Global Women’s Forum Dubai explores why women matter in science

Dr. Robert Sebbag sits down with HE Ameenah Gurib-Fakim and Dr. Habiba Bouhamed-Chaabouni in Agora session

Dubai, 23 February 2016: A session exploring why women matter in science was held at Global Women’s Forum Dubai today, featuring leading scientists, HE Ameenah Gurib-Fakim, also President of Mauritius and Dr. Habiba Bouhamed-Chaabouni, Professor and Chief Department, Medical School - Laboratory Of Human Genetics, Tunisia.

The session, which took place in the West Agora at Global Women’s Forum Dubai, was moderated by Dr. Robert Sebbag, Vice President Access to Medicines, Sanofi, France and explored how these two leading scientists manage their time, the turning points in their lives, their vision for the future, advice for young women starting out and the impact of religion in their careers.

HE Ameenah Gurib-Fakim, said: “If we empower women with science, they can make a big difference – for their families, for economies and societies. It’s important for young women to know that it is possible, it can be done. There can however be no cutbacks – hard work pays off and this is the model we need to put forward.”

Habiba Bouhamed-Chaabouni, said: “For young women to work in science, they need to be self-confident – with a passion for science, we can do anything. Science is important for humanity in general and can lead to several solutions for the whole population. If women are truly engaged in science, they can make a better use of it for the world.”

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About Global Women’s Forum Dubai
Bringing together male and female leaders from across the world, Global Women’s Forum Dubai will be held on 23-24 February 2016, at the Madinat Jumeirah in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Co-organised by the Women’s Forum for the Economy & Society and Dubai Women Establishment, Global Women’s Forum Dubai is the first Women’s Forum for the Economy & Society event in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region.

Global Women’s Forum Dubai will highlight the UAE and region’s achievements in improving gender balance, and provide a global platform for thought leaders and decision-makers to build networks, exchange ideas and share experiences, to enhance female engagement and participation. The event is expected to attract over 2,000 international and regional decision-makers, representing the business, government, academic, social and cultural sectors throughout the world.
Held under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Mohammad bin Rashid Al-Maktoum, UAE Vice President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates and Ruler of Dubai, and led by Her Highness Sheikha Manal bint Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, President of UAE Gender Balance Council, President of Dubai Women Establishment, Global Women’s Forum Dubai will showcase the capabilities of women from the Arab world on the global stage and their contribution to the region’s socio-economic growth, and help to change perceptions about Arab women. Global Women’s Forum Dubai will also support the UAE’s strategy to empower societies through women’s participation, in addition to Dubai’s vision to be recognised as a leading global events destination.

Building on the theme “Let’s Innovate!”, Global Women’s Forum Dubai will explore what innovation really means in today’s technology-focussed era. The event will address women’s sustainable role in this revolutionary world, with the aim of strengthening the influence of women globally, maximising their contribution to socio-economic development, and inspiring future generations of women to actively participate in nation-building. Global Women’s Forum Dubai will serve as a key platform, not only for advancing innovation, but also for highlighting the achievements and participation of Arab women in innovation. The programme will feature plenaries, interactive sessions and practical workshops under five pillars - Achieving, Creating, Giving, Energising, and Sustaining.

About Dubai Women Establishment
The Dubai Women Establishment (DWE) was formed in 2006 under law no. (24) by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum – UAE Vice President and Prime Minister, and Ruler of Dubai. DWE is headed by Her Highness Sheikha Manal Bint Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum – President of the UAE Gender Balance Council and wife of HH Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Presidential Affairs. As a statutory body of Dubai Government and as per its founding decree, the Establishment aims to encourage and facilitate the participation of Emirati women in the workforce and society.

Its mandate includes extensive research into identifying and quantifying the status of women in the workforce of Dubai, as well as initiatives towards women’s further development opportunities. Awareness and policies that are conducive to women in the workforce are recommended to the Dubai Government as solutions to enable women to play a greater role within the UAE and on a global scale. The term participation includes acknowledgment of women in arts, women in sports and women in leadership, professionally in their field as well as the societal arena, such as acts of philanthropy, humanitarianism and politics.

About the Women’s Forum for the Economy and Society
Since 2005 the Women’s Forum for the Economy & Society has been the world’s leading platform featuring women’s views and voices on major social and economic issues. Deploying the experience of both women and men – business leaders, researchers, politicians, entrepreneurs... – across all generations and geographies, our conferences feature broad, rich and edgy debates, acting as a sounding board for today’s important ideas and a springboard for tomorrow’s solutions. The practical discussions in our Discovery sessions typically focus not only on overcoming barriers but on creating new opportunities. The Women’s Forum also promotes the advancement of women though regional and international networks. In addition to the annual Women’s Forum Global Meeting in Deauville, France, important Women’s Forum meetings have taken place in Brazil, Myanmar, Italy and Brussels. The first Women’s Forum Mexico is scheduled for 27-28 April 2016 in Mexico City, with upcoming events planned for Tunisia and Mauritius. And the 12th edition of the Women’s Forum Global Meeting will take place 30 November-2 December 2016 in Deauville.

About FGB
As a major leading Bank in the UAE, FGB had Shareholder Equity of AED 35.9 Billion as of December 31st, 2015 making it one of the largest equity based Banks in the UAE. Established in 1979 and headquartered in Abu Dhabi, UAE, the Bank offers a full range of financial services to business and consumer sectors throughout an extensive
network of branches across the UAE. Internationally, FGB has branches in Singapore and Qatar, representative offices in India, Hong Kong, Seoul and London and a subsidiary in Libya.

FGB is recognised as a world-class organisation committed to maximising value for shareholders, customers and employees as it focuses on delivering banking products and services that meet client needs and support the UAE’s dynamic economy. In line with its commitment to excellence the Bank continues to invest significantly in people and technology to provide superior service standards.

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**Women’s Forum for the Economy and Society**

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