturintel

www.cien.plus & www.culturintel.com

Lili is an award-winning entrepreneur, recognized cultural intelligence® expert, A.I. tech innovator and World Economic Forum Young Global Leader. As an immigrant from Colombia, who came to U.S. at the age of 17 without speaking English, she embodies the American Dream going from corporate executive turned entrepreneur. After a successful corporate career she co-founded CIEN+ and CulturIntel. With offices in the U.S. and Latin America, her firm offers big data analytics, consulting and marketing solutions to help leaders successfully drive growth and impact with diverse market segments. Some of her clients include Capital One, CVS/ Aetna, Google, Merck, PepsiCo, Prudential, among other Fortune 500's.

The company does business in the US, Colombia, Brazil and Bahrain and is targeting Europe and GCC.



Nominated by: IWEC Foundation | USA

CARON NG

CEO, Nuset Inc.

www.nusetlock.com

NU-SET, a global lock manufacturing division formed to digitally transform a third-generation business empire. Caron is recognized as an Enterprise Women magazine's 2017 "Enterprising Women of the Year" for blending her industry expertise with visionary thinking. She has graduated from University of California, Berkeley and many programs such as Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Business Initiative, UCLA Management Development for Entrepreneurs, Toyota Pilot Mentorship Program, and Harvard Business School OPM. Caron is a visionary leader who is changing the narrative of lock solutions by adapting legacy systems of the lock hardware industry to be at the forefront of the IoT-revolution.

The company does business in the US, Canada, the UK and China. Caron wishes to expand to Europe, Australia and New Zealand as well.



Nominated by: Microsoft | USA

DAO JENSEN

CEO, Kaizen Technology Partners, LLC.

www.kaizentechpartners.com

Dao has been in the tech industry for over 20 years and founded Kaizen Technology Partners LLC in 2013 as the first 100% female minority owned Born in the Cloud Focused SI/VAR in the San Francisco Bay Area. Kaizen helps Fortune 500 Enterprise clients optimize, strategize, and procure cloud technologies. Some of Kaizen's marquee clients are: SAP.com, AT&T, Tesla, NASDAQ, PayPal and Bed Bath and Beyond. Kaizen also works with many medium businesses and startups. Kaizen launched "The Office of the Cloud" in 2016 with Storm Ventures to help clients share successes and failures in their cloud projects as well as help more women create careers in the cloud economy.

The company currently does business in North America, Norway, India, Vietnam, Germany and Argentina. They would like to do business and find partners in Nigeria, South Africa, Brazil & England.



Nominated by: US Hispanic Chamber of Commerce | USA

CAROLYN RODZ

CEO, Hello Alice

www.helloalice.com

Featured in Entrepreneur, Fortune, Inc., and Fast Company, Alice was founded by Latina three-time entrepreneur Carolyn Rodz. Alice is a free AI-driven website, prioritizing women and underrepresented founders, that helps business owners find the right path to start and grow their companies. Carolyn has helped raise billions of dollars of capital for innovative organizations, created a luxury retail line that sold in over 400 stores worldwide, and later launched a global marketing firm. Carolyn was recognized by Inc. as a “17 Women to Watch in 2017,” by Entrepreneur Magazine as a 2016 “Woman to Watch,” and was selected to participate in the United Nations Foundation Global Accelerator.

The company does business in the US and would like to grow in Latin America.



Nominated by: Zimbabwe Chamber of Commerce | Zimbabwe

YVONNE MUNYIKWA

Exec. Director, Star Safety

www.starsafety.co.zw

Yvonne starting out in nursing sciences and with 3 sons in tow, began Star Safety, a company which operates in the Occupational Health and Safety sector offering a wide range of head to toe apparel to protect men and women against hazards in the workplace or situations where they are at risk of injury. She forged international partnerships and sourcing to create good quality, sustainable products. Her vision is to build a generational company that will break barriers and soar to new heights, putting Zimbabwe on the global map for achieving Zero workplace injuries and ultimately making a positive contribution to the nation's GDP.

The company does business with South Africa, Germany, China and India and wishes to continue to source materials and products of good quality.

SPEAKER BIOS



Cape Chamber of Commerce | South Africa

ZAKIRA PALEKAR

CFO, Doggobone

www.doggobone.co.za

Zakira was involved in her family's retail business when she was very young. She joined Doggobone in 2013 and was awarded Regional Business Woman of the Year in 2019 by the Business Women's Association of South Africa. Doggobone was established in 2010 and is a 100% Black Women Owned company. The company was created to provide our dogs and cats with a balanced and natural feeding system to ensure our four-legged companions, stay strong, healthy and beautiful. The food we produce closely mimics what your pets evolved to eat the way nature intended. Doggobone is the first registered vet recommended raw food company in South Africa.

The company is doing business currently in South Africa but hopes to expand to other African countries.



Cape Chamber of Commerce | South Africa

AMANDA TINKLER

CEO, Habits CC

www.habits.co.za

Mandy started her career in the fashion industry at Rex Trueform Clothing Company and steadily worked her way up from a pre-production supervisor to a member of the Queenspark board (subsidiary Company of Rex Trueform) over a period of 25 years. She learned the skills of pattern-making, manufacturing, marketing, buying and retailing during that time. She then joined Habits, also a clothing company, as Managing Director and 10 years later she took over the reins of the business. She has always been passionate about "made in South Africa" and continues to contribute to the growth thereof at an international level.

The company is doing business in the UK and Ireland. They would like to expand to the United States.

SPEAKER BIOS

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