

Introduction by Martine Liautaud

Good evening ladies and gentlemen, dear friends.

I am especially happy today to launch the first of a series of dinner speeches for the Foundation that we set up at the end of last year, the “Women Initiative Foundation”. The goal of the Foundation is to become one of the key actors in improving the place of women in business.

We are taking advantage of our friends from Stanford being here to organize the dinner in honor of Professor Margaret Neale and Mrs Fin O’Hara.

They’re here to attract more women, especially confirmed high potential women from major groups as well as experienced entrepreneurs to join their emblematic graduate program the Stanford Executive Program”.

We share the same objective to strengthen the presence of women in the world’s major universities and thanks to my experience in Stanford where I really became an entrepreneur, I can vouch for the excellence of their programs and I can testify how they can change your life.

And, above all, it’s a unique time to debate, to network and to meet people from all over the world on a unique, dream campus.

I should mention our links with Stanford with two achievements in 2015: with our partner BNP Paribas last year we set up a women entrepreneur program which will be renewed for at least the coming three years and we also initiated a case study about ENGIE’s transformation and this Harvard-Stanford case study will be the largest case study in energy ever written.

But it’s time to present our guests: Mrs Fin O’Hara who is in charge of developing Stanford Executive Programs in Europe. She can answer all the questions that you may have on these programs and

Let us now turn to our speaker tonight whose presence is both an honor and a privilege: Professor Margaret Neale has had an exceptional career and today she is a senior professor at Stanford for the MBA program and for the Executive programs. She is an Adams distinguished Professor of Management.

She is a worldwide authority on negotiation and team performance and also on Women leadership.

Tonight she will talk on a topic that all women in business must be aware of:
Why women must ask.

Maggie, you have the floor.