

A Landmark day to remember!

THE INSTITUTE of Chartered Accountants of India, in conjunction with the Dubai Chapter of the ICAI and Women Members Empowerment Committee of ICAI Delhi hosted the first of its kind, a 2-day summit for the Women CAs from around the world on 15th and 16th of January 2015.

The two days saw lady speakers from different nationalities assemble and included top-notch finance professionals from industry and practice. The topics were diverse, sessions interactive, and the audience sat in rapt attention asking 'What's next?' Each speaker had at least one key takeaway from their session.

On day one, Dr. Maryam Matar, the Founder & Chairperson of the UAE Genetic Diseases Association, an Emirati, advised women to be themselves and highlighted the importance of men in her life and their

entrepreneurs, viz., Sobha Moni, Partner of Triad Software Services from Dubai; Alisha Moopen, Director of her family owned Medical business Aster DM Healthcare; Natasha Gangaramani, ED of Al Fara'a Group, UAE and Priya Khanna, a Fengshui consultant in Dubai. They spoke about how they overcame their challenges and emphasized that it is okay to fail sometimes.

During the inaugural ceremony, H.E. Anurag Bhushan, the Consul General of India, Dubai and the members of the ICAI, Dubai Chapter lit the traditional kuthuvillaku.

There was excitement and anticipation in the air as the sessions commenced on Day 2. The first speaker CA Bhavna Doshi, Senior Advisor, KPMG spoke about Corporate Governance and the Provisions of the Companies Act, 2013. The second speaker, Rana Ghandour Salhab, Regional Talent & Communication

Partner at Deloitte, a Lebanese national, spoke about how the needs of companies have changed relating to talent diversity and that an organization can classify employees belonging to different age groups and gender for talent management.

The highlight of the day was CA Nandita Parekh, Partner in CNK & Associates LLP, Mumbai.

Her hilarious talk on gender diversity at workplace left the audience in splits.

CA Sandhya Sriram, Finance Controller of Unilever inaugurated the post lunch session by using the ingredients used to bake a cake as the different ingredients in brand "YOU". The summit concluded with a panel discussion on IFRS and IAS among Faeza Sohawon, Principal, Deloitte & touché (M.E.); Tracy Baron, Partner, Deloitte, Dubai; Sana Khater, Group CFO, Al Waha Capital and CA Padmini Priyadarshini, Partner, PwC, Dubai.

In the end 10 lucky ladies walked away with pearl sets sponsored by Dhamani. – **Anuradha Subramanian**



contribution towards shaping her success as an individual. She also highlighted that the progress of UAE is attributable to HH. Shiekh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the Founder and President of the UAE, who emphasized on getting girls educated for the betterment of society. The second speaker, CA Deena Mehta, MD of Asit C Mehta Investments gave an entirely new perspective as to how women can excel in areas such as Investment Banking, Equity Markets, Stock Broking and derivatives, due to nothing but their natural instinct!

The post-tea session had panel discussion on young women in business. This session had successful