

From Partnership to Prosperity: Women in the Arab World, France and the International Community

Paris France 3 – 5 March 2009

Guest Speakers



Sheikha Hanadi Nasser Bin Khaled Al Thani
Founder & Chairperson Amwal, CEO Al Waab City Real Estate Development Project , Deputy CEO of Nasser Bin Khaled Al Thani & Sons Group

Sheikha Hanadi holds a Master's degree in Economics from the University of London, and a Bachelor's degree in Economics from Qatar University.

Sheikha Hanadi started her career as a lecturing assistant in the Economics Department of Qatar University.

In 1998 she founded Qatar Ladies Investment Company (now rebranded Amwal), the first investment company to receive a licence from the Qatar Central Bank to conduct Investment Banking, Asset Management and Wealth Management in Qatar.

In 2005, she founded Al Waab City, a development of over 1.2 million square metres, with an initial cost of USD 1.8 billion. Al Waab City is a fully integrated community that offers residential, retail and commercial space surrounding a spacious urban piazza offering restaurants, retail outlets and entertainment facilities.

She is a fervent supporter of community activities and serves as trustee on the Board of the Arab Women's International Forum and the College of Business and Economics at Qatar University. She is a member of the Advisory Board of The Arab Business Angels Network (ABAN), she is also a founding member of Qatar National Competitiveness Council; she is the Chairperson of "INJAZ Qatar" and Board Member of "INJAZ Al Arab" the regional arm of "Junior Achievement Worldwide".

Sheikha Hanadi was named Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum in 2005 and voted as personality of the year by Arraya, Qatar's leading newspaper, for her vision and contribution to the economy. She was named Woman CEO of the Year by the Middle CEO Awards Institute in 2006, for her significant contribution in development Qatar's economic and social presence in the Arab world; she was selected by Arabian business magazine to be one of the 100 world's most influential Arabs for the year 2007; she was also named the economic personality of the year 2007 by Qatar Chamber of Commerce and Business Council; Sheikha Hanadi was voted, by the Financial Times in 2008, among the top 20 global banking and finance women role models and in 2008, she received the 'Businesswoman of the Year' Award by ITP Publishing Group. Leveraging on her experience, she conducted and published several research papers on macro-economic issues in the GCC.

Guest Speakers



Mrs. Sonia Khandji Cachecho
Board Member, Damascus Chamber of Commerce, Syria

With a DEA in Economics, Mrs. Cachecho studied at the USJ, Saint Joseph University in Beirut and got her Diploma from Lyon Academy in France.

Fluent in three languages, she speaks Arabic, French and English.

Mrs. Cachecho used her knowledge in economics to establish the Economical cycle and taught economics for 15 years at Charles de Gaulles Institute Damascus .

An active Business Women , she is currently the General Manager of Wella Professional (Procter & Gamble) Syria and her Company is part of MATANA Plant for mix concrete (Construction), Khandji Trading Imp & Exp Co. She is the founder of a healthy food plant run by three businesswomen. She was the first businesswoman at the Damascus Chamber of Commerce and nominated for the current mandate from 2008 to 2012. Mrs Cachecho was also elected President of the Businesswomen committee at the Damascus Chamber of Commerce.

Mrs Cachecho is involved in a host of organisations, including the following:

- Founding member of the Industrial Business Women Committee in Damascus ,
- Was nominated as a Board member of the Damascus Chamber of Commerce for the session 2005 – 2008
- Member of the committee for the elaboration of National Strategy for a sustainable National Development.
- President of the Syrian francophone (French speaking) group of Women.
- President of the Business Women Committee of the Damascus Chamber commerce.

Over the last few years, Mrs Cachecho has given many addresses and presentations, including:

- Participated in the first Euro Arab Business women meeting May 2005 in Granada as the head of the Syrian Business Women Group with a presentation on the situation of Syrian women.
- She participated in Nov 2005 in the “ Euromed Women’s Conference Barcelona +10 “in Spain.
- She participated in the Roundtable organized by the World Bank on the role of women in the development of the private Sector (Mena Region) as participant in Washington Feb 2006.
- Participation in the Business Women Forum as a speaker representing the Syrian Delegation in Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia), and obtained the award of the” Most outstanding Business Woman” on the occasion of the 2nd Businesswomen Forum in the Islamic countries in December 2006.

Guest Speakers



Ms Holly Taylor Sargent
Founding Director, Women's Leadership Board

Holly Taylor Sargent is the Founding Director of Harvard's Women's Leadership Board and is the Chief Strategist and Advisor for external relations to the Rhodes Trust of Oxford University. She has also founded her own consulting firm, which provides creative and entrepreneurial ideas to non-profit organizations and individual philanthropists.

