



GCC News

Edition 2, September 2016

Welcome to our Newsletter!

Welcome to the second edition of the quarterly newsletter of 30% Club GCC. We hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable summer shared with family and friends.

Each edition of our newsletter will feature highlights of the Chapter's activities as well as offer insights into behind-the-scene happenings. For questions or suggestions about our newsletter, please contact us at pb30clubgcc@zoho.com.

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Volunteers

There has been a focus on volunteers over the summer with Farah Foustok, CEO of Lazard Gulf Limited and Co-founder of the 30% Club GCC hosting a meeting for those eager to help. Over thirty people expressed an interest in volunteering with ten being allocated to working groups. People interested to support the 30% Club GCC are encouraged to contact Fiona Mcclafferty at fmclafferty@deloitte.com.

Member firms

Stemming from the belief that having women on boards and in senior positions is good for business, the number of regional and multinational firms that have voluntarily come on board to support the purpose of the 30% Club GCC has exceeded 70.

Bloomberg and 30% Club GCC Breakfast event

Join us for the Bloomberg and 30% Club GCC Breakfast event on September 25, featuring Peter Grauer, Chairman of Bloomberg, HE Sheikha Hanadi Al Thani, Deputy Chief Executive Officer of Nasser Bin Khaled Al Thani Holding and Badr Jafar CEO of Crescent Enterprises & Founder of Pearl Initiative. Full details are in the What's on section.

Highlights

The call for change

The importance of women in leadership within the UAE was discussed with a number of key decision makers at an event held by Grant Thornton UAE in collaboration with the 30% Club GCC. The Iftar event took place in Dubai on 22 June, during which the results of Grant Thornton's regional survey on women's leadership were announced. Grant Thornton's report provides a number of recommendations for businesses, women and government, including attracting, retaining and developing women along with conferring the needs to introduce flexible working policies as part of the labour law. You can access the full report [here](#).

30% Club global meeting

A meeting of the International Chapters of the 30% Club took place on the 23 June at the offices of Reed Smith in London. It was chaired by Brenda Trenowden in her role as 30% Club Global Chair.

Representatives from seven countries attended in person, including Farah Foustok, CEO of Lazard Gulf Limited and Co-founder of the 30% Club GCC. The 30% Club is increasingly a brand recognised across the globe. Consolidated documentation is now available to help international chapters maintain a familiar look and feel.

The 30% Club GCC report produced in conjunction with Deloitte 'View from the top: what business executives really think about women leaders in the GCC' was well received. **Representatives are interested any follow up work.**

Baroness Mary Goudie, a Labour peer sitting in the House of Lords in the UK spoke at the meeting. She stressed the importance of working with government to help increase female board representation - she made the point that this was not about board quotas but providing a good environment for women to thrive.

View from the top

There is no doubt that significant social and economic changes have played a role in supporting women's workforce participation in the GCC in the past few decades. Increased focus on quality education and government initiatives supporting women's inclusion in senior roles have contributed significantly, especially within the public sector.

While the overall legislative environment and country leaderships are enabling an environment supportive of women advancement to the top, be it public or private sector, we still see very low **reprobation** of women in GCC on both board and in C-level roles.

The 30% Club GCC report produced in conjunction with Deloitte 'View from the top: what business executives really think about women leaders in the GCC' sheds light on why having women on boards is still not a priority for the GCC business sector. Download the report [here](#).

Highlights

Board initiatives

Special places will be made available for candidates from 30% Club GCC Member Firms. Please mention 30% Club GCC in the application process to be eligible.

Hawkamah, the Institute for Corporate Governance

Special places now available at Hawkamah's *Director Development Programme*

The next *Director Development Programme* dates in Dubai are:
September, 26-29 and October, 10-13, 2016.

For more information, please visit www.hawkamah.org or call on +971 4 362 2616.

BDI, GCC Board Directors Institute

Special places now available at GCC BDI's *Foundations of Directorship* and *Mastering the Boardroom* workshops.

Saudi Arabia, Riyadh • September, 28-29, 2016

Oman, Muscat • October, 17-18, 2016

UAE, Abu Dhabi • November, 7-8 & 9-10, 2016

Bahrain, Manama • December, 5-6 & 7-8, 2016

For more information, please visit www.gccbdi.org or call on +971 4 554 7967.

Executive education

Seats are now open for open for 30% Club GCC candidates.
Please mention 30% Club GCC in the application process to be eligible.

ESMT, European School of Management and Technology

Seats now available at ESMT's *Executive Transition Programme*.

For more information, please visit www.esmt.org/etp.

LinkS@Wharton

Seats now available at *Governing Global Strategies* executive programme.
(Washington • October, 30 to November, 4, 2016)

For more information, please visit www.esmt.org/etp or contact the Education Working Group at farah.foustok@lazard.com.

What's on

Bloomberg and 30% Club GCC Breakfast event

Sunday, September 25, 2016

9:00 AM - 10:30 AM

Bloomberg Dubai Office

DIFC

Al Fattan Currency House Level 10

Dubai, UAE

Please register at 30percent@bloomberg.net

Brunswick and 30% Club GCC Women in Leadership Breakfast event

Wednesday, October 12, 2016

8:30 AM - 10:30 AM

Capital Club

DIFC

Al Fattan Currency House Level 10

Dubai, UAE

Please register at gulfevents@brunswickgroup.com