6TH ANNUAL

WOMEN in tech®

GLOBAL AWARDS

SHARJAH, 16 NOVEMBER 2023

H.E. SHEIKHA BODOUR AL QASIMI

Chairperson of the **Board of Trustees** and President of the **American University of Sharjah**, Chairperson and President of **Sharjah Research, Technology and Innovation Park (SRTIP)**



The Women in Tech Global Awards is a celebration of the exceptional achievements and contributions of women in the field of technology. It is a testament to the individuals and initiatives that have pushed the boundaries of technology.

In every corner of the world, there are countless stories of aspiring women who are the future of innovation, disruptors who are challenging the status quo, allies who are championing inclusion, and many others who have made a significant impact in the tech industry.

There is exceptional female talent and passion in the tech industry, and they deserve to be recognized and celebrated. Highlighting their stories is the only way to shake the perception of the status quo regarding the relationship between women and the tech industry and leave a trace for future generations to follow.

Every day there are women running tech companies or starting new ones, changing the way we live, work, and connect with each other. They are the driving force behind many of the technological advances that are shaping our world. They are a force for good, working hard to strike a balance between progress, profit, ethical implications, and sustaining life. This balancing act is not always easy, but these formidable women will keep trying for the good of humanity.

So let us come together to celebrate the extraordinary women who are shaping the world of technology. May their stories ignite a spark in each of us and inspire the next generation of innovators.

AYUMI MOORE AOKI

Founder, President & CEO
Women In Tech®



I am delighted to welcome you to the 6th edition of the Women in Tech Global Awards. As the founder and CEO of Women in Tech, it fills me with immense pride and gratitude to stand before you today, celebrating the remarkable achievements of women in the tech industry from around the world.

Our journey, which began with a vision of empowerment and equality, has brought us to this momentous occasion. We gather in Sharjah, a city of education, art, culture, and innovation, under the visionary leadership of Her Excellency Sheikha Bodour Al Qasimi, who has transformed this place into a symbol of women's empowerment.

This event marks the culmination of our Women in Tech Global Awards Tour, a journey that has taken us to seven regions across the globe. We have met inspiring women and allies in the tech industry, and their stories have enriched our souls.

Our mission goes beyond awards; it's about real action. Together, we are empowering women in STEAM fields, breaking barriers, and transforming lives. Tonight, we honor the spirit of empowerment and resilience.

Thank you for being a part of this incredible journey. Together, we will continue to empower and inspire, forging a future where women in tech thrive and excel.

Agenda

Registration, Welcome Reception, and Networking Cocktail

Opening, H.E. Hussain Al Mahmoudi, CEO of Sharjah Research and Technology

Opening, Ayumi Moore Aoki, President, CEO and Founder of Women in Tech®

Aspiring Teen Award

Arts Award powered by Amazon Music

Best Ally Award powered by Meltwater

Women In Tech® Start-Up Award

Most Disruptive Award powered by AWS

Most Impactful Initiative Award

Woman In Web3 Award powered by The Sandbox

Global Leadership Women In Tech® Award, powered by OPMG

Women In Tech® Lifetime Achievement Award powered by Absa Bank

Closing

Jury



Ibrahim Rujeedawa

President, **RAPP IO, OPMG**



Bhuvaneshwari Cheruvu

Chief Marketing Officer, **OPMG, Areteans**



Carolyn Stebbings

Chief Operating & Inclusion Officer, **RAPP, OPMG**



Gülay Stelzmüllner

CTO, **Allianz Technology**



Jameka Pankey

Head of Events and Experiential for Artist **Amazon Music**



Noha El-Ashry

Senior HR Leader, Middle East, Africa, and Turkey, **AWS**



Mel Mccann

Vice President of Engeneering, **Cardano Foundation**



H.E. Hussain Al Mahmoudi

CEO, **SRTIP**



Dr Katrin Gülden Le Maire

Strategy Advisor and Independent Scientific Researcher, **KG Le Maire Advisory**



Sebastien Borget

Co-Founder and CEO, **The Sandbox**



H.E. Dr Aisha Bin Bishr

Global Digital Transformation Expert, Strategic Leader in Smart City Initiatives



Dr Phililе Mkhize

Chief Operating Officer, **Absa Group Technology**



Tsutomu Yumoto

CEO, **RINNE Technologies and Consulting**



Milda Nair

EMEA Implementation Director, **Meltwater**

Award Categories

ASPIRING TEEN AWARD

This category honors a young, up-and-coming talent in the tech field who demonstrates exceptional potential and passion for technology.

MOST DISRUPTIVE AWARD POWERED BY AWS

Recognizing the individual who has made the most significant impact by challenging the status quo and pushing boundaries within the tech industry.

BEST ALLY AWARD POWERED BY MELTWATER

Celebrating an ally who actively supports and advocates for women in technology, fostering an inclusive and supportive environment.

MOST IMPACTFUL INITIATIVE AWARD

Acknowledging an initiative or project that has had a remarkable impact in advancing diversity, equality, and inclusion in the tech sector.

WOMAN IN WEB3 AWARD

This category highlights a woman who has made significant contributions and achievements in the emerging field of Web3 technologies such as blockchain, decentralized finance, and digital currencies.

ARTS AWARD POWERED BY AMAZON MUSIC

Recognizing a woman who has effectively integrated technology with the arts, utilizing innovative techniques or platforms to create groundbreaking artistic experiences.

WOMEN IN TECH® START-UP AWARD

Celebrating a female-founded or co-founded start-up that has demonstrated exceptional innovation, growth potential, and a positive impact in the tech industry.

GLOBAL LEADERSHIP WOMEN IN TECH® AWARD

Honoring an exemplary female leader who has demonstrated outstanding leadership skills, driving transformative change and making a significant impact on a global scale.

WOMEN IN TECH® LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD POWERED BY ABSA BANK

The highest accolade of the Women in Tech Global Awards, recognizing a woman who has dedicated her career to the tech industry and has consistently contributed to its advancement, leaving a lasting legacy.



Nominees

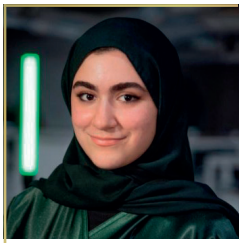
ASPIRING TEEN AWARD



Avanti Sharma

Pre-teen Technology Specialist
Workshop4Me a.s.b.l

Avanti Sharma is a champion of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) commands our attention. Avanti's journey of advocacy and empowerment began with her TEDx talk on "How an iGen would implement the Sustainable Development Goals." Since then, she has made her mark on the international stage, sharing her ideas at prestigious forums like the Economic Times Global Business Summit, Digital Education Stakeholder Forum hosted by the European Commission, and the Microsoft Accelerator. Her contributions extend to renowned technology events such as Campus Italia, ICT Spring, and WomenInTech. As a coach and mentor at Workshop4Me, she has introduced over 400 girls worldwide to the world of coding and technology. Avanti's keynote at the ESTEAM Fest, organized by Deloitte Belgium and the European Commission, exemplified her dedication to breaking down barriers for young girls in the tech field. Avanti's recent achievement includes the creation of Studified™, a software process to combat catfishing and impersonation attacks on social media, earning recognition from the National Young Scientist Foundation of Luxembourg and winning accolades at a prominent science exhibition in Portugal.dvd



Noor Al Sabat

Team Leader of the Championship,
F1 School in Saudi Arabia

Noor, a prominent student at Al-Faisaliyah Islamic School in Khobar, is a true leader and scholar. She has excelled in the F1 in School Championship in Saudi Arabia, showcasing her engineering skills and dedication to teamwork.
Noor's academic journey reflects her passion for knowledge and excellence, with an impressive Top 10 placement in the Chemistry Olympics.
As a speaker at TEDxManarat Al Khobar Intl Youth, Noor explores uncharted intersections of self, technology, society, and change, exemplifying her drive to inspire positive transformations.
Noor's accomplishments and leadership roles in both the F1 in School Championship and her academic pursuits reflect her unwavering dedication to excellence, teamwork, and continuous personal growth.Officid que quas volorionsed maximag nimusti asitis ulliqui restrum harum ra nemolorro dolentor sime molles etur ratecat ectiaes sitibus dolorem int harum idem quis consediam, coratur? Quide eatissimolut qui diaspissim iusanihil mo bea net es molu



Laman Alizeva

Co-Founder & CEO, **Tenter**

Laman Aliyeva, an emerging force in the tech world, embodies the spirit of innovation and leadership. With over seven years of tech experience, she has spearheaded impactful projects, including AI-driven cancer detection, smart glasses for disabled individuals, and educational platforms for children. As the founder of Azerbaijan's largest Artificial Intelligence club, Laman has inspired young minds and co-founded Tenter startup, recognized by MIT, Stanford, and Harvard.

Laman serves as a Google Women Techmakers Ambassador, empowering women in technology globally. Her leadership is underscored by awards like the Technofest Takeoff Award and Azerbaijan Women in IT – Finalist Award. Laman's journey reflects her dedication to making a positive impact through technology.



