

women top50[®]

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Professional &
Career Women
Awards
Winners
2023

Top50
Global Award
Winners
2023

Top50
Global Economic Forum
Awards Working Committee

Awards
Panel of Judges





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Content

Page
05

Dr. Sulochana Segera

Page
08

Alejandro Alvarez de la Campa

Page
10

Top50 Awards Panel of Judges 2023

Page
21

Wim Executive Committee

Page
28

Top50 Global Economic Forum & Awards Working Committee

Page
40

WIM Canada

Page
41

Top50 Global Award Winners 2023

Page
71

Prof. (Dr). D.A.C Suranga Silva

Page
74

Top50 Professional & Career Women Award Winners 2023 Sri Lanka

Page
98

WIM Maldives

One of Sri Lanka's top social entrepreneurs, trainers and motivational speakers with over 24 years of experience, Dr Segera is the Chairperson of the global brand Women in Management (WIM). The umbrella brand is mother to projects like 'Professional Career Woman Awards' and the 'WIM Single Mother' which has been instrumental in changing the national mindset towards recognizing, celebrating and motivating female entrepreneurship.

She is mostly known in the industry as a corporate trainer for multinationals with a passion towards rural and urban upliftment of standards of living, education and skill development. Her personal trajectory is very much linked to the growth of the brand WIM which started as a female empowerment initiative and gradually progressed into a global platform.

In the arena of MSME and SME sector Dr.Sulochana Segera is considered a mentor, counsellor and an investor of good will, as she most often becomes the one to travel to rural areas and discovers what she calls "diamonds in the rough". Her efforts have encouraged boards to follow a more inclusive leadership in their top tier management structures. She claims that all recipients of the Wim Top50 award in Sri Lanka are inspirational and astute corporate leaders who have endured many challenges and continue to be examples to so many in their roles as leaders with a work-life balance.

She is a certified on IFC-LPI Trainer Performance Monitoring & Assessment (TPMA) and Trainer on IFC-LPI TPMA. A certified Personality Development Trainer in Asia, Dr.Segera is a trainer for the World Bank entity IFC on the area 'Sustainable Private Sector Investment' whilst in the private sector for the top Global multinational- Coca Cola the

Dr. Sulochana Segera

Founder /Chairperson Women in Management (Sri Lanka, Maldives, UAE & Canada) Managing Director Institute of Women in Management



official trainer for the brand '5 by 20' which is an initiative for the development of 5 million women by way of empowerment and Economic Development. She is also a trainer for British Council 'Active Citizen' project.

She is the Patron of the T.E.A Project, (UK Based Project in Sri Lanka empowering Children) and she also sits in the Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Skill Development, Employment and Labour Relations. She launched the First Sri Lankan Inspirational Women Calendar for year 2022 featuring 12 women leaders representing business, politics, careers, professions, social activities etc.,

She also initiated the Free Kitchen to feed homeless and low-income people in the Colombo district. Per day her kitchen feed approximately 100 people every day. With the recently economical crisis she has taken the leadership to feed children in school who are coming from low-income families. Under WIM Single mother project every year 100 children of women headed households receive education scholarships to continue their studies.

Dr. Segera was recently appointed to the Advisory Committee of the Global Equality Standard developed by GEA in United Kingdom. She also heads the Sri Lankan project of

Recently Global Women Empowerment Icon Awards held in Manila Philippines recognized Dr. Sulochana Segera as the "exceptional Woman of

Influence 2022" and she was the first Sri Lankan recipient of this prestigious global Award.

Her Majesty the Queen's

seventy years of service and leadership, the British Council will build a network of 100 young women

leaders in five countries of South Asia (Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka) and the UK.

The Global Banking & Finance Awards® UK announced Dr. Sulochana Segera as the winner of 'Business Woman of the Year Sri Lanka'. 2020 marks the first time a Sri Lankan female entrepreneur has been recognized as a winner of the Awarded and listed on the Global Banking & Finance Review website. Dr. Segera was listed as one of the ten most Influential People in Sri Lanka 2020 by the LNW website.

Dr. Sulochana Segera was awarded as the winner of 'Business Woman of the Year Sri Lanka'. 2020 The Global Banking & Finance Awards® UK. the first time a Sri Lankan female entrepreneur has been recognized as a winner of the Awarded and listed on the Global Banking & Finance Review website. She has been recognized globally, winning the "Social Entrepreneur of the Year" award in 2019 at the Asia Pacific Awards organised by the Global Entrepreneur Council, the Global CSR Excellence Award 2018, Women Super Achievement Award 2017, Leadership Excellence Award 2016 and the "Most Outstanding Professional" award.

Dr. Sulochana Segera

Founder /Chairperson Women in Management (Sri Lanka, Maldives, UAE & Canada) Managing Director Institute of Women in Management

Brand Owner – Plain-T with Sulo

Brand Owner – Top50 Professional & Career Women Awards

Brand Owner – New Generation Awards Founder – Women Top50 Global Conference Chief Editor – Top50 Magazine

Training History

Corporate trainer on soft skills for last 23 years (Leadership, Performance appraisals, team building, employee relations and negotiation skills)

Trainer on SME and MSME's

11 years experienced and trained approximately 25,000 entrepreneurs on finance management, market creation, customer care, brand building and personality building. (Worked for IFC Projects, EU, USA AIDs, Government and Private sector projects on SME development)

Mentoring History

Mentored nearly 5,000 Female police officers, 1,200 government employees and 10,000 university students on personality building and career guidance.

Mentored and trained more than 6,000 youth on startups, entrepreneurship, career guidance and personality building.

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The impact of a crisis is never gender-neutral. When a crisis strikes, women are disproportionately affected. Sri Lanka's ongoing macroeconomic crisis is no exception.

The shocks from back-to-back twin-crises Sri Lanka recently endured have reversed years of gains and efforts in achieving gender parity.

But crises also bring people together, and with crises come opportunities. Unleashing the potential of people, both men and women, is the much-needed panacea for a resilient, robust recovery. This could also help the world in better dealing with future crises.

In the face of Sri Lanka's worst economic crisis, women's socio-economic empowerment therefore remains more relevant than ever. It presents an opportunity to redress deep-seated inequities. Now is the time for less pledges, and more proactive, integrated actions to create a future that works for everyone, built by everyone.

At IFC, gender equality is at the heart of the work we do. Stepping up even during uncertain times, IFC, as the largest development institution focused on the private sector in emerging markets, is playing a significant role in creating private sector opportunities that provide equal economic access to men and women, across regions and industries. We strongly believe in the power of closing gender gaps, and have seen how it leads to financial returns and social

Placing Women at the Heart of Resilient Economic Recovery

benefits. A diverse and inclusive workforce means innovative and productive businesses – essential building blocks as economies today rebuild and restructure.

The Women in Work program in Sri Lanka, a partnership between IFC and the Government of Australia, is a testament to IFC's work in helping enhance women's role in the country's private sector while improving business performance. Over the past five years, we have helped enhance the quality of women's employment, supported increasing access to financial and nonfinancial services for women and women-owned businesses, and strengthened linkages with women in private sector supply chains.

In this journey, Women in Management (WIM) has been a trusted partner of IFC, working steadfastly to bring our mission of promoting women's business leadership for inclusive growth a reality. 2023 marks IFC's eighth year – fifth under the IFC-DFAT Women in Work program – in co-hosting the 'Top 50' Professional and Career Women Awards to celebrate Sri Lankan women who bring about transformational change as employees, entrepreneurs, and business leaders. It is an exemplary stage that unearths exceptional leaders, helping empower and inspire future generations of female leaders.

We are immensely proud to be a part of this.

Harnessing the power of women and enhancing their economic participation is smart economics. So we must not let any crises put equity on a backburner. Our collective wits and concerted actions can help build a future full of potential.

To the awardees, thank you for rising above storms of all sorts. You all are a true inspiration to many of us, and may you keep soaring high.

My heartiest congratulations to all of those who have been nominated.

Alejandro Alvarez de la Campa

Country Manager for Sri Lanka and Maldives



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Top50 Awards

Panel of Judges 2023



Professional Journey

Kasturi began her profession as an audit trainee in 1988, at the age of 18, with Arthur Anderson, who was represented by Someswaran Jayewickreme & Co. (Deloitte) where she went on to hold the positions of Audit Manager and Director Consultancy.

Kasturi Chellaraja Wilson

Group Chief
Executive Officer of
Hemas Holdings PLC.

Kasturi then joined Aramex Airborne Lanka as Financial Controller in 1998, a position that she continued to hold when she moved to Confifi Hotels for a brief period. Her career changing decision was made when she joined Hemas Holdings in 2002.

Kasturi's first position at Hemas was

with Hemtours as Finance Director. She took over as Group Head of Shared Services and was instrumental in setting up the shared services function in the group in 2005. In 2006 she was appointed Group's Chief Process Officer where she was responsible for business, IT and financial process transformation of the Group. Key initiatives under her supervision were setting up hospitals systems and processes and sales force automation process for the distribution network of the Group.

She took over as Managing Director of Hemas Mobility in 2011, and under her direction, the sector portfolio changed and grew exceptionally with a four times growth in earnings by venturing into logistics and Maritime spaces. The critical investments made during her tenure ensured that Hemas Mobility was positioned as the number 3 logistics brand.

In 2016, she was given an additional responsibility as Managing Director, Hemas Pharmaceuticals, Surgicals and Diagnostics, while continuing to function as the Managing Director of Maritime and Logistics. During her leadership the Pharmaceutical division saw rapid growth in spite of tough market conditions where the industry was brought under price controls and the company expanded its presence

“
Kasturi also serves on the Board of the Lankan Angels Network (LAN) – a leading start up eco system in Sri Lanka. In April 2022, she was appointed as the Regional Champion for the World Bank for South Asia, an initiative that seeks to examine the disconnect between rhetoric and reality, the political economy underlying the resistance to cooperate, and find ways to overcome the barriers to cooperate.
 ”

regionally. Addressing the low employee engagement when she took over reigns, Kasturi's mandate was to build and unleash the potential of her team. Her efficient management skills led to an increase of the market share from 21% to 34% and the revenue was doubled in 4 years.

Consequently, Kasturi was appointed Group CEO of Hemas Holdings in October 2020, making her the first female to hold this position in a public quoted conglomerate in Sri Lanka. With the onset of COVID 19, she and her team ensured that communities had access to affordable medicine, while making Hemas the first corporate to give their hotel premises as a quarantine center for frontline workers. She continues to lead Hemas Holdings successfully through unprecedented economic climates that followed her appointment, ensuring that the purpose of the company remains true by doing the best for the community.

Other Appointments

Kasturi is an active member of various business organisations and has served on the main committee of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, and is on the Economic Policy Committee and has chaired its Healthcare Sub-Committee. In 2019, she became the first female President of the Sri Lanka Pharmaceutical Industry, and now serves as the immediate past president of the Pharmaceutical Industry Chamber of Sri Lanka. She has actively participated in industry forums and groups throughout the years. At present, she serves as a Non-Executive Director of the Board of

Capital Alliance Limited, a leading investment bank in Sri Lanka and holds several other Board positions at Hemas subsidiaries in the healthcare and consumer industries.

Kasturi also serves on the Board of the Lankan Angels Network (LAN) – a leading start up eco system in Sri Lanka. In April 2022, she was appointed as the Regional Champion for the World Bank for South Asia, an initiative that seeks to examine the disconnect between rhetoric and reality, the political economy underlying the resistance to cooperate, and find ways to overcome the barriers to cooperate.

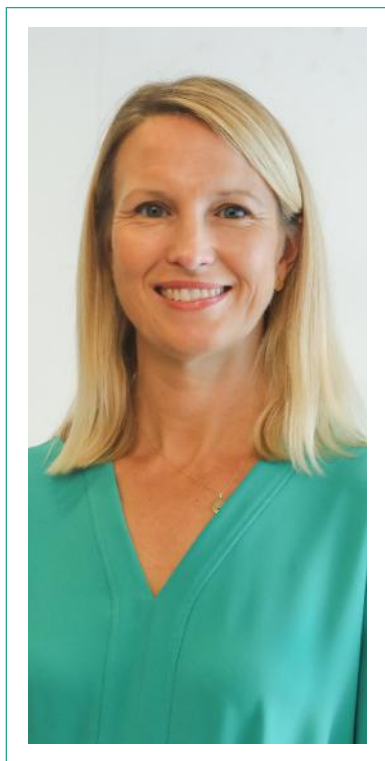
Kasturi has also served as a Council Member of the National Sports Council of Sri Lanka till March 2022 and has served on the Board of SLID (Sri Lanka Institute of Directors) and CIMA Sri Lanka.

Recognition

Kasturi was honoured by the Parliament of Sri Lanka in 2019 when she was named to the coveted list of 'Women Changemakers' in Sri Lanka. She was also recognized as one of the ten 'Wise Women' impactful leaders of Sri Lanka by the Ministry of Skills and Vocational Education in 2022.

Qualifications and Skills

A former student of Holy Family Convent, Bambalapitiya, Kasturi is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants and an Alumna of the Senior Executive Leadership Programme at Harvard Business School. A passionate sportswoman, Kasturi represented Sri Lanka as a member of the National Netball and Basketball teams.



Sarah Twigg

Program Manager,
Women in Work
Sri Lanka
International Finance
Corporation

Sarah is a distinguished gender, employment and private sector specialist with the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the private sector arm of the World Bank Group. With an extensive background spanning over 16 years in private sector operations and international development, Sarah has made significant contributions to organizations such as the World Bank, UNDP, and has as a commercial lawyer in both New York and New Zealand.

In her current role, Sarah leads IFC's gender-focused initiatives in Sri Lanka. Her primary objective is to bridge gender disparities, thereby

propelling business outcomes and fostering economic development. Sarah spearheads collaborative projects with private sector partners, with a specific emphasis on enhancing employment conditions, creating job opportunities, and promoting leadership prospects for both women and men. Furthermore, she works to enhance women's access to financial services and non-financial resources while providing supporting women-owned businesses, ensuring their growth and success.



Sarah's impact extends beyond Sri Lanka. Previously stationed in Australia, she oversaw IFC's gender-related endeavors in the Pacific region since 2014. Since 2022 Sarah has also taken on the responsibility of leading IFC's global Respect at Work program. This initiative is aimed at fostering workplace environments that effectively combat gender-based violence and harassment on a global scale.



Dinesh Weerakkody

DBA is a former
Chairman of Hatton
National Bank PLC
and Commercial
Bank of Ceylon PLC

Dinesh is the vice Chairman of the Employers' Federation of Ceylon, Immediate Past Chairman International Chamber

of Commerce Sri Lanka and the Vice Chairman of the Sri Lanka Institute of Directors of Sri Lanka and Director of several companies. He is currently an Advisor on Treasury Affairs to the President, Chairman Port City Economic Commission and Chairman of the Board of Investment. He is a former Chairman the Employees' Trust Fund Board of Sri Lanka, the International Chamber of Commerce Sri Lanka, the National Human Resource Development Council of Sri Lanka. He was also an Advisor to the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, Ministry of National Policies and Economic Affairs and to the Minister of Tourism Development



Dr. Mariyam Shakeela

A doctoral graduate of Curtin University, she is one of the most active and successful female entrepreneurs in Maldives with over 30 years of diverse, extensive knowledge and expertise, within politically socially and economically multifaceted environments managing diverse workforces across wide range of institutions including chairmanship of the Executive Board of World Health Organization (WHO) and as a cabinet minister in the Government of Maldives

As a politician she undertook duties at several Ministries: Environment and Energy,

Foreign Affairs, Gender Family and Human Rights and Health. At present, apart from holding a diplomatic position as Honorary consul for Belgium in Maldives, she is also the CEO of SIMDI Group of companies heading diversified businesses from trading, hospitality, education, health and wellness.

Former Positions: Former Positions: Cabinet Minister of Government of Maldives; Former Chairperson for Executive Board of WHO (World Health Organization); Former council member of IRENA (International Renewable Energy Agency); Former Chair for Executive Education and MBA Panel/Curtin University), Former member of Advisory Board/School of Management of Curtin University

Current Engagements: Honorary Consul of Belgium in Maldives; CEO of SIMDI Group of Companies; Chairperson for Addu Women's Association (AWA) and WACAM, President of Women's Chamber

of commerce Maldives (WCCM); International Executive Council Member of SAARC Chamber Women Entrepreneurs Council (SCWEC); Chair for Regional Committee of Asia Pacific ISGF (International Scouts and Guide Fellowship); Founder Member of Women's Alliance for Security Leadership (WASL); Advisory Board member for Tourism Research Cluster and Tourism, Hospitality and Events at Curtin University.

She has participated in key negotiations and played advocacy roles at numerous national and international fora including forums that led to the development of SDG's as well as

on forums for human rights, health, environment, and Climate change.

Through her active roles and current and past linkages with many prestigious groups both nationally, regionally, and internationally, she pursues here civil society work, and actively continue to facilitate opportunities for economic, social and political empowerment of women and youth, and works on areas pertaining to conflict resolution, Human Rights, and building peace and security. She is also a multi award winner, an academic, a published poet and an author whose publications are available both online and on physical bookstores.

As part of the team that developed award winning Kanuhura Beach and Spa resort which was later branded as One&Only Kanuhura she played a significant role and was instrumental in lifting the image of Maldives tourism to the next level. With several awards to her name such as International Influential leader for 2020 by AACB (Association to advance Collegiate School of Business), Global Women of Excellence Award 2019 from Madhya Pradesh Association of Women Entrepreneurs, Athena Certificate of Excellence from Athena International, and Business Role model of the year by Women in Management and IFC, she is an academic, a poet, a creative writer and inspiration to women who aspire to break barriers and succeed.

“

As part of the team that developed award winning Kanuhura Beach and Spa resort which was later branded as One & Only Kanuhura she was instrumental in lifting the image of Maldives tourism to the next level.

”



In his 15 year tenure in Sri Lanka, he is responsible for nurturing and developing many household brands. He is an active member in the corporate industry being a member of International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), Ceylon Chamber of commerce and the Indian CEO forum.

Santosh Menon

Marketing communications specialist with over 20 years experience managing and building brands in India, Mauritius, Indonesia and Sri Lanka.

Recently he was in the judging panel of the ‘ most admired company of Sri Lanka ‘ awards organized jointly by CIMA and ICC

And he was a judge at the ‘ Top 50 career women awards’ organized by Women in Management (WIM) Sri Lanka.

As an entrepreneur in advertising , he is also a regular columnist on marketing communications for Daily financial times. As a professional turned businessman , he offers insights on both aspects- being an employer as well as employee .

“

He set up BBDO LANKA in Sri Lanka in 2011 and subsequently FCB kl.lk of which he is the chairman and CEO. Santosh has created and nurtured many household brands in Sri Lanka and is known for what he did for Ratthi- Mrs Perera and Newdale- Chandi Bundi

Santosh Menon started his career in Mumbai in Leo Burnett advertising and was with JWT and then FCB (all global advertising companies)

He set up BBDO LANKA in Sri Lanka in 2011 and subsequently FCB kl.lk of which he is the chairman and CEO. Santosh has created and nurtured many household brands in Sri Lanka and is known for what he did for Ratthi- Mrs Perera and Newdale- Chandi Bundi

As someone who has a host of interests- he runs a YouTube channel called gymsutra focussed on movement practices, and is an active instagrammer with an interest in photography content. He regularly does podcasts and audio chats, besides having done a TedX

presentation on advertising in Mauritius , Santosh is an avid traveller and an unofficial evangelist of Sri Lanka as a great destination.

“

As someone who has a host of interests- he runs a YouTube channel called gymsutra focussed on movement practices, and is an active instagrammer with an interest in photography content. He regularly does podcasts and audio chats, besides having done a TedX

”



Mrs Ngozi Oyewole is an accomplished entrepreneur who founded a business - Noxie Limited over 20 years back with specialization into Furniture Production and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). She possess other skills in areas of integrated safety equipment and services which she has availed to the Energy and Gas industry. She is a result-driven, resilient and ace 'womentrepreneur' with extensive experience in leadership, business management and strategic planning

Ngozi Oyewole

Mrs Oyewole is an industry pacesetter and continues to champion professionalism, quality products and topnotch service delivery to clients. She holds a degree in Business Administration and is a certified and experienced Interior Designer. She is an alumnus of SAID Business School, University of Oxford, UK.

She is a very passionate advocate, who is committed to supporting women inclusion not just in business but other spheres of human endeavor. She has been very keen in youth empowerment through innovative concepts and ideas that will be a unique game changer in the nation's developmental strides.

Mrs Ngozi Oyewole has to her credit numerous national and global

recognitions, awards and achievements in areas of Thought leadership, public speaking, mentorship, advocacy, championing energy transition, business sustainability and support for the widows through established foundation.

Mrs Ngozi Oyewole's achievements encapsulates various strata of human endeavor and notable mention will be made of a few of them:

- **She also emerged as one of the 32 Women Amplifying the Voices of African Leadership -2022**
 - **HIVE Global Advisory Board -2022**
 - **National Bamboo Farmers, Processors and Marketers Association of Nigeria**
- (NBFPMAN) Board of Trustee member - 2022
- **Mrs Ngozi Oyewole was nominated in 2015 by Forbes Magazine as one of the leading entrepreneurs in Africa Championing Business Sustainability and Women Inclusion**
 - **She is a mentor at the Cherie Blair Foundation for Women.**
 - **She was the First Vice Chairperson for Women in Energy – Oil and gas In Nigeria**
 - **Mrs Ngozi Oyewole has also been appointed into the UCLDA**



She is a very passionate advocate, who is committed to supporting women inclusion not just in business but other spheres of human endeavor. She has been very keen in youth empowerment through innovative concepts and ideas that will be a unique game changer in the nation's developmental strides.





