## Annual IBM List Celebrates Global Women Leaders Shaping the Future of Artificial Intelligence

Company honors 35 professionals from 12 countries, as new global survey shows benefits of diversity to AI -- but notes that work is still needed to close gender gap

ARMONK, N.Y., May 6, 2020 /PRNewswire/ -- IBM (NYSE: IBM) today at its Think Digital conference unveiled its list of Women Leaders in AI, recognizing 35 exceptional female business leaders from 12 countries who are using artificial intelligence to drive transformation, growth and innovation across a wide variety of industries.

These leaders were chosen because they and their companies are demonstrating the power of AI to help improve business and work for their customers and employees. The annual recognition not only celebrates the honorees' accomplishments, but also creates a peer network for them to learn from each other and discover approaches for applying AI to solve pressing business challenges.

Research from a recent IBM global AI survey indicates that 34 percent of businesses surveyed across the U.S., Europe and China have adopted AI. From understanding and deriving insights from tens of millions of financial documents, to improving new employee onboarding experiences, to helping women have a better experience buying intimate apparel, these women leaders are shaping innovative AI use cases. Their AI efforts helped to increase customer satisfaction, improvements in employee retention, faster response times, significant cost savings, and more efficient processes.

Many honorees are demonstrating how the power of Watson's Natural Language Processing (NLP) can be used to improve efficiency in business processes and drive greater customer and employee experiences. They are leveraging AI tools to build AI and supplement the data science skills shortage. And they are proving, through a variety of AI applications, that human and machine collaboration can truly help improve how people work.

Explore the stories of how these women leaders are using AI to help transform their businesses — and the lessons they've learned along the way — at ibm.biz/womeninai. Follow us at @IBMWatson for live social updates.

"Artificial intelligence will be at the center of business transformation over the next decade, and for us to mitigate bias moving forward, we need women and diverse teams at the forefront of AI. That's why we are proud to share the stories of 35 remarkable women who are driving progressive use of AI using Watson," said Michelle Peluso, IBM's Senior Vice President for Digital Sales and Chief Marketing Officer, who also serves as the global leader for IBM's Women's Initiative. "Their accomplishments are an inspiration to all of us."

To shed more light on diversity in AI, IBM recently teamed up with Morning Consult to conduct a new global study of more than 3,200 AI professionals. Notable findings of that study, being released today, include:

- 85 percent of AI professionals believe the industry has become more diverse over the past few years; of those, 91 percent think that shift is having a positive impact. 74 percent of AI professionals believing diversity hasn't improved say the industry must become more diverse to reach its potential.

- While men and women working in AI were equally likely to be interested in math and hard sciences growing up, men working in AI were more likely to be told they had a natural talent for mathematics and hard sciences than women, while women were more likely to be told they had a natural talent for the humanities, social sciences, and fine arts.

- Two in five AI professionals facing hurdles in implementing AI reported challenges in building AI tech or getting their organization to adopt AI.

- Women in AI globally were nearly five times as likely as men to say their career advancement was negatively impacted by their gender.

**The [2020 IBM Women Leaders in AI honorees](#) are:**

- **Tiphanie Combre**, Senior Director, AI Assisted Service and Automation, **ADP** (U.S.)

- **Amy Shreve-McDonald**, Lead Product Marketing Manager for Business Digital Experience, **AT&T** (U.S.)

- **Mara Reiff**, Vice President, Strategy and Business Intelligence, **Bell Canada** (Canada)

- **Tammy Lucas**, Vice President of Marketing, **Best Western Hotels & Resorts** (U.S.)

- **Sheila Ambruster**, Senior Manager, Strategic Architecture, **The Boeing Company** (U.S.)

- **Claire Lucas**, Head of Artificial Intelligence, **Bouygues Telecom** (France)

- **Rosa Martinez,** Cognitive Project Manager, **CaixaBank** (Spain)

- **Michèle Brengou**, Cognitive Factory Business Leader, **Crédit Mutuel** (France)

- **Ashley Lawrence**, Research and Innovation Project Manager, **Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency** (U.S.)

