

LEAN IN Malaysia



Hello, Lean In Community!

Can you believe it is already mid-April? Time flies when you are having fun!

It was an eventful and fruitful quarter for Lean In Malaysia. We were honoured to participate at the Asia Regional Conference Women's Political Leadership conference at Parliament, as well as numerous International Women's Day events at Michael Page, OCBC, UOB, Standard Chartered, MIDF, and SP Setia.

All of these offered great opportunities for us to connect with changemakers out there. They also encourage our community to move towards an equal world.

We are pleased to share that our **Lean In Youth** will be wrapping up the month with graduate-to-bes from University of Malaysia on **April 27th**, Saturday. The Lean In Youth programme aims to help the youths in universities to build their potential and become work-force ready.

Ever since its establishment, Lean In Malaysia has continued to grow and expand. We would like to express our gratitude to all the inspiring women and men who have worked with us and believed in our mission to break through and make a change. We would not be where we are today without all of you.

Please welcome our new **2019 Committee Board** - we look forward to unlocking achievements with you this year!

THE LEADERSHIP TEAM



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With Love,



Sangeeta Menon Matu and Nabilah
Head of Partnerships and Marketing Team
Asia Women Circle @ Lean In Org

Want to bring Lean In Malaysia to your organization?

Is this the year you drive progress and elevate your leadership development, diversity and inclusion and talent acquisition programs?

Learn how Lean In Malaysia can help make your organization a stronger, more equitable workplace.

Interested in **sponsoring/partnering with Lean In Malaysia** through your company? Contact our team at partnerships@leaninmalaysia.com.

Other Lean In Circles Update: Lean In Malaysia Sabah



Women supporting women in action!

Lean In Circle in Kota Kinabalu hosted an **Open Day** at Regus Suria, Sabah on March 2nd. Its founder, Hanaa Wong Abdullah, and Regus Area Manager, Michelle de la Harpe, organised an Open Day in collaboration with Helpful Hands, a child-minding service.

Lean In Circles create safe spaces for women to be unapologetically ambitious, share ideas, gain skills, seek advice, and show solidarity. The Open Day saw a new group of women from different walks of life in different stages of lives - from young single mothers about to start their own business to stay-at-home mothers who wish to re-enter the workforce.

During the event, Michelle shared her experience with **Lean In Coffee Dialogues** in 2018, where she met other inspiring women, heard from different speakers on various topics, and learned pointers on how to become more empowered and how to overcome roadblocks at work. Hanaa, on the other hand, demonstrated how to start a Circle and explained the motive behind starting a Circle. She also pulled up a page from Lean In's website and showed the nine Lean In Circles that were within a 25-mile radius of Kota Kinabalu, founded by different people and focusing on different areas of empowerment.

At the end of the event, nine people were recruited and onboarded to the family of Lean In Malaysia Sabah. A proposal was also made to open **Coffee Dialogues** to the public, as it will benefit women to have the opportunity to network with like-minded women.



The First Lean In Malaysia Sabah circle meeting - 6 April 2019

At this meeting, which was led by Sabrina Aripin, Circle members connected and built

deeper trust and understanding with the help of Lean In's connection cards. The Circle meets every first Saturday of the month, where members take turn leading the meeting.

Other Lean In Circles Update: Lean In SP Setia



For this year's IWD, **Women of Inspiration (WIN)** at Setia has decided to embark on a twist for **#BalanceForBetter**.

The theme for this year's celebration was **Divas Wear Passion**, aimed to inspire and motivate our ladies to be the best versions of themselves. We provide a platform for women to learn to appreciate their self-worth, and grow in confidence as they take the lead in the many roles they juggle.

The Divas Wear Passion event was spanned across Penang, Johor, and Kuala Lumpur respectively.

In **Penang**, we had the honour of having Mallory Loone, COO and coach from Work Inspires to share her personal journey of resilience on the topic of 'How Do We Elevate Each Other'.