Mrs. Oyewole is the President of Beatrice Chiebonam Foundation where she engages her influence to reach out and renders financial aid to over 400 widows yearly in various parts of Rivers State. She also organizes skill-based empowerment programs for young women and mentors young female entrepreneurs through the Cherie Blair Foundation and other platforms.



International Advisory Board

- She is the Board Chair and President of Strategic Women and Youth Institute (SWYI)
- She is the Vice Chairperson of Commonwealth Women Network, Nigeria
- She is the current Chairperson of the Wood & wood Products/ Furniture sectoral group of the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN)

She is also an award recipient cutting across various segment some of which are highlighted below:

- Global Emerging Leaders Awards 2022.
- Leadership Excellence in Manufacturing 2022 from Hadarat Global Awards 2022.
- Business Woman of the year Nigeria from Women in Management, Top 50 Global Awards, Sri Lanka – 2022.
- 2022 Exemplary Leadership in Business Award
- Corporate Leadership Awards at the Pan African Women Empowerment Summit, Zanzibar, Tanzania- 2022.
- Most Outstanding in office furnishing products from Made in Nigeria -2022.
- Meritorious Award from the Institute of Professional Managers and Administrators of Nigeria-2022.
- Commonwealth Business women Network Africa Summit, Kenya Awards-2022.
- Community Leadership award by Hive Africa -2021
- Amazon of the year awards from Women Connect -2021.
- SHE Award Global by Ladies

In Business Magazine Global -2021

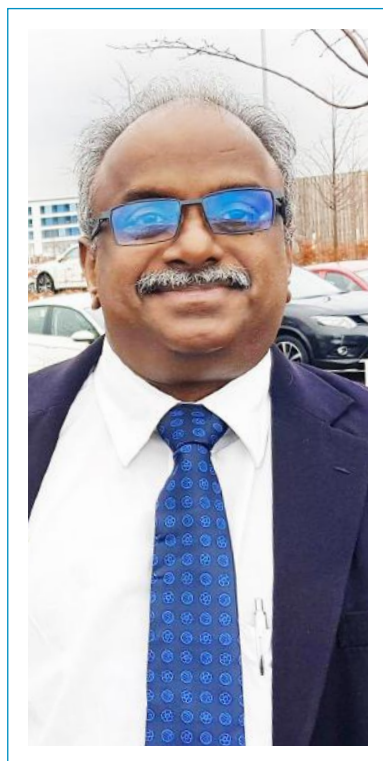
- She is a 2020 Iconic woman from Bangalore, making a difference in women-owned industries.
- She is also a WEConnect International award recipient for Woman of Excellence 2019.
- Mrs Ngozi Oyewole is also a 2019 award recipient of an Exceptional Leader of Excellence from the Women Economic Forum (WEF) and All Ladies League.
- Women in Business Awards from the VIP Magazine in partnership with the Ministry of Women Affairs.

Mrs Ngozi Oyewole as the Founder of Noxie Limited, has been able to leverage her years of experience to ensure that all the company products, produced locally, meet all international specifications as certified by her vast client base.

Mrs. Oyewole is the President of Beatrice Chiebonam Foundation where she engages her influence to reach out and renders financial aid to over 400 widows yearly in various parts of Rivers State. She also organizes skill-based empowerment programs for young women and mentors young female entrepreneurs through the Cherie Blair Foundation and other platforms.

As a social crusader and philanthropist, Mrs Ngozi Oyewole is a part of the team supporting education for the “Almajiri Child Right Initiative”; Women Impacting Nigeria and “When in Need” philanthropic group that seeks out the Less Privileged in the community

Mrs Ngozi Oyewole is also an astute writer contributing to National discuss on topical issues affecting the life of women and youth.



Professor Selvaraj Oyyan Pillay

received his PhD in Biochemical Genetics from the Department of Genetics and Cellular Biology, University of Malaya in 1977. He is a trained scientist in the field of animal and population genetics, has worked closely with the Australian Centre for Agricultural Research from 1988 to 2004, and has represented Malaysia in the Steering Committee of the International Network for Genetics and Aquaculture (INGA) from 1994 to 2004.

learner-friendly approach. He made it possible for people from various socio-economic backgrounds in a growing number of countries to take up higher education.

Prior joining Open University Malaysia, he was a researcher and later a lecturer at the Faculty of Science, University of Malaya since 1988 before going fulltime into the development of Professional and Executive

Professor Selvaraj was one of the team members of the Antarctica Expedition Team Mission in 1992. The Expedition was organised by the Malaysia Science Academy in collaboration with Australian Antarctic Mission.

Professor Selvaraj joined Open University Malaysia in May 2005 to spearhead Institute of Professional Development (IPD-OUM) and the School of Lifelong Learning (SOLL-OUM). Since then, IPD-OUM and SOLL-OUM revenues has grown two folds annually. He has led the group on its major strategic initiative to expand into extensive network nation-wide and overseas. His ability to combine professionals from the industry and academia together with its strong alliance with foreign and local partners forming the very anchor of its creation of opportunities for professional development and lifelong learning. He has transformed IPD-OUM and SOLL-OUM as one of the leading education groups with flexible entry requirements and

programmes for working adults and industry at the Universiti Malaya Centre of Continuing Education (UMCCED) from 1999 to April 2005.

Professor Selvaraj sat at the International Board for ITPEC Executive Directors Meeting, a body which undertakes and conducts IT Certification programmes in South East Asia countries including Mongolia and India between 1998 to 2005. As the Principal Advisor to Yayasan Sarawak in 2014, he undertook a study to transform the State Youth Training Centre into the setting up of Centre for Technical Excellence (CTE). As the Deputy Mission Leader, he organised a Technical Study Visit to the Scotland and England in collaboration with the British High Commission for senior officials of Technical and Vocational Institutions and Government agencies from Sabah in 2018.

Professor Dr Selvaraj works closely with TTT New Zealand (World Bank/ADB Registered Company) to develop and deliver Capacity Development training and study visit programmes

“

Strong believer of lifelong learning that takes place in formal, non-formal and informal settings with the ultimate objective of adults acquiring new skills and able to participate fully in society or at any place of work. The adaptability and the ability to acquire new skills and competences is therefore paramount.

”

for public sectors from Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Vietnam and Cambodia since 1995 to present. He is currently a member of the Advisory Board of the International Supply Chain Education Alliance (ISCEA) and also sit in the Board of Governors of St Anthony's Schools of Teluk Intan and Langkap, Malaysia.

As the Chief Executive Officer of Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS) Kuala Lumpur Learning Centre @ GIA, Professor Dr Selvaraj Oyyan is currently busy developing capacity development programmes in the Asian region primarily focusing on skills and competencies. Professor Selvaraj is a strong believer of lifelong

learning that takes place in formal, non-formal and informal settings with the ultimate objective of adults acquiring new skills and able to participate fully in society or at any place of work. The adaptability and the ability to acquire new skills and competences is therefore paramount.



Gowri Rajan is the Group Director/CMO of Sun Match Company, the market leader in the safety matches industry which today is a diversified conglomerate in the business FMCG products, education & hauliers. Due to her entrepreneurial DNA recently the company ventured into the hygiene sector given the changing business climate.

Gowri Rajan

A certified professional marketer (Asia) and graduate from the University of Bangalore (India).

She obtained her MBA from the University of Peradeniya and currently she is a Doctoral student in Business Administration.

Gowri is first female Rotary Governor to be elected to serve Rotary in Sri Lanka/Maldives. Gowri's strong leadership led Sri Lanka securing

400 million on a public-private partnership model for humanitarian projects.

One such project was the first ever Human Heart Valve Tissue Bank in Sri Lanka and the 1 million tree planting project that was launched by Miss World in 2015.

A sought after speaker Ms Rajan has addressed a multitude of conferences in India, USA, Canada, Malaysia, Taiwan, and Australia.

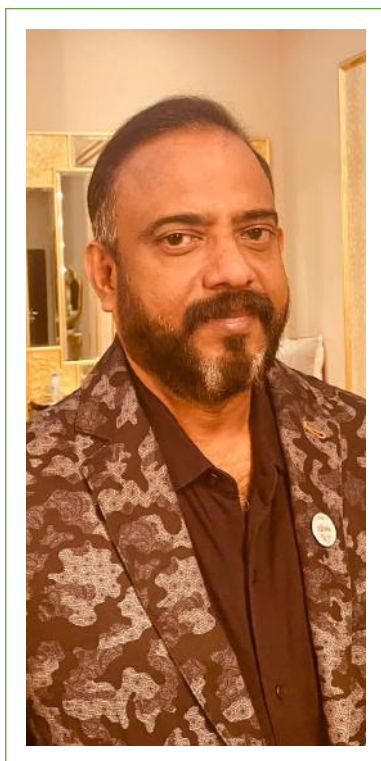
Gowri is recognized by the Women in Management (WIM) twice and the World Bank (IFC) as the 'Top 50 professional Women' in Sri Lanka. Chartered Institute of Management recognized her as the 'Best Women in Management' under industry sector. She is a fellow member at Institute of Management Sri Lanka and also serves in its Council.

Her motto - nothing is impossible.



Gowri is recognized by the Women in Management (WIM) twice and the World Bank (IFC) as the 'Top 50 professional Women' in Sri Lanka. Chartered Institute of Management recognized her as the 'Best Women in Management' under industry sector. She is a fellow member at Institute of Management Sri Lanka and also serves in its Council.





2018 National award winner and 2019 state award winner for Business Excellence with 35 years of vast experience in the field of supply chain management, procurement and Logistics, operation management, manufacturing, sales and marketing, quality, Hr with blue chip companies in India.

Amb Dunston Perira

Amb Dunston Perira - Chief Executive Officer to the Royal office of HH sheikh Ahmed Bin Faisal Al Qassimi for Strategic Alliances and Policies, TOP 50 Most Impactful Person on LinkedIn, director in 15 NGO, mentor, part of world film industry.

A media expert with a well connectivity to indian and world cinemas. An actor (3 movies to my credit), Co producer(currently involved in 15 movies worth 150 million USD to be produced in the next 5 years) and currently involved in the design and implementation of the Worlds biggest Film City in UAE.

Also involved on some of the major projects in UAE like the sports city,

wild life sanctuary, under water theme park and pharma city to name a few.

Specialties: Strategic capabilities, Materials Management exposure in manufacturing industry, Global sourcing Exposure, Lean Implementation experience, Costing Matrix, Reporting & Analysis,

Supplier Development Experience,

Media : versatile acting, co production planning and execution, connectivity to indian and Hollywood cinemas.

- Deputy chairman for global cancer mission
- Ambassador for goodwill foundation
- Ambassador for melano foundation
- Ambassador for amuno foundations
- member for AIRO foundation
- International advisor for united youth guild
- Member global chamber of business leaders
- Member leaders without borders
- Board member women's reformation organization
- Board advisor global mental health association
- International advisor to world youth council
- International advisor to world sports association
- Member to Global Wealth Council And Chief operating officer to the Royals office of HH Sheikh Ahmed Bin Faisal Al qassimi
- Winner of Nelson Mandela Peace Award 2022
- Global icon of the year 2022
- CEO of the year 2022

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WIM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



He started his career as a steward the lowest level in the hospitality Industry and gained experience by working in all other departments in the industry. That experienced enabled him to work on best hotels and restaurants in Sri Lanka that had world rankings. Succeeding on his dreams with 12 years' experience in hospitality industry he joined his family business

with his brother and changed his career in to telecommunication industry related to mobile industry. After his family migrated and he had no desire to leave the country he joined with Dr. Sulochana Segera who was looking for a business partner to handover her medical distribution. And from year 2006 he has been working in distribution field and in year 2009 he was able to co found

the Women in Management with Dr. Sulochana Segera.

In his capacity as a Director Administration his area of work is administration of all WIM chapters, communication with all members and non-members, Finance management and external affairs.

Nilam Samsudeen

Director Administration Women in Management



Waruni is a dynamic and motivated service professional with a proven record of building relationships, managing cross functional projects from concept to completion, designing strategies and coaching and mentoring individuals to success. Adaptable and transformational leader with an ability to work independently. She has over 25 years of experience in the mobile telecommunication

industry spanning across various functions in the organization.

Waruni holds a MBA from Cardiff Metropolitan University (UK), IFC-LPI TPMA Certified Trainer, Certified Lean Six Sigma Black Belt - awarded by the NIBM, Certified Usability Analyst - awarded by HFI(India), Certified in Customer Journey Mapping by COPC Inc, and an agile practitioner.

She was presented with “Women Leadership Excellence” citation by CMO Asia at the Sri Lanka Women Leadership Awards in 2018. She was awarded the Gold Category for Leadership Excellence in the Field of “Digital Technology” at the “Top 50 Professional & Career Women Awards – Ninth Edition” Sri Lanka & Maldives 2019. She is an EXCO Secretary of WIM, Member of CXPA, BCS and SILSM.

Waruni Algama

General Manager User Experience Design,
People Development & Culture Transformation Dialog Axiata PLC



Chandima is an Attorney-at-Law and currently serving as Assistant Director - Law Enforcement for the National Child Protection Authority. She has two Bachelor's degrees from the University of Kelaniya (B.A in Peace and Conflict Resolution) and Open University of Sri Lanka (LL.B). She has wide experience in

Administration, Evaluation and Monitoring of foreign funded projects and Rights based Advocacy Programmes. She holds two Masters Degrees in Sociology (UOK) and Public Management (SLIDA). She is an Executive Committee member of WIM and serves as the Company Secretary.

Chandima Dunuwila

MPM, MA, BA, LL.B Attorney-at-Law



Vijitha undoubtedly holds and cherishes an illustrious career together with exceptional social connectivity throughout her span as 'working women'. Better known and spoken as 'Viji', She is a graduate of Sri Jayawardanapura University.

Viji holds an excellent corporate record where it all began at Bata Ceylon as a Management Trainee. After tenure with Bata Ceylon, she opted her life long proven trade of Insurance as her choice of weapon. Starting from Ceylinco Life where she obtained her LUTCF as a field underwriter she swapped to general insurance with Janashakthi Insurance followed by Alliance Lanka. Presently serving as a Senior Cluster Manager with Alliance, Vijitha - in her insurance career almost a quarter of a decade she has been recognized and decorated for her excellence. These include in becoming the only female to chairman's award's including best team leader,

member of the chairman's club. In 2018. Vijitha was recognized as the "Best Woman

Marketing Professional of the Year - Insurance Industry", in the PR, Sales & Marketing & Branding category at the South Asian Business Excellence Awards 2017.

She has marked her active presence in SLIM-NASCO Bronze and Silver awards, Sales Executive /Supervisor 2014 & 2015. 'WIM Member of the Year Awards in 2016/17 amongst many others.

vijitha
samarakkodige



Amalika studied at NIBM to become a Systems Analyst after her A/Ls at Presidents College, Kotte and ended up becoming a specialist in supply chain and logistics operations. She started her career by joining one of the leading blue chip companies – Hayleys as a trainee and worked her way up in just few years due to her commitment and dedication. To date she is certain that this company, instilled the best practices, basic work knowledge as well as the best perspective to a young and aspiring individual.

It took 23+ years of hard work, untiring efforts, dedication and commitment to be where she is today as the General Manager Operations, at Regency Teas, giving leadership to a team of more than 150 people, from Managers, Assistant managers, executives to packing staff. She pride herself to be the only women handling the total operations of a tea company, from tea leaf to the cup, spearheading all the operational aspects of the company to date and represent the company globally and locally.

She is armed with; a MBA from the University of Sri Jayewardenepura since year 2014, qualified in Systems Analysis and design (NIBM), part qualified in CIMA and also a Chartered Member of CILT (UK). These academic achievements have given her the necessary tools and guidance to carry out her work and also opportunity to sit in lecturer panels of intuitions and to be respected and recognized as a professional in the fraternity of supply chain and logistics. She also serves on several associations like WISTA, WIM

and WILAT holding executive positions. She is also a member of Sri Lanka Institute of Directors as a professional.

As an Executive Committee Member of WISTA and WILAT, she dedicated herself to develop, uplift and take forward the Supply Chain industry to the society. She is the recipient of the Top 50 Professional and Career Women – Gold Award on Supply Chain and Logistics in the Year 2020 for her dedication and commitment toward the supply chain industry. She feels that by being with WIM her scope and potential to reach in her quest to educate more women on skills in supply chain will increase and will give more accessibility to take forward the industry to far corners of our beautiful nation.

Amalika Mudunkotuwa Mendis

Member of WIM EXCO

General Manager Operations,
Regency Teas (Pvt) Ltd;

MBA (PIM – Sri J), CMILT (UK),
Systems Analysis and Design (NIBM).



Since 2008 Dr. Himalee serving as a Senior Lecturer for the faculty of Indigenous Medicine, University of Colombo, Rajagiriya, Sri Lanka. She has two Bachelor's degrees from the University of Colombo (BAMS, Hons) and the Open University of Sri Lanka (BSc). Her career started in 2005 at the National Institute of Sport Science, Ministry of Sports as an assistant lecture

in Sports Physiology. She is a member of many professional organizations and many women organizations especially in WIM, presently an Executive Committee member and awarded as the 2020 member of the year.

As a member of the Young Zoologist Association Sri Lanka and Sri Lanka Association for Advancement of Science since school age and member Sri Lanka Environmental Professional Association, in 2005 she persuaded her postgraduate studies in Environmental Science at the University of Colombo due to her own interest towards the environment.

In 2006, Dr. Himalee joined as a Medical Officer In Charge to the North Central Province (NCP) Department of Ayurveda, Ministry of Indigenous Medicine, Sri Lanka. During this period she rendered her service maximum mainly for the propagation of Ayurveda health services in war-torn areas of NCP. Due to her keen interest in the teaching and learning process, she joined as an academic to the IIM in 2008 and completed her Doctor of Medicine in Ayurveda from Banaras Hindu University, India as a candidate nominated under the Indian Cultural Exchange scholarship in the field of Ayurveda Psychiatry and hold Diploma in Yoga from the same University in 2012.

While incorporating her knowledge and experience in wellness tourism, she is the first entrepreneur who introduces a Homestay ("Veludvara") for Ayurveda Devotees and Nature lovers in 2018 at Nawala, It runs as a family business under unique concepts and includes most of the dimensions of wellness tourism with maintaining the destination authenticity.

While reading for Ph.D. at the Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Colombo, fully committed to the task of disseminating Sri Lankan Traditional Medicine by empowering women in various dimensions.

Dr. Himalee De Silva

(BAMS, BSc, MD(Ay), PG Dip in Env Sc,
Dip In Yoga, Dip In Psy)

Senior Lecturer faculty of
Indigenous Medicine
University of Colombo
Rajagiriya



She is an Attorney-at-Law and Notary Public having 27 years practice in both Private and Public Corporate Sector entities engaged in in fields of Finance, Real Estate & Property Development and Maritime Industry.

She holds Master's Degree in Business Administration from University of Wolverhampton, UK and Certificate in Entrepreneurial Marketing from Sri Lanka Institute of Marketing (SLIM). She has served as a visiting lecturer at CINEC - Metro Campus on Maritime Law & Marine Insurance.

She is an Executive Committee Member of Women in Management – Sri Lanka and Women's International Shipping & Trading Association (WISTA)-Sri Lanka, Member of Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport (CILT), and a Life Member of Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL), Colombo Law Society and Corporate Lawyers Association of Sri Lanka.

Aparna
Tilakaratne

Lanka Ports Authority
Chief Law Officer.



She left the corporate world to promote and create an environment that helps women chase their professional dreams. Her vision for fully-fledged child-care solutions have enabled many women in the corporate sector to continue and grow their careers and wear multiple hats whilst keeping together the family unit. This has been her inspiration in setting up Childcare Services and Early Childhood Development Centres that provide holistic childcare solutions for any family looking to live a stress free and well-balanced lifestyle. She now operates 4 independent centres and 5 corporate creche facilities providing fully-fledged child-care solutions.

Fazeela
Dharmaratne

Director CeeBees Preschool &
Childcare Centre



Dilsha Ruwanpathirana is a brand builder, brand strategist, business development specialist, and entrepreneur based in Colombo, Western Province, Sri Lanka. Dilsha is currently the co-founder and director of Brands In Style (Pvt) Ltd, where she focuses on kids’ lifestyle products. Her passion for building brands, specifically kids’ brands, has led her to work with organizations such as Zuru Inc, Hape International, and Viacom 18 Media as a distributor for some of their brands.

Dilsha began her career in the pharmaceutical sector and then moved to the Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) field. In 2013, she joined KTI where she got the opportunity to work with kids’ brands such as LEGO, Hot Wheels, Barbie, and Leapfrog. Working with these brands gave her exposure to understand the kids’ products market in Sri Lanka and globally. Dilsha has also attended several distributor conferences conducted by these esteemed brands where she was able to familiarize herself with global trends, generate and initiate strategies to develop the business, and take it to the next level.

Dilsha is a Chartered Marketer and a Fellow of Chartered Institute of Marketing (UK). She is also a graduate from University of Colombo, Faculty of Science. Dilsha’s passion project is Blissberry, a local kids’ products brand developed by Brands In Style, where she tries to empower Sri Lankan craftsmen as much as possible, empowering local communities with opportunity so that they can grow with the company. Her next goal is to take this brand global and be a voice for local talent.

Her recent past experiences include being the Director of Bliss Marketing (Pvt) Ltd who owned the retail store The Kids Warehouse, Head of Strategic Business Unit at Kiddies & Toys International Pvt Ltd and Business Development Manager and Assistant Marketing Manager at the same company.

