

**A REPORT ON:  
THE AFRICA- MIDDLE EAST- ASIA WOMEN SUMMIT/ EXHIBITION, DUBAI 2013**

The venue was the Landmark Atlantis the Palm Hotel and Resort. The Location was the iconic city of Dubai in the United Arab Emirates. The event was the Africa-Middle East-Asia Women Summit which held from the 16th to 18th December, 2013.

This unprecedented event was organised by the Centre for Economic and Leadership Development in collaboration with African Leadership Magazine and The CEO Clubs Network Worldwide.

Over 500 delegates from 32 countries converged for 3 days of enlightenment, networking, business sessions, panel discussions, experience-sharing and peer-support on a scale the delegates confessed they had never witnessed before.

There were First Ladies of 4 countries, royalty, wives of Governors, spouses of Ambassadors, leading women in politics, business, the arts, academia, sciences and entertainment and in an atmosphere that oscillated between scholarly seriousness and the conviviality and camaraderie of a social gathering, they shared ideas, experiences, challenges and successes that showed a similarity in the experiences of the women of all three regions.

Her Excellency, Mrs. Penehupifo Pohamba, the First Lady of Namibia; participated in all the sessions for all 3 days at the end of which she had this to say "this is one of the most important events I have attended in recent times. Delegates are from such far removed locations that you would think we were strangers yet as soon as we started sharing our peculiar experiences, it was obvious that we all had one thing in common; a shared humanity, shared pains, shared struggles and shared triumphs".

For Her Excellency, Mama Salma Kikwete, First Lady of Tanzania, the conference afforded her the opportunity of respecting the plight of women from other regions and gave her valuable best-practice correlations as she deals with the challenges of motivating women and the less privileged in Tanzania.

The conference opened with a keynote address from Hon. Dorothy Dawkins-Hagler of the Georgia Legislature in the United States of America who charged the women to rise above their domestic expectations to take their rightful place in an ever-evolving world.

Then came a panel discussion with panelists comprising Rt. Hon. Margaret Zziwa, Speaker of the East Africa Legislative Assembly from Uganda, Princess Fay Jahan Ara from India, Angela Moore from the United States of America and Funke Egbemode, General Editor of leading Nigerian Newspaper, The Sun Newspapers. This panel discussed on how women can deal with violence and emerge from the shadows to assume political office.

There were presentations from different Guest Speakers, culminating in a rousing speech by Mrs Audrey Joe-Ezigbo, Executive Director of Falcon Petroleum E&P in Nigeria.

The highlight of the 2nd day took place during the Business and Investment Forum sessions, which was divided into two panel sessions in the morning and after lunch, featuring leading

business men and women as panellists from South Africa, Qatar, the UAE, India, Pakistan, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Uganda, Rwanda and Morocco. These panel sessions focused on enlightening the participants of investment opportunities that exist for women in the 3 regions. Female Managing Directors/ CEOs also leveraged on this platform to share their success stories as well as their challenges, how they surmounted them and rose to the top.

High level and timely discussions on the intricate and important role of women to emerging economies, took the centre stage while other very relevant issues pertaining to positioning women as the next frontier in emerging market; were elaborately discussed with relevant solutions proffered.

The high point of this unprecedented event took place on the 3rd day with the Africa- Middle East- Asia Amazons Award Gala Dinner where leading women were given outstanding achievement awards and others inducted into the Global Women Leaders Hall of Fame.

There was also a special resolution from the Legislature of Georgia in the United States of America commending some of the women for their contributions to the development of their various sectors.

In her welcome remarks, Mrs. Furo Giami, Executive Director of the Centre for Economic and Leadership Development; stated that the purpose of the Africa- Middle East- Asia Amazons Awards, is to honour on an international stage, women who have stood out as Amazons, and beacons of light in their various countries and regions. In her words, she said- We are here on this special day to honour Women have dared to walk where men previously held sway, and are doing a great job at it; women, who against all odds, have determined to be economically self-sufficient and build a highly successful career for themselves; women who are defying all odds and taking charge of their lives and livelihoods; women whose little voices are being heard all over the nations like a thousand cymbals, - true champions in every sense of the word. In her closing remarks, she thanked all delegates for attending and noted that the event would hold again in November, 2014 with several of the delegates already booking their participation for the next conference holding in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

## **Highlights of the Agenda and Inspiring Speakers**

Keynote Address by State Rep. Dee Dawkins-Haigler, Member, Georgia General Assembly, USA

Presentation on Education: Key to the Future of Women in Emerging Economies by Her Excellency, Madam Salma Kikwete, First Lady of the Republic of Tanzania

Session I: Women in Governance and Political Leadership in Emerging Economies, Presented on session theme by: Hon. Oda Gasinzigwa, Minister of Family and Gender Promotion, Republic of Rwanda.

