

## THE THIRD EDITION OF WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP FORUM - CONNECT NOW INDIA AT HITEX, HYDERABAD 2019

August 02, 2019: The 3rd edition of Women's Leadership Forum was held successfully at HITEX Hyderabad on August, 02, 2019 and was attended by both men and women from within and outside the exhibition industry. The event was organized by Indian Exhibition Industry Association (IEIA) in collaboration with the India Chapter of International Association of Exhibitions and Events (IAEE).

The objective of this initiative is to foster an environment of equal opportunities and inclusivity in the exhibition industry in India. To support this initiative more than 60 delegates marked their presence boosting the leadership spirit among the women professionals. The remarkable presence of male leaders from the industry who came forward to participate in this event with the spirit of learning from the experts and supporting this initiative, further added to the success of the event.

The 3rd edition proved to be an ideal platform to give a strong message to the community that, given a chance women can be equal partners for the building of a growth oriented corporate world, where in the organizations associated with this initiative exhibited their commitment to the building of an environment that promotes gender equity and diversity within their organizations.

Mr. KV Nagendra Prasad, President, IEIA & IAEE India Chapter, Mr. Satyendra Mehra, Group Director and Member of the Management Board at NürnbergMesse India Pvt. Ltd, Ms. Vanitha Datla, Vice Chairperson & Managing Director, ELICO Ltd, and Guest of Honor Ms. Sona Chatwani, Chairperson, FICCI FLO, Hyderabad Chapter inaugurated the event with lamp lighting ceremony.

In his special address, KV Nagendra Prasad, said, "This is a known fact that organizations where there is diversity and good amount of women leaders are more profitable. Diversity factor is very important and specially in event & exhibition industry, this factor plays a very important role we experience this ourselves at HITEX, we are close to 25-30% women staff in our company and we see this benefit accruing to us and specially the event & exhibition industry can do a lot more with more women leaders, they can come on board and climb up the ladder".

The event also witnessed address from Mr. Satyendra Mehra, Group Director and Member of the Management Board at NürnbergMesse India Pvt. Ltd. In his address he said, "It is our chance to make the difference and encourage the women heroes in our team to not shy away but come forward to shine, exhibiting their competence to the fullest" Mr. Mehra also represented and read out the message of Ms. Sonia Prashar, Chairperson of the Board, NuernbergMesse India and Dy. Director General, Indo German Chamber of Commerce, who is also the Chairperson- Women's Leadership Forum. He stated that Ms. Prashar is a live example and a great inspiration from the exhibition industry who shines out among all male leaders and in fact surpasses them when it comes to exhibiting the effective leadership traits. He mentioned that Ms. Prashar has built up an environment of equal opportunities and status for both men and women in their organisation which has immensely helped the organisation to grow.

The inaugurals session ended with the address by Guest of Honor Ms. Sona Chatwani, Chairperson, FICCI FLO, Hyderabad Chapter. In her address, she inspired women to reconnect, reboot and reinvent. Explaining further she said- "We should 'Reboot' yourself with technologies, business networking and capacity building. We should never shy away from learning. 'Reconnect' to our mind, body and soul for self-inner growth. 'Reinvent' yourself to recombine your skills, talents and experiences. More than just repackaging your background, exploring new skills set with a strategic eye on the emerging business models is even more important. Thinking out of the box and believing the brand 'YOU' is something which is an ongoing process".



Lamp Lighting



Special Address :  
Mr. K V Nagendra Prasad



Address : Mr. Satyendra Mehra



Address - Guest of Honor,  
Ms. Sona Chatwani



Group Activity

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Motivational talk by  
Ms. Vanitha Datla

The sessions started with the motivational talk by Ms. Vanitha Datla, Vice Chairperson & Managing Director, ELICO Ltd, on the topic - Journey towards Excellence. She shared “6 Leadership Ups” which includes ‘Show up’, ‘Speak up’, ‘Team up’, ‘Look up’, ‘Never give up’ and ‘Lift up’ and encouraged all women to utilize these 6 Ups in their professional and personal areas as these will certainly help them to evolve as women leaders and also bring about some changes in the community that will certainly benefit the next generation.



Keynote address by  
Ms. Reema Gupta

The next session was a Keynote address taken up by Ms. Reema Gupta, Co- Founder, Women's Excellence Initiative- ISB, Hyderabad, who discussed on the topic- Leadership Development. She focused on unconscious and conscious bias people faced at the workplace and how organizations need to flag these in order to have a transparent environment. She also emphasised on many factors such as social culture, individual competency, organizational structures, lack of role models & mentoring support and lack of access to domain/leadership training causing leadership gender gaps.