Dilsha Ruwanpathirana
Director – Brands In Style (Pvt) Ltd



Niroshini Rathnasinghe is a banking professional, who is currently working as a Manager –IT Administration at the Innovation Centre of the People’s Bank. She holds an MBA from Postgraduate Institute of Management (PIM), University of Sri Jayewardenepura. She is a Chartered Marketer, Member of Chartered Institute of Marketing (MCIM-UK), and also an Associate Member (AIB) of Bankers Institute of Sri Lanka.

Counting over 20 years of extensive experience in the banking sector, she has gained exposure in branch banking, electronic banking, retail banking, product management and marketing and also vendor management and service level assessing. Also, she has gained knowledge and experience in coaching, training and development as well. During her tenure at the Retail Banking Department of the Bank, she has served as the Product Manager of the ‘YES’ Youth Savings Product of the Bank, and, during that period, the YES’ Youth Savings Product has been bestowed with the Bronze Award for ‘Service Brand of the Year’ in 2017 at the SLIM Brand Excellence Awards.

Niroshini is a passionate influential personality who has the unique ability to instill confidence in others. She has earned a Diploma in Psychology for Personality Development and National Diploma in Career Guidance at the Sri Lanka Foundation and practicing as a Career Counsellor too. She is enthusiastic in training, mentoring, coaching and personal development and willing to develop herself as a high impactful individual who can drive excellence. She is an individual who always trust her intuition who believes that it will guide her soul to the right direction.

Niroshini Rathnasinghe
Manager - IT Administration at the Innovation
Centre of the People’s Bank

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**Top50 Global
Economic Forum &
Awards Working
Committee**



Summaiya is a Lawyer and Compliance specialist with over 28 years of work experience across the Financial Sector.

Having started her apprenticeship at the Attorney Generals Department in 1993 and thereafter She joined the National Development Bank / NDB as a Management Trainee and then rose up the ranks as Manager Legal and Compliance Officer

She has also worked at the Peoples Bank , HSBC , NSB and Cargills Bank during her banking Career until 2019

She made a career change in 2019 and moved out of the Banking sector Joined Allianz insurance Lanka Limited as their Chief Legal , Compliance and Data Protection Officer

Summaiya is an Attorney at

Law and also is Compliance qualified from the ICA and has a Masters in Business Administration

She is passionate about people always doing the right thing , and a strong advocate of Ethics & Governance in the Corporate Sector

She joined WIM in 2018 and also served a year on its EXCO and has chaired the WIM Top 50 Conference and also being part of Wim Top 50 Global Awards

Summaiya Macan Markar
Chief Legal
Compliance and Data
Privacy Officer
Allianz Insurance Lanka
Limited



Summaiya
Macan Markar

A career spanning over 20 years across leading global FMCG and consulting sphere. A Supply Chain professional in the disciplines of Sourcing, Planning, Logistics, Quality Management and New Product Introduction. With Exposure to managing multiple markets such as Sri Lanka, Maldives & Myanmar. Having started my career at British American Tobacco in Sri Lanka, where I played multiple roles in Supply chain work stream while also leading the operations functions in the biggest ERP system implementation to deliver the target operating model. Also a certified Integrated Work

System (IWS) Pillar lead for quality management.

I then moved to STAX LLC where I was part of many local and international projects. In the capacity of the Senior consultant I was able to contribute to Matured SME's in Sri Lanka to achieve its growth plans. Also Lead the Expert Insight work stream under the primary research practice.

I am a MBA holder with a passion for fitness and Music.

Head of ProcurementCoca
Cola Beverages
Sri Lanka



Nilushi
Kumaradas



Anushika M Abeywickrama.

A graduate from the Faculty of Law, University of Colombo, Anushika was called to the Bar in 2010. Anushika has worked at many legal establishments. A proud Alumni of FJG De Saram, she attributes her professional growth to this 180 year old firm.

Anushika has extensive experience in rendering legal and advisory services to

various clients in all areas of corporate, commercial and real estate law. Anushika currently works as Group Legal Counsel at Maliban Group. She is also an experienced

Notary and a Company Secretary. An old girl from Sirimavo Bandaranaike Vidyalaya, she

was a part of many sports, and clubs during school days. She also managed to secure the best results plaque awarded by the school for securing outstanding results at the GCE Advanced Level Examination.

Anushika M Abeywickrama. (LL.B) Colombo, Attorney-at-Law, Legal Counsel, Maliban Group.



Chamaree Silva

Chamaree Silva is working for an Australian Strata Management Company, Beyond Strata (Pty) Ltd as the Chief Operating Officer.

She is holding an MBA from University of Wales Trinity St. David

Chamaree is a highly accomplished business management professional, seasoned with working more than 20 years in various industries covering every aspect of a business. Skilled in high level of innovation, conceptualization, business analytics, strategic planning, process development, people management and

collaborative problem solving.

Has been working in banking, insurance, venture capital, hotel, resort and leisure, supply chain, agriculture, pharmaceutical, telecommunication, education and strata management. Strong

strategic vision; along with the ability to successfully manage businesses in highly challenging environment.

Motivated by the mission of building ethical and sustainable businesses.

Chamaree Silva Chief Operating Officer Beyond Strata (Pty) Ltd



**Sudehi
Geeganage**

Sudehi is a graduate of Chartered Institute of Marketing (UK) with a Postgraduate Certificate in Business Administration from University of Leicester (UK) and also holds a Master of Business Administration from Federation University of Australia. She is a member of CIM (UK) and SLIM.

She started her career in sales and marketing in financial services industry from Leader Investments in 2003 and due to her penchant for hard work, she was appointed and posted to China branch as the Market / Business Development Manager from 2004 to 2007. During her 3 years tenure in China she gained immense experience by developing franchise operations for the business. Afterwards she joined Sri Lanka Insurance where she was exposed to Brand Management functions. In 2008, taking a turn from financial services industry

of FMCG she joined Hemas Manufacturing. During the 12+ years at Hemas, she gained experience in modern trade account management, Trade & Shopper Marketing, International Business and SMMT. She worked for 2 years as Head of Modern Trade at ICL Brands where she is responsible for delivering growth in Modern Trade channel by facilitating effective trade programs.

In the current role of Head of Food Services at Fonterra Brands Lanka, she is responsible for delivering growth in Food Services channel by building winning partnerships with the industry partners.

Sudehi is also a visiting lecture for marketing subjects at SLIM.

**Sudehi Geeganage
Head of Food Services,
Fonterra Brands Lanka
(PVT) Ltd**



**Debbie
Dissanayake**

Debbie Dissanayake, a professional in the logistics industry with over 23 years of experience, educated at Holy Family Convent Bambalapitiya, holding a MSC in logistics and supply chain management from Birmingham City University and currently reading an international MBA from the same University. She is the General Manager Sales and customer service at EFL Global Sri Lanka and plays a dynamic role in value creation and growth of the company while diversifying businesses and contributing towards the organic growth. An Award winner of the TOP50

Professional and Career Women Awards in 2021 and an executive committee member of Women in logistics and Transport of the Chartered institute of logistics and transport. Her passion and enthusiasm have been a key motivator in reaching her goals and in maintaining ethical business practices. Apart from her career, an adventurous traveler and loves to understand diverse cultures.

**Deborah Princess
Dissanayake
(DEBBIE DISSANAYAKE)
General Manager Sales
Expolanka Freight
PVT Ltd**



Prasadini Perera

Specializing in Emergency Response Planning, Administration and Team Dynamics, Prasadini is a competent Airline Industry professional with almost 2 Decades of experience at SriLankan Airlines currently administratively incharge and responsible to develop, implement, maintain and execute Business Continuity Management System (BCMS) and Emergency Response Plan (ERP) for Bandaranaike International Airport and Mattala Rajapaksa International Airport and network operation stations.

Having started her career in Airport & Airline Business Operations, she has gained expertise and knowledge in Business Continuity Management, Safety Management System (SMS), Occupational Health & Safety standard implementation, Passenger Handling and Emergency Response Management. She is also a Certified instructor in corporate safety and at the SriLankan Aviation College molding vibrant team players to be prepared to any crisis and ensure their commitment by active participation and decision making.

Prasadini holds a MSc in Disaster Analysis, Management & Mitigation from University of Colombo, a Bachelor's in Business Management Studies from the Open University of Sri Lanka and she recently completed a higher Diploma in Counselling & Psychology and plans to become a certified

Counselor.

She also holds a Post Graduate Diploma in Diplomacy & World Affairs from Bandaranaike International Diplomatic Training Institute Sri Lanka and a Diploma for Travel tourism and hospitality Management.

Sharing her expertise, Prasadini represents the Association of Disaster Risk Management Professionals (ADRiMP) - Sri Lanka as a committee member. She is a committee member of the Airport Emergency Planning group Bandaranaike and Mattala International Airports.

She is a member of the Women in Management of Sri Lanka. Being a past pupil of Methodist Collage Colombo and currently she is a committee member of the Collage old girl's association. She is also a current member of the UN volunteer force - Sri Lanka.

A keen Athlete, Prasadini has represented Sri Lanka in the Asian Korfball Championships 2016 in Jaipur and has been awarded in Mercantile / Travel trade Netball, Swimming and Athletic meets over the years. As a competent Bharatha Natyam Dancer and having performed her 'Bharatha Natyam Arangetram' in 2003, today, she supports different entities in choreographing events.

PRASADINI PERERA
Crisis Management
Manager SriLankan Airlines

Internationally Certified Trainer, Keynote Presenter and a Human Resource & Administrative Professional.

MBA – Northampton University – UK, Specialized Advanced Diploma in Teaching Training and Assessing – City & Guilds, UK.

A Result oriented Human Resources Professional and a Highly passionate corporate trainer with a background of over 20 years of corporate expertise in Human Resources & Administration in diversified fields of business portfolios such as Telecommunication, Textile Manufacturing, Healthcare, Engineering, Automobile, Electrical and Pharmaceutical. Successfully transformed many professionals to enhance their career through programs which are uniquely designed on fundamental business requirements such as Business Communication, Executive Social Presentation, and Essential Skills for Executive Secretaries and Administrative Executives. As a trainer and Keynote Presenter have offered services to Multinational corporates and industry champions, public sector

organizations, non-profit foundations & associations. Has a proven track record of resourcing diversified audiences to reach beyond their comfort zones to deliver excellence.

The title winner of Professional Secretary of the Year 2008/2009 and Emerged as a finalist of Asian Secretaries Award – 2008/2009. A Fellow Member of Institute of Administrative Management-UK (FInstAM), Member of American Society of Administrative Professionals (ASAP), Member of Women in Management (WIM), An Associate Member of Chartered Professional Managers (CPM), A Paul Harris Fellow, A Member of Toastmasters International for 17 Years, A Past President, A Past Area Director, An Ambassador for Toastmasters International Educational Program, the Toastmasters Learning Institute Chair, Finance Manager, and current Assistant Division Director – Club Growth for Division A, District 82, Toastmasters International.

Nadeeka Jayatilaka - Human Resources Professional

Nadeeka Jayatilaka



Bhagya Wettasinghe

“The only way to do great work is to love what you do.”

Passion is everything, when one is motivated by passion, nothing can stop him/her no matter how bitter the wind is. The best way to do something is to love what you do because it is easy to quit and lose track when one lacks motivation and passion. I have always lived by this virtue.

Bhagya Wettasinghe is an experienced and accomplished Supply chain enthusiast who has been in the industry for over 10+ years in the arena of Sales and Marketing.

She is the colleague at work that everyone wants to know but nobody wants to be due to the work load she handles. She is a well-focused individual with the ability to complete the given tasks accurately in a fast-paced

environment with conflicting deadlines. But yet, a tactical and inspiring team builder with experience in training and team development and delivering excellence.

Even though she graduated from University of Wales Institute of Cardiff UK in 2012 holding B.Sc in International marketing her childhood aspiration was to be a translator in Japanese Language for which she was fortunate to win a scholarship to Japan in 2006 during her school days. But eventually she found that her passion is for Sales and Marketing where she was looking

for a dynamic environment to excel in her career. As a result, she was recruited by an American freight forwarding company in 2013 where she joined as the assistant manager in Business and development. She also holds academic qualifications from British Computer Society-BSC UK (Associate member of Chartered institute of IT) and a Pass finalist from Chartered institute of Personnel Mgt Sri-Lanka (CIPM) with a HRM full qualification.

She is currently reading for her MSC in Supply Chain Mgt at Birmingham City University,

UK to accomplish her goal as a consultant in Supply chain Management as a young professional. As a testimony to her perseverance and dedication, she won the award for C.H Robinson National Championship in South Asia in 2019 where is also won the best performer of sales.

Even though she is a working mother for two lovely kids she never forgets to invest some quality time with them.

Bhagya Wettasinghe
Supply Chain Professional



Director of Ceylon Speech Pathology Services (pvt) Ltd

National/ Country representative for Asia Pacific Regional Network for Early Childhood

Registered practioner at the Sri Lanka Sri Lanka Medical Council and Sri Lanka Medical Council Association.

Consultant Speech and

Language Pathologist, Asiri Central Hospital.

Award winning researcher.

Published author.

Passionate about early childhood development activities, drama, theatre, cooking, workouts and learning to become a good wife currently ;)

Nadini Wickramasinghe



Darshani
Samanthilake

Darshani Samanthilake is a Maritime Professional, graduate from University of Kelaniya in 2001, PADI Advance Open Water Diver since 2003. Darshani was first female Maritime Archaeologist in Sri Lanka and enthusiast in ship wreck research. During her term at Department of Archaeology, she served as a Visiting Lecturer in Maritime Archaeology at University of Ruhuna.

Darshani was the first to coordinate Underwater Archaeological Impact Assessment in Sri Lanka in 2007, collaboration with Western Australian Maritime Museum and UNESCO prior Galle Port Development Project. Also, she actively contributed for the discussions on ratification of 2001 UNESCO Convention on the Protection of Underwater

Cultural Heritage during 2006-2011.

Darshani joined commercial shipping in 2011 and a Member of Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport-UK since 2013 and a Member of Chartered Institute of Shipbrokers-UK since 2014.

Currently, Darshani serves as a General Manager of a reputed shipping company in Sri Lanka and at the same time contributes for educating undergraduates on commercial shipping practices as a Visiting Lecturer at Ocean University of Sri Lanka since 2014.

Darshani is a solo traveler, fitness enthusiast, gardener, and a continuous blood doner since 2012. Her personal charity expands from guiding children on alternative career paths, maritime education and lifesaving and caring of abandoned dogs.



Piyumi
Ranasinghe

Piyumi started working in 2003 at the very grass root level as a salesperson in the banking sector. During a time when banks expected customers to visit the bank, She was part of the team that created a culture of going to the customer.

Starting from there she has gained a lot of knowledge of different industries and businesses. She has worked in Banks, Entertainment, Manufacturing, Distribution, FMCG, FinTech, IT Solutions & Software.

She has also got hands-on

experience in developing an FMCG product & a brand as an SME and taking it to the market. Her biggest achievement in her the making of a new brand is in a short period gaining 11% of the market share and competing with player's large players in the market.

Currently, she is the VP of Business Development for Affno Virtual Markets which is a venture of Affno Asia Pacific (Pvt)Ltd. She handles handle the Sales/ business development and operations of the Green Tape product

portfolio.

With her years of experience in working with SMEs, she takes pleasure in her current position as it allows her to full fill her passion which is supporting the MSMEs and SMEs to grow.

She has completed her Higher Diploma in Information Telecommunication and Technology at ACBT - Affiliated with Edith Cowen University and completed CIM. Her highest education qualifications come from all the customers she has met in the 19 years of working starting

from a Sales Person to, becoming a VP of Business Development.

Piyumi Ranasinghe
Vice President
Affno Asia Pacific (Pvt) Ltd



Hansani
Bandara

Hansani Bandara is an achieved professional leader with over 6 years of managerial experience in various industries. Her journey started in an executive position as a social media strategist at a reputed Sri Lankan organization in the IT industry. The journey lead her through ups and downs where she achieved her desired role in life as a leader of a middle-scale organization.

Hansani completed her primary and secondary education in – Mahamaya College Kandy. And completed her higher education in the field of IT and eventually carried herself to be in a management position at the age of 26.

Hansani is currently the

General manager at Voigue Pvt Ltd. She heads the entire operations including Sales, marketing, HR, administration, and accounts in this organization in a successful manner. Currently the team she handles consists of 50 employees and the second level after Hansani consists of a team of 5 middle-level managers. Hansani Also was awarded the women icon young leadership award in the year 2021.

Whilst predominantly managing the operation of Voigue Hansani is currently building her own brand Class up which provides coaching to young Sri Lankan females on personal development, personal styling, and personal branding.



**Inakshi
Tillekeratna**

Inakshi Tillekeratne, an ACCA qualified Accountant and a multifaceted professional, currently heading the Finance function at Atlas Labs (a technology company and a member of the Tavistock portfolio). My eight-year journey in the corporate world has forged me into a problem-solver who loves a good challenge.

My experiences have allowed me to dip my toes into a multitude of fields from human resources, operations, to project management in the tech industry. This broad exposure has equipped me with a generalist's view and a

problem-solver's mindset. I'm constantly taking on challenges and driving strategic growth, all while ensuring continuous improvement.

Mediocrity bores me; I am a staunch believer in delivering quality and exceeding expectations. My mantra is simple - always strive for the best and push the boundaries of what's achievable. This spirit fuels my pursuit of challenge, my drive for quality, and my ambition to make a meaningful impact with any role I take on.

**Inakshi Tillekeratne
Finance Lead - Atlas Labs**



**Gayathri
Liyanage**

Life should be everything but a boring journey. Everyday is better because it is an opportunity to be better.

Nothing tells more about me than the fact that I am a 'passionista'. Constantly in love with my world, with finding better ways to resolve both age-old problems and modern ones. As of recently I have found immense joy in building teams to reach objectives, to tackle issues and to achieve results.

I have over 10 years academic and professional experience in the fields of legal, compliance and management. I have been working with both local and international clients in IP protection which ranges from software development, product engineering and even passionate arts such as

music and photography. As of recently I have been exposed to product engineering standards and requisite licenses for the US market especially.

Apart from work I thoroughly enjoy my time being a toastmaster, leading, guiding and learning every step of the way. Presently I serve as the Vice President Education at Smedley Toastmasters Club. One of the most exhilarating experiences as a toastmaster has been contesting for International Speech Contests.

I also serve as a visiting lecture for the University of London External Programmes at the CfPS in Sri Lanka.

**Gayathri Liyanage
Compliance and Operations
Lead Atlas Labs**



Ishani Carlderera

Ishani Carlderera, a professional in shipping and logistics, graduated at chartered institute of logistics and transport UK, Higher National Diploma in Accountancy – Srilanka Technical College, Colombo 10 (Ministry of Higher Education).

Over 20 years experience in Shipping and logistics, Working in world leading shipping lines, such as Evergreen, MOL. Currently working in Ocean Network Express Lanka (PVT) Ltd, as agents for Ocean Network Express PVT LTD which is the once of the world largest shipping company.

Heading the Equipment Control and containers repairs

and maintenance.

I was an Executive Committee Member of Women's International Shipping and Trading Association from 2015 to 2020. Heading the press committee from 2015 to 2019 and the media coordinator. Member of the International Communication Committee of WISTA International in 2015 and 2016. Assistant Secretary to the WISTA in 2019.

I was Executive committee member of McLaren's Sport Club year 2008 & 2009 (two consecutive years). Headed the Committees of McLean's Group Annual Christmas Party, Sports Day, and Carrom Tournament etc





A STORY OF SUSTAINABILITY

Delivering sustained value across communities

Established in 2006, Outreach Projects (Guarantee) Limited is an independent non-profit organisation dedicated to empowering local communities through purpose-led initiatives. These include poverty alleviation, agriculture development, improving access to basic services, infrastructure development, conservation and biodiversity, training and upskilling, and disaster relief.

The company's flagship CSI initiative, Sustainable Agricultural Development Programme (SADP), supports economically vulnerable families achieve food security through organic home gardening and animal husbandry. From aligning its projects with social issues that are identified as national priorities, to engaging with communities at the ground level to provide sustainable solutions, Outreach Projects will continue its commitment to enrich lives across communities.

WIM Canada was launched in 2018 as a not-for-profit agency registered in Canada with two key objectives:

First

To provide and facilitate opportunities for Sri Lankan women living in Canada to further their career aspirations and promote new business opportunities of their choice. So, we were very excited to participate in WIM “Professional & Career Women Awards” program.

In 2018/2019 we initiated the program for the first time to recognize Sri Lankan women who have excelled in their careers,

professions, and businesses in Canada giving them greater visibility in the marketplace. Over the last five years WIM AWARDS CANADA were a roaring success with a number of professional and business women being recognized for their career achievements and contributions to the community.

Second

To educate and provide information to Sri Lankan young students and women living in Canada in two key areas “Mental Health & Well Being” and “Career Planning & Success”.

WIM Canada organizing committee is very proud of a few very informative and well participated events we held in 2019 and 2021.

- In 2019 we held a very successful live event/seminar on “Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention, Mental Health and Career Planning and Resources”. The speakers were outstanding representatives from the Heart and Stroke Foundation



of Canada, Canadian Mental Health Association, prominent Sri Lankan medical practitioners & academicians, career counsellors and recruiting agencies.

- In 2021 with the alarming cases of covid and fatalities we felt compelled to conduct a virtual seminar titled “Covid 19 facts and info”. Where we had speakers from CAMH, McMaster and Queen’s University, Psychologists from Sri Lanka & leading Sri Lankan Psychologists in Ontario.

