

Ro'Ya top twelve finalists selected

November-2014

DBWC and MasterCard announces top twelve out of 70 applicants ahead of the Gala Dinner on 18 November

Dubai, UAE, 05 November 2014 – The Dubai Business Women Council (DBWC) and Mastercard, creators of the Ro'Ya initiative, today announced the twelve finalists who will be competing against each other for the first prize at the Gala Dinner on 18 November. The program, which will see the winner walking away with a grand prize of \$50,000, was launched in the beginning of the year to encourage women to realize their business potential and to contribute to the economic sector by embarking on new business ventures.

Following the workshops that took place over the last six months, participants had the opportunity to resubmit their reworked business plans on 16 October. The judges then had the vigorous task of carefully evaluating each participant's business plan resulting in the following candidates being chosen as the twelve finalists: Alexis Martin, Amira Awwad, Bernadette Abraham, Consuelo Escudero, Farriz Fakhani Mashudi, Inken Lasar, Isabelle Millasseau, Lucille A. Ong, Manju Choudhary, Mona Tavassoli, Nadia Wehbe and Yin Yee Chan.

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Winners of Ro'Ya Announced at Grand Gala and Awards Ceremony



Dubai, UAE, November 19, 2014 – The winners of Ro'Ya, an initiative set up by the Dubai Business Women Council (DBWC) and MasterCard to promote female entrepreneurship, were yesterday announced during a Gala event held at the Waldorf Astoria, Palm Jumeirah. During the event, three shortlisted finalists presented their ideas to a panel of judges for their chance to win the top prize of USD 50,000 to be used towards the business. Nadia Wehbe emerged as the eventual winner for Baby Arabia – a business that aims to address Dubai's multi-cultural society to offer creative language programs that encourages learning from a young age of eight months to six years.

Isabelle Millasseau came in at second place for Foot Up, and Alexis Martin took the third prize for Petit Gourmet. As part of the program, all three winners will continue to receive coaching and mentorship from MasterCard as they work towards getting their businesses off the ground.

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November Network Majlis looks at Financial Analysis as key element for business survival

Genesis Institute refines the concept of finance, its jargons and importance in today's business world

Dubai, UAE, 25 November 2014 -The Dubai Business Women Council (DBWC), the official representative organization for business women, both professionals and entrepreneurs, in the Emirate of Dubai, hosted its November Network Majlis at the Dubai Chamber of Commerce and Industry under the theme “Demystifying the Numbers”. The session was hosted by Binod Shankar, FCA, CFA and Managing Director of Genesis Institute.

“We are very fortunate to host today’s session on financial analysis as so many entrepreneurs and managers tend to ignore the importance of having a solid financial understanding” said Mrs. Raja Al Gurg, President of DBWC. “Many existing and aspiring entrepreneurs don’t have the adequate education on finance which can be highly detrimental to a business and even one’s person life. With today’s session we covered all those “hidden numbers” we are not aware of and gave our members the insight into financial analysis, enabling them to improve their financial structures, self-knowledge and how to run an even more successful business.”

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Ro'Ya takes home Start-Up Programme of the Year Award at the annual Arabian Business Start-Up Awards

Dubai, UAE, 27 November 2014 - Ro'Ya, a collaboration between DBWC and MasterCard, last night received the award for Start-Up Programme of the Year Award at the annual Arabian Business Start-Up Awards. The initiative, which was launched in January 2014, builds on the efforts of both organizations to mobilize and encourage women to participate in the economic sector by realizing their entrepreneurial ventures. The aim of the program is to provide coaching and mentorship to aspiring female entrepreneurs looking to establish new businesses.

"We are extremely proud and honored to have won the Start-Up Programme of the Year Award as Ro'Ya has helped so many entrepreneurs succeed throughout this year," said Mrs. Raja Al Gurg, President of DBWC. "This was Ro'Ya's first year and we couldn't have been more pleased with the fantastic outcome. We look forward to launching Ro'Ya 2015 and to further contribute to all female entrepreneurs who wish to actively pursue their dreams. We are extremely thankful for this award and hope to continue on this path in the future."

"We are thrilled by the success of Ro'Ya in its first year," says Eyad Al Kurdi, Country Head – UAE, MasterCard. "Nurturing and supporting women is very close to our hearts because we recognize that the success of women will inevitably result in economic success for everyone. We look forward to growing Ro'Ya to greater heights next year and in the future."

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Global Thinkers Forum 2014 awards fifteen Arab women as changemakers and leaders

In partnership with Dubai Business Women Council, Gala evening attracts leaders and representatives from businesses, governments and civil society

Dubai, UAE, 30 November 2014 – The Global Thinkers Forum 2014 Awards (GTF 2014) was held on Friday night (28 November 2014) at Mina A'Salam at Madinat Jumeirah during which the leading Arab women in the region were awarded for their contribution as leaders and towards change. In partnership with the Dubai Business Women Council (DBWC), the evening aimed at celebrating excellence which awarded fifteen outstanding contributors for their respective expertise.

The Awards Gala, which was hosted by Becky Anderson, CNN's high profile anchor, was attended by local, regional and international CEOs, investors, entrepreneurs and DBWC partners and mentors, in addition to a number of media representatives.

The GTF 2014 Awards Ceremony's honorees were nominated by the GTF Board of Advisors who select leaders with a proven track record of excellence in life, ethical thinking and actions. Global Thinkers Forum 2014 Awards of Excellence were presented to:

1. Excellence in Global Thinking (H.E. Sheikha Lubna bint Khalid bin Sultan Al Qasimi)
2. Excellence in Leadership (H.E. Raja Al Gurg)
3. Excellence in Gender Equality (Dr Rafia Ghubash)
4. Excellence in Science (Dr Ismahane Elouafi)
5. Excellence in Media (Muna AbuSulayman)
6. Excellence in Positive Change (HRH Princess Sumaya bint El Hassan)
7. Excellence in Life (Haifa Al Kaylani)
8. Excellence in Public Office (Zineb El Adaoui)
9. Excellence in Philanthropy (Dr Atallah Kuttub & Ebba Augustin)
10. Excellence in Cultural Creativity (Hayv Kahraman)
11. Excellence in Innovation (HE Noura Al Kaabi)
12. Excellence in Pioneering (Raha Moharrak)
13. Excellence in Education (EDRAAK)
14. Excellence in Cultural Understanding (HE Sheikha Mayassa Al Thani)
15. Excellence in Business (Dr Shaikha Al Maskari)

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