

## WINNERS OF THE 2ND ANNUAL WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP ASIA AWARDS

**Kuala Lumpur, 17 February 2012** — The 2nd Annual Women in Leadership Asia Awards ceremony was held yesterday at the famous Royale Chulan Hotel, Kuala Lumpur Malaysia. Her Excellency Datin Paduka Seri Rosmah Mansor received Asia's Leading Woman in Charity Award, and distributed eight awards to Asia's most prominent and influential businesswomen.

The WIL Asia Award winners are:

- Shahnaz Husain - Asia's Leading Business Woman of the Year (India)
- Ming Ming Liu - Asia's Most Innovative Woman Entrepreneur (China)
- Datuk Dr Rebecca Fatima Sta Maria - Asia's Leading Woman in Public Sector (Malaysia)
- Khadijah Abdullah - Asia's Leading Woman in Finance & Investment (Malaysia)
- Tan Suet Guan - Asia's Leading Woman in Healthcare (Malaysia)
- ArunoshaBhanupan - Asia's Leading Woman in Media (Thailand)
- Dr JyotsnaSuri - Asia's Leading Woman in Hospitality (India)
- PepsiCo Asia Pacific Region - Asia's Most Women-Friendly Employer (Hong Kong)

The ceremony ended with a gala dinner, where all the winners and the attendees celebrated the progress of businesswomen in Asia and their unique determination and goal-setting approach which led them to the highest level of their career paths.

Day two of the forum, started off with a welcome remark by Chairperson Laura Hwang, the President of Singapore Council of Women's Organisations. She welcomed all the attendees and the speakers of the day.

One of the most influential panel discussions was "Womenomics and the value of women in corporate world". Participating in this discussion were: Shireen Ann ZaharahMuhideen, Dr Jannie Chan, Yen Dang and Christina Pantin.

Founder, Managing Director and Principal Fund manager of Cortson-Smith Asset Management, Shireen Ann ZaharahMuhideen explored the ever changing role of women in today's economy. She explained that women's role in society is very crucial, "when looking at share prices of companies, research has shown that globally, companies that have more women directors, management and or CEO's all result in better performance". She stated that "Columbia University did a study which found that there is a 3 per cent increase in the market to book ratio for every one woman manager on the executive team".

Supporting Shireen's point of view is the Executive Vice Chairman of The Hour Glass, Dr Jannie Chan. She elaborated on the higher trend growth of organisations confirming that there was an increase of "senior females leaders at companies in Singapore in the last 3-5 years". She described the women's role in training staff stating "women are being responsive to customers, they add a human touch".

Ending the discussion was Chairwoman and Chief Executive Officer of Tan Tao Group, Yen Dang. She mainly focused on the needs and wants of women and on the ways to retain female talent. Yen Dang believes that "in general, female qualities are associated with spirituality, education, communication, and tone of voice". She explained that there are several advantages of having a woman in a company compared to men, "women are more customer-focused than men, and they are also more concerned with carrying out environmentally responsible practices than men". Yen Dang also supported her arguments by confirming that "in schools and colleges, it is an undeniable fact that girls tend to score higher grades than boys". To conclude the discussion, she mentions the five key elements that ensure success: "education, quality daycare, equal pay, better representation in government, and having a good connection with other businesswomen".

The second day of the forum left the attendees and speakers inspired to take action and be more involved and determined in their daily lives. As promised, the 2nd Annual Women in Leadership Asia Forum "innovated, inspired, and influenced" businesswomen across Asia and offered them two days of exceptional discussions, celebration, and networking opportunities.

#### Enquiries

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