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Women's Business and Leadership Summit 2019
“WOMEN@WORK: ACT IN A DIGITAL WORLD”
August 30, 2019
Dusit Thani, Manila

CLOSING REMARKS

Mrs. Monette Iturralde-Hamlin

President, Women's Business Council Philippines

Good afternoon, everyone. We've come to the end of the Women's Business and Leadership 2019 with the theme “Women@Work: ACT in a Digital World.”

Special shoutout to the big contingents from BCDA, Clark Development Corporation, TESDA, DTI, DFA, DOLE, BDO, Department of Transportation, CITEM, DTI, BOI, Mansmith and Fielders, Capital One, Onde Touch Communications, Inc., IESE, PLDT Global, Catapult Digital, Towns Foundation, Fluor Daniel and Ube Media. Thank you for your support!

On behalf of my colleagues and more than 300 Summit participants, allow me to recap some of today's discussions. We covered various topics regarding digital transformation, as we create, capture, or deliver value through it.

1. The first panel helped us realize that understanding customer needs is at the core of digital transformation. Using case examples, our speakers highlighted the importance of customer data and how big companies like Google continuously find ways to improve their products and services through their customers' experience.
2. The second panel discussed how digital is a key enabler for rapid start-up and scaling up through digital, and for some, is even the competitive advantage. Doing business online is also easier nowadays with several companies now like QuadX to enable companies to do business online faster and simpler for retailers and for customers. The speakers were able to convey the exact definition of a start-up, as well as the qualities they look for before investing, including an addressable market, ambition, the right to play and right to win, and authenticity of the founders. They even touched on the matter of gendered working environments, which was most certainly empowering.
3. Our keynote speaker, Kristine Romano of McKinsey & Company, focused on the roadmap of success in digital transformation and leadership in the digital age. She discussed how things are moving quickly, that technology is one of the biggest enablers, that companies must do their best to own the relationship with the female customer, and finally, as a woman employee, we should prepare for the future of work.



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4. The third panel talked about fintech and how it is something that Filipinos already use in their day-to-day lives without realizing it. The first two waves of fintech were mentioned and we are slowly approaching the third wave, which is doing everything in a single app. This is something that the Philippines is currently keeping up with, because Filipinos are eager and ready for fintech solutions.
5. The fourth panel centered on using digital to deliver value through digital tools and applications. The clear difference between digital transformation and digitization was discussed. We also learned that we are entering the post-digital era, where everyone will have gone through the journey of digital transformation and the challenge will arise for companies on how to be different instead of updated.
6. The fifth and final panel came full circle with the topic of bridging generations and building legacies through digital. We had a special fireside chat between established leaders and new generation leaders on what can ensure successful digital transformation. The speakers agreed that it should be top-driven, that it should start with people and not technology, and that the organization must be open to new ways of doing things.

Just before each panel today, we presented commissioned research on entrepreneurship studies about women, access to finance, inclusive business, and women in STEM and women on boards. As an advocacy group, our goal as an organization has always been to find solutions to challenges women generally face in the workplace and in the conduct of their business, and to advocate possible government policies and solutions. Through events such as today's Women@Work Summit, we are not only able to discuss important matters such as digital transformation, we are also compelled to raise awareness about the women in business and commerce who are conquering it like never before.

After gaining insights from our research, WomenBizPH naturally took the necessary steps to provide solutions for the women affected in them:

1. For our first research regarding Women Entrepreneurship Studies in the Philippines, we developed modules on entrepreneurship training, such as the Business Start-up Course (BSuC) and the Business Improvement, Survival, and Expansion Course (BISEC) in collaboration with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).
2. For our second research, which focused on women as prime movers of inclusive business project, WomenBizPH published an easy-to-read practical guidebook on how to do business. Our Secretariat lends assistance to anyone wishing to connect to suppliers and buyers from APEC countries. On our website, you can access publications such as BDB Law's Quick and Easy Tax Guide for MSMEs, and different Women's Guides to Business.
3. For our third research, covering the matter of financing women entrepreneurs, WomenBizPH signed a Memorandum of Agreement with major government and



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- private banks to launch Pinay, a collateral-free lending window for women. We also assisted the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) with opening a special loan for women entrepreneurs called Inclusive Lending for Aspiring Women Entrepreneurs (ILAW).
4. For our fourth research, which put the spotlight on girls in STEM, WomenBizPH established the Association of Women in Science and Technology in APEC both locally and internationally, headed by Dr. Amelou Reyes, with the objective of promoting the commercial production of inventions of women in business.
 5. For the fifth and final research presented, discussing women-on-boards, WomenBizPH has been serving as the voice for women in business since it was established in 1997 at the initiative of the Department of Trade and Industry. Taking a lead role not just in the Philippines, WomenBizPH is active in the international arena, having served as the immediate past chair of the ASEAN Women Entrepreneurs Network, as an International partner of the Global Summit of Women (GSW), and participating in various APEC and ASEAN events. WomenBizPH led the formation of the Philippine Economic Network (PHILWEN), a consortium of six business groups advocating the economic empowerment of women, with WomenBizPH as the permanent chair. WomenBizPH served as the private sector representative during the APEC Women in the Economy Forum (WEF) held in Manila. We also launched our periodical mentoring event, Women Mentoring Women (W2W) Talks, covering topics like women's health, access to finance, participation in corporate boards, global networking, and leadership skills.

Once again, thank you to all of our sponsors.

Kudos to the core team of WomenBizPH, led by Chiqui Go, Leah Caringal, and Boots Garcia, and to the generous support of our board. Truly, when powerful women support each other, incredible things happen.

And of course, thank you to each and every one of you for immersing yourselves in the relevant and pressing discussions we have had. Moving forward, let us all accelerate, create, and transform together in our present digital world, a journey that we must face head-on and with open hearts and minds. After all, what is life without its ups and downs, its triumphs and failures, as well as its everlasting changes and challenges? I am Monette Hamlin and this has been the Women@Work Summit.

Mabuhay!