

Launch meeting in the Hunagrian Parliament; 22 March 2005

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Presentation by Miklós Vecsei, Ministerial Commissioner for Homelessness; 12 May 2006

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Meeting Justicia and Zoltán Lomnici, President of the Supreme Court; 29 January 2007





It is a special joy for me to present this album on the second anniversary of the foundation of the HBLF Women's Forum because it truly reflects the numerous colourful, exciting and helpful meetings that we have attended together.

Since our foundation, our most important cohesive force - besides our own professional work - comes from the initiatives that we take in order to improve society and protect our environment. We assist the younger generation in becoming successful both in their private and in their professional lives. Furthermore, I believe that our prime task, as female leaders, is to mediate harmony not only in our work but also when striving towards our social targets.

It is no secret that the Women's Forum has been trying to seek a balance ensuring that female diplomats who assist our work should represent the overall political spectrum, thus safeguarding the traditional independence of the HBLF. Let me take the opportunity to thank Katalin Szili, Speaker of the National Assembly, Kinga Göncz, former Minister of Equal Opportunities and currently Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ibolya Dávid, head of the Hungarian Democratic Forum (MDF) and Zita Gurmai, member of the European Parliament, for their active participation in our events. I am convinced that this publication will be continued ...

Borbála Czakó

Launch meeting in the Hunagrian Parliament; 22 March 2005





Making a Difference Together



I was very happy when Bori Czakó and Kincső Adriány told me about the setting up of the Women's Forum and that they wished to make use of the experience of GE's best practice. The training was an exciting challenge, where the Hungarian organisation of GE's women's network shared the theory and practice of personal and organised network building with the newly organised forum members. Few women take leading positions in Hungarian business and public life. The art of network building is an important business skill which has been neglected so far, but is a basic requirement for extending the careers of women - and of course, men also. The main message is freedom of choice, that talented women can run successful careers alongside their family responsibilities.

Eszter Szabó

Presentation at General Electric on building women's networks; 31 August 2005

István Szini, National Executive for Hungary GE and Eszter Szabó, Regional Leader, Corporate Communications and Public Affairs of GE CEE & Turkey



Presentation at General Electric on building women's networks; 31 August 2005

Women Business Leaders at GE Hungary





The values carried forward by the Women's Forum have been important to me from the beginning since they are, in many respects, similar to environmental protection. I have always regarded it as a prime task to involve everyone concerned and that an active role should be taken by the civilian sphere.

Having finished my business studies, I took employment in the competitive market. This is when I realised the new challenges to be faced in building a just and coherent society which provides equal opportunities for all.

I have been a member of numerous Hungarian and international civil organisations over the past 15 years. I sincerely believe that responsible and charismatic women can set a good example to the future generations. This is why I was greatly impressed when this informal 'club' was set up on the initiative of Borbála Czakó, where representatives of both business and political life can strive to guarantee equal opportunities. Supported by Kincső Adriány, the HBLF Women's Forum has already become a very important pillar with regard to equal opportunities. It is perhaps no accident that 2007 was the European year of equal opportunities for all.

Márta Szigeti Bonifert

Discussion on transparency; 14 October 2005



Discussion on transparency; 14 October 2005





"I believe that the HBLF Women's Forum is important - not because I am loyal to women but I am convinced that female leaders observe, react and think differently to their male counterparts.

It is also essential that we should create an extensive circle of people who are acquainted with each other. Then, if we face a problem we can easily pick up the phone to ask for help or advice.

I find these meetings very interesting because they offer an opportunity to learn about the internal culture of other companies, and this is beneficial to us all. It is special joy to me that we have also been able to provide female leaders with detailed information on the research background and the use of L'Oréal products."

Katalin Ránky

A visit to L'Oréal; 14 November 2005









I find myself extremely lucky that I - as a young female manager - have met new friends and gained professional help at the Women's Forum. I have had the chance to meet contended women who set such a good example. Learning about other people's lives, successes and philosophies, it no longer seems impossible for me at all to put my ideas into practice in several walks of life and to make my dreams come true. Of course, work is also of great importance in addition to my family, husband and children, but it is not an easy task to maintain the balance between the two.

Our regular meetings and our friendly relationships help us surmount difficult onstacles both at a professional level and in our private lives. I know that many people at my age have not had such an opportunity, and this is why I regard the formation of the Women's Forum as essential, enabling us to create the widest possible cooperation and to take action in the wider society, thus also serving the basic objectives of the HBLF.

Kincső Adriány

Presentation by Miklós Vecsei, Ministerial Commissioner for Homelessness; 12 May 2006



Presentation by Miklós Vecsei, Ministerial Commissioner for Homelessness; 12 May 2006





When the HBLF Women's Forum was set up one and a half years ago, I joined their work with some doubts, which I did mention at the launch. I have had some bad experiences: female organisations are generally either short-lived 'flares', unilateral feminist schemes or schemes for pushing business interests - and I didn't really like doing that. I have to admit that I would have said no had I not been invited by Bori Czakó.

I was not very active in the beginning, then all the events that I failed to attend seemed. to me like missed opportunities. (They were practically in raptures over the GE training and the L'Oréal programme). The working lunch organised on the topic of corruption was a wonderful intellectual experience for me. The Women's Forum slipped into my life unnoticed. I simply love attending these events because I like the rich content. the diversity, the direct tone and the high level of sophistication. I was a bit scared to come up with the idea of a visit to the National Bank of Hungary, but I am all the more happy now that we had so many of vou here.

Ilona Hardy

Roundtable discussion with Zsigmond Járai, President of the National Bank of Hungary; 12 September 2006





Roundtable discussion with Zsigmond Járai, President of the National Bank of Hungary; 12 September 2006





"I made friends mainly with boys as a child and in my early teenage years. "A female network"? Women only? A feminist club? Workaholic women? And then I decided to attend one of the meetings, primarily because I was invited by Bori and trusted her. Since then, I have been grateful that this moment happened and am happy that Bori gave me the invitation. I met and talked to interesting and exciting people - women. It is important to meet people in today's world, and we women have an important task. We need to relieve the tension. It is easier to do together. This forum gives us an opportunity to come together which is why it is indispensable. And now I have female friends, thanks to the Forum."

Ildikó Takács

Special reception at the Parliament by Katalin Szili, Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Hungary; 15 December 2006





Special reception at the Parliament by Katalin Szili, Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Hungary; 15 December 2006

Making a Difference Together



Special reception at the Parliament by Katalin Szili, Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Hungary; 15 December 2006



Kincső Adriány, HBLF Executive Director; Borbála Czakó's mother, Klára Dobrev, wife of the Prime Minister; Zita Gurmai, Member of the European Parliament and Borbála Czakó, HBLF President



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I met Bori at the conference organised on the topic of social responsibility. She was the moderator for the conference, and made the first presentation.

Several months later, Bori invited me for the first time to an event organised by the HBLF Women's Forum. I was happy about the chance of participating, and I also realised for the first time that the HBLF is a social organisation independent of party politics. Moreover, Bori's involvement also convinced me that joining in was not against judicial ethics even under the strictest considerations. This is how I became an enthusiastic participant in the events.

At the HBLF Women's Forum I had the opportunity of meeting ladies with colourful and natural personalities, who were diligent and persistent and who had worked hard to ensure peace and order around them. They are people I feel really easy alongside.

It was a special joy for me when the president of the Supreme Court provided an opportunity to visit the court, and it was great honour for me to show you – accompanied by the president and his wife – where court activities take place and to give you an insight into judicial work.

Zsuzsanna Koday

Meeting Justicia and Zoltán Lomnici, President of the Supreme Court; 29 January 2007



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