

Caledonian Women Engineers Forum 6th November, 2017

Caledonian Women Engineers Forum at Caledonian College of Engineering conducted a workshop on Women Empowerment: Work – Life Balance on 6th November, 2017 at its Al Hail campus. The event had an excellent speaker line up from women of substance and was graced by Her Highness Sayyidda Basma Al Said, Founder of Serenity Whisper, Ms Juhaina Al Aisri, recent graduate from University of Michigan; Ms Zeyana Al Hinai- Senior Project Engineer at Haya; and Ms Nadhira Al Hinai- Chair Women Engineering Council, Oman Society of Engineers. Sayyida Basma in her keynote address reiterated the importance of women joining the workforce and strengthening the economy. She emphasised that both men and women need to support each other to succeed. She hailed His Majesty's support and encouragement to Omani women that has helped Omani women to hold positions of greater responsibility both nationally and internationally. Speaking of challenges that women engineers face, she said that there was no bigger hurdle or challenge except women themselves who decide to give in to the traditional roles in family and chose not to work after receiving higher education. She emphasised on the importance of support mechanisms



Her Highness Sayyidda Basma Al Said, Founder of Serenity Whisper speaks on Work Life Balance



The Panelists

There is a Glass ceiling and will remain as long as women themselves do not strive to aspire beyond that glass ceiling said Nadhira Al Hinai. More women engineers are needed in industries to strike a balance and support Oman's economy. Ms Juhaina highlighted the importance of showcasing more Omani Women role models that can continue to inspire the generations to come. She stressed on the need to Ms Zeyana reflected on male mindsets and perceptions on employing women in Industries and how she overcame the challenge of being a sole woman employee at her workplace.



The panel discussion

Caledonian College of Engineering has 52 percent female students enrolled in various engineering programmes in 2017. These students and future engineers though ambitious are yet to enhance their confidence in taking up careers that are still male dominant and machine heavy. The need of the hour is to find women leaders who can become motivators, change agents and thereby inspire, engage and empower women engineers' right from the time they are in the college under our care through their onward journey. The initiative to start Women in Engineering Chapter has received the much needed backing from Dr Ahmed Hassan Al Bulushi, Dean Caledonian College of Engineering who feels very passionately about this project.

Caledonian College of Engineering launched Caledonian Women Engineers Forum on 29th March 2017 with the mission to inspire young minds. The objectives of this Forum is to create awareness of the role of women in taking up career and their contribution to the economy; inspire women engineering students through successful Omani role models from industries and organisation as Guest Speakers; equip women engineers with skills and competencies needed to succeed in men dominant industries; empower them through workshops and local and international networking; and support the women engineering students with the ecosystem to balance their professional career and home.



Caledonian Women Engineers forum works in close coordination with Women Engineering Council, Oman Society of Engineers.