Estrella Salazar

Biotechnology Engineering Student

At just 17, Estrella Salazar is the mastermind behind a groundbreaking multi-tool app designed to bridge communication gaps for the hearing impaired using Mexican Sign Language.
Growing up, Estrella's mission was crystal clear. From early on, she recognized the challenges her older sister faced due to a rare condition.This ignited her passion for scientific exploration, a drive that eventually led her to collaborate on projects ranging from Alzheimer's research to her latest venture.

She became a Lab Luminary at Mexico's prestigious National Autonomous University by the age of 14. Her breakthroughs landed her amongst the final 50 contenders for the prestigious Global Student Prize, akin to the Nobel for students. Engaged with organizations like Women in Nuclear and Neurodivergent Mind Foundation, Estrella is on a mission to amplify diverse voices in STEM. Her journey has led her to represent Mexico on international platforms, earning a coveted spot in the ISSI 2023 Scholarship program and a role in the Space4Women Mentorship Program, endorsed by the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs.



Matlhogonolo & Masego Mphahlele

Ennovator of the **Digital X-Ray Glasses**

Twins Masego and Matlhogonolo Mphahlele had a vision after they saw a teammate injured during a soccer game, who had to wait at the hospital for an X-ray. This was the moment the idea of digital X-ray glasses was born. They knew that there must be a quicker and more portable solution than traditional X-ray machines and created the prototype of the digital Xray glasses.
The twins were runner-up finalists in the Red Bull Basement Global Final held in Istanbul, Turkey, in 2022 and spotlight speakers at Forbes Women Summit, 2023.

Within four years of development, the sisters who attend the University of Johannesburg worked alongside other students to create the prototype of the Digital X-ray glasses. The Digital X-ray glasses were created using 3D printing and work through its infrared camera and a mini-computer chip that sends thermal images to a mobile device. "The camera can only take infrared images to a mobile device. We want to do more research to better our idea," Matlhogonolo said. "In the future, we want the product to be able to work without using radiation… and to be able to distribute it to different local hospitals and clinics."



Willow Miller

Student Girl Up **(United Nations)**

With her passion for technology, Willow has hosted numerous virtual seminars, reaching over 200,000 girls globally and ensuring they have opportunities to explore and learn computer science. Her dedication to sharing knowledge extends to her school, where she assists fellow students in computer science, fostering a supportive learning environment.

Willow's advocacy extends to influential platforms like Girl Up, a United Nations organization, where she has spoken to UN members and at leadership summits, advocating for gender equality in STEM. Her impact goes even further with initiatives like "Closing The Gap," an organization she co-founded to empower women and girls in business and tech.

Her list of achievements includes participation in prestigious programs like MIT Beaver Works Summer Institute, Kode With Klossy, Girls Who Code, and more, where she honed her skills in coding, data analysis, and research.

Willow's influence is recognized through awards and appointments as a Society of Women Engineers Next National Influencer, Etre Girls National Youth Advisory Board Member, and her role as a Girls Inc National Ambassador.



Jasmine Nurul Izza Bachtiar

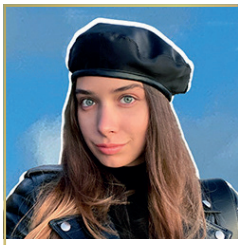
Bachtiar Student Menlo Park School

Jasmine is an accomplished individual with a strong focus on advanced Computer Science, including Software Engineering, IoT Systems, Data Science, and Applied Science. She has excelled academically, strengthening her foundational knowledge in Physics and Math and winning a Silver Medal in International Water Quality Early Detection using Computer Vision. In addition to her academic achievements, Jasmine is a leader in her Coding Club, fostering collaboration and technical skill development. She is also a Class Leader in Math and Research, showcasing her leadership skills.

Jasmine's commitment to practical solutions is evident in her proposal for a Prescriptive Water Consumption System, which received a 2nd Overall Award and startup funding eligibility. Her consistency and commitment to international competitions reflect her dedication and resilience. She values the mentorship of domain experts and follows a meticulous process in problem-solving.

Jasmine's journey is marked by her continuous participation in international competitions, including those in Bosnia, South Africa, Turkey, and Japan. She excels in applying her expertise to real-world problems, particularly in Smart City and IoT domains related to UN Sustainable Development Goals, specifically addressing water issues. Her core belief in contributing to society drives her to persistently learn and validate her projects through national and international competitions.

ARTS AWARD POWERED BY AMAZON MUSIC



Ana Tkebuchava

UX Designer, **TCN**

In the vibrant world of design and technology, Ana Tkebuchava, based in NYC, shines as a dedicated UX/UI designer with a passion for User Research, XR design, Voice Prototyping, and Gamification. Since childhood, she has been captivated by emerging technologies, envisioning a future where once-impossible ideas become reality. Ana's extensive education includes a Bachelor's in Social Science and a Certificate in UX/UI Design from Columbia University School of Engineering. She possesses a versatile skill set, excelling in Design thinking, User research, Brainstorming, Visual Prototyping, Wireframing, User Interface Development, IxD, HTML5, CSS, and JavaScript. What sets Ana apart is her unwavering belief in technology's potential to enhance lives and build bridges between communities. She's not just a designer but also a dedicated mentor to startups and aspiring professionals.



Khulangoo Amarsanaa

Founder & CEO **geru.mn**

Khulangoo, stands as a figure of success in Mongolia's startup scene. Founding geru.mn, she weathered challenges, earning the prestigious Start Up Award of Women in Tech Mongolia Chapter. Determined, she ventured into China, sealing contracts and expanding her platform's reach to over 20 countries. Geru.mn, often likened to Mongolia's version of Canva.com, exports artworks by Mongolian creators worldwide, promoting intellectual work on a global stage. Her vision encompasses fostering a national identity through art, empowering Mongolian artists, enabling international collaborations, and nurturing an artist community for mutual growth. Her platforms, geru.store and geru.mn, provide outlets for artists to showcase their works and learn from one another, while the Creators Community encourages collective development across various creative fields. Khulangoo's dream revolves around bridging local artists with international talents and fostering a vibrant, interconnected community spanning fashion, music, film, and visual arts.



Flavia Sparacino

Founder & CEO, **Sensing Places Interactive**

As the CEO and Founder of Sensing Places, a spinoff from MIT Media Lab, Flavia pioneers immersive narratives through cutting-edge technology and space design. Her career spans augmented reality, virtual studios, Kinect applications, wearable computing, and multi-touch technology. Her international portfolio reshapes architecture, advertising, and entertainment into captivating interactive stories, garnering global acclaim. Flavia excels in crafting strategic, creative, and highly technical solutions, embracing innovative responsive design, gestural interaction, multi-touch surfaces, machine learning, and location-based mobile development. With a PhD in Media Arts and Sciences from MIT, Flavia boasts over 1000 academic paper citations, reflecting her profound impact on entertainment technology. Nominated as a Knight of the Republic of Italy in 2000, her dedication to innovative communication of art and culture through emerging technologies is commendable.



Leora Hessen

Co-Founder, **NFTY-art**

Leora is the Co-Founder of NFTy-art a Blockchain educational program using art to teach and to demystify the Metaverse, Web3 and NFT's She also established the African NFT Art Collective specifically for African Artists looking to exhibit in the Metaverse. With the creation of the Digital Art gallery, she aims to empower African artists by giving them access to a suite of NFT options from start to finish. Leora is empowering African Artists to exhibit in the Metaverse / NFT marketplace. There are artists with no access to this space (either through lack of knowledge, understanding, experience or funding). This initiative helps the artists with a full suite of options to get them into the NFT marketplace. She is also using art as amedium to educate and teach Blockchain Fundamentals

NFTY-art is bringing the art of Africa to the NFT art worldwide. Leora is an entrepreneur with a degree in systems analysis, design and programming. Leora also has 30 years of experience in fashion and art and is also a founder and partner in the Artjamming Franchise. Artjamming aims to make art accessible to anyone of any age. Artjamming franchises are owned by female entrepreneurs.



Sofia Sistos Vallin

Illustrator, Designer & Plastic Artist, **Sofia Sistos Vallin**

Sofía seamlessly melds creativity and technology to craft mesmerizing works that transcend boundaries and ignite minds. Sofía's artistic journey is a tapestry of mediums, woven together with passion and purpose. Her creations don't just captivate the eye – they beckon the soul. A true visionary, Sofía believes in the power of art to spark change within us all. Each stroke of her brush, each pixel in her digital design, and each layer of her 3D-printed marvels carries a narrative that tugs at heartstrings and inspires transformation.

Embracing the digital age, Sofía harnesses the magic of technology to amplify her artistic expression. Through digital art, she conjures interactive wonders that bridge the gap between creativity and engagement. The realm of 3D printing becomes her playground, where sculptural dreams come alive in tangible forms that push the boundaries of convention.