- **Maiga Bishop**, Director of Business Intelligence and Analytics, **Dillard's** (U.S.)

- **Jo Ann Tan**, Head of Infrastructure, **The Hartford** (U.S.)

- **Susanna Shen**, General Manager—Corporate IT, **Hong Kong and China Gas Company Ltd.** (Hong Kong, China)

- **Yui Ozawa**, Chief, AI Promotion Team, **its communications Inc.** (Japan)

- **Ryoko Miyashita**, Manager, Customer Service Department, Customer Service Section, **JACCS Co., Ltd.** (Japan)

- **Momo Tokumon**, Assistant Manager, Web Sales, **Japan Airlines** (Japan)

- **Karla Capela Morais**, CEO and Founder, **KOY–Law Intelligence** (Brazil)

- **Marisa Ferrara Boston**, Automation and AI Lead Architect, Audit Technology, **KPMG LLP** (U.S.)

- **Junko Kato**, Manager of the Customer Service Administration Office, **Meiji Yasuda Life Insurance Co.** (Japan)

- **Donna Dodson**, Chief Cybersecurity Advisor, **NIST: National Institute of Standards and Technology** (U.S.)

- **Kristen Bennie**, Head of Open Experience, **NatWest Group** (U.K.)

- **Lisa Bouari**, Executive Director, **OutThought AI Assistants** (Australia)

- **Melissa Molstad**, Director of Common Platforms, Data Strategy and Vendor Relations, **PayPal** (U.S.)

- **Linda Maruta**, Head of Product, **Pulsar** (U.K.)

- **Izumi Hatta**, Manager, AI Skills & Dialog Group, **Rakuten, Inc.** (Japan)

- **Amala Duggirala**, Enterprise Chief Operations and Technology Officer, **Regions Bank** (U.S.)

- **Carol Chen**, Vice President for Global Marketing, Global Commercial, **Royal Dutch Shell** (U.K.)

- **Monica Pedraza Garcia**, Operations Director, **Santander** (Spain)

- **Sabine Rinser-Willuhn**, Manager, HR Systems, **Siemens AG** (Germany)

- **Aarthi Fernandez**, Global Head of Trade Operations Product, **Standard Chartered Bank** (Singapore)

- **Jenni Barnett**, Executive Director, Digital, **Telstra** (Australia)

- **Nicole Hein**, Technical Product Owner, **Telstra** (Australia)

- **Lee-Lim Sok Keow**, Deputy Principal, **Temasek Polytechnic** (Singapore)

- **Paola Molino**, Head of Transformation Programs, **Vodafone** (Italy)

- **Atsuko Shinozuka**, Manager, 3D Smart & Try and Omni-Channel Strategy, **Wacoal Corp.** (Japan)

- **Piera Valeria Cordaro**, Commercial Operations Innovation Manager, **Wind Tre S.p.A.** (Italy)

IBM created the Women Leaders in AI program in 2019 to help provide visibility to women leading in AI, encourage increased female participation in the field of AI, and provide honorees a network for shared learning. As organizations hasten their digital transformations amid an unpredictable environment, technologies such as AI, edge and cloud are helping companies remain resilient and position themselves for the future. Recognizing leaders on the forefront of adopting AI and learning from their experiences in building AI that's inclusive and transparent become even more important during this time of rapid evolution.

**About IBM Think Digital**
At Think Digital 2020, IBM will discuss the state of business and the role of critical technologies, such as AI and Cloud, as clients accelerate recovery and digital transformation in the wake of COVID-19.

Visit https://www.ibm.com/events/think/watch for the full schedule and livestream agenda, and to watch all of the programming—including IBM CEO Arvind Krishna's keynote, "The New Essential Technologies for Business."

Follow the conference on Twitter at #think2020 and @ibmlive. For more information, visit the IBM Think 2020 Newsroom: https://newsroom.ibm.com/think

For more information about IBM's Women Leaders in AI list, visit: ibm.biz/womeninai

SOURCE IBM

For further information: Linda Chung, linda.chung1@ibm.com