Now that all covid restrictions are lifted WIM Canada will endeavor to organize a couple of relevant events focused on our key objectives to support our members, the Sri Lankan community at large as well as to support Dr. Sulochana Segeras.

well-thought-out goals and objectives.





**Top50
Global Award
Winners
2023**



Afghanistan

Fawzia Koofi

Member of peace negotiation team representing Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

Fawzia Koofi was a member of peace negotiation team representing Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. Fawzia's political family background and orientation to public service propelled her to take hold of the new opportunities that were paving the road for many women. She decided to run for a seat in parliament from the Badakhshan province, she was elected Member of Parliament from that province in September 2005, right after the first elected parliament after 33 years, Fawzia was elected as the first woman Second Deputy Speaker of Parliament in the history of Afghanistan, in 2010 she run for second time to parliament and won by a majority and not based a quota, she chaired parliament standing committee on women and human rights from 2010-2019.

She was the member of and president of IPU's committee on Human rights of parliamentarians from 2016-2019.

After completing her baccalaureate degree, she entered

a competitive medical school. But soon after the Taliban took over in September 1995, and barred women from access to all education!

Finding the doors of a university education closed to her, Fawzia focused her energy on women's right organizations, and worked closely with one of the most vulnerable group such as Internally Displaced People (IDP), and marginalized women and children. She continued working with UNICEF Afghanistan on women and children's rights especially back to school, Reintegration of Child soldiers and Child trafficking. She holds a bachelor's degree from Kabul University law and political sciences faculty and her Master on International relations and Human Rights from Geneva School of Diplomacy, from Geneva City.

Some of the key women's initiatives that she has championed include the improvement of women's living conditions in Afghan prisons, by approving resolutions, with her efforts a commission to work on the issue of violence against children is established, the commission was chaired by Afghanistan first vice president. She tabled many progressive laws

protecting women and children including law on violence against women, anti harassment law on women and children, child act and contributed to laws that ensures protection of Human rights for citizen. With her support and influence the gender budget was established in the national budget. She promoted women and girls' education, by advocating for access to good schools, as well as creating opportunities for non formal education for out of school children in her constituents, Badakhshan province.

She is the author of letters to my daughters and the favorite daughter book which is her auto biography. She has been titled as BBC 100 women, Young global leader by World Economic Forum, fearless mind of 2013 by times magazine, 50 great leaders by fortune magazine in 2021 and many more. She has been awarded many prestigious awards including women of knowledge, Minerva, Casa Asia diversity, Champion by Pet Tillerman foundation, Human Rights champion by Middle East Institute, Anna Politkovskaya, Women in War award and many more.

She is the leader of a newly established political party

called Movement for Change in Afghanistan.

Taliban put her under house arrest as soon as they captured Kabul, she eventually managed to flee Afghanistan.

Since her flee from Kabul, she has travelled across the

world to meet world leaders, Human rights Organizations and Civil Society activists to keep the focus in Afghanistan in terms of Humanitarian and Political crises, especially the repression of women and girls. She continue to lobby for full protection of women's rights and warn the world leaders on

the security consequences of ignoring women and people of Afghanistan. recently forced to leave Afghanistan due to security challenges,

She was recently nominated for the Nobel peace prize which is a great accomplishment.



Australia

Anne-Marie Cader

Lawyer, Mediator and Conflict Coach

Anne-Marie Cade is a family lawyer who is also an experienced Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner, Nationally Accredited Mediator, as well as a Certified Divorce and Parenting Coach.

Anne-Marie is also known as “The Peaceful Divorce Lawyer” and is the founder and CEO of Divorce Right, an online mediation and divorce coaching

platform that aims to empower couples to reach a peaceful, amicable separation outside the family court. She adopts a holistic approach to resolving family law matters as she sees divorce as an issue that has legal, emotional and financial implications.

Anne-Marie also ran a successful online legal practice for over twelve years and she tailored her services around her client's needs by providing them with the flexibility of accessing legal services online. She has been recognised for her innovative

work, receiving the LexisNexis and Janders Dean Legal Innovation Award in 2016 and being recognised as Thought Leader of the Year at the Women in Law Awards in 2017. She was also a finalist in the Wellness Advocate of the Year category in the Australian Law Awards. Anne-Marie has a Masters in Family Dispute Resolution and Negotiation. She is also an Adjunct Lecturer at the College of Law in Victoria for their Practical Legal Training course.



Australia

Dr. Anne Aly MP

Federal Minister for Early Childhood Education and Minister for Youth in the Labor Government-Australia.

Dr Anne Aly MP has been the Federal Member for Cowan since 2016 and is also the Federal Minister for Early Childhood Education and Minister for Youth in the Albanese Government.

By her late twenties, Anne was a single mother of two young boys

earning the minimum wage to put food on the table. She went on to study her Masters and PhD and worked as a professor, academic and practitioner in counter terrorism and countering violent extremism. The founder of People against Violent Extremism, Anne was the only Australian representative to speak at President Obama's 2015 White House summit on countering violent extremism.

Anne is a 2011 inductee into the

Western Australian Women's Hall of Fame, a 2016 nominee for Australian of the Year and a 2016 recipient of the prestigious Australian Security Medal. In 2021, she was awarded the McKinnon Prize for Emerging Political Leader of the Year, in recognition of her Parliamentary work against both right-wing extremism and family & domestic violence.



Australia

Nish Dharmaratne

Managing Director, Head of GTS Product | Global Transaction Services, Westpac Institutional Bank

Nish Dharmaratne is the Managing Director, Global Head of Product for Global Transaction Banking business at Westpac Institutional

Bank based in Australia.

In her current role she leads the GTS Product organisation and lead both end to end product management function and product transformation programs across multiple transaction banking products. Her key lines of products service

across the Westpac Group include New payments, Core payments, Domestic & International receivables including Digital Solutions. In addition, She leads the GTS Deposit & Balance Sheet Management and core liquidity products for Institutional Customers at Westpac.

Nish has over 26 years of experience in banking across Australia and Asia. Prior to Westpac, she led GTS

business in Singapore for Citibank. She has held various roles with Citi in APAC leading regional businesses in Liquidity, Payments, Investments, Client Solutions and Relationship

Management. She has a Bachelor of Banking & Finance from Monash University, Australia, Postgraduate from Chartered Institute of Marketing, UK & Master of Business Administration from University of Jay, Colombo.

She has also completed the High Potential Leadership program at

Harvard University & Women In Leadership program at UCLA, USA. Most recently achieved Risk Management credentials from Deakin University, Australia. She is a Fellow at FINSIA & Member of Chartered Institute of Marketing, UK. Past President, The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh and Chairperson, RDRS Bangladesh



Bangladesh

Parveen Mahmud

Chairperson, RDRS Bangladesh & First female President, The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB)

Parveen Mahmud is the chairperson of Underprivileged Children Education Program, Bangladesh. She started her career with BRAC and was the deputy managing director of Palli Karma Sahayak Foundation (PKSF). She has diverse experiences with national and international development agencies, the corporate sector, and is a practicing accountant.

Ms Mahmud was the founding managing director of Grameen Telecom Trust. She was a partner in Acnabin & Co, Chartered Accountants. She is the first female president of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB), and also,

the first female board member of the South Asian Federation of Accountants (SAFA), the apex accounting professional body of SAARC. She is the chairperson of CA Female Forum – Women in Leadership Committee, ICAB and is the vice chairperson of the Women in Leadership Committee of SAFA.

She sits on numerous boards including Transparency International Bangladesh, Centre for Policy Dialogue, PKSF, Rangpur Dinajpur Rural Service, Manusher Jonnyo Foundation, Dhaka Ahsania Mission Foundation for Economic Development, Ghashful and Grameenphone Limited. She is an independent director of Apex Footwear Limited and Berger Paints Bangladesh Limited.

Ms Mahmud is the chairperson of Her Story Foundation and

Dakkha – Skilling Bangladesh. She was the chairperson of Micro Industries Development and Assistance Services, Acid Survivor's Foundation and Shasha Denims Limited.

Ms Mahmud served as a member of the National Advisory Panel and was convener, SME Women's Forum for SME Development of Bangladesh. She was also the founding board member of the SME Foundation and a working group member of the Consultative Group on Social Indicators of UNCTAD/ISAR.

Ms Mahmud has received several accolades for her services, including Ananyanna Top Ten Women – 2018 Award in 2019, Joya Alokito Nari – 2018 Award from RTV, and Begum Rokeya Shining Personality Award 2006 from Narikantha Foundation.



Canada

Julian Anthony

Barrister and Solicitor of the Law Society of Ontario, Canada, and an Attorney-at-Law of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka.

She currently serves as the President of Anthony and Associates Professional Corporation (A&A), a mid-sized law firm based in Ontario, Canada.

A&A operates two offices in Toronto and Mississauga, in the province of Ontario, and has a strong presence in Real Estate Law, Immigration Law, Family Law, and Business Law. A&A employs 4 lawyers including her two daughters, 3 Articling Students and 12 support staff.

A&A has successfully closed Real Estate transactions to the value of CAD 332 million in 2022, CAD 400 million in 2021 and CAD 311 million in 2020. The Family Law division of the A&A has generated a revenue of c. CAD 450,000.00 and the Immigration division has generated a revenue of c. CAD

350,000.00 over the same period assisting around 200 people to migrate to Canada. A&A has partnered with three companies in Sri Lanka to promote its Immigration business and is in discussions to partner with two more companies to expand their geographical reach in Sri Lanka. A&A is one of the preferred law firms of Royal Bank of Canada for Immigration matters and is invited for immigration law sessions hosted by the bank for new immigrants frequently.

Ms. Anthony holds a Bachelor of Laws degree (Legume Baccalaureus) from the University of Colombo, Sri Lanka, and has carried out her legal studies in Canada at the Dalhousie University, Nova Scotia.

A&A was recognized by the Manage HR magazine in 2022 as one of the top 10 immigration lawyers in Ontario, Canada.

Ms. Anthony is the recipient of

the coveted “Top 50 Professional & Career Women Global Award 2023” in the ‘Entrepreneurship in Legal Advisory and Consultancy’ category. She also won the Women Entrepreneur of the year (WIM) Awards Ceremony in 2016.

On the voluntary and philanthropic end, Ms. Anthony is the founder and incumbent president of the Canada Sri Lanka Catholic Association, President of WIM Canada Chapter since its inception, President of Shanthi Foundation (a charitable organization to build a palliative care center for Sri Lankans), President of the ‘Sooryodaya’ Scholarship Fund (A scholarship fund for underprivileged students in Sri Lanka), Former President of Holy Family Convent, Bambalapitiya Past Pupils Association of Canada, and Former Vice President of the Colombo University Alumni Association.



India

Dr. Rajni Aggarwal

President Federation of Indian Women Entrepreneurs

Dr. Rajni Aggarwal is nationally recognized as a key player in the Indian Entrepreneurial Ecosystem and has helped numerous women entrepreneurs, besides being an active entrepreneur herself. She creates leaders amongst women entrepreneurs. Her operating experience spans, medium, small and micro industries. A visionary and an Influencer has impacted the life of over one hundred thousand women entrepreneurs.

She is the Managing Director & Business Owner for ;

- **Sears International Private Ltd, an electronic company manufacturing Televisions and components.**
- **Shree Ganpati Exports, an export company having its offices in USA**
- **Art Elements Gallery promoting Indian contemporary art**

Dr. Rajni Aggarwal, a recipient of several National and International Awards, to mention a few

- **National Awardee for the Outstanding Entrepreneur, given by President of India, instituted by Ministry of Small Scale Industry, in 1988.**
- **Conferred the “Leading Women Entrepreneurs of the World Award” from the National Association of Business Women Owners (BWO) of the United States in 1997.**
- **“The Lifetime Achievement Award” from Greece Business Women’s Association in 2014.**
- **She was covered as outstanding exporter by The Dolazlar Business magazine**

Dr. Rajni Aggarwal has successfully created a launching pad to economically empower women in regional and global economic framework, especially for Small and Medium Enterprises & industries.

“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.”, as quoted

by Mahatma Gandhi. Keeping this in mind, she started a national level, non governmental organization,

representing the businesswomen across India as the Founder President of the Federation of Indian Women Entrepreneurs (FIWE) in the year 1993. The Federation is an apex body of women entrepreneur’s spread across the nation having 24 member associations representing over 12000 women entrepreneurs of India.

Rajni Aggarwal, a Doctorate in Global Leadership and Management from European International University and a course on Business Management from Helsinki School of Economics, Awarded an Accredited Professional Certificate on Gems and Jewellery by Gemmology Institute of America (GIA). She continues to endure with the belief “The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give it away.



India

Dr. T. Bina

Director of Happy Valley Business School, Coimbatore

Highly motivated, enthusiastic and dedicated educator is Dr. T. Bina, Director of Happy Valley Business School, Coimbatore. She along with a few like minded people established the first B- School under Anna University- Happy Valley B School in 2007.

Qualified in the UGC NET Eligibility Test for lectureship and SLET, she has been teaching management for 26 years to MBA students. Dr. T. Bina is an Electronics & Communication Engineer. She has an MPhil and a Ph.D in Management.

She has been certified by IIM Bengaluru for their Entrepreneurship course, that was sponsored by Goldman Sachs. She was adjudged the Best Presenter in the final Business

Growth Plan Presentation.

She teaches Marketing and Data Analytics for students of MBA. She has several publications to her credit and is on the doctoral committee of various universities. She has guided several students in Research during her academic career.

She was a visiting faculty to the Institute of Finance Management, Dar-Es-Salam, Tanzania, handling Management & IT courses. A corporate trainer, she also handles soft skills for students.

Dr. Bina is a member of the Education Panel of CII, Coimbatore. She is on the Board of Studies of institutions for their MBA programme. She is a management consultant for a few companies in Coimbatore helping in their Orbit Shifting strategies!

She has been a recipient of Achievers Award from the

Rotary Club & Inner wheel of Pollachi in March 2020. She was recognized as a Power Woman and has received the Certificate of Excellence by Lead India Foundation @ Hyderabad in March 2021. She has also been awarded the Outstanding Leader in Higher Education Award from Elets at its 14th Higher education Summit@ Chennai in October 2022 and has received an Outstanding Marketer award from ASMA, New Delhi in April 2023.

She is a member of Rotary Club of Coimbatore and is on the board of Women Empowerment cells in institutions. She spearheads a women Empowerment initiative named Aadya, which helps women in general and solo-women entrepreneurs in particular. She acts as a judge of contests and during her free time ,volunteers as Master of Ceremony for events.



India

Thakur Reshma

Singh An Entrepreneur,
Environmentalist, Extrovert

Reshma Thakur has a postgraduate education background in MSc-Environment Sciences, Mtech - Environment Management. Reshma Thakur is an Environment Engineer by profession and an approved and Accredited Environment Impact Assessment Coordinator and a Functional Area expert at PAN India Level for Municipal Solid

Waste Management, Construction Sector and Industrial Estate, SEZs, Industrial Parks Sector from National Accreditation Board for Education and Training Accredited Environment, and a certified OHSAS 18001:2001 certified EHS Auditor. After successfully working for 16 years,

I have established 5 companies

- **Ishaan Enterprises (Manufacturing of Natural Herbal Beauty Products for Hair and Handmade soaps)**
- **Harsha Consulting for**

Environment Services

- **Pricube Technologies Software and Data Networking Services www.pricubetech.com**
- **Leap 2 Learn Edu Consultants Pvt Ltd**
- **Dharti Foods (Incubated at Indian Institute of Millet Research Association Honorary Post Vice Chairperson India for Start Ups Support” for ALL Ladies League (ALL),**



India

Dr. Rajan Sudesh Ratna

Deputy Head of South and South-West Office of
UN ESCAP, New Delhi, India

Dr Rajan Sudesh Ratna is the Deputy Head of South and South-West Office of UN ESCAP, New Delhi, India. He is leading research, policy advisory and capacity

building. He led training of women-led MSME from South Asia for using digital marketing and e-commerce platforms for promoting their business and becoming part of regional and global supply chains. A network of 3000 women entrepreneurs was created with digital skills who successfully are running their business. He earlier worked in Trade, Investment and

Innovation Division of ESCAP in Bangkok. During 2008 to 2010, he worked as Professor and Head, Centre for WTO Studies, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi. Dr Ratna is an Indian civil servant and has worked for 25 years in the Government of India, mostly in the Ministry of Commerce handling the trade policy issues and trade negotiations in WTO and FTAs.



India

Manjusha Kanwar

Ex International Badminton Player Presently working as DGM, Sports -IOCL, Delhi

Manjusha Kanwar (born 20 March 1971, née Manjusha Pavangadkar) is a female badminton player. She was born in Pune, Maharashtra, India. Presently works as Deputy General Manager in

Sports Department Indian Oil Corporation, New Delhi. She was part of Indian Badminton League in 2018–20 as a Coach of Delhi Team. She was honored with the FICCI Life Time Achievement Award in 2020 for her achievements both as a player and her work for the promotion of sports.

Manjusha Kanwar won the National Championships in

India for the first time in 1991. Nine more titles followed until 2002. Bronze Medalist in Commonwealth Games in 1998 (Teams) wherein she played both singles and doubles. Gold Medalist in South Asian Games 2004 in teams and Silver Medalist in Women's Doubles and Mixed Doubles. She represented India for 12 years



Japan

Prof. Cindy Yoshiko Shirata

Honorary Professor at Tokyo International University

SHIRATA, CINDY YOSHIKO, accounting educator, researcher; b. Minato-Ku, Tokyo, MBA, U. Tsukuba, Tokyo, 1994, D Bus. Adminstrn., 1999. Japan Air Lines, 1971–79; asst. to mgr. software product engrng. dept.

Prime Computer Japan Co., Ltd., 1982–83; mng. dir.

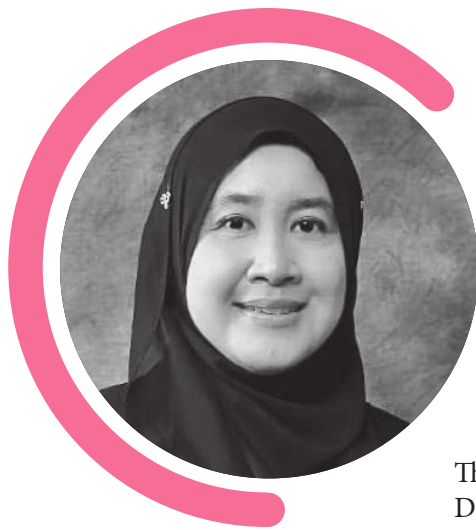
Pastel Co., Ltd., 1983–88; asst. to pres. Spalding Japan Co., Ltd., 1987–88; advisor to v.p. Teikoku Data Bank Co., Ltd., 1988–89; sect. chief plastic additives dept. Hoechst Japan Co., Ltd., 1989–92; sr. mgr., sr. cons. Shinko Overseed Management Co.,

Ltd., 1992–94; mng. assoc. Chuo Coopers & Lybrand Consulting Co., Ltd., 1994–96; assoc. prof. acctg. Tsukuba Coll. Tech. Japan, Tsukuba-City, Ibaraki-Pref., 1995–2001; prof. acctg. Nihon U. Coll. Econs., Tokyo, 2001–05, Shibaura Inst. Tech., Grad. Sch. Engrng. Mgmt., Tokyo, 2005–07, U. Tsukuba Grad.

Sch. Bus. Scis., Japan, 2007–14, Visiting Researcher, The Research Institute for Innovation Management, Hosei U., 2015–; bd. dir. ST Corp., 2011–; bd. dir. ST Corp., 2011–; bd. dir. PCA Corp., OtsdAd. DIC Corp., 2015–; coun. mem. Legis. Coun. Ministry Justice, 2012–. Author: Prediction Model of Corporate Bankruptcy,

1999, How to Invest Ventures, 2000, Financial Analysis to Avoid Bankruptcy, 2001, New SAF2002 Model: Prediction of Bankruptcy in Japan, 2003, Rating by Bankruptcy Prediction Model, 2008; translator: Presenting Digital Cash, 1996. Recipient Assn. prize, Japan Risk Mgmt. Assn., 1999, Japan Bus. Analysis

Assn., 2004; named Best Faculty Mem., U. Tsukuba, 2009. Fellow: Japan Risk Mgmt. Assn.; mem.: Sci. Coun. Japan (coun. mem., sec. gen.), Asian Pacific Conf. Acctg. Issues (assoc.), Am. Acctg. Assn. Office: The Research Institute for Innovation Management, Hosei U, Chiyoda-ku, Tyo Japan.



Malaysia

Noraziah Abdul Wahab

Senior Lecturer at Department of Chemical Engineering and Energy Sustainability, Faculty of Engineering, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS).

She is also currently the Director for University Sustainability Centre (USC), UNIMAS. Noraziah is a research fellow at the Institute of Sustainable and Renewable Energy (ISURE), Institute of Science Informatics and Technology Innovations (ISITI), UNIMAS Water Centre (UWC) and Centre for Sago Research (CoSAR). She is a Certified Mentor for Community Based Participatory Research (CBPR) by UNESCO Chair in Community Based Research and Social Responsibility in Higher Education, Certified TRIZ Practitioner Level 1 by International TRIZ Association (MATRIZ) and Certified Train

The Trainer by Human Resource Development Corporation (HRDC). She graduated her first degree from University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom in 1998 with Bachelor of Engineering (HONS) in Chemical Engineering.