Sumayyah Al Suwaidi

Digital & Mixed Media Artist

Meet the Emirati artist, Sumayyah Al Suwaidi, whose remarkable talent has earned her multiple prestigious awards and international acclaim. Based in Abu Dhabi, Sumayyah's journey in the world of digital art began back in 1996, and her artistic evolution has been nothing short of extraordinary.
In 2001, she unveiled her inaugural collection, drawing inspiration from the revered late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan. Each of Sumayyah's creations begins with a simple sketch or photograph, which she transforms into masterpieces through the skillful interplay of textures, colors, and contrasts, rendering them truly unique and priceless.

Her artistic prowess was first showcased in 2003 in Abu Dhabi, where she exhibited alongside some of the UAE's pioneering artists. Subsequently, her work graced galleries not only across the UAE but also on the international stage, including London, the USA, China, France, Germany, Switzerland, Morocco, and Kuwait.
Sumayyah Al Suwaidi's art reached new heights when it was auctioned by Christie's in 2012 and exhibited at Sotheby's Galleries in London as part of the Three Generations exhibition in 2013. Join us in celebrating this talented artist whose work transcends boundaries and captivates hearts worldwide.



Yam Karkai

Co-Founder & CCO, **World of Women**

Yam Karkai, the visionary founder and Chief Creative Officer of World of Women (WoW), has emerged as a leading figure in the ever-evolving landscape of Web 3.0. Her journey has been, marked by an unwavering commitment to art, representation, inclusivity, and equal opportunities.
Yam's NFT collections are a testament to her dedication to celebrating diversity and elevating the voices of underrepresented groups. Through her digital illustrations, she places women and minorities at the forefront of her artistic universe. Her signature style blends vivid and harmonious color palettes with whimsical, intricate lines, injecting a touch of fantasy into her creations.
Yam Karkai's work is an exquisite reflection of her life experiences and multicultural background. Through her art, she underscores the pivotal role of women's visibility within the Web 3.0 sector, ushering in a new era of empowerment and representation.
The WoW project, an ambitious endeavor, stands as a testament to her vision and creativity. It has garnered substantial recognition, ranking 21st among the top NFTs of all time on Opensea. With her NFTs, Yam aspires to break barriers and invite more women into the crypto space, making it accessible and inclusive for all. Her creation of a universe featuring 10,000 distinct women symbolizes her dedication to authenticity and diversity, reflecting the voices and experiences of individuals from around the globe.
In the digital realm, Yam Karkai is not just an artist; she is a pioneer and a catalyst for change, proving that the Web 3.0 ecosystem is richer and more vibrant when it embraces the diversity and creativity of all.

BEST ALLY AWARD POWERED BY MELWATER



Melda Akin

Founder & CEO, **D14.AI**

As the CEO and Founder of D14.AI and Sirius Labs, Melda's impact is profound. D14.AI, her startup, offers optimization-as-a-service solutions globally, simplifying automation, scheduling, and team management through cutting-edge AI technology. This endeavor has earned recognition from Womena, Standard Chartered Bank, and numerous prestigious awards, including 'Gulf Capital Business of the Year' and 'Business Innovation of the Year' in 2021.

Simultaneously, Melda leads Sirius Labs, an AI-driven platform dedicated to empowering women in tech through transformative bootcamps, training, and mentorship programs.

She's a Microsoft-selected top tech entrepreneur, recognized among the 'Top 100 Women Founders in Turkey.' CNN International hailed her among the 'Top 10 Tech Startups in MENA,' and she's received titles like 'Woman Entrepreneur of the Year, MENA, 2022.'



Kathryn Rose

Founder, **GetWise**

As the founder and CEO of getWise and channelWise, she has spearheaded expert marketplaces that empower entrepreneurs through education, resources, and networking. Her journey from Wall Street executive to renowned author of nine books showcases her versatile accomplishments, acknowledged by Forbes, Inc. Magazine, and Fox News. Worth Magazine's Top 100 Entrepreneurs and Forbes Top 1000 Innovators have also celebrated her contributions.

Kathryn's career is marked by successful marketing consultancy, where she orchestrated online campaigns with massive engagement. Her extensive experience spans startups to managing multimillion-dollar companies, further solidified during her time on Wall Street, driving over $100 million in annual sales.

Her stature as an industry leader is evident through invitations from Google, IBM, and Dell Technologies to share her insights. Kathryn's dedication to advancing women in tech earned her the CompTIA Advancing Women in Technology Mentor of the Year Spotlight award.

More than just a leader, Kathryn radiates optimism, resilience, and creativity. She champions diversity and inclusion in technology, earning her recognition on Channel Futures' Top DE&I Champions in Technology 101 list.



Edison Tsai

Founder & President, **SeedIn Technologies**

Edison Tsai, founder of SeedIn Tech, is a trailblazer in the world of microloans for women entrepreneurs in the Philippines and Taiwan. His unwavering dedication to championing the financial rights of single moms and women-led businesses has made access to capital a reality. Edison's remarkable network-building skills within the fintech industry have positioned him as an advocate for women's recognition and empowerment in Dubai, Singapore, and Malaysia.

His commitment to uplifting women, both personally and in the public sphere, is ingrained in his DNA. Edison consistently seizes every opportunity to support and empower women, earning the admiration and gratitude of those who have the privilege of knowing and working with him.



Plamena Cherneva

CEO, **WonderCoders**

Plamena Cherneva stands as an IT consultant, a passionate entrepreneur, and an advocate for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) in the technology industry. Armed with an MSc in Computer Science and Engineering from the Technical University of Denmark, she embarked on her career, facing and conquering challenges as a minority in the field.

Plamena's commitment to fostering a more inclusive tech landscape led her to establish the WonderCoders NGO, a platform that supports and inspires women to pursue careers in technology. Her advocacy extends further through her role as the founder of Nordic Women Who Code and as a Board member of the European Female Founders Network. Throughout her 17-year career in the industry, Plamena has held various roles, from developer to project manager, and now as an IT consultant. She possesses a track record of steering organizations toward greater inclusivity and diversity. In 2022, she was selected as the Women in Tech Ambassador by the European Commission to establish and lead the pioneering European Female Founders Network.



Tamu Dutuma

Technology Head of Strategy, Governance and Reporting, **Absa**

Tamu walks the talk and demonstrates his own commitment through leading and empowering an all-female team. He actively participates in Women in Tech initiatives, including volunteering at Philippi Village. As a Speaker, Tamu gives his time to engage in thought leadership and social media activities such as PR and LinkedIn live streams to bring attention to the Women in Technology agenda. The father of a young girl himself, he believes it is his responsibility to help pave the way to a more inclusive environment for the young women who will be leading the technology industry in the future.

Tamu is a worthy nominee for the Ally award because he actively demonstrates his commitment and leads by example. He walks the walk and not just talks the talk. Tamu is the Executive Head Strategy: Group Technology. He is a passionate advocate for diversity and inclusion, Tamu has been instrumental in elevating the women's agenda in Absa Technology. He has lead and established meaningful partnerships and interventions that reach beyond the organisation to help elevate the banks' commitment to Women in Tech.



Marina Dushenova

Leader of "Women in STEM and Education" Direction, **Technowomen Kyrgyzstan**

Marina Dushenova, a mechanical engineering graduate from the Frunze Polytechnic Institute. With over 30,000 students taught during her illustrious career as a senior lecturer at the Kyrgyz State Technical University, Marina's impact is far-reaching.

Her contributions extend beyond the classroom, Marina heads the "Women in STEM and Education" campaign for the public association Technowomen Kyrgyzstan. Through this role, she has championed numerous initiatives, including supporting startups and empowering women and girls in the tech realm.

Marina's dedication to mentoring is commendable. She has guided students in various scientific and technical conferences, resulting in their successful achievements. Her commitment to bridging the gender gap in technology is evident through projects that encourage young women to explore STEM fields.

Her leadership qualities, professionalism, and ability to rally like-minded individuals have culminated in impactful projects, including supporting startups and providing free online courses to women in remote areas.



Giselle Lasserre

Founder & Software Developer, **Tech Girls**

Gisele Lasserre, the visionary behind Tech Girls, an initiative that's changing lives and bridging gaps in the STEAM field. Gisele, a former software developer, faced her own midlife crisis at 40, which led her to embark on a mission to empower women in social vulnerability. This drive birthed an extraordinary and proprietary educational methodology that blends beauty, reverse logistics, and creativity.

With a focus on environmental sustainability, Tech Girls addresses the electronic waste issue by teaching women to craft jewelry from discarded electronics while simultaneously nurturing their IT skills, spanning from computer repair to software development. As a unique incentive, graduates receive the laptops they've rehabilitated during their immersive digital courses.

Tech Girls' success isn't just about technical prowess. It's about empowerment and inclusion. By tapping into an untapped talent pool, Gisele's initiative effectively tackles three global challenges: electronic waste, the IT talent shortage, and digital illiteracy. This holistic approach garners commendations like the HP Equity Challenge Award, Shark Tank Brazil recognition, and Curitiba Municipality Awards.

Gisele Lasserre's vision isn't just about training; it's about transforming lives. With an unwavering focus on underprivileged women, Tech Girls cultivates a positive connection between electronic waste generators and aspiring digital professionals. The result? Over 590 women have already had their worlds transformed, breaking the chains of digital illiteracy, reclaiming self-esteem, and joining the ranks of IT teams at major corporations.

