Women leading with empathy and authenticity at Kina Bank

Last week six senior leaders at Kina Bank participated at the ninth Women in Banking & Financial Services Leadership Summit in Sydney. The summit saw Australia’s foremost senior executives from leading financial institutions facilitate sessions offering practical tools for success and sharing their personal leadership journey with the women.

Ivan Vidovich, Chief Transformation Officer of Kina Bank said: “We recognise the importance of diversity and providing more opportunities to our female leaders – this supports our aim to grow more talent from within the organisation.”

Kina Bank’s Financial Controller, Rei Vagi said: “It was inspiring to hear women leaders with a wealth of experience share their stories. How they have climbed the corporate ladder, the challenges they’ve faced, their learnings and how they dealt with different situations including balancing work and family life.” The week long summit had a variety of workshop style sessions. Those included the demonstration of different leadership styles, approaches for powerful engagement and strategies to amplify leadership influence.

“A session on ‘Leading with Empathy’ delivered by Philippa Watson the Executive General Manager of Direct Channels, Commonwealth Bank has helped me to understand that leading with empathy in a results driven environment isn’t about switching off, but rather about focusing your power and using it through situational leadership, knowing when and how it creates magic.” Martha Nion-Tefuarani, Kina Bank’s Learning and Development manager said. “The women that were on the panels were sharp and outspoken and all shared the same important value: being in a positive state of mind. This has an impact on how you lead your people. Three key themes; ‘How can I grow? What can I give? What can I celebrate?’ were their anchors. This was powerful to witness and a joy to participate in. I have a true appreciation and gratitude towards our executive management team for having us fly all the way to Sydney for this event – thank you,” Martha added.

For Hahui Fairi, it was a first to attend and participate at a leadership conference. “The summit has helped me identify my leadership style, the importance of empowering and delegating, having the time for strategic thinking and how to be empathetic and resilient in the work place. Most of the key learnings relate to my role at the work place and at home as a mother.

There was so much I gained from the summit, I plan to share these learnings with team leaders and colleagues,” said the Head of Banking Operations.

The leaders who travelled for the summit are: Rei Vagi, Financial Controller; Martha Nion-Tefuarani, Senior Business Partner – Learning & Development Melissa Jojoga, Chief Compliance Officer; Asi Nauna, Head of Business Partners Support & SME; Hahui Fairi, Head of Operations – Banking; and Helen Ove, Head of Retail Compliance.

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