



# Celebrating the Middle East's Top Executives and CEOs

On the cusp of its 10th anniversary, Forbes Middle East celebrates the most influential business leaders in the Middle East for the seventh consecutive year.

In October, Forbes Middle East unveiled the region's top executives and CEOs for 2019 at a spectacular Global Meets Local gala dinner. This was the seventh annual gala dinner where Forbes Middle East revealed its ranking of the Top 50 Regional Executives Heading Global Companies and the Top 50 International CEOs Heading Local Companies.

The 26 high-profile awardees included Melda Yasar Cebe from Kraft Heinz Africa & Middle East, Mazin Houry from American Express, Norm Gilsdorf from Honeywell International Inc., Kez Taylor from ALEC and Les Male from Dubai Gold and Commodities Exchange.

Paul Griffiths, CEO of Dubai Airports, was revealed as the top international CEO heading a local company. "I am going to take this award as recognition not just of the ability to make Dubai Airports the largest and hopefully the most successful airport in the world but also on behalf of my team, drawn from 70 or 80 different nations across the world and for showing that the enterprise of Dubai can produce fantastic

social and human results as well as some incredible economic successes," said Griffiths after accepting his award.

Forbes Middle East also revealed that it will be celebrating its 10th birthday next year, having been producing cutting-edge business research and world-class interviews with business leaders, entrepreneurs and innovators in the Arab world since 2010.

"The connections, partnerships and indeed friendships that we have made over the last decade have been an inspiration to us," said Justina Eitzinger, Chief Revenue Officer, addressing the crowd. "Looking ahead, we are full of gratitude and excitement."

The gala was hosted in partnership with Humansoft as platinum partner, EFS as facilities management partner, GBM and Skyline University College as gold partners, ITL World as preferred travel partner, the Ghassan About Group as strategic partner, SEDCO Capital as support partner, and Patchi as preferred chocolate partner.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY SAAD WADIWALA FOR FORBES MIDDLE EAST



**Paul Griffiths**, CEO of Dubai Airports and **Khuloud Al Omian**, Editor-In-Chief of Forbes Middle East as she presents his award



Welcome address by **Justina Eitzinger**, Chief Revenue Officer of Forbes Middle East



**Alexa Siersdorfer** wife of **Dietmar Siersdorfer**, CEO of Middle East at Siemens, receives his award on his behalf



**Tariq Chauhan**, Group CEO and Board Member at EFS Facilities Services Group



**Melda Yasar Cebe**, Managing Director at Kraft Heinz Africa & Middle East



**Amr Refaat**, CEO at Gulf Business Machines



**Caspar Herzberg**, President, Middle East & Africa at Schneider Electric





**Anurag Agrawal**, Managing Director - Middle East & Eurasia at Canon



From Ghasan About (L-R): **Rajesh Ram Mohan**, General Manager - Spare Parts & Lubricants; **Jamil Semmak**, Senior Vice President Sales & Marketing at Ghasan About Cars and **Jawed Ali Khan**, General Manager - Commercial Vehicles & Heavy Equipment Division



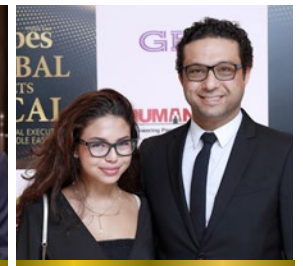
**Mazin Khoury**, CEO, Middle East & North Africa at American Express Middle East



**Alaa Samir Al Ali**, CEO at Nirvana Travel and Tourism



**Andrey Dvoychenkov**, Managing Director, Arabian Peninsula & Pakistan at Nielsen



**Mostafa AlGuezeri**, Managing Director, U.A.E. & Near East Countries at ABB



**Nader Haffar**, Chairman & CEO of KPMG in the Lower Gulf (UAE and Oman), his wife **Racha Abdrabbo**; from Gulf Business Machines (GBM), **Sajdah Al Riyami**, Brand & Communications Specialist; **Carlos Robles**, Head of Marketing & Communications; and **Cherif Morcos**, Vice President of Digital Business Solutions



**Salah El Tawm**, Senior Director - Operations; **Syed Saad Yousuf**, General Manager - Oil & Gas Operations; **Tariq Chauhan**, Group CEO; **Satinder Pal Singh**, Executive Director; **Aliya Dias**, Senior Executive - Group Communication; **Najwa Makhoulf**, General Manager - IWP Operations; and **Collin Meyers**, Director, Procurement & Supply Chain



**Abdul Rahman Al Thehaiban**, Senior Vice President - Technology, Middle East, Africa & Central Eastern Europe at Oracle



From Skyline University College, **Firas Al Tabbaa**, Deputy Director Marketing & Public Relations and **Rakesh Gaur**, Director - Marketing & Creative Communications



**Lubna Yazji**, Regional Business Development & Channel Partners Manager at Eaton-ME with guest



**Georg Schroeckenfuchs**, President & Head, Middle East & North Africa at Novartis Pharma Services



**Naveen Joseph**, Co-Founder and Regional Director - Operations, iMile Delivery Services and **Habeeb Furqan**, Head of Sales



**Nader Haffar**, Chairman & CEO at KPMG Lower Gulf



**Talal Chihabi**, Sales Director, Al Marjan Island LLC



**Ghassan Mirdad**, President, Eastern Middle East at Schlumberger



**Ranjeev Menon**, Group CEO at Gulf Warehousing Company



**James Michael Lafferty**, CEO at Fine Hygienic Holding



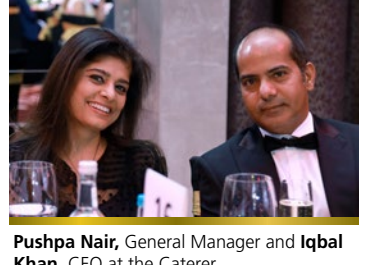
**Zhang Junguo**, Chairman, Middle East at Industrial and Commercial Bank of China



**Norm Gilsdorf**, President, Middle East, Russia & Customs Union at Honeywell International Inc.



From L-R: Schneider Electric's **Ahmed Khashan**, Cluster President, Gulf Countries; **Caspar Herzberg**, President Middle East and Africa; **Khuloud Al Omian**, Editor-In-Chief at Forbes Middle East; **Firdaus Shariff**, VP Marketing, Communications and Digital Customer Experience, MEA at Schneider Electric; and **Justina Eitzinger**, Chief Revenue Officer at Forbes Middle East



**Pushpa Nair**, General Manager and **Iqbal Khan**, CEO at the Caterer





**Kez Taylor**, CEO at ALEC



From Leader Healthcare Group (L-R), **Nadeeka Maheswaran**, Global Head of Marketing; **Sonal Sachdev**, Director of Strategic Planning; **Sukhdeep Sachdev**, Global CEO and **Sabu Thomas**, Chief Operating Officer



**Yu Tao**, President & CEO, Middle East at China State Construction Engineering Corporation



**Massimo Falcioni**, CEO at Etihad Credit Insurance



**Luciano Poli**, President, Dow India, Middle East, North Africa & Turkey at Dow Chemical Company



**Benjamin Schroeder**, SVP, Head of Communications, Siemens Middle East and **Alexa Siersdorfer**, wife of **Dietmar Siersdorfer**, CEO of Siemens Middle East



**Richard Teng**, CEO, Financial Services Regulatory Authority at Abu Dhabi Global Markets



**Kavya Pinto**, Marketing & Distribution Manager at Forbes Middle East and **Reka Sepsy**, Director of Corporate Communications, The aurora agency



**Les Male**, CEO at Dubai Gold and Commodities Exchange