Tech Girls stands as a beacon of change, pioneering practical solutions to global issues while fostering a more inclusive and equitable future for all.

WOMEN IN TECH® START-UP AWARD



Adriana Gonzalez Bolaños

Founder & CEO, **Tizo**

Adriana Gonzalez Bolaños, a visionary entrepreneur, exemplifies the transformative potential of technology through her startup, Tizo App.

Rising from humble origins as a food truck vendor, she built Tizo App to revolutionize Central America's logistics landscape.

Collaborating with prestigious partners like MasterCard and regional postal services, Tizo streamlined shipping, fostering economic growth and empowering micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) to expand and thrive.

Adriana's commitment to financial inclusion reshaped the lives of the unbanked, reducing inequalities. Balancing her roles as a CEO and mother, she cultivated a supportive, collaborative work environment.



Sophie Cahen

Co-Founder & CEO, **Ganymede Robotics**

With a Master's Degree in Engineering and an INSEAD MBA, Sophie possesses over 12 years of international work experience across four continents.

As the co-founder and CEO of Ganymed Robotics, Sophie leads a mission-driven team dedicated to transforming orthopedic surgery through advanced robotics technology. She recognizes the growing demand for surgical procedures, particularly in orthopedics, and aims to address this challenge.

Her goal is to make life-changing orthopedic surgeries more accessible, safe, and affordable worldwide. Ganymed Robotics is incubated at Paris Biotech Santé, a leading life science incubator, and has secured significant seed funding. With a world-class team, Sophie is determined to revolutionize surgery, providing more people with access to essential orthopedic procedures.



Anna Yamauchi

Founder & CEO, **LUMIROUS Sdn Bhd**

Anna Yamauchi, the CEO of LUMIROUS, is a Southeast Asian femtech pioneer with a Master's in Entrepreneurship from the University of Surrey. Her experience includes co-founding and managing Trambellir Sdn. Bhd., an online medical tourism platform. Anna, who hails from Japan, founded Malaysia's first FemTech company, offering reproductive health knowledge and counseling.

Having faced miscarriage herself, she's passionate about improving women's reproductive health. Her collaborations with brands like UNIQLO and partnerships with over 10 fertility clinics reflect her business acumen. Anna's strategic vision includes launching fertility supplements in a single box. Winning the Women in Tech Award in the Startup category would validate her achievements and inspire women, fostering diversity and inclusivity in the tech industry.



Wafa Al Oobaidat

Founder & CEO, **Playbook**

Wafa AlObaidat is a visionary entrepreneur and trailblazer, known for her outstanding contributions in the fields of design, PR, marketing, and eLearning. As the founder of both Playbook, an innovative eLearning platform, and Obai & Hill PR and Design agency, Wafa has carved a remarkable path to becoming a pioneer in creative design and consulting services in the GCC and Middle East.

With a firm belief that creativity holds the key to solving any challenge, Wafa AlObaidat has built a team of creative experts spanning Bahrain and Saudi Arabia, bringing imaginative solutions to life for clients across diverse industries.

Beyond her impressive career achievements, Wafa is a passionate advocate for women's empowerment programs in the Arab World. Her dedication to supporting and uplifting women has earned her several regional awards, highlighting her commitment to making a positive impact on the lives of women in the region.

Wafa AlObaidat's entrepreneurial spirit, combined with her unwavering support for women's advancement, continues to inspire and drive positive change in the GCC and Middle East.



Heidi Wyle

Founder & CEO, **Venti**

Heidi Wyle serves as a Governor for the HBS Association of Boston, a position they have held since June 2020. In 2017, Heidi founded and served as the CEO of Venti Technologies, showcasing their entrepreneurial spirit and commitment to innovation. Prior to that, from 2011 to 2019, they played a pivotal role in the Massachusetts Women's Forum, assuming multiple roles, including Chairman of the Board, President, and Board Member. Heidi's entrepreneurial journey began in 2003 when they founded and led Computational Biology Corporation (CBC), later successfully selling it to Agilent Technologies. Before that, they founded CellStore/Ardais Corporation, a genomics-based drug development company, raising substantial venture capital for its growth. Their extensive experience also includes serving as the Chief Operating Officer at Ontogeny/Curis, where they facilitated corporate partnerships and expanded the company's reach. At Immulogic Pharmaceutical Corporation, Heidi held the position of Vice President, Marketing & Business Development, overseeing global commercial activities and commercialization strategies. Heidi Wyle's educational background is equally impressive, holding a Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) with Honors in Physics from Brown University, a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.), and a Master of Science (MS) in Health/Medical Physics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Additionally, they earned a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from Harvard Business School. Heidi's multifaceted expertise in leadership, entrepreneurship, and business development has made a significant impact across various industries.



Leyla Orujova

Founder & CEO, **iCheck Medical App**

Introducing Leyla Orujova, an innovative entrepreneur making waves in the world of healthcare technology with her startup, iCheck. Leyla's passion and dedication have led to the creation of a groundbreaking mobile app that harnesses the power of AI to revolutionize healthcare. iCheck's user-friendly app guides patients through their medical concerns, offering personalized recommendations and potential causes for health issues. It streamlines the process further by enabling users to book appointments with the right doctors, both online and offline, and even provides telemedicine services for prescriptions and recommendations within the app.

Leyla understands the importance of community support in healthcare and has incorporated a forum within iCheck, where users can seek advice from doctors and fellow patients. To ensure the highest standards, only qualified doctors with valid medical licenses are allowed to register on the platform, ensuring trust and reliability.

iCheck has already achieved significant milestones and recognition in the healthcare tech sector, with sponsorship from a major Azerbaijani holding. Leyla's vision and leadership have paved the way for iCheck's success, and her commitment to transforming healthcare through AI and community support makes her a deserving candidate for recognition.



Thato Schermer

Co-Founder & CEO, **Zoie Health**

Thato is passionate about business for the greater good, technology's potential to solve problems in Africa, writing, and driving the cause of women's empowerment. After completing her honours business degree at the University of Cape Town, alongside a Business French qualification from the Paris Chamber of Commerce and numerous international internships, Thato started her career as a management consultant at a global management consultancy.

She worked predominantly in the digital practice, with her work spanning industries such as banking, infrastructure and technology and geographies such as East Africa, Spain, Turkey and Asia-Pacific. After the adventures that management consulting brought, Thato joined Discovery Vitality as the Chief of Staff to the CEO, working on a variety of strategies and projects supporting his office. Thato then joined Life Healthcare where she delivered on a new concept of delivering low-cost, high-tech primary healthcare to South Africans. Prior to founding her technology startup, Thato joined Uber as the South Africa territory manager for Uber for Business, Uber's B2B offering where she also served as Co-Chair of Women at Uber for Europe, Middle East and Africa, where she managed and directs 40 leads across 16 countries to drive the agenda for increased diversity and inclusion of women in tech.

Most recently, Thato co-founded Africa's first virtual clinic for women's health, Zoie Health. The technology platform offers women's health services virtually to make healthcare easier, more accessible and more caring. Although they only launched in August 2021, they have already positively impacted thousands of women's lives so far. Thato was awarded with the Top 200 Mail & Guardian Young South Africans award and the Top 50 Inspiring Women in South Africa award.

MOST DISRUPTIVE AWARD POWERED BY AWS



Dr Sirisha Kasinadhuni

Director, **Data Sciences Empiezo IT Solution**

Dr. Sirisha is a seasoned Applied Data Science Solution Architect with 20+ years of experience. She's the driving force behind AI Concept Studio at Empiezo, a platform nurturing industry experts, research scholars, and more. As the leader of Empiezo IT Solutions for global AI Product support, she's also a digital healthcare mentor at AIC-CCMB. Dr. Sirisha received the prestigious Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Award of Excellence in 2019 for Women Entrepreneurship and served as a jury member for a national-level hackathon by NEC India. She's been recognized as a Top CEO by IE Women Leader Magazine and featured in the Indian Achievers Forum's Top AI Companies in 2021. Furthermore, CIO Insider Magazine shortlisted her for the Top 10 Best AI Startups in 2022. Dr. Sirisha's groundbreaking work extends to assistive technology, benefiting not only ASD children but also non-verbal and bedridden individuals, facilitating learning, communication, and confidence building. Her contributions have made a significant impact on rehabilitation, vocabulary, communication, and societal integration for these individuals.



Fatima Alkaabi

Computer Engineer & Inventor

Fatima Alkaabi, a graduate of Virginia Tech with a degree in Computer Engineering and additional studies in Cybersecurity, Women and Gender Studies, and Science, Technology, and Society, stands as a shining example of youthful ingenuity and dedication to innovation.

At the remarkable age of 17, Fatima was already celebrated as the Youngest Emirati Inventor in 2015. Her journey into the world of invention began when she was just 7 years old, driven by an unyielding passion for creativity and problem-solving. She demonstrated her exceptional talent by conceiving twelve inventions that aimed to address local community issues, such as a smart steering system to combat texting while driving and the Teleporter, a robot designed to attend school on behalf of sick children.