She then obtained her Master of Business Administration with specialization in Project Management from University of Southern Queensland, Australia in 2004 and Master of Engineering in Chemical Engineering from UNIMAS in 2009 with specialization in Renewable Energy. She is currently pursuing her PhD studies at UNIMAS and Doctorate of Business Administration via the APEL Q route with HELP University. Noraziah has also attained series of executive certificates levels of study throughout her

career as her initiative for her life long learning which includes Graduate Diploma in Business Administration from IBMS College, Postgraduate Diploma in Teaching and Learning from UNIMAS, and currently undergoing the Imperial Sustainability Leadership programme by Imperial College Business School, London.

She has also completed her GRI Professional Certification Programme by Global Reporting Initiatives (GRI) which enhance her knowledge and skills in Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and Sustainability Reporting Standards. She started her career as a process engineer for three (3) years at Taiyo Yuden (Malaysia) Sdn. Bhd. in Sama Jaya Free Industrial Zone from 1998 to 2001.

She then joined Technology College Sarawak (TCS), an associate college of Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) since 2001 until 2014 where her last position held at the college was as Academic Director. She then joined UNIMAS a lecturer in 2014 until present where she held various coordinator positions at department level and she was the Deputy Dean (Industry and Community Engagement), Faculty of Engineering in 2017 until 2019 prior resuming her role as Director at USC beginning of 2019.

Her area of specializations is in Water & Wastewater Engineering, STEM Education, Renewable Energy (Microbial Fuel Cell) and she has also developed keen interest in Sustainability Leadership. She holds RM5.9M of research grant, with 7 external projects whereby she is the Principal Investigator

(PI) of 6 projects.

She has one Intellectual Property (IP) for “A System and Method for Development of Outcome Based Education Curriculum Thereof” (PI2019001139) and another two more IP for “Phytobiotics for Water Disinfectant” (ID: 82812) and “Production processing conditions of Phytobiotics from *Centratherum punctatum*” (ID: 82813) is pending for approval. She is actively involved in spearheading STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Education, Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and Community Transformation programmes for the State of Sarawak and also at international level via current network. She is now involved in Borneo Studies Network (BSN) as the Principal Lead for Community Transformation Thrust, participating in Asia Pacific University-Community

Engagement Network (APUCEN) and South East Asia Sustainability Network (SEASN). Strategic, well-connected Director with more than 25 years’ experience in engineering management, academic management, alliance management and quality control. A results-oriented executive with a strong background in statistics and project management, having closed and managed over RM12.5 million of community-based project from 2019 to present.

She is recognized for collaborative leadership style, proactive, approachable, and ability to effectively translate vision and mission of the university into tangible action plans. A proven leader with a strong executive presence, passionate in community development, effective communication skills, build trust, and achiever for center growth.



Malaysia

Dr Kavitha Muthy

Chief Strategy Officer -
Intellize Tech Services

Dr. Kavitha Muthy holds a Ph.D. in Management graduated from University of Greenwich and Master’s in Business

Administration Majoring in International Business from UEL (University of East London). She is the first Woman in Malaysia who achieved Master of Business Continuity Professional

(MBCP) and has been awarded as Best Certified Business Continuity Professional (CBCP) in Malaysia.

She is also the CyberSAFE Ambassador of Cyber Security Malaysia (national cyber

security specialist agency under the purview of the Ministry of Communications and Multimedia Malaysia and earned the CyberSAFE Professional of the Year award in 2016. Subsequently, in year 2019 she received an International Excellence Award as Best Cybersecurity Personality given by the A.P.J Abdul Kalam International Foundation India for her contribution to raise Cybersecurity awareness regionally.

In year 2020, Dr Kavitha had another breakthrough by achieving the Top Ten Women in Security in Malaysia. This award is in collaboration with Malaysian Women in Security (MYWiS), ISACA Malaysia Chapter, ASIS International Malaysia Chapter, WISECRA (Women in Security & Resilience Alliance) and MySecurity Media. Recently, Dr Kavitha Muthy was honored as the 2021 Modern Governance 100 in the Cyber Risk Leader category for her contribution as the world's top Governance practitioner and recipient of the Outstanding Women CEO Leadership Excellence Award 2022 by KSI Strategic Institute for Asia Pacific.

She is currently the Chief

Strategy Officer of Intellize Tech Services, a professional consulting company that focuses on technology, cyber security, business continuity and human capital development. She focuses on providing consulting and advisory services to both public and private sectors including financial institution and manufacturers in Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery Management through implementation of best practices and standards.

She has consulted customers such as RHB Bank, Baiduri Bank Brunei, CGC Credit Berhad (owned by Bank Negara), AM Bank of Malaysia on their Business Continuity Planning and Management since year 2011 until 2016. This has brought her vast experience and knowledge in Governance and Compliance such as BCI GPG 2018, MAMPU BCP Guideline, Guideline on Business Continuity Management for Participants of Pay Net, Guideline on Business Continuity Management by Bank Negara, Risk Management in Technology by Bank Negara, Operational Planning Guidelines and Covid-19 Partners Platform to Support Country Preparedness and Response, ISO 22301, ISO

27031, and ISO 27001.

Dr. Kavitha has proven herself as a capable leader in business continuity planning with outstanding awards from a leading institution, Disaster Recovery Institute International, US for two consecutive years, 2013 & 2014 recognizing her contribution to organizations and nation in the field of Business Continuity Management.

Besides that, her talents and contribution towards a Cyber Safety for nation has further been acknowledged by the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation and awarded her the recognition as CyberSAFE Professional of the Year.

Meanwhile, she comes with dynamics of experience in business continuity and crisis management and its corporeal, emotional and cognitive elements in the situation of crisis consulting provision. Dr. Kavitha began her career in mid-90's, and has since been actively involved in consultation and advisory services in professional education, cyber security, business continuity planning and disaster recovery planning to both private and public sector corporations.



Maldives

Honorable Aishath Mohamed Didi

Minister of Gender, Family and Social Services

Honorable Aishath Mohamed Didi, has dedicated her life to educate the young, promote and work for the protection of women's rights and strengthening the social sectors in Maldives.

Hon. Aisha started her career as a teacher after completing her Diploma in Teaching and BA in Psychology in 1982 at the American University of Beirut, Lebanon. She served as a teacher for several years and then went onto developing curriculum for the schools of Maldives. She then completed her Masters of Arts in the fields of Education in Developing countries from the University of London, UK.

Hon. Aisha worked as a Deputy Director at Units for the Rights of Children and in 1999, she worked with UNICEF until her appointment to the Cabinet in mid-2005. Apart from working as an academic, she has worked as a consultant for the education sector as well as for the Rights of children and women throughout her career.

Prior to her appointment as a Minister in February 2020, Hon. Aisha was appointed as the High Commissioner to India when President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih took office in November 2018. She also served in the cabinet as Minister of Gender and family in Former president Maumoon Abdul Qayyoom's administration.

She pioneered the establishment

of the Family and Children Service Centers (FCSCs) in every atoll in the Maldives, during her tenure as Minister in the former administration. In her current term as Minister, some of her notable undertakings include initiation of IBAMA, and the Geveshi Gulhun campaign (nationwide campaign on domestic violence prevention), operationalization of the Domestic Violence Shelters, establishment of Amaan Veshi, which are children's homes in the atolls. As of now, Amaan Veshi has been established Haa Alif, Shaviyani, Baa, Gnaviyani, with work under way to establish others. Through her work in protection and promotion of social rights, she continues to inspire and motivate many to follow her footsteps.



Maldives

Aishath Jennifer

Deputy Managing Director Island Aviation Service Maldives

Ms. Aishath Jennifer started her career in aviation in the 90s and today is a seasoned professional with extensive experience in the travel and aviation industry

specializing in marketing and sales. Having taken the helm as the Deputy Managing Director, Ms. Aishath Jennifer manages a team of aviation industry experts at Island Aviation Services Limited, the parent company of the national airline, Maldivian.

Jennifer holds a Master's degree

in Business Administration from Edith Cowan University Australia, and is one of the few women in the airline industry who has made it to the top of the corporate chain in the Maldives

Winner of the 2021 Maldives Professional and Career Women Awards for Women in Management



Maldives

Aishath Shafeeq

An Entrepreneur

Aishath Shafeeq is a strong woman, whose disability didn't limit her from reaching her goals. She was diagnosed with polio at the age of one, in which she was left paralyzed from the legs down. Aishath wanted a career

in fashion design and dress making. Her parents were her biggest support; both her parents actively helped her to make her dream come true. At the age of nine she positioned herself in the market as a clever designer, which drew attention to her fine fabric work.

She did embroidery courses and various other fabric design

courses in order to perfecting her skills. She gained international recognition through her own intricate work.

Her specialties include: baby bedding sets, party dresses and personalized embroidery work. Her story entails that with passion and willingness anything is possible.



Sameera Abubakar Abdullahi, is a seasoned Nigerian Entrepreneur, Philanthropist, certified and experienced Educationist and Business Consultant, whose focus includes but not limited to Human/Capacity Development, Humanitarianism, Youth advocacy, Promotion of Girl Child Education among others. She holds a Bachelor of Education in Education Administration from the prestigious Inneba University Ghana, with a Masters in view.

She is Hausa/Fulani by tribe and hails from Kano State. She has a penchant for entrepreneurship, education and women and children development. To achieve her desire of touching lives and giving back to the society she founded a non-governmental

Organization called Better Life for Women and Children Future Foundation (BLWCFF), Better Life For Women Network (BLFWN). Since the inception of her foundation, she has provided succor and support to women and children in some selected states in Nigeria.

She has equally partnered with other foundations and relevance Agencies, States, National and International Organization to provide the needed support for the less privileged in the society. This stride has earned her a number of recognitions across the country most especially Northern Nigeria. She is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of MHS Universal Investment Limited; this firm deals in all Agro products and commodities.

She is also the founder of Samaan Oil and Gas. Her commitment to growth and development of Nigeria has

earned her membership and leadership positions of some reputable organizations such as, National Secretary, NACCIMA Youth Empowerment, National Publicity Secretary, Association of Nigerian women Business Network, Member SHE Trade, Member, women in Energy, Oil and Gas, National Coordinator Nigeria women Trade Exhibition, Co Founder SHE Farmers Initiatives, Kano State Chapter NACCIMA women Business Group, Kano Coordinator Organization of women in International Trade, National Coordinator Youth Connect Nigeria, among numerous others. Her desire for her country is to see significant improvement in the standard of living of its citizens most especially women and children educationally, socio-economically, structurally, politically, and otherwise.

Nigeria

DR. MRS. AMB. Sameera Abubakar Abdullahi

(BED, MBA, MAISM, CMC, FIMC, ARPA)



Nigeria

Olutosin Sodeinde

Principal Consultant Finance & Tax

Mrs. Olutosin Sodeinde is a leading voice in the corporate world of Finance & Accounting, Audit and Tax Management within the Nigerian and West African space. A highly accomplished finance & accounting and tax authority whose sterling career spans over 25 years, Mrs. Sodeinde's contributions to the accounting profession has cut across various sectors of the Nigerian economy and some of the biggest corporate players in West Africa, including: Nigerdock Nigeria Ltd, First Bank Plc, Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority, UBA, Oando Plc (Energy), PGH Joint, DHL, Nigerian German Chemicals Plc., Nigerian bottling company Plc., among others.

A fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria, and a well-rounded expert whose professional footprints spreads across a vast array of industries, including: the energy sector, logistics & distribution industry, banking segment, the aviation sector and management consultancy sector, Mrs. Sodeinde currently sits as the Principal Consultant at TGP Consulting. In this capacity, she is widely consulted by national and multinational corporations for her distinctive capabilities in resolving complexities in the areas of audit, investigation, accounting, taxation, financial advisory services and management consultancy in HR and IT. She presently lends her expertise to supervising the Finance Department in a couple of companies on a consultancy basis. For over 5 years, she has sat as a Board Member in a wellknown national Microfinance

Bank, for whom she also doubles as the Chairperson of the Audit Committee.

Mrs Olutosin Sodeinde is also the COO of Strategic Women and Youth Institute, an organisation focused on training Women and Youth in all required skills to improve their entrepreneurial abilities and skills and upscale their level of preparedness in their businesses and careers She is also a member of the Management Committee, Commonwealth Business Women's Network Nigeria a part of the Commonwealth Business Women's Network (CBWN) United Kingdom set up to aid women owned businesses through helping to strengthen governance and leadership, grow economies and boost trade, empower young people and address threats such as climate change and gender inequality.



Nigeria

CHIDINMA ONYINYECHI OBI

Founder and Chief Executive officer of Dindu Energy Group.

I am the Founder and Chief Executive officer of Dindu Energy Group.

I also double as the Managing Partner of our Law firm (RUBICOM Legal Partners). I am Serial Entrepreneur.

Primarily a lawyer, I worked as an in house Attorney with the Nigerian National Petroleum Company as an Intern, The Shell Petroleum development Company limited, Texaco Overseas Petroleum Company unlimited and finally settled in Chevron after the Chevron/ Texaco Merger.

Cumulatively I have over

23 years in house Attorney experience with a specialty in supporting transactional matters. Presently, I have 30 years cumulative experience in the Oil & Gas industry. I voluntarily retired from Chevron in December, 2013 to start up our business. Whilst in Chevron, I led several industry advocacy Projects as the Secretary to the Legal Sub –Committee of the Oil Producers Trade Section of the Lagos Chamber of Commerce. In this role I co-ordinated all the meetings of the sub-committee in supporting legislative advocacy and drafting and reviewing major legislations impacting the Oil and Gas Industry.

Till date I remain very passionate about Nigerian Content initiatives. I was privileged whilst in Chevron's employment to

support the team that promoted the top-side fabrication locally at the Nigerian dock yard Snake –Island of the Agbami FPSO and I registered the FPSO as a Nigerian Flag carrying vessel. I love collaborations with partners in business but what excites me most is engaging with other Women to succeed in business.

I am and an Alumni of the China Europe Business School and a certified member of several Organizations.

I have in the past served and sat on the Council of Nigerian Gas Association as a Pioneer member and served at a stretch of four years from 2008-2014 as both the Legal Advisor and the Secretary General of the Association. I remain active in the Nigerian Gas Association till date



Nigeria

Lady Ada Chukwudozie

Group Executive Director - Dozzy Group of Companies

Lady Ada Chukwudozie is a very warm, humble, hardworking, sophisticated and God fearing woman. She was born into the family of Nze Humphrey and Mrs. Keziah Okonkwo, both of blessed memory, from Ezinifite in Aguata Local Government Area of Anambra State. Ada is the only surviving child of her parents. Lady Chukwudozie is the publisher of Vogue Afrique, an Event, Fashion and lifestyle Magazine.

She graduated from Institute of Management and Technology (IMT) Enugu, where she studied Chemical Engineering. She is an ardent reader, researcher, and lover of education, her other academic qualifications include: Postgraduate Diploma in Business Administration from Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka. Diploma in Law from Lagos State University (LASU). Diploma in Mandarin Chinese Language, Chinese Cultural University, Taipei. Diploma in Chinese Language - Taipei Language Institute, Taipei, Taiwan to mention but a few. She

holds an honorary doctorate degree from European - American University She has also undergone several training within and outside the country in Management, Entrepreneurship, International Trading, Oil & Gas including Leadership training from the University of Pittsburgh in Philadelphia, USA. She is among others: An alumnus of the Lagos Business School A fellow of the Institute of Directors of Nigeria (IOD) A Council Board member representing Manufacturers Association of Nigeria in Federal Polytechnic Oko A Fellow of the prestigious Institute of Directors Lady Ada Chukwudozie is a Peace Ambassador Lady Ada is a highly skilled, experienced Board Room and Corporate Amazon. She sits as the Group Executive Director of Dozzy Group, a conglomerate of over 14 companies where she is saddled with different responsibilities aimed at growing the bottom line of those companies.

Among these companies are: Dozzy Oil & Gas Limited - ED., Operations Ever Oil & Gas Ltd - ED., Finance Ugo-Hannah Energy Ltd - ED., Administration Dozzy Maritime and Oil Services Limited -

ED., Compliance, Regulations & Corporate Governance Specialty Oil Company Limited - ED., Operations Dozztephan Industries Limited - ED., Marketing & Distribution Hardy Oil Nigeria Limited - ED., Compliance, Regulations & Corporate Governance Dozzy Plastic Industries Limited - ED., Marketing & Distribution Huron International Ltd - ED., International Operations Tempogate Oil and Energy Company Limited - ED., Operations Lady Ada is currently the Chairman of the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria, Anambra, Enugu & Ebonyi States chapter with over 150 active companies under her supervision.

She is a recipient of Sun Newspaper Industrialist of the Year awards 2022 She was also nominated as one of the top 50 global professional and career women awards 2023 She is happily married to Dr. (Sir) Daniel Chukwudozie (OON), an indigene of Okija in Ihiala L. G. A of Anambra State, blessed with children. Mother of Sandra Chukwudozie, the managing director of Salpha Energy Ltd and recipient of the prestigious Forbes Africa 30 under 30 2022.



Nigeria

Dr. Anire Okogun

Managing Partner of Chanelle Solicitors

Dr. Anire Okogun holds a Law degree from the University of Benin in 1990 and an MBA from the University of Lagos in 2001. She is the current Managing Partner of Chanelle Solicitors, a full service law firm located in Victoria Island, Lagos; that is in Partnership with ROC Citizenship, Dubai, a platform that offers Global Citizenship opportunities to Clients.

Dr. Okogun has over three (3) decades of experience that spans across banking, law, and entrepreneurship. Her passion for micro credit and leadership inspired her doctorate degree from Colorado Technical University, USA in 2018, where she researched the leadership competences required for start-up microfinance managers in Nigeria.

Dr. Okogun is the Founder and pioneer Chief Executive of Chanelle Microfinance Bank Limited since 2008-2020. From a zero customer base at inception, she grew the bank exponentially to over 65,000 customers, whilst empowering directly some 30,000 customers through micro, small and medium loans to majorly women beneficiaries. Moreover, the growth saw the bank expand its profitability and operational scope from a unit microfinance bank to a state bank with branches across major commercial cities in Lagos state.

Dr. Okogun is also the Founder of Chanelle Foundation, a prime advocacy group devoted to women and youths empowerment, especially girls, on the need to acquire skills for financial independence. Through partnerships with other bodies like Lagos Island East and West LCDA, the Foundation has, at various times, trained over 2500 women and youths on skills acquisition.

She is on the board of The Foundation for Partnership Initiatives in the Niger Delta (PIND), a not-for-profit organization established by Chevron Nigeria Limited to build partnerships for peace and equitable economic development in the Niger Delta through capacity building, economic empowerment, and social interventions. Other Board membership and organizations which includes Commonwealth Business Women Network, Commonwealth Business Women Africa, and International Federation of Women Lawyers.

Dr. Okogun is a Certified Microfinance practitioner, member, Chartered Institute of Bankers of Nigeria, past Chairman, National Association of Microfinance Bank, Lagos Island Chapter; member, Nigerian Bar Association; director, Chanelle Foundation, and member, Institute of Directors (IoD) Nigeria.



Nigeria

Mrs Oluwaseyi Margaret Okafor

Managing Director at Sky with US Group

Mrs Oluwaseyi Margaret Okafor is a business Analyst, entrepreneur and a Travel consultant, I am the founder, MD/CEO Sky with US Group, A licensed Travel company by IATA, NCAA and Nanta.

Also founder of SkyVox Paints and constructions, co Founder and Director of AirMac Global Trading Limited, A recycling company by name AirMac Recycling Planet and two establishment in Dubai, white sky technical services and African sky cargo LLC.

A mathematician with Honors in statistics and computer science.

University of Benin
A Certified member of International Air Transport association (IATA).
A member of commonwealth business women Network Nigeria
Also A member of Institute of Management Consultants Nigeria

I am blissfully married with 3 kids.



Pakistan

Nida Usman Chaudhary

Founder - Lahore Education and Research Network & Women in Law Initiative Pakistan

published author and an award winning, diversity and inclusion advocate and founder of women in law initiative Pakistan.

Nida has over 15 years of experience in research, training, teaching and capacity building and has provided legislative and policy input on several key women and child rights laws including

guidelines under anti rape ordinance 2020, amendments to workplace harassment Act 2022 and proposed amendments for maternity leave and benefits, child protection and child marriage restraint laws. Her areas of focus include amongst others, access to justice, gender equality and diversity in justice sector, fair

Nida Usman Chaudhary holds LL.B (Hons) and LL.M in Law & Development from University of London. She is an internationally

representation, gender-based violence and child rights. Nida has served on committees established under statutes or executive authority and advises the political parties on issues of gender-based violence, child rights, education and fair representation.

She has worked with Federal Ministry of Law and Justice as well

as the Punjab Government. She was amongst the 100 women from global south featured in Femilist 100 by Gender Security Project in 2021 and won the international Justitia Award in the category 'Academia (International)' in Vienna in 2021.

Previously, she also won SewEgap Emerging Women Leader award

in 2018 and was recently awarded the 'Certificate of Recognition' by the Governor of Punjab, for her contributions to fair representation in justice sector and law and policy inputs for women and child rights legislation at the 75th independence day celebrations at the Governor House, Punjab.



Pakistan

Maryyam Khan

Vice President South Asian Women Development Forum Pakistan Chapter

I am a business owner, business consultant, Professor, Youth Leadership Advocate, ex-President of the Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry Bahawalpur, current Chairperson of the Handicrafts Association of Pakistan (HAP) and the Vice President of the South Asian Women Development Forum (A SAARC Recognized body) – Pakistan Chapter. My professional experience spans over two decades (25 years), during which time I have held top-notch positions in various corporate and nonprofit organizations.