Panel Discussion I: Emerging from the shadows; dealing with political violence and discrimination against women

Moderator Mr. Sam Hart, Group Editor African Leadership Magazine

Panelists: H.R.H Princess Fay Jahan Ara, President of the Rach Foundation

Rt. Hon. Margaret N. Zziwa, Speaker of the East African Legislative Assembly

Dr. Angela Moore, Goodwill Ambassador, State of Georgia, USA.  
Funke Egbemode, General Editor of leading Nigerian Newspaper, The Sun  
Newspapers

Business & Investment Forum I, Hosted by CEO Clubs Network  
Panel Discussion II: Investment Opportunities in women-run companies, Part 1

Moderator: Ms. Sara Mohamed, CEO, Al Bashayer Investment Company, Abu Dhabi  
Panelists: Banu Akbez id, Secretary General of BPW Emirates Club & Deputy Chairwoman/  
CEO of BPW Middle East LCC  
Dr. Ann-Marie Carbery, Dubai-UAE Konstantina S., Partner Stanton Chase  
Middle East  
Michelle Nickelson, Managing Director, MENA Cine Finance, SPC Shelley  
Frost, Founder/Director, The Fridge, Dubai  
Lamis Al Kaati, CEO & Partner, FAIRKAAT FZC, Dubai

Session II: Women, Entrepreneurship and the Corporate Market place  
Presentation on Session Theme by: Mrs. Audrey Joe-Ezigbo, Executive Director, Falcon  
Petroleum Limited, Nig.

Panel Discussion: The rise of women in the work place: challenges & prospects  
Panelists: Prof. S. K. Bawa, Department of Education, Punjabi University, Patiala, India  
Monika Agarwal, Executive Director, Oasis Elite, UAE  
Gloria Belendez Ramirez, Founder Boutique Villas Xichu

Business & Investment Forum II, Hosted by CEO Clubs Network  
Panel Discussion III: Investment Opportunities in women-run companies, Part 2

Moderator: Dr. Tahir Akhtar, Chairman & Founder ADAM Global PLC  
Panelists: Dr. Reem Osman, CEO of Saudi German Hospital-Dubai  
Hawa Charfaray, Executive Director, Knowledge Village, Dubai  
Jayme Harris, Vice President, 3SC World  
Dr. T. B. (Mac) McClelland, Jr., President/ CEO of Center House Ltd  
Malini Ohri, Health & Beauty Consultant, Dubai- UAE  
Elena Weber, Founder, ICONS

Session III: Women and Development issues in Emerging Economies- The Nielsen Experience  
Presentation on session theme by

Presentation II: Bridging the digital divide through women led innovations - By Catherine  
Mahugu, Co- Founder, Soko, Kenya

Presentation III: Disease, Debility, & a dwindling Bottom-Line: How Health Truly is the Key to  
Success by Dr. Ambreen Sayani, Managing Director, Medi- Compass Dubai-UAE

Presentation on: Investment Opportunities in women-run companies, 1 by Ms. Haifa Kaylani  
Founder Arab International Women's Forum

Presentation on: Investment Opportunities in women-run companies, 2 by Mrs Foluke Michael: Principal partner, Caterina de' Medici, Africa