Fatima's work extends beyond invention, as she actively fosters social platforms centered on innovation and creativity. Through volunteer tutoring and workshops, she has shared her profound knowledge of the sciences with over 3000 students in her region. In 2016, she earned international accreditation for peer-to-peer training and counseling.



Barbara Belvisi

Founder & CEO, **Interstellar lab**

Barbara Belvisi is an entrepreneur with a journey spanning finance, venture capital, and hardware innovation.

She co-founded Hardware Club (now HCVC) to invest in and empower hardware startups, showcasing her commitment to innovation and entrepreneurship. In 2018, Barbara's passion for space, nature, and technology led her to establish Interstellar Lab, a company dedicated to preserving life on Earth and expanding it into space. Interstellar Lab's cutting-edge controlled-environment modules support sustainable biofarming on Earth and life-support systems in space, collaborating with major industry players and space agencies like NASA and ESA.

Barbara's contributions have earned her numerous accolades, including recognition as a Top 10 Woman in Tech in France, a member of the Top 100 Forbes list in Europe, and Best Innovator 2022. She is also a Choiseul 100 honoree in France and a recipient of the Prix Janus 2023 and the BOLD Award 2023.



Naadiya Moosajee

Co-Founder & Chief Innovator, **Womb**

Naadiya is Co-Founder at WomHub, a unique ecosystem builder supporting innovation along the STEM (Science,Technology, Engineering and Ma. She serves as the Chief Innovator. Naadiya co-founded WomEng, a global social enterprise developing women and girls for engineering and tech. WomEng has a mission to empower 1 million girls through STEM education in partnership with UNESCO

Naadiya helped develop an early warning system to keep activists safer online in Kenya. She has also co-developed a cybersecurity vulnerability index for female entrepreneurs and a speaks on cybersecurity and AI bias. She is venture partner and LP at Five35 Ventures, a pan African venture capital fund investing in women in tech businesses across Africa. She was a Co-Chair for the Saudi Arabia B20 Task Force on the Future of Work and Education and the B20 Italy special taskforce on women empowerment & B20 Indonesia Taskforce for Women Empowerment. She was named "Top 20 Young Power Women in Africa" by Forbes Magazine as well as one of the top people in tech in Africa by Los Echos. Naadiya has worked across 30 countries to revolutionise the face of engineering through diversity, inclusion, innovation.



Tamar Bosikashvili

CEO, Aisitec Ltd. & Data Scientist, **BiteriumAI Ltd**

Since 2016, Tamar has been at the helm of Aisitec Ltd., a Georgian company that specializes in software development and consulting services. Under her leadership, the company has expanded its offerings to include off-the-shelf products available as SaaS solutions or for on-premises installation. Tamar's entrepreneurial spirit extends to co-founding BiteriumAI, an AI-based startup that went public in 2022. The company focuses on digital personalized nursing to combat high blood pressure and prevent cardiovascular disease with evidence-based recommendations. Tamar's journey in technology includes significant milestones, such as her instrumental role in Fortunejack.com's transformation into a top Bitcoin casino. She also gained valuable experience working with Heckel Medizintechnik GmbH, contributing to the development of medical software.

Tamar is a passionate advocate for women in tech, sharing her knowledge through lectures at universities and striving to shatter stereotypes about women in technology.



Marcela Ruiz Aguilar

CEO & Founder, **Acústica Marina SpA**

Marcela, a marine biologist with a Master's in Strategic Management and Project Evaluation, is a driving force in the tech realm as the Executive Director of the Marine Acoustic Company. The company specializes in pioneering hydroacoustic research, where Marcela's expertise shines. Apart from her tech achievements, Marcela is Vice President of the State Alumni Chile Association (SACH), propelling the STEAM GIRLS initiative to inspire young women in science and technology. Her influence extends globally as a key figure on the Chile-United States Council for Science, Technology, and Innovation.

Recognized for her dynamic accomplishments, Marcela secured the Tech Entrepreneur title at the Women that Build Awards 2022 and the Women Leaders in Science, Technology, Innovation, and Talent award in 2021. Marcela's triumphs extend to the Avante Challenge, where she led her team to victory and made her mark as a female tech leader. Her involvement in international programs underscores her role as a change-maker. Furthermore, Marcela champions women in business, advising and co-founding associations like the Chilean Association of Businesswomen Asia Pacific. With a background in the public sector, particularly in fisheries and aquaculture, she adds depth to her contributions.



Sacha Alanoca

AI Governance Researcher & John F Kennedy Fellow, **Harvard**

Sacha Alanoca is a distinguished expert in AI governance. Currently pursuing an MPA (Master in Public Administration) at Harvard University, she holds the prestigious John F. Kennedy Fellowship, reflecting her commitment to advancing AI governance and ethics.

Within the Harvard community, Sacha actively champions responsible AI initiatives. She serves as the Co-Chair of the AI & Emerging Tech Caucus at the Harvard Kennedy School, where she plays a pivotal role in shaping discussions and policies surrounding AI's societal impacts. Additionally, she contributes her expertise as an AI Leader with the Berkman Klein Center for Internet and Society.

Sacha's professional journey includes serving as a Senior AI Policy Researcher and Head of Community Development at The Future Society, a renowned think tank. In this role, she played a key part in coordinating the development of Tunisia's national AI strategy and authored research papers addressing critical AI policy issues, including AI tools for pandemic response.

Sacha Alanoca's expertise extends to international collaboration, as she is recognized as an expert for the OECD's AI Policy Observatory. Her dedication to advancing AI ethics and governance is further underscored by her inclusion in the "100 Brilliant Women in AI Ethics" in 2022. Sacha's Franco-Chilean background adds to her unique perspective and global impact in the field of AI governance.

MOST IMPACTFUL INITIATIVE AWARD

MIA

Tarja Stephens and Janna Salokangas are visionary co-founders on a mission to empower and uplift women in the world of artificial intelligence (AI) and emerging technologies through their groundbreaking venture, Mia, or Mission Impact Academy.

Janna Salokangas, a Co-Founder of Mia, is committed to closing the skills gap with AI. Mia is a global AI school dedicated to providing education in AI and emerging technologies, with a special focus on non-technical women. Janna's vision is to upskill 1 million women worldwide, driving inclusive innovation in the AI space. She is also a founding partner of the Women of the Future, Web3 & Metaverse book, which spotlights the Top 100 women globally driving impact in the world through immersive technologies.

Tarja Stephens, the other co-founder of Mia, shares the same commitment to empowering non-technical women through AI education. Mia's mission is to accelerate AI skills development, foster digital inclusion, and enhance career mobility for women worldwide. As a Public Benefit Corporation, Tarja and Mia prioritize diversity, ethics, and inclusion in the tech sector, ensuring that the future of AI is shaped by diverse voices. Tarja is also an advisor for the Women of the Future book and serves as an advisor for the Global VR/AR Association (VRARA) in the South Florida chapter, promoting collaboration in immersive technologies.

Africa Teen Geeks NPC

AFRICA TEENGEEKS
www.africateengeeks.co.za

Lindiwe Matlali, CEO of Africa Teen Geeks and Apodytes, is transforming education and tech innovation in Africa. Her remarkable journey began with the founding of Africa Teen Geeks, Africa's largest computer science education nonprofit, ensuring coding education for every African child.

Lindiwe's impact has been recognized with numerous accolades, including the Schwab Foundation Social Innovator of the Year and the Queen Elizabeth II Point of Light Award. She's been hailed as one of the "Top 50 Most Inspiring Women in Tech" and received the MTN Women in ICT Community Builder Recognition Award, among others.

Under Lindiwe's leadership, Africa Teen Geeks introduced MsZora-Block, Africa's first block-based coding platform. They've reached 600,000+ stakeholders via Zoom live lessons, trained 2800+ teachers in STEM, garnered 2+ million YouTube views, and crafted 8,000+ video lessons for Grades R to 12. Their collaboration with the Department of Basic Education produced coding and robotics curricula, promoting tech education in South African schools and driving free e-learning initiatives.

Technovation Girls +

TECHNOVATION Girls Uzbekistan

Elena's dedication to breaking down barriers for women and girls in the tech and engineering sectors is exemplified through her leadership in the Technovation Girls program, initiated and organized by Tech4Impact NGO since 2016. This program has grown substantially, with participation from girls aged 8 to 18, fostering project-based learning and the creation of innovative mobile applications addressing critical issues, including education, healthcare, gender inequality, and more.

The impact of the Technovation Girls program in Uzbekistan is undeniable. It has led to a remarkable increase in the female student ratio at Inha University, one of the program's partners, from 8% in 2016 to 35% in 2019, with many of these new students being Technovation participants.

Surveys of program participants, mentors, and parents reveal impressive results. A significant number of girls express newfound interest in entrepreneurship, information technologies, and leadership skills. Encouragingly, 40% of participants aspire to build careers in STEM fields.

