



## Forbes Middle East Honors Most Influential Women Leaders In The Region

Forbes Middle East holds a glittering gala dinner to celebrate and honor high-achieving women leaders in the Middle East.

**F**orbes Middle East recently held a gala dinner to unveil the list of the Middle East's Most Influential Women for the year 2018. During the event held in Dubai, Forbes recognized women who are frontrunners in business and at various levels across the public sector organizations.

Khuloud Al Omian, Editor-in-Chief of Forbes Middle East said, "The region is undergoing a paradigm shift with women-led businesses dominating major sectors. Countries like the U.A.E. and Saudi Arabia have showcased most gender diverse cabinets and the landscape is ever evolving."

The list features 100 female executives and businesswomen and 10 women heading government departments. For the very first time, the annual list has included successful expat female leaders who have scaled heights in their careers.

Lubna Al Olayan, CEO, Olayan Financing leads the Middle East's most influential list. Lubna is followed by Raja Easa Al Gurg, Managing Director, Easa Saleh Al Gurg Group and Renuka Jagtiani, CEO Landmark Group

Amongst the women heading government department Noura bint Mohammed Al Kaabi, Minister; Chair Ministry of Culture and Knowledge Development; Media Zone Authority- Abu Dhabi and twofour54 leads the list. Noura is followed by Sarah Al Suhaimi Chair; CEO, Tadawul; NCBC and Lobna Helal, Deputy Governor, Central bank of Egypt.

Today, women are influencing policies and are emerging as powerful figures in business across the GCC. Meanwhile the next generation of female trailblazers too are following in the footsteps of their predecessors and making their mark on the future of the Arab world.

Today, women have advanced across industries breaking the proverbial glass ceiling and many are leading sectors ranging from oil and gas, banking, automobiles and fintech among others. Female university graduates outnumber the male graduates in the region, bucking a global trend.

To formulate this ranking of the most influential businesswomen, the team considered revenues of the companies these women lead, their title, scope and impact of their role. We have also taken into consideration their work experience and the performance of their firm, and other initiatives that they have led in the last three years.

The most influential women heading government departments were evaluated based on the GDP of their respective countries and scope of their departments.

The invitation-only evening was held at Roda Al Murooj and was attended by over 200 guests. The event was hosted in partnership with VPS, Ajmal Perfume, Malabar Gold & Jewelry, Petrochem, Danube Properties, Roda Al Murooj Downtown, and AYM (Bin Dawood & Danube).



Shafeena Yusuff Ali, CEO of Tablez Food Company



Donna Benton, Founder and Chairman of The Entertainer



Anna Milton, Cluster Sales Manager & Nael Elwaary, Cluster General Manager, Roda Hotels & Resorts



Zulikha Daoud receiving the award on behalf of Zanubia Shams the Co-Chairperson of Zulekha Healthcare Group



Juliet Arndt, One-Woman mind reader



Nadia Cheaib, Founder, CEO of Clingroup Holding



Cynthia Corby, Partner Audit & Assurance of Deloitte



Randa Bessiso, Founding Director, Middle East of Manchester Business School, University of Manchester



Her Excellency Majida Ali Rashid, Assistant Director General, Head of the Real Estate Investment Management and Promotion Centre





Sana Khater, CFO of Waha Capital



Iman Mutlaq, Founder and CEO of Sigma Investments



Kritika Rawat, Co-Founder of K Kompany



Muna Al Hashemi, Group Deputy CEO of Batelco



Randa El Assaad, CEO of Arif & Bintok Consulting Architects and Engineers



Leila Hoteit, Managing Director & Partner of Boston Consulting Group





Noha El Ghazaly, Managing Director and Head of Investment Banking of Pharos Holding



Céline Brémaud, Vice President of Microsoft Middle East and Africa



Alida Scholtz, CEO - Middle East of G4S Security Services



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