Post the Key Note address, a Networking ice breaker session was conducted by the Master of Ceremonies for the event- Mr. Romi Furtado, CEO, Prime Entertainers who created an environment of fun, creativity and laughter bringing the attendees to know about each other, network well and enjoy the programme.



Networking Ice Breaking Session

Followed by the Ice breaker session was another important address ‘Corporate & Mental Wellness for Effective Leadership’ by Dr. Savita Date Menon, Clinical & Wellness Specialist; Former Senior VP and Head R&D, ApolloLife. During the session she explained how well we can keep our lives healthy and manage work-life balance. Also she shared few tips for fighting depression as it has been noticed that people suffer mental pressure during workplace and they don't even realize they are actually in living in anxiety which hampers our progress and performance at work. She also highlighted the factors that lead to stressful lives while prompting the delegates to introspect what kind of leaders they are for their subordinates. Are they creating a fear factor in the minds of the ones reporting to them or are they the ones who uplift and empower their colleagues and subordinates by quoting that ‘Real leaders create more leaders than followers’.



Special Session:  
Dr. Savita Date Menon

The next session was an Interactive session on ‘Steering the Digital Growth’ conducted by Ms. Smaranika Das, Digital Specialist-Google. She brought out the statistics on how technology is influencing our lives today and how it can support our business growth if we use the technology in the appropriate manner. Ms. Das also shared insights about the latest technological developments brought up by Google.



Interactive Session:  
Ms. Smaranika Das

The presentations were then followed by two Power packed panel discussions – the first one being- ‘Navigating your way to success’ moderated by Ms. Sharon Neetal, General Manager-BD, Conferences & Events, HITEX with panellists Ms. Vishala V, Founder Director, Idensity; Ms. Varsha Bhargavi, Director, Concept Voyage Tours; Ms. Radhika Talwar, Founder Director, Vista Entertainment; Ms. Dipal Gala, Senior Journalist & Editor; Times Group; Ms Soudhamini, Director, Confederation of Women Entrepreneurs. The panellists of this session shared their experiences about how they overcame the challenges in their way to success, which were highly inspiring for the audience.



Panel Discussion

The second panel discussion- 'Leaders' Conclave' which witnessed Mr. KV Nagendra Prasad, President IEIA & IAEE India Chapter; Ms. Anitha Niranjan, MD, CIM Global & Advisory Committee member, WLF India and Mr. Satyendra Mehra, Group Director, NuernbergMesse India discussing about the ways to boost Women's Leadership in the exhibitions industry.

The event was sponsored by leading organizations including HITEX Hyderabad as Host & Venue Partner, R.E Rogers as Platinum Partner, Namdhari Events & Promotions Pvt Ltd as Supporting Partner while India ITME, Gautam Arts and Hi Secure Exhibition Services Pvt Ltd were the Associate Partners of the event.



Leaders' Conclave

The session ended with the vote of thanks by Ms. Nidhi Sharma, Executive Director, IEIA and Program Coordinator, Women's Leadership Forum who thanked the audience and dignitaries for their pro-active participation and support during the full day event, along with the Host team HITEX for their hospitality for the event.

The 4th edition of Women's Leadership Forum, 2019 will be held in Bengaluru.

[Contact us](#) to learn more about the Women's Leadership Forum or the Indian exhibition industry.



Felicitations

About IEIA:

Indian Exhibition Industry Association (IEIA) is the National body of the Exhibition Industry in India, representing all the segments including Organisers, Service Providers and Venue Owners, with around 220+ leading players as its members viz. India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO), Trade Promotion Council of India (TPCI), UBM India, Engineering Export Promotion Council (EEPC India), Messe Muenchen India, Reed International, Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH), Messe Frankfurt India, RMB, Expro Exhibitions & Events, NuernbergMesse India, ABEC, Indian Machine Tools Manufacturers' Association (IMTMA), India ITME Society, Hyderabad Intl. Trade Expositions (HITEX Exhibition Centre), Bangalore Intl. Exhibition Centre, Bombay Exhibition Centre, Helipad Exhibition Centre, Namdhari Exhibits, India Expo Mart Ltd., Mermaid, Medically, Violet Exhibitions, I- Ads, Virtual Trade Fairs, Versant, Jaipur Convention and Exhibition Centre, Messe Dusseldorf India, Hannover Milano Fairs, Kisan Forum, Indore Infoline, International Trade & Expositions (ITE), G.S. Marketing, Fairfest, Avens Expositions, PDA Trade Fairs, Winmark Exhibitions, TAFCON, FALCON and many others. The Association brings together all the stakeholders of the sector, so that there is a common platform available to the entire industry to consider ways and means for the sound and scientific development of various facets of the industry.



Mr. Romi Furtado, EMCEE engaging with the audience

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