Elena's tireless efforts have not only transformed the lives of countless girls but also inspired many to pursue STEM-related careers and become mentors themselves.

Colori

COLORI

Amélia Matar, a dynamic entrepreneur and writer, has made contributions to education and literature. Raised in Bondy, Seine-Saint-Denis, her journey combines her passion for technology, literature, and societal change. Amélia's career started with a DEUG in Modern Literature from Sorbonne University, followed by her venture into the startup world after studying at Grenoble École de Management.

In 2018, she founded COLORI, an innovative initiative providing screen-free digital initiation workshops for children aged 3 to 10. These workshops have been introduced in over 60 cities across France, addressing the digital divide and fostering digital literacy among children, regardless of their socioeconomic status.

Her notable achievements have earned her the Bold Future Award from Veuve Clicquot and recognition as one of the "50 Under 40 Who Are Transforming France" by Le Point magazine in 2021. In addition to her entrepreneurial endeavors, Amélia is an accomplished author, with her debut novel, "Ainsi naissent les mamans," receiving critical acclaim in July 2022. The novel explores complex themes of family, gender equality, and personal histories, showcasing Amélia's storytelling prowess and her dedication to addressing important societal issues.

Eduloco

Thalia, a Filipina founder, embodies resilience and innovation. Raised by a single mother, she defied financial constraints to pursue an education in Switzerland, earning Swiss and UK degrees.

Her career led her to prestigious hotel chains worldwide. Yet, her life's reflection inspired Eduloco, an AI-powered platform democratizing overseas education. She streamlined university applications and unlocked financial channels, ensuring access for students from all backgrounds.

Her journey through Antler accelerator and early-stage VC support showcases her remarkable impact. Eduloco quickly garnered 1k users within two months of MVP launch. Recognized by Cartier Women's Initiative and Google Tech Summit, Thalia's grit and dedication are evident. She's addressing education inequalities in Southeast Asia, transforming lives and fostering economic growth.

Eduloco's recognition as a top student recruitment startup in Malaysia solidifies her commitment to making quality education accessible. Thalia's work aligns with the United Nations SDG, creating a ripple effect of positive change.

Epic Queen

As the founder and CEO of Epic Queen, an innovative STEM education initiative in Latin America, Ramírez has created a ripple effect of transformation, impacting over 70,000 students and igniting their passion for STEM from a young age.

Ramírez's initiatives include tailored STEM programs for girls, impactful hackathons, and an extensive network of meetups across Latin America.

Her dedication to accessibility led to the creation of online bootcamps, fostering a sense of belonging in the tech community and inspiring women from diverse backgrounds to pursue tech careers.

An influential digital creator, Ramírez hosts a renowned podcast in the STEM sector, amplifying the voices of women in technology and inspiring a new generation of female technologists.

Her hackathons have opened doors to new job opportunities, while her mentorship and skill development programs have equipped thousands of girls and women with the tools they need to succeed in the tech industry.

CONCAT

As a nominee for Forbes 30 under 30 and the recipient of the Wearethecity Social Entrepreneur Award in 2023, Laura's mission is nothing short of transformative.

Laura's journey has been marked by her determination to empower women and youth, particularly within the tech industry. She actively contributes to various civil society organizations and serves as a powerful advocate for female refugee rights.

Since 2018, Laura has been based in the Middle East, addressing global economic challenges, with a special emphasis on refugee and marginalized youth education and employment opportunities. Her groundbreaking venture, CONCAT, founded in 2021, is a web development company led exclusively by refugee and female developers from conflict-affected regions. This initiative is reshaping international hiring practices and dispelling stereotypes about the Middle East.

Laura's relentless dedication has fostered exponential growth for CONCAT, doubling monthly sales and expanding services. Her influence extends globally through workshops, speaking engagements, and advocacy efforts, reaching audiences across 15 countries.

Laura Jardine Paterson's remarkable achievements, including the 2023 Rising Star Award and the 2022 Social Tech Award, reflect her profound impact on creating a more inclusive, diverse, and promising future.

WOMAN IN WEB3 AWARD POWERED BY THE SANDBOX



Marie Giorgobiani

Co-Founder & COO, **Arena Games**

Marie Giorgobiani, an aspiring lawyer, transitioned her career path to embrace the world of technology, particularly focusing on blockchain and gaming. Marie co-founded Arena Games, a blockchain gaming platform that has garnered international acclaim, earning a spot in the 500 Global portfolio in 2023 and winning pitch contests.
Notably, Marie's contributions were acknowledged by Forbes when she was named one of the winners on the Forbes 30 Under 30 list in Georgia. Beyond her entrepreneurial endeavors, she and her team established Degamefi, a web3 community building organization aimed at promoting blockchain technology adoption and education in the Caucasus region.

Through numerous meetups, web3 hackathons, and conferences, Degamefi has significantly contributed to the region's tech ecosystem. Marie's leadership, expertise, community-building efforts, and commitment to education have made her a standout figure in the tech industry, further solidified by her Forbes recognition. Her vision for advancing Georgia as a blockchain hub is a testament to her passion for technology's potential in shaping the future.



Mukaya 'Tai' Panich

CEO & Chief Venture and Investment, **Officer SCB 10X**

Tai Panich, with over 20 years of experience in the technology sector, is a prominent figure in the world of tech investments.

Her expertise spans a wide range of tech domains, including Deep Tech, Fintech, and Blockchain. As the CEO and Chief Venture and Investment Officer at SCB10X, the digital technology investment arm of Siam Commercial Bank, she has made strategic investments in numerous successful ventures, such as Fireblocks, Anchorage, and Ape Board, showcasing her keen eye for promising startups. Tai's remarkable journey from Silicon Valley to leading SCB10X has had a transformative impact on the blockchain and decentralized finance space in Southeast Asia, making her a role model for aspiring women leaders.

Her dedication to promoting diversity and inclusivity within the web3 industry is evident through initiatives like the REDeFiNE Tomorrow Summits and hackathons, fostering visionary voices and innovation. Tai Panich's unwavering commitment to driving growth and innovation in the web3 landscape makes her an outstanding candidate for the Women in Web3 Award.



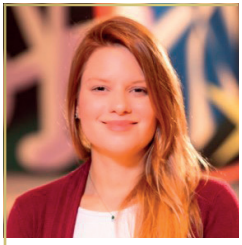
Bernice E. Omiunu

Founder, **Women in Blockchain Africa**

As the founder of Women in Blockchain Africa, Bernice has fostered a supportive and inclusive community, providing mentorship, resources, and networking opportunities to women aspiring to enter and excel in the Web3 domain.

She has organized numerous events, workshops, and webinars to educate and empower women in the intricacies of blockchain technology, DeFi, NFTs, and other Web3 innovations. Bernice's deep understanding of the challenges faced by women in tech has led her to champion policies and initiatives that advocate for equal opportunities and representation. She is a vocal proponent for bridging the gender gap in the rapidly evolving Web3 landscape.

Her leadership has also been recognized in her involvement as an alumna of the Young African Leaders Initiative, where she leverages her experiences to inspire the next generation of women leaders in technology. Bernice actively engages in partnerships and collaborations to create a more inclusive and diverse tech ecosystem. Her efforts have been instrumental in encouraging more women to embrace careers and leadership roles in the transformative Web3 space.



Georgia Sanches

Brazil Lead, **Conduit**

Georgia, has spearheaded the Brazilian arm of Conduit, an avant-garde platform facilitating the convergence of traditional finance and decentralized finance (DeFi) through APIs, heralding fresh avenues for markets, products, and opportunities.

As the linchpin of Conduit's Brazil operations, Georgia orchestrates a strategic symphony encompassing go-to-market strategies, partnership cultivation, and a dynamic sales and marketing team oversight. Her mission is emblematic: empowering Latin American enterprises and individuals to harness the transformative potential of DeFi and cryptocurrencies, while skillfully bridging the chasm between legacy and emergent economies.

Georgia immerses herself in the rapidly evolving landscape, collaborating with global luminaries, and amplifying her prowess in areas like web3, design thinking, and digital marketing. Notably, her academic accolades, including a master's degree in business and management from Fundação Getulio Vargas, underscore her commitment to relentless growth.



Dina Sam'an

Co-Founder & Managing Director, **CoinMENA**

Dina Sam'an firmly believes in the transformative potential of cryptocurrencies in shaping the future of finance.
In 2021, Dina co-founded CoinMENA, a cryptocurrency exchange that was created to meet the growing demand for a fully regulated and well-governed platform with stable banking relationships in the MENA region. Under her exceptional leadership as the Managing Director, CoinMENA rapidly rose to become the fastest-growing cryptocurrency exchange in the region. From the outset, Dina's goal was to bridge a crucial gap in the market, providing users with a safe, simple, and reliable platform to deposit, trade, and withdraw digital assets. CoinMENA caters to both beginners and experienced investors and is currently operational in several countries within the MENA region, with plans for further global expansion.
Dina's extensive involvement in the cryptocurrency industry spans years, during which she has remained at the forefront of the latest developments. She generously shares her insights and expertise through thought leadership pieces on LinkedIn and the CoinMENA Blog, further establishing herself as a pioneer in the MENA region. Dina's dedication and impact were notably recognized when she earned a spot on Forbes' prestigious 30 Under 30 list in 2021.