For nearly eighteen years she served in senior posts at Harvard. For fifteen years Ms Sargent served as Senior Associate Dean for Strategy and External Relations at Harvard's John F. Kennedy, Kennedy School of Government. In that role she was responsible for all relationships between the Kennedy School and its major external constituencies: alumni, the Harvard community, volunteer committees, friends, donors, and the general public. She was responsible for building the Alumni affairs programs and establishing an effective fundraising strategy for the institution. Under her leadership, the School's development team raised over \$300 million for the Kennedy School. After serving for 15 years at KSG, Dean Sargent was promoted to be Senior Associate Dean for Advancement and Senior Director for women's initiatives for the entire University. In this capacity she created several university wide fellowships and was responsible for expanding support for programs related to women.

In addition to her successful fundraising career, Holly Taylor Sargent has been instrumental in launching and supporting institutions supporting women. In addition to developing the Women's Leadership Board at Harvard, Sargent was the Founding Director of The Council of Women World Leaders, the organization of female leaders of state and government. She also served on the Women Leaders Initiative of the World Economic Forum.

Prior to coming to the Kennedy School, Holly Taylor Sargent specialized in fundraising for arts and cultural institutions. She served as Director of Development for the Houston Symphony Orchestra during the mid-late 1980s. Despite this challenge, she successfully built and enhanced a development program for the orchestra that stabilized its financial base, developed a model corporate campaign, and planned and implemented the advance stages of a \$40 million capital campaign. Simultaneously, the Houston Symphony attracted the internationally renowned Maestro Christoph Eschenbach as its conductor. Her other development responsibilities have included positions with the Boar's Head Theatre in Lansing, Michigan, a nationally-recognized regional theater, and with the Harvard-Radcliffe Fund.

A frequent and dynamic speaker and workshop leader, Ms Sargent has delivered presentations, workshops, and programs at women's conference and to non-profit associations, among them Vital Voices, the American Symphony Orchestra League, John Brown, Ltd., the Harvard-MIT-Stanford All Ivy Conference, the National Society of Fund Raising Executives, and the Red Cross. Sargent graduated from Harvard College in 1978 with a major in Government, and has done graduate work in Political Science at Rice University.

Holly Taylor Sargent is an advisory board member of Maine Bank & Trust, a board member of Right To Play, and is on the international advisory board for the Cherie Blair Women's Foundation. Sargent also serves as board member and vice chair of the development committee for the Gulf of Maine Research Institute.

Guest Speakers



Dr Jean-François Minster
Senior Vice President Scientific Development, Total

In 1973, Dr Jean-François Minster graduated as an Engineer from the Ecole Polytechnique and in 1979 he obtained a doctorate, Docteur d'Etat-ès-Sciences Physiques. Institut de Physique du Globe de Paris (Geochemistry and Cosmochemistry Laboratory). From 1980 to 1981 he studied for a post-doctorate fellowship in Physical Oceanography from the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences MIT (USA). In 1981: Creation and Direction of Physics and Chemistry of Hydrosphere Laboratory (Paris) Summer 1982: Invited Scientist at Lamont-Doherty Geological Observatory of Columbia University (USA). 1985-1996: Creation and direction of Geophysics and Oceanography Laboratory (Toulouse), July 1986: Visiting scholar, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (USA), 1990-1996: Director of Institut of Earth Sciences, University Paul Sabatier (Toulouse) 1996-2000: Director of Institut National des Sciences de l'Univers (INSU) and Département des Sciences de l'Univers of CNRS.

Dr Minster was the Director of a 60-person laboratory for 11 years; the Director of a 130-person Institute for 6 years; the Director of a 7000-person Department for 3,5 years (INSU); Chairman and Chief executive officer of a 2000-person Institute during 5 years (Ifremer) General Science Manager of 31,000-person organisation for 1 year (CNRS) and has served on numerous National and International Science committees.

In the course of his career, Dr Minster has earned the following distinctions:

"John Davis Budhue" fund of the Meteorological Society, 1976
Clarke Medal of the American Geochemical Society, 1982
Member of Academia Europea since 1988
"Group Achievement Award" of NASA, 1993, 1994
Médaille d'Argent du CNRS, 1993
Prix du Général Muteau, Académie des Sciences, Institut de France, 1994
Chevalier dans l'Ordre National du Mérite, 1995
Grand Prix de l'Académie de l'Air et de l'Espace, 1996
Correspondant of Académie des Sciences since 1997
Fridjof Nansen Medal of European Geophysical Society, 1998
William T. Pecora Prize (NASA) for Topex-Poséidon, 1998
Prize Dargelos of Ecole Polytechnique, 1999
Member of Académie des Technologies since 2000
Légion d'Honneur, 2003