

Press Release

Nestlé Pakistan recognized as diversity and inclusion (D&I) champion at GDIB Awards 2020

Karachi (March 4, 2020): Nestlé Pakistan was recognized as one of the most progressive organizations in Pakistan at the Global Diversity and Inclusion Benchmarks (GDIB) Awards 2020. Nestlé Pakistan won three best practice awards in the categories of *Vision, Leadership* and *Structure* respectively at the annual diversity and inclusion conference in Karachi.

The recognition signifies Nestlé Pakistan's constant commitment towards promoting diversity for creating an inclusive culture, and its purpose of embracing and enhancing the quality of life for all, while contributing to a healthier future, both within and outside the organization.

Talking about the achievement, Akmal Saeed, Head of Human Resources at Nestlé Pakistan said, "We have been working to implement diversity and inclusion principles every step of the way within our organizational structure as well as outside our business. We have incorporated D&I performance goals which helps us stay motivated and demonstrate excellence in using GDIB Standards."

"In order to promote a diverse and inclusive culture at our workplaces, we have been working on programs such as '*Hai Tum Pe Yaqeen*' – an initiative for differently-abled and '*Phir Se Ker Dikhao*' – that provides the right coaching and experiential leaning for women to connect back with their work life. Meanwhile, in the '*Kero Aitmaad*' program, we try to break stereotypes and encourage young female university students by sharing stories of those that joined the workforce, instilling hope, ambition and self-confidence," he added.

In light of receiving the award, Waqar Ahmad, Head of Corporate Affairs, Nestlé Pakistan said "It is an honor to be recognized for our efforts. This not only shows Nestlé's commitment and dedication to diversity and inclusion, in line with UN SDGs 5 – Gender Equality, 8 – Decent Work & Economic Growth and 10 – Reduced Inequalities, but also motivates us to continue our mission further."

He added that Nestlé Pakistan has been playing its role in community engagement and enhancement through various programs for its focus areas. "We are improving livelihood opportunities for rural women in Pakistan through programs such as *Nestlé-BISP Rural Women Sales Program* under Ehsaas, that focuses on graduating BISP beneficiaries out of poverty in line with SDGs."

Congratulating Nestlé Pakistan on winning the award, Zahid Mubarik, CEO HR Metrics and member BoD, Centre for Global Inclusion USA, said, "We recognize Nestlé's commitment and efforts which are completely aligned with the GDIB Standards. The GDIB Awards is a mechanism to recognize organizations demonstrating excellence in using these standards to align diversity and inclusion within organizational policies and processes."

The GDIB standards, developed by 95 expert panelists from around the world, support organizations globally in the development and implementation of Diversity and Inclusion best practices. Diversity Hub-HR Metrics organizes GDIB Awards by engaging reputable organizations from all over Pakistan.

About Nestlé

Nestlé is the world's largest food and beverage company. It is present in 191 countries around the world, and its 328,000 employees are committed to Nestlé's purpose of enhancing quality of life and contributing to a healthier future. Nestlé offers a wide portfolio of products and services for people and their pets throughout their lives.

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