Leanne Elliott Young

Co-Founder & CEO, **Institute of Digital Fashion**

Leanne Elliott Young, widely known as the "Metaverse Mama," is at the forefront of fashion's transformation into the digital realm. She is the visionary force behind the Institute of Digital Fashion (IoDF), an organization that has achieved six industry-firsts in metaverse activations and concepts, solidifying its position as the global leader in this space.
Leanne is a trailblazing innovator, commentator, and keynote speaker on metaverse and digital fashion innovation, inclusivity in tech, and sustainability in the digital landscape. Her work involves shaping the future of fashion into one that is inclusive, diverse, decentralized, and sustainable. Her expertise and insights have earned her recognition on a global scale, with features in renowned publications like Vogue Business, Forbes, Vogue, Business of Fashion, Dazed, and more. She has also been an advocate for the metaverse and Web3's economic potential at a government level for UK trade. Leanne is not only a thought leader but also an educator, sharing her knowledge at prestigious institutions such as UAL, CSM, LCF, Parsons, Harvard, Istituto Marangoni, and Cambridge University. Her visionary leadership and dedication to shaping the future of fashion make her a true luminary in the metaverse and digital innovation space.



Sheila Warren

CEO, **Crypto Council for Innovation**

Sheila Warren is an influential leader in the crypto and blockchain sector, serving as the CEO of the Crypto Council for Innovation (CCI), a global alliance advancing the adoption of crypto and blockchain technologies. With a background that includes founding the blockchain team at the World Economic Forum (WEF) and serving on its Executive Committee, Sheila has been instrumental in shaping discussions about decentralized technologies.

Sheila's impact transcends her roles at CCI and WEF. She has testified before the U.S. Congress and is a respected commentator in the media, offering insights on cryptocurrencies and blockchain's transformative potential. Her commitment to diversity is evident in her leadership, as she has formed majority-woman teams in the blockchain sector, contributing to gender equality.

As an advocate for reasonable crypto regulations, Sheila has testified on key issues, emphasizing the need for regulatory clarity over enforcement. Her dedication to advancing the crypto industry's role in addressing financial and technical inequities has garnered recognition.

Sheila's acknowledgment of blockchain's broader applications, including aiding conflict zones and preserving evidence of war crimes, underscores its global impact.

GLOBAL LEADERSHIP WOMEN IN TECH® AWARD POWERED BY OPMG



Dr Monika Sonu

Co-Founder & Director New product Development Healthinnovation, **Toolbox**

Dr. Monika Sonu is a multifaceted healthcare visionary known for her groundbreaking work. As a Doctor, Digital Health Entrepreneur, and Social Innovator, she co-founded Healthinnovation Toolbox and spent over 15 years bridging the gap between public and private healthcare systems, crafting digital health solutions. Driven by a desire to challenge the healthcare status quo, she founded HIT LABS 10,000, democratizing digital health education globally. Her remarkable journey, from rural India to founding her own company, showcases resilience and determination.

Awards like the HIMSS Future 50 Innovation leader and recognition from organizations like Ada health and Medikalife underscore her profound impact on healthcare. Dr. Monika Sonu's mission to empower healthcare professionals and transform healthcare delivery through technology exemplifies her passion for making the world a healthier place.



Dr Ebtesam Almazrouei

Executive Director, Acting Chief AI Researcher & Co Founder – **Technology Innovation Institute**

Dr. Ebtesam Almazrouei is an esteemed figure in AI and technology, currently serving as the Executive Director and Acting Chief AI Researcher at the AI-Cross Center Unit in the Technology Innovation Institute (TII). Her impactful work includes the development of Falcon LLM models, surpassing industry benchmarks, and the creation of Falcon 40B, a top-ranking open-source language model.

Recognized as one of the Leading AI Women in the World in 2023, Dr. Almazrouei champions sustainability and AI for Good initiatives, actively participating in Abu Dhabi AI Connect and IEEE international conferences. Her influence extends beyond TII, with leadership roles in AI and Blockchain. She's also a prolific author, patent inventor, and a sought-after speaker at prestigious tech summits worldwide. Dr. Almazrouei's career spans telecommunications, IoT, autonomous vehicles, wireless localization, 5G, and beyond, shaping advanced solutions for diverse industries.



Lubomila Jordanova

Founder & CEO, **PlanA**

Lubomila Jordanova is a leader in the realm of sustainability and technology. Lubomila is the founder and CEO of Plan A, a science-backed and AI-driven SaaS platform that has redefined the landscape of business carbon accounting, decarbonization, and ESG reporting. Under her guidance, Plan A has become an indispensable tool for businesses across industries, including giants like BMW, Chloe, N26, Solaris, Flix, Payhawk, and many more.

This platform empowers organizations to decarbonize their operations and stay compliant with environmental policies. But Lubomila's influence extends beyond Plan A. She is also the co-founder of the Greentech Alliance, a thriving community that unites over 3000 greentech companies with over 500 VCs, media outlets, and experts. Her dedication to sustainability and technology has earned her a spot in the Obama Foundation Leaders Europe program, where she collaborates with fellow changemakers to drive impact in their communities.



Ana Nakashidze

CEO, **AzerTelecom**

Ana Nakashidze is a distinguished telecoms executive with over two decades of industry leadership experience. Throughout her career, Ana has held key positions in public, private, and international telecoms organizations. She made history by becoming the first woman Chief Technology Officer (CTO) in Georgia, overseeing technology for major fixed-line and mobile operators. Her expertise extends to advising telecoms regulators, governments, and public institutions on expanding rural broadband infrastructure in Georgia and the surrounding regions, such as the South Caucasus and Central Asia.

In 2018, Ana Nakashidze joined Azertelecom as Deputy CEO and swiftly advanced to the role of CEO in 2020. Her two-year tenure as CEO in 2022 proved transformative, guiding the company through post-COVID challenges and geopolitical crises, achieving remarkable realignment and success.

Ana's contributions to the telecoms industry have been internationally recognized. She was named among the prestigious "Power 100" by Capacity Media, an annual compilation of the most influential figures in the telecommunications sector. Additionally, she earned a spot on Capacity Media's "Women to Watch" power list, celebrating her significant impact on the telecoms and tech sectors.

Ana Nakashidze is a trailblazer in projects that shape the future of the Internet regionally and globally.



Simone Lettieri

Chief Digital Officer, **Meta**

Simone is a dynamic leader with a remarkable track record spanning over 15 years in the digital realm. Her expertise encompasses a wide array of domains, including digital strategy, customer experience, mobile web engineering, and DevOps delivery. Her diverse background in technology and digital marketing extends across the financial, media, healthcare sectors, and dynamic startup environments.

Simone is renowned for her strategic acumen and her ability to drive transformation in the digital landscape. Her visionary leadership is people-centric, with a strong focus on delivering tangible results.

One of Simone's key strengths is her experience in leading multi-disciplinary teams with a Lean Agile approach. She has a proven track record in developing and launching digital platforms, applications, and cutting-edge artificial intelligence solutions. Her expertise extends to crafting compelling customer journeys and optimizing the customer experience, setting her apart as a leader in digital marketing. With a pragmatic mindset, she establishes policies and sets organizational goals, consulting with customers to drive continuous improvement and expanded innovations. Simone is a visionary leader, poised to steer your organization toward digital excellence and transformative success.



Neeti Mehta Shukla

Co-Founder & Chief Impact Officer, **Automation Anywhere**

Neeti Mehta Shukla stands as a visionary leader and trailblazer. As the Co-founder and Social Impact Officer at Automation Anywhere, she is at the helm of a transformative journey that is redefining how organizations operate in the digital age.

Automation Anywhere, under Neeti's astute guidance, has emerged as a global leader in intelligent automation solutions. Their Automation Success Platform, infused with generative AI, encompasses a wide array of cutting-edge technologies, from process discovery to robotic process automation (RPA), end-to-end process orchestration, document processing, and advanced analytics. Neeti's commitment to a security and governance-first approach ensures that organizations worldwide can harness these tools to unleash productivity gains, drive innovation, enhance customer service, and accelerate business growth.

At the core of Neeti's work is the unwavering belief in unleashing human potential through intelligent automation. Her visionary leadership not only shapes the future of work but also paves the way for a more efficient and collaborative world where technology and humanity coexist seamlessly.



