

Connected Women in Technology

The event at Cisco's offices in Bedfont Lakes, U.K., featured high-profile speakers and networking opportunities for women in the IT industry.

Attendee #1

I wanted to come to Cisco and see the equipment that you have on premises here, to find out about the organization a bit more. To understand the culture of the organization and also to meet other women who are working at high levels, like myself, within IT.

Attendee #2

I think the starting piece was a real kick-off of energy. I mean, I can see why he was chosen to speak now. And, at first, I was sort of thinking, "Oh God, not another guy talking about e-commerce and all that." But the energy levels and the understanding of social trends and what he was saying about how the infrastructure of society really is changing, I thought, "Yep, that's fantastic!" And he had the energy and passion to actually support that.

And then, all of a sudden, the ball game completely changed when Tanya came on. And we're talking about very subjective, very personal things, our own children and society stuff and how communication technology is actually impacting on family structures, on children, and, and even the way we try and regulate things.

Dr. Tanya Byron

It's been a real pleasure being here at Cisco today, talking to the Connected Women. I think within a working woman you see the boardroom exec, but you also see the parent. You see the person who's making the strategic decisions within that company. I want to influence that thinking. But also you're seeing people who make strategic decisions around parenting as well, who communicate with schools, who can talk to their child's school, but also think more strategically about companies, how they can input into educational initiatives around helping children manage risk online.

Juliet Davenport

By being linked to four other countries globally today in the conference, and doing something at the personal level, being able to either talk to each other or do something in our own homes, on energy and the environment, means that not only do we make the personal contribution, we made a global contribution. And, hopefully, what we'll see out of today will be that we can communicate that to a much wider audience.

Dame Ellen MacArthur

I think the most important thing I'd like people to take away from today is just the messages that I've learned through sailing, that we have to really look after the resources that we have. They *are* limited. We only have one planet. And the other thing is that it's down to all of us to change. You know, all the research I've done, all the work I've tried to do on sustainability. There are systems sometimes in place which stop us living the way we'd like to. And, in fact, everything has to change for us to live a more sustainable life.

Nikki Walker

Dame Ellen MacArthur was here, to motivate and inspire us with her experiences from sailing around the world. Dr. Tanya Byron talked about how we protect children on the Internet and how, when they go online, we help them make sure they stay safe. One of the things we did today was really try and inspire schoolgirls. We brought them in to give them a bit of mentoring and allow them to meet with delegates to experience what they'd experienced, but also to learn from them.

I hope the delegates are going to leave with building relationships and understanding a bit more about collaboration. We hope that they've been inspired by what they've heard, but also that they can help to inspire, by meeting the schoolgirls. We hope they've learned more about collaboration, and also that they've built some networks.

Dr. Tanya Byron

It feels like a very holistic event. It's all about being inspired. I was inspired by talking to the women. And I'd love to come back.

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