## **The Africa- Middle East- Asia Amazons Awards 2013**

### **List of Awardees**

- Her Excellency, Penhupifo Pohamba, First lady of the Republic of Namibia  
Award Title- Global Inspirational Leadership Award 2013
- Her Excellency, Mama Salma Kikwete, First Lady, United Republic of Tanzania  
Award Title- Global Inspirational Leadership Award 2013
- Her Excellency, Rev. Denise Bucumi Nkurunziza, First lady of the Republic of Burundi  
Award Title - Global Inspirational Leadership Award 2013
- Her Excellency, Datin Paduka Seri Rosmah Mansor, Wife of the Prime Minister of Malaysia  
Award Title- Global Inspirational Leadership Award 2013
- Her Excellency, Mrs. Ngo Talatu Jang, First lady of Plateau State  
Award Title- Global Inspirational Leadership Award
- Her Excellency, Mrs. Olufunso Amosun, First lady of Ogun State  
Award Title- Community Impact Award of the Year 2013
- Princess Fifi Ejindu, Chairperson, Starcrest Group, Nigeria  
Award Title- African Female Economic Champion of the Year Award 2013
- Mrs. Haifa Al Kaylani, Chairman/ Founder, Arab International Women Forum, United Kingdom  
Award Title- Global Inspirational Leadership Award 2013
- Mrs. Audrey Joe-Ezigbo, Executive Director, Falcon Petroleum Limited, Nigeria  
Award Title- The Global Leadership Impact Award 2013
- Dr. Theresa Beeko, President- Manet Group, Ghana  
Award Title- The Global Women Economic Champion Award 2013
- Dr. Carmen M. Castro, D.B.A, Founder &CEO, Aurora International Executive Solutions, LLC.  
Award Title- The Global Female Economic Champion Award 2013
- Chief Mrs Seinye O. B. Lulu Briggs, Executive Vice- Chairman, Monipulo Ltd. Nigeria.  
Award Title- GLOBAL INSPIRATIONAL LEADERSHIP AWARD 2013

- Sara I. Mohamed, CEO, Al Bashayer Investment Company, Abu Dhabi
- Mrs Christiana Joy Igenegbai
- Dr. Tariq Nizami, Founder, CEO Clubs Network Worldwide
- Jumana A. Abdulmajeed

## **The Global Women Leaders Hall of Fame List of 2013 Inductees**

- Her Excellency, Penehupifo Pohamba, First lady of the Republic of Namibia
- Her Excellency, Mama Salma Kikwete, First Lady, United Republic of Tanzania
- Her Excellency, Rev. Denise Bucumi Nkurunziza, First lady of the Republic of Burundi
- Her Excellency, Datin Paduka Seri Rosmah Mansor, Wife of the Prime Minister of Malaysia
- Her Excellency, Mrs. Ngo Talatu Jang, First lady of Plateau State
- Her Excellency, Mrs. Olufunso Amosun, First lady of Ogun State
- Chief Mrs Seinye O. B. Lulu Briggs, Executive Vice- Chairman, Monipulo Ltd. Nigeria.
- Mrs Catherine Uju Ifejika, Chairperson/CEO, Britannia-U Limited
- Princess Fifi Ejindu, Chairperson, Starcrest Group, Nigeria
- Mrs. Haifa Al Kaylani, Chairman/ Founder, Arab International Women Forum, United Kingdom
- Mrs. Audrey Joe-Ezigbo, Executive Director, Falcon Petroleum Limited, Nigeria
- Dr. Theresa Beeko, President- Manet Group, Ghana

- Dr. Carmen M.Castro, D.B.A, Founder &CEO, Aurora International Executive Solutions, LLC.
- Rt. Hon. ( Dr.) Margaret Nantongo Zziwa, Speaker, East African legislative Assemby ( EALA)
- Amina Abubakar Abdu, Director Gender, Social Development Centre, Abuja.
- Sara I. Mohamed, CEO, Al Bashayer Investment Company, Abu Dhabi
- Mrs Christiana Joy Igenegbai
- Hajiya Jamila Tangaza, Director, AGIS Nigeria
- Blessing Onyeché Onuh, Secretary, Social Development Centre, Abuja.
- Jumana A. Abdulmajeed

### **2013 Special Legislative Commendation by the Georgia General Assembly**

- Her Excellency, Datin Paduka Seri Rosmah Mansor, Wife of the Prime Minister of Malaysia
- Her Excellency, Mrs. Ngo Talatu Jang, First lady of Plateau State
- Mrs. Haifa Al Kaylani, Chairman/ Founder, Arab International Women Forum, United Kingdom
- Chief Mrs Seinye O. B. Lulu Briggs, Executive Vice- Chairman, Monipulo Ltd. Nigeria.
- Princess Fifi Ejindu, Chairperson, Starcrest Group, Nigeria
- Mrs Catherine Uju Ifejika, Chairperson/CEO, Britannia-U Limited

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