

## **PRESS STATEMENT**

### **“WOMEN OF THE WORLD: BE THE CHANGE”**

**Iclif CEO jointly with Leadwomen CEO combine their strengths in**

**“Decoding Great Leadership Skills and Energy in Women”**

The Iclif Leadership and Governance Centre (Iclif), in collaboration with LeadWomen, is organising a 3 day program in India focused on honing leadership skills in women.

The “Women of The World: Be The Change” initiative aims to steer upcoming women leaders in navigating the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, to be the change and inspiration to other women in leading, and not just be content with living a life.

Targeted for senior executive women in the region, the program provides an opportunity for participants to step away from their usual environment and have a more in-depth conversation with other strong-minded women to contemplate, discuss their experiences, leadership challenges and successes.

This pilot collaboration between Iclif and LeadWomen would combine the leadership centre’s strong Asian insights and global perspectives with the women empowerment organisation’s deep understanding of what it takes for a woman to be a leader.

To be held in New Delhi, a city that has been making front page news on international media for its gender equality issues, the program would take advantage of the rich history, contrasting diversity and dynamic business landscape of India. Rather than relying exclusively on classroom style instructions, participants will learn by engaging and interacting with successful Indian business people, organisations and society.

Iclif CEO Rajeev Peshawaria says great leadership in the 21st century is more critical than ever before. In this century of booming population, unprecedented technological innovation and environmental and social pressures, great leadership is essential to ensure a sustainable, positive, aspirational future for every one of us.

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“At Iclif, we know leadership can feel complex and challenging. The journey is filled with slings and arrows. But in 2017, we believe that to be truly effective, leaders must be able to have single-minded determination and be willing to make bold decision to take their organisation to the next level. In order to earn the right to influence and be followed, leaders must have humble confidence and deep compassion,” says Rajeev.

He shares that “Leaders need to have long-lasting energy to see their vision through to completion, to dare to be different, and to be undaunted to pursue unconventional ideas. Top-down leadership might be critical to success, but leaders must exhibit the courage, momentum and stamina to give their leadership gravitas, and give their employees the confidence to follow them on the journey.”

“I look forward to learn from and listen to the life experiences of the formidable speakers that we have assembled for this programme. They will be sharing with participants how they have overcome the obstacles to be where they are today, decode great leadership skills and recognise the forces shaping the 21st century” “At the end of the day, leadership is the art of harnessing human energy – men and women - towards the creation of a better world,” Rajeev adds.

LeadWomen, an organisation focused on the empowerment of women as leaders and role models, brings its understanding, experience and expertise from this perspective to the programme. The organisation has, on many occasions partnered with Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development Malaysia, the Commonwealth UK and other bodies to advocate for women empowerment. This includes to prepare women for board and senior leadership positions and provide platforms for women to network with peers and experts.

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Leadwomen CEO Anne Abraham, who has conducted multiple cohorts of women directorship and leadership programmes for pools of high calibre women, envisions that from this immersive leadership experience, energetic and exceptional women leaders will emerge.

“This is a deliberate and specific programme that holds high promise of bringing out the true authentic qualities of a woman leader. It is essential that we harness the talent and energy of women in Malaysia, by giving them equal opportunities in the leadership space if we want to achieve our vision of becoming a high-income, high productivity economy in the next few years.”

“This is a strategic business issue and not a women’s issue,” Anne adds.

The Human Resources Development Fund (HRDF), an agency under the Ministry of Human Resources Ministry, is also in full support of the programme.

HRDF Director (Grant) M. Za’ba Mohamad Zaham said the agency applauded Iclif and LeadWomen’s initiative to give Malaysian senior and aspiring women leaders the opportunity to unleash their potentials and network with their peers through this international exposure.

“We are proud that the Malaysian women’s contribution to the national economic growth is ahead in ASEAN compared with Japan, Singapore and Hong Kong,” he added.

In line with the Government’s aspiration to have 30 per cent of Malaysian women in decision-making positions on companies’ boards, and HRDF’s mission to spearhead the human capital development through strategic interventions, the agency has agreed that the “Women of The World: Be The Change” programme is 100 per cent HRDF claimable.

Employers registered with HRDF can submit their application for the training grant for this programme to apply for financial assistance including for the programme fee, airfare and overseas allowance.

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The “Women of The World: Be The Change” programme will be held from 1 March to 3 March 2017. The city provides the ideal venue for the immersion experience with the guidance of Iclif Adjunct Professor Dr Kiran Bedi, who is the Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry in South India.

As being a leader is not just about leading but also giving back to society, participants will also be visiting slum areas of Delhi to “be in the moment” of the lives of some of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable people in the world.

Using a mix of interactive classroom sessions, practical experiences and dialogues with leaders including Dr Kiran, who is an inspirational activist, this programme will be “personally moving”.

While it focuses in Malaysia, the programme also hopes to attract participants from neighbouring countries such as Singapore, Indonesia and Thailand. While certain countries have shown greater progress in the empowerment of women than others, it remains a universal issue.

For more information details, visit <http://www.lead-women.com/iclif-leadwomenprogram/>

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### **About Iclif**

The Iclif Leadership and Governance Centre is an Asia-based international centre dedicated to executive education, research, coaching and advisory services in the areas of leadership development and corporate governance.

Iclif was created and funded by Bank Negara Malaysia (The Central Bank of Malaysia) in 2003 as an independent non-profit organisation with the aim of providing highly practical, relevant executive development and advisory services in Malaysia and globally across all industry and government sectors.

As the only organisation in the region that focuses on both leadership and corporate governance, Iclif delivers holistic and sustainable solutions to its clients.

Iclif's international faculty members bring a wealth of knowledge and experience from elite academic institutions and Fortune 500 companies. They are passionate about Asia, based in Asia, and conduct applied research in the Asian context.

To know more, visit [www.iclif.org](http://www.iclif.org)

### **About Lead Women**

LeadWomen is committed to supporting women's career goals and aspirations by providing a platform that empowers them to grow and develop continuously as great leaders and role models for the next generation. LeadWomen's role includes:

- Transforming the board recruitment process by bringing together potential women candidates and corporations and facilitating placement of capable women into senior leadership and board positions of private, non-profit and public-listed organizations
- Organise leadership development workshops for its members. This interactive forum allows members to connect with peers and the experts to discuss topics concerning business or board.
- Hold quarterly networking events for members to raise their industry profile, be the first to know the latest updates and find new business opportunities

### **About HRDF**

The Human Resources Development Fund (HRDF) is a dynamic organisation under the Human Resources Ministry that was established in 1993.

Governed by the Pembangunan Sumber Manusia Bhd Act 2001 (PSMB Act 2001), HRDF was given a mandate by the Malaysian Government to catalyse the development of competent local workforce that will contribute to Malaysia's vision of becoming a high-income economy.

Since its inception, HRDF has evolved in its role from managing a sizeable fund to becoming a one-stop-centre for providing novel HRD solutions to the critical mass of Malaysian small medium enterprises.

The custodian and authoritative institution is well positioned to offer robust and prudent solutions that will help Malaysia move up in rank on the Global Competitiveness Index by enhancing regional and global competitiveness and create an effective and efficient Malaysian labour market that will help propel the country towards a high income nation by Year 2020.