My experience at Academic Institutions consists of teaching at leading Universities like Lahore School of Economics, LUMS and now FC College. I am Assistant Professor Marketing, Business Department Executive Committee Member, Anti Sexual Harassment Committee member, Search Committee Member, Proctor and so much more.

I have held positions like Project Director, Director of Academics, GM Trainings & Head of Strategy in renowned institutions and organizations in the country, I have also had the opportunity to represent Pakistan on an international level multiple times, I hold the respected Priyadarshani given by the Indian Government for my

work for women empowerment. As a Pakistani National this award is an even bigger honor. I just represented Pakistan at the USECAP conference at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. My aim is to continue to work on Women Empowerment, the youth of today and corporate development.

Love Charmaine Uychocho

A budding Entrepreneur and an experienced Operations Officer with a demonstrated history of remarkable work in the facilities management services and Foodline Industries. Well - skilled and certified professional in Negotiation, Business Planning, Operations Management, Strategic Communication, and Team Building. Distinguished

administrative professional and decision maker with a Bachelor's degree in Arts Major in Philosophy from Ateneo de Davao University.

Owner and Founder of PRODIGY BUREAU, a speakers bureau that manages world class professional speakers, a renowned global speaker provider and an event enthusiast, passionate in creating

inspirational and social impact events.

A strong advocate of WOMEN Empowerment. Founded the much anticipated GLOBAL WOMEN EMPOWERMENT SUMMIT. The pioneer event on women empowerment in GCC.

Founder and CEO of an event

and talent management company based in Dubai, and Philippines. Founder of Prodigy Bureau Global Women Speakers - the organizer of GLOBAL WOMEN EMPOWERMENT SUMMIT worldwide. President and Cofounder of IAM TITANIUM Holdings Corporation



Philippine

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United Kingdom

Aradhana Khowala

CEO of Aptamind Partners

Aradhana Khowala is one of the most influential leaders in the luxury hospitality, travel and tourism sector. Her career has spanned 23+ years, five continents and more than 75 countries. Today, she is the CEO of Aptamind Partners, a strategic consultancy, which combines hard data and decades of experience to advise governments, emerging destinations, public and private organisations on futureproofing their business. Previously she was the Managing Director of Tourism at NEOM - the US\$ 500 Billion land of the future purpose built for a sustainable and a new way of living in Saudi Arabia.

An active board member, she has an impressive portfolio of non-executive board roles, currently serving as Chair of the Group Advisory Board of Red Sea Global in Saudi Arabia, the developer behind the Red Sea Project as well as AMAALA - the world's first integrated wellness destination. Aradhana also serves as a Board Member of Elaf Group, the leisure arm of a sustainable listed holding company - SEDCO where she

also chairs the compensation and remuneration committee. In the past she has worked for Jones Lang LaSalle, covering UK, Benelux and Scandinavian markets, a Strategy Consulting practice in Europe and Asia as well as in Hospitality Operations in India.

An accomplished public speaker with a genuine passion for storytelling, she has spoken on the TEDX stage, participated in global policy discussions in United Nations, as well as the G20 apart from speaking at some of the foremost Leadership Summits around the world. A resolute advocate of women's empowerment, diversity and inclusion and an activist for equality, she spends a lot of her time engaging Heads of States lobbying for travel and tourism as a force for good but through a lens of equity, justice and mindfulness.

Aradhana has won multiple awards and was featured amongst the 100 most powerful people in Global Hospitality as well as the 25 most Influential Women in Hospitality in 2022 by International Hospitality Institute. In 2021 she was featured as an Inspirational woman rethinking a sustainable tourism by City Nation Place in the UK and also won the Chairman's Award from Global Chamber of Commerce,

US for being a leader amongst peers. She won the 21st Century Icon Awards in 2017 in association with CNBC and London School of Economics in London as an Inspirational Game Changer and in 2014, she was featured as one of the 50 most Influential Next Generation leaders who will define the future of luxury by Swiss Economic magazine Bilan.

Aradhana is a strong believer in and advocate for the fact that, when it is done right, tourism can be a force for positive change. This must involve tourism stakeholders taking an active rather than a passive role in all three aspects of ESG: environmental, social and governance. And while her vision for the future of tourism is ambitious, she is not afraid of the hard work or the tough conversations that are required to get there, whether that is talking about the gender gap in the boardroom or healthcare and wellness sectors, getting to the bottom of what is turning the younger generation off a career in tourism, or developing metrics and tools to ensure hospitality businesses robustly measure their efforts to improve diversity, equity and inclusion through a first-of-its kind portal, FiveEightTen. One theme runs through all her work: radical change is needed to ensure a sustainable future for an

industry that has huge potential for positive social and financial impact on communities around the world.

She read at Cornell University in New York, has an MBA from Ecole Hôtelière de Lausanne in Switzerland, is a certified

Neuro Linguistic Programming Coach, and has an International Director Board Certification from INSEAD, France.



United Kingdom

Fatima Patel

Editor in Chief of Asian Sunday and Asian Standard news titles and CEO of Inspirational Women Foundation UK

Fatima has a track record of over a decade of running a business and has grown her business year on year. She founded the organisation and along with her mum are the UK's only sole female owners of a series of print newspapers. Despite obstacles, Fatima has grown her media empire to become one of the largest Asian media titles in the North of England.

She launched the UK's first FREE Asian Sunday newspaper in 2011 focusing on Bradford, with a readership of 30,000 per week and today has grown her readership to more than 2 million readers with a global audience.

Despite personal challenges, such as when she was hospitalised and told she may never walk again, her

resilience and determination to make it, particularly as the UK's sole female owner of a print newspaper Fatima has proved all her critics wrong, by establishing one of the North's most influential and leading Asian media titles.

In addition, to Asian Sunday (which is now online, producing digital video and news content) Fatima introduced 4 regional weekly print titles; Asian Standard Bradford, Asian Standard Kirklees, Asian Standard North & Asian Standard Leeds, with Manchester and London launching October 2023 and a further 5 titles by 2025. At a time when print newspapers are declining Fatima's dynamic vision is seeing a growth in print newspapers. Her business acumen has helped make her business commercially viable and become the voice of the South Asian community with impactful journalism where mainstream news outlets may

have struggled.

Not only has she made her business commercially viable, but Fatima has broken many stories, which mainstream outlets can't get to, helping create growth in readership, viral news, resulting in advertisements and sponsorships helping turnover grow year on year. This year her media company RF Media & Publishing has seen turnover grow by more than 100% and is set to have another record year. Fatima is truly levelling up the North, with a media platform that is self-financed, respected, relatable and is representative of the South Asian diaspora.

Alongside with running her commercial news business, Fatima is also founder and CEO of the Inspirational Women Foundation CIC, a registered community interest company, which supports, empowers and influences equality for women.



United Kingdom

Shazna Muzammil

Conservative Councillor, Chair of MK

Conservative Milton Keynes City Council/ MK
Conservative Federation

Shazna Muzammil, was born in Sri Lanka. She relocated to Milton Keynes with her husband David, a veteran who served in the Parachute Regiment. Shazna is a mother to two boys and stepmother to a little girl.

The vast inequality in academic and other opportunities accessible to Shazna and other girls compared to her brothers and all male cousins impacted her at a very young age. Education was not a priority for girls and Shazna was given away in marriage at an early age. She had to fight for divorce and fight for custody of her children before she could complete her education and gain an MBA at the age 35. She then went on to work in Sri Lankan villages, advocating education for girls and providing links to skill development, allowing

them to become economically independent.

Shazna's previous roles as Head of Business Development at Wunderman Thompson Sri Lanka, followed by Internal and External Comms Head at MAS and throughout as a Board Member of the Women's Chamber of Industry and Commerce, provided her with opportunities to connect women to mentors and businesses, which made huge differences to the lives of these women and communities. Moving to the UK brought about a lot of adjustments and it also meant giving up all of her community work focused on empowering women which was hugely important to her.

Equal opportunity, skill-based education, self-reliance, independence, and shared responsibility to empower each other to excel are some of the Conservative values that resonate with her, and Shazna soon began campaigning. As a

young girl who grew up in an ethnic minority community where opportunities to excel were limited, Shazna knows what it's like to live without these values.

Education plays a significant role in her life and she is a firm believer in the importance of education to transform lives as it did hers. Shazna completed a PGDip in Development Management through The Open University after earning an MBA (Hons) from Cardiff Metropolitan University. She is also a member of APM, the only chartered organisation for the project profession, and has completed a number of project management courses.

Shazna currently works fulltime at The Open University in Milton Keynes, where she climbed the ladder in four and a half years and is now a Senior Project Manager overseeing one of the most important projects for The Open University.



United States of America

Tess Cacciatori

Multimedia/Interactive Creator and Director/
Executive Producer

Tess is a multiple best-selling author and award-winning Multimedia/Interactive Creator and Director/Executive Producer with 25+ years in the entertainment/technology and philanthropic arenas.

KEYNOTE/ Speaker/
Moderator/ Panelist: SXSW,
Digital Hollywood, etc.

2023 Film Festivals: “The Rescue” the WINNER of the CANNES WORLD FILM FESTIVAL for SOCIAL JUSTICE AWARD; and NOMINEE for Best Female Director.

Nominee for LA INDIE FILM FESTIVAL.

“The Rescue” is about a young woman who is rescued from human trafficking.

2023 Awards: World Economic Forum for Women (TOP 50 women in the world), AND, Communicator Awards for Social Awareness in

Filmmaking.

In 2003, Tess was awarded the Fete d’ Excellence within the Sub-Commission for Human Rights at the United Nations (Geneva, Switzerland) for her work in edu-tainment. Throughout the years, Tess has been honored with multiple awards, including in 2012 she won Mobile Excellence Award for the GWEN Alert, FREE downloadable safety app with video-cloud private storage to protect those in need.

Tess has appeared on various television interviews, podcasts, international radio and has spoken at the United Nations (Geneva and New York) for impact on social issues and using the power of technology to connect cultures together for healing and storytelling. (Today Show, Dr Phil Show, and many more).

Tess is the Founder and CEO of GWEN Global LLC a for-profit company dedicated to social impact & positive change in the entertainment arena, which also encompasses Global Women’s Empowerment Network (a

501c3 organization).

Tess has traveled the world for the past 25+ years, doing humanitarian outreach for social injustices and human rights. Tess has worked as a UN Media Accredited Journalist for the United Nations from 2000, in Geneva, New York, South Africa: 2001 World Conference Against Racism 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development, and more.

Tess has traveled for charity throughout 5 of the 7 continents: Africa, Europe, Asia, North America, South America, and Europe.

Tess has an original, scripted series called “The Wright Turn” as co-creator, co-writer, music supervisor, and Director. THE SERIES IS NOW STREAMING ON TUBI and more streaming platforms.

Tess is been nominated multiple times at the Hollywood Music in Media Awards since 2011. Her current song, “Gotta Do The Right Thing” is charting and playing on radio in US/UK/Africa - from The Wright Turn series.



United States of America

Nisha Devi Rodrigo

Chief Growth Officer KALA Wellness

Nisha Devi is a world-renowned Eastern Medicine practitioner remedying the deepest of human conditions. Raised in Sri-Lanka and India, she was born into the tradition of Ayurvedic medicine. Her elders began teaching her to listen to the Earth at five years old. Throughout her childhood, Nisha studied martial arts, yoga, breath work, and meditation. Her Aunt, a Paramahansa Yogananda devotee, learned meditation with his direct descendants and was instrumental in pioneering the selfrealization fellowship movement. Nisha is one of her longest students. Throughout her adolescence, Nisha apprenticed with village healers (nutrition & herbs), and medicine women (intuitive & spirit healing). She then traversed the globe to attend university graduating summa cum laude in several disciplines including communication, politics, and philosophy. Nisha

won the Hansard Fellowship, studied at The London School of Economics and continued to study medicinal movement independently. Shortly after, she worked for the Clinton Administration followed by the Blair Premiership.

In 2001, Nisha Devi stepped away from politics and submerged her spirit into Eastern Medicine adamant her body could heal itself from what Western medicine considered an incurable brain tumor. Nisha studied with the Naga Baba Saddhus in Himalayan Mountains (Traditional Yoga). She then studied with Dr. Jeffrey Yuen (Chinese Medicine), Shaman Asi in Macchu Piccu, Peru (Shamanism), Dr. Robin Wang, Phd. (Yin Yang Theory), and Grandmaster Tayari Casel (Qi Gong/Secret Yang), Master Julius Baker (Tae Kwon Do) to name a few. In 2003, Nisha rid herself of the tumor completely and made the commitment to educate the masses on taking command of their own health.

In 2016, Nisha was inducted into the Asian Martial Arts Hall of Fame for bridging and

broadening cultural horizons by promoting fitness and healing arts globally. She was then invited to the Shaolin Temple and furthered her study.

After 20 years of teaching, study, and as a Yoga Alliance Certified Practitioner, Nisha Devi's passion for medicinal movement has only deepened. With ancient apprenticeships as the bedrock of her effectiveness, Nisha's specialty is renewing chi flow while enhancing fitness and mental wellbeing. She works with several government organizations, including the California State Government & the United Nations Human Rights Council in Jordan. In 2022, Nisha was appointed to the California State Governor's Advisory Council on Physical Fitness and Mental Well-Being. This was followed by a 2023 appoint to the Board of Directors of Yoga Alliance. Nisha conducts lectures around the world on internal alchemy fueled through medicinal movement. Her understanding of ancient medicine mixed with deep science promotes longevity and permeates true health into one's life.



Vietnam

Le Hoang Diep Thao

Founder and CEO of King Coffee

Founder and the CEO for TNI Company which is headquartered in Vietnam and Trung Nguyen Instant Coffee JSC (which has the ownership of Binh Duong and Bac Giang instant coffee factory, supplying both domestic and export markets).

Since 1996, Co-founder and co-owner Trung Nguyen Group, a leading coffee-group in Vietnam. Having decisions has directly contributed in making the growth and sustainable development of Trung Nguyen Group to the current status. Ms. Diep Thao is the key person who brought the G7 coffee brand and the

love of Vietnamese coffee to more than 60 countries across the world, regions such as North America, Europe, Asia

“My greatest vision is proliferating the Vietnamese brand to the world, and be able to compete with multinational companies’ level on in the coffee industry”

25 years to contribute for Vietnam coffee industry. And new chapters to countinue it with really spirit heart.

Manjusha Kanwar Ex International Badminton Player Presently working as DGM, Sports -IOCL, Delhi

Manjusha Kanwar (born 20 March 1971, née Manjusha Pavangadkar) is a female badminton player. She was born in Pune, Maharashtra, India. Presently works as

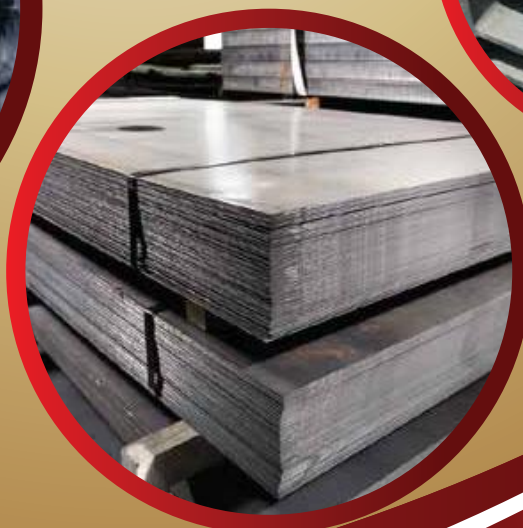
Deputy General Manager in Sports Department Indian Oil Corporation, New Delhi. She was part of Indian Badminton League in 2018–20 as a Coach of Delhi Team. She was honored with the FICCI Life Time Achievement Award in 2020 for her achievements both as a player and her work for the promotion of sports.

Manjusha Kanwar won the National Championships in India for the first time in 1991. Nine more titles followed until 2002. Bronze Medalist in Commonwealth Games in 1998 (Teams) wherein she played both singles and doubles. Gold Medalist in South Asian Games 2004 in teams and Silver Medalist in Women’s Doubles and Mixed Doubles. She represented India for 12 years



JANATHA STEELS

Importers & General Hardware Merchants Importers & Dealers
In Bolt & Nuts & Fasteners Hand Tools & Engineering Tools



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+94 112 345 667 

20, QUARRY ROAD, COLOMBO-12, SRI LANKA. 

Message from the Symposium Chair

It is with a great pleasure to convey this message on the Research Symposium on Women's taking Center Stage for Economic Recovery -2023 organized by Women in Management (WIM) in Sri-Lanka and Alumni Association of Tourism Economics and Hospitality Management (AATEHM), Department of Economics, Faculty of Arts, University of Colombo, Sri

one of the decisive factors determining the effectiveness of policy and decision makings for enhancing the women contribution on Sri Lanka's economic growth and development is the availability of evidenced-based information collected through the results-focused and action-oriented research findings.

Lanka on 16th June 2023 at Galadari Hotel-Colombo.

According to the Global Gender Gap Report-2018 published by the World Economic Forum (WEF), the female participation for socio - economic development continue to remain low around 38.5 percent in 2018,



compared to 78.9 percent for men. Furthermore, this report also revealed that globally, women earn, on average, only 63% of what men earn for similar work.

Reducing this pay gap not only promotes fairness but also has a positive impact on overall economic performance. Leveraging the full potential of women's talent and skills is essential for driving economic progress and prosperity. Reducing gender gaps in labour force participation, wage equality, and access to economic opportunities lead to increased productivity, competitiveness, and inclusive growth. Supporting women-owned businesses and enabling their access to capital and markets can lead to job creation, innovation, and inclusive economic prosperity.

When considering the Sri Lankan context, the widening gender gap is not yet properly

**Prof. (Dr.)
D.A.C Suranga
Silva**

Symposium Chair
Coordinator, Tourism
Study Programs,
Department of
Economics, Faculty
of Arts, University of
Colombo

addressed and the important contribution of economic engagement of Sri Lankan women is severely disregarded though they represent more than 55 percent of the total population.

On the other hand, one of the decisive factors determining the effectiveness of policy and decision makings for enhancing the women contribution on Sri Lanka's economic growth and development is the availability of evidenced-based information collected through the results-

focused and action-oriented research findings.

Therefore, Alumni Association of Tourism Economics and Hospitality Management (AATEHM), Department of Economics, University of Colombo has taken the necessary leadership to create an industry-policy and academia dialogue through organizing this symposium as a most synergized intellectual platform to disseminate and discuss the most effective ways and measures to advance gender equality, promote women's economic empowerment, and harness the full potential of female contributions for sustainable and inclusive economic growth and development in Sri Lanka.

With the right direction through the collaboration of Women in Management (WIM), this symposium is to produce several key knowledge contributions under the following specific research themes:

- Recovering the collapsed economy through the promotion of diversity and inclusion
- Resilience Building of Human Resources through an equitable and inclusive workplace
- Transforming the economies to the prosperity through responsible entrepreneurship with Technopreneurship
- Improving the women directorships through providing more

opportunities for the representation in the corporate boards

- Engaging male championship for gender inclusivity at work
- Creating the female's innovative contribution for emerging new markets and so on

We are confident that this International Research Symposium will make a significant contribution to all industry stakeholders in designing their economic strategies and services to create a new strong vista to enhance the confidence on the capability of women contribution on sustainable and inclusive economic growth and prosperity in Sri Lanka.

We would also like to convey our deep gratitude to the national and international panellists, authors, industry experts and the organizing committee members, who have made an unmatched and outstanding contribution to make this symposium a great success.

Finally, last but not least, we would like to express our sincere appreciation to the WIM, IFC and Australian aid and all the sponsors for their great supports as the key strategic partners of this symposium to make this symposium one of most remarkable and contributable event for the women empowerment and consequently their possible contribution for the economic growth and prosperity in Sri Lanka.



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WIM Maldives



WIM Maldives began its journey on 14th September 2019, as a chapter of the Women in Management - Sri Lanka, dedicated to the success of women.

Our purpose and mission is to further the professional development of managerial and entrepreneurial women currently employed in established careers, which include managerial responsibilities, through the association of its members, through educational and training opportunities, and through the exchange of knowledge and experiences.

WIM Maldives has been working to transform the lives of professional women – both in the

workplace and in society- to be seen as the powerful force they are. WIM Maldives serves both members and non-members alike, by conducting training programs and offering exposure to potential clientele as well as expert advice in the professional field. The chapter also works to raise funds through membership, events and workshops throughout the year. Members gain the privilege of acquiring discounts at a myriad of outlets all across the country, and WIM Maldives is proud to have carried out the annual Women's Day "Run with Us" marathon where a record-breaking 7000-plus women of all ages and backgrounds came together, in the year 2019.

128 women leaders have been

honored and acknowledged by WIM Maldives during the past four years. The Top 50 Professional & Career Women Awards, which were held by WIM Sri Lanka in collaboration with the International Finance Corporation, also honored 18 of these women. And going one step further, 5 additional Maldivian WIM Award winners were acknowledged in the Top 50 Global Awards which was held in Dubai this year, where they competed against nominees from 23 different nations. These women have demonstrated our commitment to the slogan we adopted last year, "Taking Maldivian women to the World," and they have set an example for other women to follow.



Top50
Professional &
Career Women
Award Winners
2023
Sri Lanka



Vidya Sivaraja

Managing Director – South East Asia & South Asia Fonterra

Vidya is the Managing Director of South East Asia & South Asia regions for Fonterra - Consumer & Foodservice. She was born, brought up & studied in Sri Lanka, did her higher studies in the USA, brings 24 years of FMCG experience working

across many countries, through different in-market roles, regional, global roles. Vidya now lives in Singapore & leads the business for countries in the South East Asia & South Asia regions.