Priya Thakoor

Group SVP Digital & Product, **Airtel Africa**

Priya Thakoor is an expert in digital business strategy and development, she has led and grown divisions in multinational Telecommunications, Banking, and Retail sectors, including Vodafone and Barclays markets in Africa. Her extensive experience has seen her managing digital and mobile businesses with more than 150 million unique customers and an impressive turnover of over $2 billion. Her strategic leadership has facilitated the development of diverse digital, design, big data, and engineering teams of over 300 professionals. In her current capacity, she coaches Women in Tech, a and further hosts mentorships circles for women in 14 markets in Africa. Leading her previous team at Vodacom, part of Vodafone group, she was proud of having 50% of her executive committee made up of Women and 50% of her team structure of 75 represented of women across Digital Product Management, Digital Analytics and Product Design and actively participated as a judge and coach at Hackathons

Beyond her role in established organizations, Priya is a seasoned entrepreneur and start-up founder. She has created and scaled several innovative companies in the internet (property classifieds), SaaS (print promotional design), and fintech (alternative credit scoring & mortgage marketplace) sectors, both in South Africa and the USA. Her knack for identifying market opportunities and providing solutions to customer problems has made her a respected figure in the tech entrepreneurial scene. Her academic journey is equally impressive. A scholarship led her to Mercer University in the USA, where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Engineering with a specialisation in Computer Engineering.

WOMEN IN TECH® LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD Powered by Absa Bank



Wai Yie Leong

Senior Professor, **INTI International University**

IR Prof. Dr. LEONG Wai Yie is a renowned figure in the field of Electrical Engineering and Biomedical Engineering. She holds a Ph.D. and bachelor's degree from The University of Queensland and is a prolific author of 10 book series on electronics and biomedical innovation. Wai Yie's remarkable achievements include leadership roles in engineering institutions like IET, IEM, and INWES.

Her research has focused on medical signal processing, wireless networks, and brain signal processing, leading to the commercialization of bioinformatics techniques. She's received numerous awards, including the 2023 INWES Distinguished Woman in Engineering Award. Wai Yie is a passionate advocate for women in technology, having established a mentorship program and representing women engineers in various international forums, including the United Nations. She actively promotes equality, diversity, and inclusion in engineering and plays advisory roles in government and academic organizations, making significant contributions to the field.



Elisabeth Moreno

CEO, **L.E.I.A**

Elisabeth began her career as an entrepreneur at the age of 20. She then climbed the corporate ladder to become a senior executive on four continents, offering a unique global perspective on the challenges and opportunities of human organizations.

However, it is as a Consular Judge and Minister for Gender Equality, Diversity, and Equal Opportunities that Elisabeth has left an indelible mark. She has devoted her life to promoting equality and advocating for women's rights. Whether in public or private enterprises, small structures, or multinational corporations, Elisabeth recognizes that their success relies on the men and women who comprise them, each with their unique stories, aspirations, and motivations. She embodies the common ambition for success while championing diversity and equality at the heart of every organization.



María Alejandra Cruz

Founder, **Edulink LATAM**

Alejandra Cruz Pinzón, a tech luminary in education, is a compelling contender for the Woman Tech of the Year award. With a decade of tech expertise, she's pioneering the fusion of technology and education. Her Google for Education mastery has transformed classrooms through tools like Google Classroom and G Suite, fostering collaboration and creativity. Not confined to tech, she's a holistic educator, coaching peers through workshops, guiding them in tech-fluent pedagogy.

A global influencer, Pinzón shares her journey, inspiring a new generation to embrace the digital wave. Breaking gender norms, she stands tall, a beacon for women in technology. The Woman Tech of the Year recognition beckons as a testament to her brilliance, tenacity, and societal impact. It's not just an award—it's a driving force propelling education into an era where tech reshapes learning, guided by the visionary Alejandra Cruz Pinzón.



Nargis Dustmatova

Chairwomen, **Fintech Association Uzbekistan**

As the Chief of Growth and Chairwoman of the Fintech Association of Uzbekistan, Nargis is at the forefront of advancing the fintech landscape in Uzbekistan. Her work goes beyond boundaries, encompassing various notable initiatives:

She's actively involved in designing special capacity-building programs, tailored to empower women entrepreneurs and SMEs led by women in Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan. Nargis is dedicated to creating opportunities for women in the business world.

Furthermore, she collaborates closely with development partners to spearhead projects aimed at fostering innovation, economic growth, and improving financial inclusion for the unbanked and underprivileged.

Her engagement with market players and vigilant monitoring of fintech market statistics ensure she remains at the forefront of industry trends and developments. Nargis is a visionary leader with a passion for fostering economic growth, promoting gender equality, and leveraging innovation for the betterment of society.



Renee Wynn

Former NASA CIO, Board Member and Deputy CIO, **US Environmental Protection Agency**

With a wealth of experience in environmental policy, global IT, cybersecurity, supply chain management, risk assessment, and ESG, Renee is a seasoned expert in guiding government agencies through intricate digital transformations.

Her journey includes spearheading initiatives at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and serving as the Chief Information Officer (CIO) at the renowned National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). Renee currently lends her expertise as an independent board member at Axonius and advises companies like Aquia.us, Level6, and Interos Solutions on optimizing their products for federal government use.

Beyond her corporate roles, Renee is deeply committed to non-profit work. She serves on the boards of the Virginia Tech Applied Research Center (VT-ARC), a research organization fostering collaboration between industry, academia, and government, and The Women's Center, a DC-based non-profit dedicated to enhancing mental health and well-being in the community. In her role on The Women's Center's Finance Committee, she leads the enterprise risk management process.

Renee Wynn's contributions extend to the realm of ideas, as she has shared her insights as a TedX speaker. Her multifaceted expertise and dedication make her a valuable asset in driving positive change and innovation.



Dr Mariam Matar

Founder & Chairperson, **UAE Genetic Diseases Association**

Dr. Mariam Matar is not only recognized as the most powerful scientist in the UAE but also holds a prominent place among the top 20 Arab scientists making significant contributions to humanity, according to the British Scientific Community. Her influence and accomplishments extend beyond the realm of science.

Ranked 33 among the "100 most powerful Arabs under 40" in Science by Arabian Business in April 2015, Dr. Matar has garnered numerous accolades for her impactful work. She received the Super Inspiring, Motivating Women Award from UNASCO in 2015 and was honored with the Young Achiever Award by the World Leadership Congress and Awards. A true pioneer in the field of public education and awareness of genetic disorders, health, and community well-being in the UAE and the region, Dr. Matar holds senior and board-level positions at several public and nonprofit organizations, including Dubai Cares and Reach Mentoring. Dr. Matar's influence extends to government initiatives, where she played a pivotal role in advocating for pre-marital screening, preventive genetic testing, and successfully implementing legislative changes related to genetic disorders in the UAE. As the first Emirati woman to hold the title of Undersecretary to the Minister of Health in 2006, she shaped blueprints for Public Health and Primary Health Care for the year 2011. Dr. Matar also launched initiatives to expand Primary Health Care (PHC) services in the Northern Emirates, increasing the number of PHC centers from 52 to 97.



Mamokgethi Phakeng

Member: Advisory Council on National Orders, **The Presidency of the Republic of South Africa**

Mamokgethi Phakeng holds a PhD in Mathematics Education from Wits University, making her a prominent figure in mathematics education globally, with over 60 keynote talks at international conferences and numerous awards recognizing her research and community contributions, including the Order of the Baobab (Silver) conferred by the President of South Africa in April 2016.

In August 2014, CEO magazine named her the most influential woman academic in Africa; in 2020 she was included in Forbes' inaugural list of the 50 Most Powerful Women in Africa. She holds two honorary doctorates: Hon DSc from the University of Bristol in the United Kingdom (2019) & Hon DEd from the University of Ottawa in Canada (2022).

In September 2022, she was the inaugural winner of the prestigious Africa Education Medal. She is a member of the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf), Fellow of the African Academy of Sciences (AAS) & fellow of The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) in 2021.

Deputy Mother, as she is affectionately referred to by many young people across the African continent, is an academic with a sharp social conscience and a philanthropist who, among other initiatives, founded the Adopt-a-learner Foundation in 2004 which provides financial and educational support to South African students from township and rural areas to acquire higher education qualifications.

When she took office in July 2018, she declined an inauguration ceremony in her name and requested that the funds budgeted for the ceremony be set aside to pay off outstanding debt for students who had completed their studies during 2015 – 2017 but were not able to graduate.

Since then, she donates 20% of her monthly salary and 100% of proceeds from her public speaking engagements to scholarship funds administered by UCT. UCT was ranked as the Best in Africa for the first time by all five major world university rankings. In 2022, 78% of the members of the UCT Senate voted in favour of her to continue as VC for a second term, but she decided to take sabbatical & officially stepped down as VC on 3 March 2023.

Menu

Chicken Guacamole Tart, Goat Cheese Figs Savouries, Fresh Mushroom Guacamole Whole grain Crackers



Hummus (Arabic Bread), Fattoush Salad, Chicken Mexican Salad



Kibbeh, Vegetable Spring Roll, Beef Satay



Mixed Grilled (Shish Tawouk,Lamb Chops .Chicken Kebab),
Vegetable Lasagna,
Beef Stroganoff with Mushroom Sauce,
Grilled Fish with Lemon Butter Sauce,
Chicken Biryani



Mashed Potato with Truffle Oil,
Mixed Grilled Vegetable,
Vegetable Fried Rice,



Crean Caramel, Chocolate Mouse, Fruit Platter

Partners


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Sharjah Research Technology
and Innovation Park

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