In **Johor**, we had the co-founder of Lean In Malaysia, Abir Abdul Rahim, with her story on 'Climbing the Ladder in Heels', being a corporate professional who is passionate in driving the women empowerment agenda.

In **Kuala Lumpur**, we were proud to host our special guest panelists consisting of Dato' Hamidah Naziadin from CIMB, Datuk Yasmin Mahmood from Future Ready Consulting and Raj Kumar from CnetG to share their wisdom and insights on building a balance and progressive workforce. The highlight of our finale celebration was a dedicated Divas Fashion Show, where our own female talents hit the runway with fabulous outfits sponsored by local fashion brands and artisans.



Other Lean In Circles Update: Lean In Sarawak



Lean In Sarawak held a programme in conjunction with International Women's Day (IWD) with the theme **#balanceforbetter**. The **50 Ways To Fight Bias** programme was held in collaboration with Sarawak Multimedia Authority (SMA) and TEGAS to educate people on identifying gender bias, encourage solutions-oriented discussions, and explore recommendations for taking action and why it matters.

For the programme, two young budding women leaders and entrepreneurs were invited: Sharifah Nur Azureen, from Chief Minister's Department in Law, Federal-State Relations and Project Monitoring and Gabriela Riyis who runs HelloGabby, a young business offering virtual assistance for entrepreneurs, coaches, and business owners.

Founder and President of Lean In Sarawak, Farah Nadia Masrol opened the programme with *"bias isn't limited to gender. We all, consciously and unconsciously fall into bias traps. Knowing that bias exists is the first step but it is certainly not enough. We need to commit to speak up and take action against it."*

Azureen emphasized on communication as the key factor in achieving the most desirable results. She also explained how a woman can be both ambitious at acquiring knowledge and maneuvering the career jungle.

Gabriela (Gabby) shared her personal history of working for a co-working space and being involved in startups, as well as finding her real passion and finally having the courage to start her own business. Gabby stressed the importance of looking at the bigger picture in

life and that we shouldn't be confined to only one thing.



Message from Sponsors: EcoWorld



The **EcoWorld Professional Women's Network** returned for the fourth year with the **EcoWorld Women's Summit 2019**.

This year's international theme, **#BalanceForBetter**, aimed to empower both men and women to think equal, build smart, and innovate for change. Aligned with its mission to think globally and act locally, the EcoWorld Professional Women's Network based the Summit's theme in light of recent events that shook the nation: **#ReimaginingMalaysia** **#ReshapingFutureWorkforce**.

With her keynote address, Dato' Noor Farida Binti Mohd Ariffin (Director, Eco World Development Group Berhad) set the tone perfectly for the event, which comprised of two panel discussions on gender-balancing Malaysia's future workforce to tap into women's strengths, as quoted by Dato' Yasmin Binte Tan Sri M Yusuff (emcee and voiceover talent), "Women, physiologically proven, can multi-task - I think they can be much more successful than men. So they can hold a baby in one hand, and still create something with the other!"



It was a refreshing mix of opinions from both panels, as the panellists were from diverse backgrounds - testament to the very theme in discussion: **that ideas flow better with a range of perspectives, and organizations can benefit from a more gender-balanced workforce.**

Distinguished panellist YB Yeo Bee Yin (Minister of Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change) tickled the crowd when talking candidly about dress codes, the challenges she faced as a Cabinet Minister, and sensationalized issues in national media but brought the audience back to earth while sharing the current Government's moves for change as well as emphasizing that nation-building shouldn't be "outsourced", because local businesses were the backbone of the economy: *"You are the ones steering the economy. You are the ones that create jobs. You are the ones that will fight the global competition. You are the ones who can make a difference in the economy!"*



An impactful lesson on the importance of diversity and equality, the Summit was concluded by YB Yeo with a fitting reminder that rebuilding Malaysia is an effort that requires unity, and that men also play an important role in bringing women's issues to light.

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