Vidya also has been a speaker

by invitation in Business, CEO forums and part of the panel of judges for business and brand awards. As part of her key interests, she supports initiatives that facilitates access to education & nutrition for children and providing support for women entrepreneurs.



Hajar Alafifi

Chairperson & Managing Director of Unilever Sri Lanka

Hajar Alafifi currently serves as the Chairperson & Managing Director of Unilever Sri Lanka. Hajar holds a B.Sc. with Special Honours in Business Administration and possesses 20 years of rich and diverse experience in Unilever, across different geographies such as Morocco, South Africa, Netherlands, and London, in the fields of market development, brand building, business strategy and execution. Prior to her current role, she served Unilever as the Global Brand Vice President and Global Strategy

Director for various FMCG categories.

With a career spanning across developed and emerging economies, Hajar carries vast experience in serving consumer needs across the value pyramid and in collaborating with Private and Public sectors and the Civil society in promoting industry value creation, environmental sustainability, and social upliftment.

During her current tenure leading one of Sri Lanka's largest FMCG companies, Hajar is committed to

helping the country's post-Covid economic revival, contributing to the business recovery of small & medium scale entrepreneurs, supporting the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and developing human capital. She is also passionate about female empowerment and the role of corporate policies in furthering diversity and inclusion.

Hajar is also a member of the LEAD network and Xynteo Alumni. In Sri Lanka, she represents the FMCG sector in several key business chambers as a Board Member

of the International Chamber of Commerce, Chairman of the Consumer Goods Steering Committee and Committee

Member of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, as well as a Committee Member of the Council for Business with Britain,

collaborating with the Public and Private sectors in driving economic development through policy reform.



Dr. Sharmini Coorey

Independent, Non-Executive

Director John Keels Holdings Plc

Dr. Sharmini Coorey is a former senior official of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and currently a member of the Presidential Advisory Group on Multilateral Engagement and Debt Sustainability advising the Government of Sri Lanka during the economic crisis.

She joined the IMF through the Economist Program in 1986 and, during her 35 year career at the IMF, worked in positions of increasing seniority in its African, Asia and Pacific, European and Western Hemisphere departments, as well as its Strategy, Policy and Review Department.

Prior to her retirement in October 2021, Dr. Coorey served as the Director of the Institute for Capacity Development (ICD)

for almost nine years. She was instrumental in establishing ICD, the IMF's department for capacity building and was key in providing strategic direction for the governance, management, and funding of the IMF's capacity building activities. She also oversaw the IMF's training for country officials world-wide, including establishing its online program which trained over 100,000 government officials in policy-oriented macroeconomics during her tenure.

Before heading ICD, Dr. Coorey was Deputy Director in the IMF's African Department (AFR), where she oversaw the IMF's work in a number of countries including South Africa, Botswana, and Zimbabwe. In addition, she led AFR's financial sector work and research agenda.

Dr. Coorey's experience at the IMF also includes surveillance work on the United Kingdom, Ireland, the United States, and Canada as well as program work on Korea, Estonia, Mexico, and the Dominican Republic. She served on the Investment Committee of the IMF Staff Retirement Plan and on the Editorial Committee of IMF Staff Papers. She was also a visiting researcher at George Washington University's Elliott School for International Affairs in Washington DC.

Dr. Coorey holds Ph.D. and bachelor's degrees in Economics from Harvard University. She has published papers on inflation and economic growth in transition and developing countries and edited a book on managing the oil wealth of the CEMAC region.



Dr. Pramilla Senanayake

MBBS; Ph.D; DTPH ;FRCOG; FACOG; FSLCOG

Dr. Senanayake medical training was at the faculty of Medicine in Colombo where she graduated with distinctions and her post graduate studies were at the London University where she obtained her PhD and a diploma in Tropical Public Health.

Having been a lecturer in the department of Community Medicine in Colombo she then moved on to the World Health Organization where she played a key role in the eradication of Small pox in India.

She then joined the London based International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) serving first as it's Medical Director for 10 years and then as Assistant Director General a post she held for 17 years. During her career at IPPF she was responsible for the global technical programmes of the Federation in over 180

countries. These programmes included sexual and reproductive health, HIV/AIDS, women's empowerment, gender, adolescent health, safe motherhood and contraceptive technology and research.

While in the UK Dr.Senanayake has for many years been the chair of Global Forum for Health Research (GFHR) an independent, international organization committed to demonstrating the essential role of research and innovation for health and health equity, benefiting poor and marginalized populations.

Dr. Senanayake was also for many years the chair of the Concept Foundation (CF) headquartered in Thailand with offices in Geneva It is a globally operating not for profit organization, working on improving access to sexual and reproductive health medicines and technologies in low- and

middle-income countries.

Dr. Senanayake also was the chair of the Management of Intellectual property for Health Research (MIHR) an independent not-for-profit venture based in Oxford, UK, and having a working presence in partnership with the Medical Research Council of many countries.

Dr. Senanayake was also a trustee of WaterAid UK

WaterAid's vision is of a world where everyone has access to safe water and sanitation. And its mission is to transform lives by improving access to safe water, hygiene and sanitation in the world's poorest communities.

In each of the cases mentioned above she rotated off the Board having served the maximum period permitted by the By laws.



Lakmini Wijesundera

Cofounder and CEO, IronOne Technologies and BoardPAC

Lakmini Wijesundera has over 20 years of experience in technology management and enterprise software development, and is the Cofounder and CEO of IronOne Technologies and BoardPAC. Operating globally across 15 countries, the business has successfully collaborated forming international partnerships with leading companies in the telecom sector such as Maxis in Malaysia, Robi Axiata in Bangladesh, SingTel in Singapore and XL Axiata in Indonesia.

Lakmini has been recognized numerous times for her success. In 2016, she was the recipient of the Special Award in recognition of Unique Entrepreneurship and Achievement in the field of exports by the National Chamber of Exporters (NCE) of Sri Lanka. In 2015, Lakmini received the

Entrepreneur of the Year, Exporter of the Year and Gold Award in the large company category at the Entrepreneur Awards organized by the Women's Chamber of Industries and Commerce (WCIC). In 2014, the Computer Society of Sri Lanka (CSSL) awarded Lakmini Female ICT Leader of the Year, and she was included in Echelon Magazines' list of the 50 Most Powerful Women in business in Sri Lanka.

In addition to her role, Lakmini is also a board member of Give 2 Lanka, a nonprofit organization.

Her work includes creating awareness among the corporates and individuals on the avenues to donate to impactful and well-managed charitable projects.

Lakmini has a Bachelor of Science degree in Electronic Engineering and Computer Science from

University College London, University of London, United Kingdom and a Master of Science degree in Communications and Signal Processing from Imperial College London, University of London, United Kingdom.

"My vision is to bring Sri Lanka global recognition for being highly capable in the field of IT innovations.

My contribution toward this objective is to pave a trailblazing path through my efforts with my company IronOne Technologies, which has the vision to create globally impactful and recognized IT software products with a strong and highly successful global presence." Lakmini Wijesundera, Cofounder and CEO of IronOne Technologies and BoardPAC.



Nayanabaduge Nadika Prabashi Opatha

Director/Chief Executive Officer LOLC Life Assurance Ltd

Ms. Nadika Opatha is an accomplished strategic leader with 28 years' overall experience in the Financial Services Industry with over 20 years in the field of insurance in Sri Lanka and North America.

She is well versed in financial services, having obtained her Bachelors (B.Sc.) with a 1st class and the Master of Business Administration (MBA) from the University of Colombo. She holds a Diploma in Investment Funds from the Institute of Canadian Bankers Association.

Ms. Opatha achieved Million Dollar Round Table (MDRT) status in 2007 and 2008 in Canada while working for the Royal Bank Insurance Co, which is one of the highest achievements in the Life Insurance Industry, globally.

She had the honour of becoming the first female Chief Executive Officer in the Sri Lankan Life Insurance Industry and the first woman Chief Executive Officer of LOLC Group. She currently holds the position of the Treasurer at

the Insurance Association of Sri Lanka (IASL).

Ms. Opatha, having left university in 1997 joined LOLC Holdings as a Management Trainee. After a very successful stint she left LOLC in 2002 to join her husband in North America with their baby daughter.

She started working at the Insurance arm of the Royal Bank of Canada in 2002 as a Financial Advisor. During her tenure at the Royal Bank, she not only supported many Canadians to plan their financial goals but helped many migrant Sri Lankans to achieve their financial aspirations.

Being the only daughter of her family, she felt obligated of her duties towards her parents, hence she came back to Sri Lanka with her young daughter and husband to settle down leaving behind a very successful career in Canada.

She re-joined LOLC in 2012 as the Head of Bancassurance and Corporate Sales of LOLC Insurance Company to set up Bancassurance and establish Corporate Sales.

Nadika has the honour of

initiating and establishing sales channels in both Life and General Insurance companies of LOLC. LOLC Insurance companies have risen up to large sector Insurance providers in the Industry over the last 10 years under her stewardship and protects many large corporates as well as regional customers across the country with a regional branch network close to 100.

Her passion and commitment to her duties saw her rising fast in the career ladder to become the Chief Operating Officer of the insurance arm of LOLC group in 2019 and thereafter their first female CEO in 2020.

In year 2021, Ms. Opatha was also appointed as the Executive Director of Serendib Micro Insurance PLC, Cambodia recognising her role in setting up and initiating the operations of the first international Insurance arm of LOLC.

With her strong leadership and passion towards work, Ms. Opatha was appointed to the Board of LOLC Life Assurance Ltd as an Executive Director with effect from 1st September 2022.



Dinusha Bhaskaran

Managing Director of Vallibel One PLC

Ms. Dinusha Bhaskaran is a vastly experienced financial and accounting professional currently serving as the Managing Director of Vallibel One PLC which has 54 companies with over 7 strategically diverse Sectors in its portfolio. As a holding company it controls over 7 of the 289 companies listed on the stock exchange and contributes an impressive 0.5% to the country's GDP.

She has the distinction of being one of the pioneering women to head a large conglomerate in Sri Lanka which has an annual turnover of over 116 billion rupees. Her visionary leadership and business acumen has resulted in many of the companies being

re-engineered turned around within a short span of time.

Also as the Managing Director of the Delmege Group she was responsible for revamping and propelling the Groups 12 business verticals into a modern and dynamic enterprise.

She presently serves in the capacity of Non-Executive Director on the Boards of LB Finance PLC, Vallibel Power Erathne, Multi Finance PLC, Country Energy Pvt Ltd and as the chairperson of the LB Finance Audit Committee. She is also the Chairperson/Director of Greener Water Ltd which also covers the leisure sector of Vallibel One.

Ms. Dinusha Bhaskaran has previously worked as the Chief

Operating Officer in reputed Australian companies based in Melbourne for several years before taking up the position at Vallibel One where she has contributed immensely drawing from her vast reservoir of experience both locally and internationally.

She also served as the Assistant General Manager (Finance & Planning) at Pan Asia Banking Corporation.

Ms. Dinusha Bhaskaran is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants UK (FCMA), Fellow of CPA Australia (FCPA) and Associate Member of the Institute of Bankers, of Sri Lanka.



Chathuri Munaweera

Chief Executive Officer / Principal Officer / Executive Director

Chathuri is the Chief Executive Officer / Principal Officer of AIA Insurance Lanka Limited and serves as an Executive Director on the Board and is responsible for leading overall business and management of the Company and expertise in executing and delivering complex business goals. She has over 22 years of leadership experience in the fields of corporate law, compliance, company secretarial practice, customer service and business operations.

Prior to becoming the CEO of the Company, Chathuri held number of senior positions in the Company, including Director Human Resources from 2005 to 2018, Chief Legal and Governance Officer from 2013 to 2022, Chief External Relations Liaisons Officer from 2018 to 2022 and Director Operations from 2019 to 2022.

She is an Attorney-at-Law and holds a bachelor and Master of Laws from the University of Colombo and holds an international diploma in

compliance of the International Compliance Association, UK. She is also a member of the Chartered Institute of Personal Management, UK. She served as the Company Secretary from 2008 to 2022. She was recently recognized by the International Finance Corporation (IFC) as one of 16 trailblazers who are driving gender equality in Sri Lanka. Chathuri is the first Sri Lankan CEO appointed by AIA Group Hong Kong to lead its Sri Lankan operations and is also the Company's first female CEO.



Sherin Cader

Chairperson – Nation Trust Bank Sherin Cader, FCMA, CGMA, FCCA

Ms Cader is the Chief Financial Officer of the Financial Services industry group of John Keells Holdings PLC. She has been with the John Keells Group since 1998, serving in many capacities across multiple sectors. She has played diverse roles across finance

and operations in the Financial Services sector, the IT Enabled Services sector and JKH Centre functions. She functioned as the Financial Controller at John Keells Holdings

PLC from 2009 to 2012. Subsequently she took on the role of General Manager - Finance and Planning at Union Assurance PLC until her current role within the Financial Services industry group

of JKH as CFO. Ms. Cader was appointed to the Board of Nations Trust Bank PLC on 15 December 2018 and was appointed the Chairperson of the Board on 1st May 2023. Ms Cader is a Fellow Member of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA) UK, and a Fellow Member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) UK.



Rishini Weeraratne

Head of Social Media, Wijeya Newspapers Limited, Editor, The Weekend Online, Editor, HI!! Online, Editor, WNow Sinhala and WNow English

Rishini Weeraratne, an alumna of Wycherley International School, Colombo holds an LLM (Masters in Law) from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London (UK) and

an LLB (Hons) Law Degree from UK. At present, she works at Wijeya Newspapers Limited as the Head of Social Media, Editor, HI!! Online, Editor, The Weekend Online, Editor, WNow Sinhala and WNow (English). She is also

the author of the popular weekly column, She Can, in the Daily Mirror newspaper.

Rishini currently lives and works shuttling between London and Colombo.



Minoli Wickramasinghe

CEO/Managing Director - Capital TRUST Properties (Pvt) Ltd

Minoli Wickramasinghe (née Rajapakse) is the CEO/ Managing Director of Capital TRUST Properties (Pvt) Ltd. and is the Executive Director of Capital TRUST Holdings Limited and plays a strategic role in most of its subsidiaries. She heads the Capital TRUST Properties Group and the Capital TRUST Residencies Group.

She initially worked at DFCC

Bank and Maersk Lanka. Thereafter she was the founder Director / Head of Corporate Training at Skills Lanka Limited, where she was instrumental in securing training for employees of a number of large companies and organizations in Sri Lanka.

Under Minoli's leadership, Capital TRUST Residencies(Pvt) Ltd has won numerous awards for its innovative, upscale apartment complexes in and around

Colombo. She is an active voice within the real estate sector, and a proponent of higher standards and practices within the industry.

Having studied in Nigeria, Australia and Hong Kong throughout her academic career, she brings in a new perspective to doing business in Sri Lanka.

She has obtained a BBA and a MBA from Edith Cowan University, Australia.



Minelle Fernandez

Correspondent at Aljazeera

Minelle Fernandez, the Colombo Correspondent for International News Channel – Aljazeera. Fernandez has worked in the media for 17 years after entering the field

as a radio newscaster. Her experience includes work as a radio newscaster, TV reporter, producer, anchor, documentary producer, online journalist as well as a PR and media strategist.

Minelle began her career at Yes

FM radio and moved to television with sister station Maharaja Television. She has worked for a number of international media organisations including Singapore TV, BBC, the Washington Post and Aljazeera International.



Shobini Gunasekera

Director General Europe & North America Division Ministry of Foreign Affairs Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka Foreign service in 1998 and has served in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as Assistant Director of the Economic Affairs Division, Deputy Director of the Legal Affairs Division, Acting Director General of the East Asia and Pacific Division and Director General of Economic Affairs Division.

In her diplomatic career, she has served in the Embassy of Sri Lanka in Brussels as the First Secretary,

Embassy of Sri Lanka in Beijing as the Minister and Embassy of Sri Lanka in France as the Minister (Deputy Chief of Mission).

Prior to her appointment as the Ambassador of Sri Lanka to the Philippines, Ambassador-designate Gunasekera served as the Director General of European Union, Commonwealth and Multilateral Treaties Division and Director General of UN Division and the Legal Division

simultaneously in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Ambassador-designate holds a Bachelor's Degree in Commerce from the University of Colombo and was admitted to the Bar as an Attorney-at-Law in 1994. She also holds a Post-Graduate Diploma in International Relations from the Bandaranaike Centre for International Studies (BCIS). She is a past pupil of Musaeus College, Colombo.



Rukmani Rathnayake

- Team Leader Private Sector and Women Empowerment Grant Project (ADB funded), Skill Sector Development Programme (SSDP) The Ministry of Education, LLB (London), MBA, BMgt(Acc) Spl, HNDA, CBA, MAAT], Attorney at Law (Reading).

Rukmani Rathnayake is having a Masters of Business Administration (MBA), B.BMgt (Accountancy) special degree and of LLB degree from the University of London. Rukmani is a certified Chartered Business Accountant (CBA) of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka (ICASL) and the member of the Association Accountant Technician in Sri Lanka (AAT-SL).

Rukmani is a certified and licensed Master Trainer of the Start and Improve Your Business Association (SIYB) since 2005. Rukmani has been serving as the Hon. General Secretary to the SIYB Association since 2019. Currently, Rukmani is Leading Asian Development Bank funded

project which has attached to the Ministry of Education.

Rukmani is over 22 years multidisciplinary professional working at international & national non-government organizations: Enabled and motivated towards creating and implementing result-oriented, scientifically consistent development paradigms.

She has been playing an active role in evangelizing entrepreneurship among youth and especially among women in Sri Lanka. Rukmani is a prominent mentor and speaker for youth who are aspiring to be entrepreneurs and for those who have already started their ventures.

Rukmani is having diversified and strong leadership skills which

can face for the challenging situation successfully. And also, she has been working for women empowerment & have been instrumental in promoting advancement of women in their careers through business development & technical support, provide grants, Counseling and mentoring & giving leadership to special programmes designed & implemented for women empowerment. Rukmani is fascinating on project management, public private partnerships, business partnership management and donor coordination, trainings, curricular & manual capacity development, women economic empowerment, enterprises and entrepreneurs development.



Devika Weerasinghe

Executive Vice President John Keells Group & Chief Financial Officer – Transportation and Plantations services sectors

Devika Weerasinghe is the Chief Financial Officer of the Transportation industry group, Plantation Services sector and Information Technology sector. She previously held the position of Sector

Financial Controller of the Transportation sector. She also served as the Sector Financial Controller of the Airlines SBU of the Transportation sector during the period 1998-2004. An Associate member of the Chartered

Institute of Management Accountants UK, Devika also holds a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, from the University of Sri Jayewardenepura.



Praveena Perera

AVP & Group Account Director - MullenLowe
Sri Lanka

Praveena's success is a testament to her unwavering dedication, exceptional work ethic, and deep passion for advertising.

Her career began at Leo Burnett, Sri Lanka, where she discovered her true calling, thereby completely immersing herself in the ad industry.

Transitioning to LOWE LDB, Praveena inspired a plethora of renowned brands to create lasting stories with her skills in client relationships and brand building -

propelling her career forward.

During her tenure at Phoenix Ogilvy, Praveena continued to foster effective client relationships whilst working on multinational brands. Her relentless pursuit of creative excellence, coupled with her unwavering dedication and optimistic mindset drove her rapid advancement within the agency.

As the current AVP & Group Account Director at MullenLowe Sri Lanka, Praveena plays a vital role in overseeing a significant

brand portfolio and is pivotal in creating some of the most loved campaigns in Sri Lanka. She believes that to succeed in the industry, it's paramount to build strong client relationships, embrace optimism, and view every situation as an opportunity for creative exploration.

Praveena continues to thrive in her role at MullenLowe Sri Lanka, leaving us eager to witness the bright future that awaits this talented and driven professional.



G. Sashika Hirandi De Silva

Managing Director - Cinnatopia (Pvt) Ltd

Cinnatopia is the legacy of a company founded in 1955. A visionary entrepreneur with a keen eye into the future set out to create an export market for his authentic Sri Lankan spices, which quickly caught the attention of the World.

The second generation of the family then carried on this business heritage by expanding to foreign markets such as South America and Mexico, acquainting the true taste of Ceylon Cinnamon to the World.

With a heritage spanning over 6

decades, as Sri Lanka's only 3rd generation family business in the Spices Industry, we have become the Leading Organic Spices Exporter from Sri Lanka.

As the 3rd generation, Sashika de Silva establishes Cinnatopia from inception further expanding

in to USA, EU Australian, South African and Japanese markets. Along with Sashika De Silva's entrepreneurial skills and Rasika Alwis's eye for high quality and innovation Cinnatopia becomes one of the leading, reputable suppliers into the EU and USA markets within just a few years. The primary focus of this new brand identity was to associate Cinnatopia with high quality spices. Cinnatopia is also the first and the only company with the highest quality certification – IFS

in the Spices industry of Sri Lanka.

We at Cinnatopia associated with high standards of quality and authenticity today caters to custom requirements of wholesale and retail buyers across the work and also have built a reputation for exporting high quality organically certified natural spices across the World. Today we are equipped with state of the art production facilities to produce and process high quality whole and ground spices to export according to the requirements specified by

Internationals customers.

Throughout our journey, we have created a loyal clientele for our products across the EU USA, Australia, South Africa, and Japan to name a few. This has elevated us to become one of the leading spices suppliers in the world, being organic certified, Fair Trade and the Rain Forest Alliance and Netureland certification

This is Cinnatopia – where quality and authenticity reigns



Hiranya Perera

Film & TV Commercial Producer

Hiranya Perera is a Film and TV Commercial producer in Sri Lanka. She is an alumna at Busan Asian Film School (AFIS) - Korea, where she pursued her studies in International Film Business Academy. She was also selected to participate at the Film Bazaar Producer's Lab in association with International Film Festival of India. Hiranya is a member in New Asian Producers Network (NAPNet).

She co-founded Silent Frames Productions that produces films and TV commercials within and outside Sri Lanka. Her debut short film, SILENT TEARS (Mouna Vizhiththuligal) traveled to 27 international film festivals including Locarno International Film Festival - Open Doors and

secured 19 awards.

Her feature projects SCENT OF A DEAD BODY and BEND IN THE COFFIN were selected to participate at the Film Bazaar Co production market, Goa and Clinic Kathmandu - Doc Skool script writing lab. Hiranya also pitched her feature project, BEND IN THE COFFIN at Asia Content and Film Market - which runs parallel with Busan International Film Festival, Korea.

Her producing credits include AGNI SIRAGUGAL (short film) that was funded by USAID and DODANA KELI (short film) that secured the production fund by iflix – Kokoro Filmmaker Festival.

Her debut feature film, TENTIGO (Nelum Kuluna) is a co production between Sri Lanka and an Indian

film production company. TENTIGO film will be remade in India in association with a South Indian film production company, making it the first Sri Lankan film to remake in India.

Hiranya graduated from Chartered Institute of Marketing (CIM) - UK, Chartered Institute of Management Accounting (CIMA) -UK & Masters in Entrepreneurship & Innovation (Asia e University, Malaysia).

Previously, she was a TV program producer and a TV commercial director at MTV Sri Lanka, a subsidiary company of The Capital Maharaja Organization, where she single handedly handled end to end entire production, which made her the youngest producer/director at Sirasa TV and MTV Sri Lanka.



Rekha Weerasooriya

Vice President – of HR Transformation at Dialog Axiata PLC.

She has over 23+ years of experience. Rekha has handled multiple roles including Customer Experience B2C & B2B, HR & is a Transformation Specialist. In 2017 she was selected as an Axiata Champion which is the top 0.5% elite performer amongst the Axiata Group. World HRD Congress 2018 awarded her “100 Most Influential Global HR Leaders Award” and “100 Top Global Training & Development Minds”. Sri Lanka Leadership Awards

2020, CMO Asia & World Women Leadership Congress awarded the “Sri Lanka’s Women Leaders” award, and the “Most Influential HR Leaders in Sri Lanka” endorsed by the CHRO Asia and presented by The World Federation of HR Professionals 2020 & “Asia’s Women Leaders” Award by World Women Leadership Congress 2021. Rekha is a Certified Happiness Coach from the Berkeley Institute of Well-Being, California. She has been training young professionals for

over 20 years; is a Certified trainer from the City & Guilds UK. Rekha successfully completed a resident General Management Development Programme “Leadership in the Digital Age”, at INSEAD Business School, Singapore. Rekha also represents as a Lecturer, Speaker, Panelist, and Jury member. She is a certified Lean Six Sigma Black Belt professional and holds an MBA from Buckinghamshire New University, UK.



Dr Harshani Perera

Co-founder / CEO at Inqbaytor.

She started her career as a Software Engineer, and her entrepreneurial journey started while reading for her PhD in Information Technology. Inqbaytor which started as just a side hustle, has reengineered

the distribution of travel services and produced Ticket Gadget, the largest online travel consolidator platform in Sri Lanka.

Harshani also serves as a Director at SLASSCOM, the national chamber for the IT/BPM industry

in Sri Lanka.

She is predominantly involved in spearheading the pioneering work the Women Technopreneurs Forum is doing to help female tech entrepreneurs and break stereotypes.



Milani Salpitikoralala

Founder of Child Protection Force

Milani Salpitikoralala Founder of Child Protection Force is an Attorney-at-Law representing many survivors of Domestic Violence. In this context she also carry out many voluntary educative sessions within grassroot communities. She has witnessed women who have suffered the worst trauma we can ever think of, but battle on in life, and this is where she has the need to step in. To empower. To enable. To Strengthen !

Child Protection Force aims to institute a more child-centric structure within the Juvenile Justice System of Sri Lanka, enabling the approach towards victimized children and children who are deemed 'offenders', to be friendlier and, thereby, more holistic.

She started her legal career at Chambers of Hon. Justice Shiranee Tilakawardane Judge of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka, as a Legal Research Assistant & Junior Chamber Assistant 2010-

2015 and joined National Child Protection Authority (NCPA) - Legal Consultant on project, thereafter Department of Census and Statistics - Resource person to draft a Report on the Alternative Care of Institutionalized Children, and presently she serves as Ministry of Justice, Sri Lanka - Member of the Advisory Committee for Law Reform on Family Law and Member of the Advisory Committee for Law Reform on Adoption Law.



Shehara Varia

Partner , F J & G de Saram, Attorneys at Law,
Head - Mergers & Acquisitions and Employment
Practice Group

Shehara has been with the firm of FJ & G de Saram since 1996 in the corporate law practice. She heads the Mergers and Acquisition practice group and the Employment law practice groups of the Firm.

Shehara has extensive work experience in mergers, acquisitions and sales of companies in various industries. Shehara also possesses extensive experience in advising on all aspects of employment law.

She is also a director of the

Institute for the Development of Commercial law and practice and was instrumental in setting up the CCC- ICLP International ADR Center which is a joint venture between the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce and the ICLP.



Saubhagya Kothalawala

Chief Supply Chain Officer Lankem Ceylon PLC

Saubhagya Kothalawala has nearly a decade of experience in global end-to-end Supply Chain management, she is currently the Chief Supply Chain Officer for Lankem Ceylon PLC covering multi-Industrial sectors such as Paints, Industrial Chemicals, Flexible Packaging, Agriculture, Pest control etc. She was one of the youngest C-suit professionals when she took over this role at the age of 31 in a public listed conglomerate in Sri Lanka.

She directly manages the entire supply value chain from sourcing of raw material, packing materials, capital expenditure, indirect items and services to Operational Procurement and Logistics,

which includes transportation of finished goods, warehousing etc. for the group by leading a multi diverse team.

Envisioning an effective, streamlined supply chain from its original decentralized approach, Saubhagya has created a function capable of capitalizing on strategic advancements, by viewing its capability through an entirely new lens, whilst ensuring cost-effectiveness through difficult market conditions

Her previous engagement was at Brandix Apparel Ltd. for 8 years where she was a part of the Brandix -Accenture collaboration team, an inter cost optimization project then to a supply chain category management role which eventually led Saubhagya in leading the

Engineering Commercial pillar under Engineering Function for the group. Moving from a single industry: Apparel to a multi diversified conglomerate in Sri Lanka she took the challenge to revolutionize its supply chain; to be more agile, resilient, and innovative in a male dominant field.

Saubhagya graduated from University of Sri Jayewardenepura with a B.Sc. in Marketing Management, she is also an Associate Member of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA) UK, Chartered Global Management Accountant (CIMA) UK & Candidate of the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA - US)



Kaushali Kusumapala

Director Marketing - Atlas Axillia - Hemas Holdings Plc

A graduate of the University of Melbourne with a First-Class honors in Bachelor of Commerce, I am an accomplished marketing professional with over 12 years of experience in Advertising, Brand Management,

and Marketing. Having started my career in advertising at Leo Burnett, managing portfolios such as Nestle and Hilton, my marketing career then began at Hemas FMCG handling brands such as Dandex, and thereon,

Hemas' flagship brand - Baby Cheramy.

In my time at Hemas, I was able to win two Effie Awards for both Dandex, and Baby Cheramy's 50th Year Purpose Campaign - The Big

Heart Project. In 2013, I started as a Brand manager at Fonterra Brands Lanka, which within 2 short months of my stint, went into a nationwide crisis.

I was fortunate to be nominated as a crisis management team and led the “I Believe in Anchor” campaign, which enabled the business and market shares to bounce back to status quo within 2 months of it halving. The campaign won Gold at the “This is Fonterra” Global Awards, which was a great pride for the Sri Lankan Business. I further went on to manage Anchor Newdale and led the entrance of the brand into the flavored milk market. Anchor Newdale too went on to win many awards during this period.

But the highlight of my career has taken place at Atlas Axillia,

a subsidiary of Hemas Holdings, where I started as a Marketing Manager 4 years ago – and today I am a Director Marketing, having had the fortune of being recognized and promoted every year. As I came into the business, it was faced by an undue crisis resulting from the Easter Sunday bombings, which resulted in market share declining by over 10pp. However, during my leadership not only has the brand established an ALL TIME high market share of 68%, making it the undisputed leader in stationary, but the flagship brand has transformed into being one of the most loved brands in the country (according to Kantar), and has gone onto win “CSR brand of the year – Slim Brand Excellence” for 3 consecutive years, “School Supply Brand of the year – People’s choice Awards” for

3 consecutive years, Nominated within the “TOP 5 Youth Brands in the Country” by People Choice Awards in 2021, won 2 Effies for effective advertising in 2023 for the first time in Atlas’ history, and most importantly won GOLD for “Local brand of the year” in 2022 at Slim Brand Excellence.

Moreover, I have been able to build the Atlas brand into the education space within E-learning, built a new and revolutionary lifestyle brand in Innovate, and created an early childhood development based stationery and education brands for the international markets – which again would be a first for Sri Lanka. Powered by great teams, ignited by creativity, with an unending sense of curiosity and passion, my life’s mission is to create impactful brands that transform the communities being served!



Geetha Karandawala

Director of the Barbery Ayurveda Resorts

Ms Geetha Karandawala has worked with National Government, Academia, International Organizations, and the Private Sector at the highest levels.

She was the Corporate Lawyer of the Ceylon Shipping Corporation and the Special Adviser to the Minister of Shipping and Ports in Sri Lanka. In the academic field,

Geetha was a Senior Lecturer at the National University of Singapore. She was the Head of Maritime Business at the Australian Maritime College, where she held the position of Chair of the Academic Board, and a member of the Governing Council. She worked with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) in Bangkok for 13 years. She was latterly, the Secretary of the Commission.

Geetha is currently a Director of the Barbery Ayurveda Resorts, and its Associate Companies and gives the business her undivided attention. Barbery was the first tourist hotel in the South of Sri Lanka and celebrates 55 years in Tourism this year. She serves as a member of the Governing Council of the new University of Indigenous Medicine in Sri Lanka.



Charini Suriyage

Founder & Creative Director at Concept Studio Pvt Limited

Inspired by her love for experimenting with combinations of the traditional and modern, Charini Suriyage has made a mark for herself in the ethical fashion arena. Charini has a Bachelor's Degree in Fashion Design from the University of Moratuwa, Sri

Lanka and a Master's Degree in Design Management at the London College of Fashion.

A multifaceted personality, Charini Suriyage has been working with MAS Intimates for the past 13 years and is the Co-Founder of ZUDHORA, a retail store in Colombo.

Combining her Sri Lankan heritage with modern design, her designer wear brand was first launched at Colombo Fashion Week in 2009 and has continuously participated at London Fashion Week and other international fashion shows and retails in both Europe and Sri Lanka.



Elizabeth Moir

Head of the School Elizabeth Moir School

Elizabeth Moir School is an independent English medium international school in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The school is co-educational and admits children from both Sri Lankan and expatriate families resident in Sri Lanka.

Elizabeth Moir School is a fully independent private school and the only international school in

Sri Lanka to be owned and run by British nationals. Elizabeth Moir, the Head of School, has run international schools in Sri Lanka for thirty six years and founded Elizabeth Moir School in 1996.

It immediately established itself as one of the very top international schools in Colombo and its commitment to small classes, individual attention and an all-

round education have ensured it continues to set the standard.

The school operates from two spacious leafy premises in an easily accessible residential area in Colombo. The Junior School has always been on Park Road and the Senior School moved from Guildford Crescent to Thalakotuwa Gardens in 2003.



Manoji Wadugodapitiya

Chairperson and Managing Director of PAMS HYDRO POWER pvt Ltd, Arsulana Eco Lodge and Simply Women Organization.

Manoji Wadugodapitiya, CO & MD Pams Hydro power (pvt) limited, Arsulana Eco lodge (pvt) limited, Simply Women Organization. She is the only female entrepreneur

who is the sole owner of a renewable energy project in Sri Lanka.

The Simply Women CSR project started in 2015 and helped over thousands of women all over

Sri Lanka to uplift their living standards.

Arsulana Eco Lodge was started in 2018. Empowering villagers the opportunity to work and earn a better living standard.



Anuradha Herath

Managing Director- Java Lounge Pvt Ltd

Anuradha Herath is a dynamic entrepreneur and visionary leader who has achieved remarkable success as the driving force behind Java Lounge, Sri Lanka's largest coffee house chain. With a strong educational background and an unwavering commitment to excellence, she established Java Lounge in 2012, quickly

transforming it into a world-class brand under her leadership as Managing Director.

Anuradha's emphasis on quality, customer satisfaction, and innovation has gained both national and international recognition for Java Lounge. Her inspiring journey in building Java Lounge from scratch to the top

of the Sri Lankan coffee house industry serves as an inspiration for aspiring entrepreneurs around the world.

Anuradha also serves as an Executive Director at Kapruka Holdings PLC, a prominent conglomerate in Sri Lanka since 2002.



Chathurika Wickramasinghe

CEO / Co-Founder "CrowdLearn" Pvt Limited

As a woman tech co-founder, my goal was to create something new, innovative, and beneficial for the future of education. I firmly believe that education is the best tool we have to change the world.

In mid-2019, before the pandemic, we launched CrowdLearn's educational operating system (EduOS)

with the aim of revolutionizing the education sector locally and internationally through hybrid delivery. Our platform targets education providers and offers a student management system that

covers the entire student lifecycle, from lead management to alumni. Therefore, the education provider will not have to

shift between systems. Our platform also includes a marketplace for providers to promote their programs and obtain leads.

We are proud to be one of the first education platforms to be whitelisted by OpenAI, one of the world's

leading Artificial General Intelligence providers. Our platform is built on a scalable

technology architecture (PaaS - Platform as a service) and can handle tens of thousands of students/users at a time without any interruptions.

CrowdLearn has already onboarded over 40 institutions, including Lincoln University-Malaysia, Foundation Institute of Sri Lanka, Northshore College and Campus, PIBT, Computer Society of Sri Lanka (CSSL), and more. Despite being a relatively new platform, we have achieved this success by offering our platform on a subscription model (Software as a Service-SaaS), making it easier for education providers to acquire it.



Yvonne Fernando

Owner - Zensai Foods (Pvt) Ltd

Mrs Yvonne Fernando is this year's recipient of the award 'Small Scale Woman Entrepreneur of the year'. Mrs Fernando is a renowned veteran and distinguished culinary expert and demonstrator for nearly 50 years in Sri Lanka.

During her illustrious career she has personally taught over 20,000 students in the creative art and preparation of over 15 different cuisines. She is the author of 'Yvonne's Kitchen' cookery book, founder of Zensai Foods Pvt Ltd.,

which is the pioneering, locally produced brand of chili paste to hit supermarkets and retail shelves of Sri Lanka over 25 years ago and today is a celebrated and renowned household name both locally and internationally.



Suranga Samaranayake

Editor Dharanee News Paper

Creative and driven journalist with 5+ years of experience. Great storytelling skills and a nose for the truth as well as an excellent track record as a staff reporter in print and digital media

with circulation about 100K. Dharanee is an exclusive women's publication which is positioned as the newspaper for women who manage their lives with positivity.

Also Dharanee was nominated

as 'newspaper of the year' for consecutive two years in SLIM KANTAR AWARDS among national broadsheets and it's the first time in the history a women publication has been nominated for this award.



Nishani De Silva

Creative Designer

Nilshani "Nilly" De Silva Nilshani De Silva is a 24-year-old, born with Downs Syndrome. She also had several other associated medical conditions, such as a hole in the heart and cleft palate. Although persons with Downs Syndrome are historically thought of as persons who cannot lead a normal life, Nilshani did not let this condition

hold her down. With courage and determination, she overcame the challenges life posed to her. She was educated in a mainstream private school, in an inclusive setting and sat for her G.C.E Ordinary Level and Advanced Level Examinations. She was a Senior Girl Guide and obtained the "All-Rounder Cord". She was conferred a "Special Achievement Award for Guiding" by the Sri Lanka Girl Guides Association. Nilshani has been a Craft Teacher

at her Alma Mater for the last 4 years. She is also a motivational speaker and frequently speaks to universities, schools, churches, and organizations, about her life's journey and experiences. On World Downs Syndrome Day 2021, she addressed the United Nations Assemblies in Geneva and New York. She has a keen interest in art and dress designing and debuted her first collection "Birds of Paradise" at the Mercedes Benz Fashion Show in December 2022.



Kumudu Priyanka Dissanayake

Para Athletic

Kumudu Priyanka, a shining star in para-athletics, embodies the true spirit of resilience, determination, and overcoming adversity. With a focus on sprinting events, she has defied the odds and achieved remarkable success on the international stage. Kumudu has showcased her extraordinary talent, resilience, and passion for the sport.

Kumudu is a Sri Lankan Paralympic track and field athlete who is also a current world record holder in women's 200m T45 category. She made her maiden Paralympic appearance representing Sri Lanka at the 2020 Summer Paralympics. Kumudu's paraathletics career has been defined by her exceptional performances and numerous accolades. Competing at the

Paralympic Games, she has represented Sri Lanka with pride, consistently pushing the limits of her abilities. Kumudu has secured multiple medals in 200m, 400m, 100m and Long Jump. Her relentless pursuit of excellence has placed her among the elite para athletes in her classification, inspiring others through her remarkable accomplishments.



Roshan Mahanama, Trust

'We Promise'

With a commitment of building a solid educational foundation, healthy life and a safe environment for underprivileged children of Sri Lanka, The Roshan Mahanama Trust will mainly invest its time, resources and passion into creating a productive future

generation with the ability to sustain themselves and our nation at large.

The "WE PROMISE" philosophy piloted by Roshan Mahanama is a pledge to honour the commitment we have made to serve our community, and a promise to continue building our society on a foundation of compassion, a sense of duty, responsibility and

consistency.

"WE PROMISE" that our work is dedicated to the idea that giving back is not something we do once, but for as long as it takes for an individual, village or country to flourish. "WE PROMISE" that with consistent action, help where it is most necessary, with the right attitude at heart, anyone can thrive and live up to their full potential.



MAS Intimates

MAS Intimates is the flagship subsidiary of South Asia's largest apparel manufacturer, MAS Holdings. As a design, development and manufacturing hub for some of the world's leading brands of intimate wear, athleisure, adaptive clothing, and

wearable tech, it has design and development offices and state-of-the-art manufacturing facilities spread across the world. For over three and a half decades, MAS Intimates has stood out in the global fashion industry through its superlative people practices, innovative mindset,

strong technical competency, and by making sustainability a foundation of product, process, and people. MAS Intimates is differentiated by its ability to harness the power of the 43,000 strong workforce, driving a culture that fosters empowerment, inclusion and resilience.



"Fems AYA"

With an alarming rate of only less than 30% menstruating women in SL using sanitary napkins regularly, "Fems AYA" made it its mission to address the key reasons leading to this, which are lack of awareness and unaffordability. The initiative took light under three main pillars. 1) Creating Awareness To encourage a change in behavior from grassroot level upwards, Fems AYA partnered with 4 likeminded organizations; Sarvodaya Women's Movement

& Fusion, Arka Initiative & MJF Charitable Foundation to create awareness. Within two years, "Fems AYA" has trained and educated 15,000+ women across the island on good menstrual hygiene practices. 2) Addressing affordability Fems AYA wing napkin was launched to the market in June 2021 at the lowest price point of Rs. 99 for a pack of 10 pads making sanitary napkins accessible to 60,000+ females. 3) Increasing Accessibility Making sanitary napkins easily

accessible to the regular base and normalizing the subject, Hemas was the first organization to provide free napkins to all the staff. Further, partnered up with multiple corporates such as JKH and Heineken following the same model. Touching lives of millions of women, we believe with the impact we create through Fems AYA initiative, women in SL will thrive and be unstoppable in their journey to success.



John Keells Holdings PLC

John Keells Holdings PLC, (JKH) is Sri Lanka's largest listed conglomerate which has been reaffirmed over the years as the country's most respected entity and most transparent corporate. The Group of companies, which has a rich heritage of over 150 years, is home to Keells supermarkets, Sri Lanka's most valued brands, and some of our country's much-loved brands like Elephant House, and operates in the diverse industries sectors of leisure, transportation, retail, property, consumer foods, plantation services, IT and innovation.

JKH has long been at the forefront

of valuing and promoting diversity within its workforce, its value chains, and its communities. With a culture and leadership commitment that ensures that all its people are valued and can truly be themselves in a work environment, where respect and trust are fundamental, its people-related policies ensure meritocracy, where every person - regardless of ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, or disability, are provided equal opportunities.

The Group's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DE&I) brand - ONE JKH, consolidates all the efforts and initiatives in the three key

focus areas of increasing female participation in the workforce and value chains, fostering inclusivity for the LGBTIQ+ community, and creating more career opportunities for Persons with Disabilities (PWD).

While being an active and vocal corporate ally since 2015 for LGBTIQ+ inclusivity, the recent key initiatives under ONE JKH include a 5-year goal in 2021 to raise female participation in the workforce to 40%, launching 100 days of equal parental leave, and a structured strategic road map to strengthen existing processes for supported employment.

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