

REPORT

Sub-Forum

“Adaptability and Breakthrough: University’s Reform and Innovation in the New Ecology of Higher Education”

“Dimitrie Cantemir” Christian University, Bucharest

June 1–5, 2017

The Sub-Forum “Adaptability and Breakthrough: University’s Reform and Innovation in the New Ecology of Higher Education” was organized by “Dimitrie Cantemir” Christian University, Bucharest, during June 1–5, 2017, as an initiative of the President of the Senate of “Dimitrie Cantemir” Christian University, Professor Ph.D. Corina Adriana Dumitrescu, who, along with Professor Ph.D. Momcilo Luburici, founded 27 years ago one of the most impressive and modern private universities in Romania that has been awarded the High Degree of Confidence, a qualifier assigned by The Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education, based on the outstanding results of the almost 65,000 undergraduates and master graduates. “Dimitrie Cantemir” Christian University has other five branches in the country: Constanța, Cluj, Timișoara, Brașov, and Sibiu for faculties dedicated to law and economic studies, and nine faculties at the headquarters in Bucharest that offer undergraduate and graduate programs on legal and administrative sciences, touristic and commercial management, international economic relations, finance, banking and accounting, marketing, education sciences, foreign languages and literatures, security and defense studies, pedagogy of primary education, the history of international relations, geopolitics and diplomacy and communication and public relations criminal sciences, national and international business law, legal career, administration and public management, negotiation and economic diplomacy, financial audit, financial and banking management, and accounting financial management.

Launched by Communication University of China (originally Beijing Broadcast Institute) in August 2001, the World Women University Presidents Forum (WWUPF) aims at gathering the strength of women university pres-

idents all over the world and creating an international platform as they meet and work together for promoting female leadership in higher education. Since the establishment of the WWUPF, by the president Professor Ph.D. Liu Jinan, Communication University of China, seven forums – held every two or three years in China – and seven sub-forums – held around the world during the interval – have been successfully attended by over 1,000 women presidents from 90 countries and regions. Their valuable ideas on the development of higher education have highlighted the leading role of women university presidents, making the Forum’s scientific events a major influential brand in the international academic community.

In accordance with the latest current concepts on education, the sub-forum “Adaptability and Breakthrough: University’s Reform and Innovation in the New Ecology of Higher Education” focused on a challenging theme, to integrate a new, up-to-date mission in the academic educational system. Thus it was organized on three sub-themes for further inquiry:

- 1) University’s Challenges and Opportunities in New Ecology;
- 2) University’s Innovation on Education and Teaching in the Internet era;
- 3) University and Women Rector’s Roles and Mission in New Ecology.

In her opening speech, Professor Ph.D. **Corina Adriana Dumitrescu**, the President of the Senate, addressed her message underlying the fact that “Dimitrie Cantemir” Christian University was honored to organize and host this WWUPF Sub-Forum, “focusing on the inspiring topic of a ‘New Ecology’ in higher education, that underlines the essential role that people can play in shaping the way the Earth will look like in the coming century and defines the substantial changes and opportunities both in education and communication, with an effective and holistic approach. Technology, science, and the arts never cease to amaze us with the ever newer advancements / results and discoveries, challenge minds and souls of people worldwide to embrace, and adapt them accordingly, and make a new philosophical framework for living, communicating, learning, teaching, and designing the future that are different almost every day. All these generate a constant and noble need for universities to strengthen relationships, shake hands, and build bridges all over this planet.” Thus Professor Ph.D. **Corina Adriana Dumitrescu** strongly believes that women academics have the knowledge, power, and skill to successfully attain new goals, to open new horizons for the coming generations that expect to be warmly welcomed and encouraged to move on with their life, profession, and passion.

Professor Ph.D. **Liu Jinan**, the president of WWUPF, affirmed that “universities are the palaces of civilization for multiculturalism cultivation and WWUPF aims to create an international platform for women university presidents to communicate and collaborate, and to share new ideas and

thoughts in the fields of higher education development and women leadership promotion. Women are the gentle powers to change the world.”

Zhao Hui, Vice-president of Communication University of China, said that the world women university presidents’ forum has been working to promote the development of women’s education and to enhance the cultivation of female leadership. Women presidents use their own personal growth experience and successful understanding to construct the vivid reality of the picture for the development of women and women’s leadership. She also added that women presidents are the most dazzling female education leaders, as although they are in small number, they show huge impact.

Corat Saniye Gulser, Director of Division for Gender Equality, Office of the Director-General, UNESCO, said that UNESCO had been involved in promoting gender equality and women’s leadership for as long as its existence. Its efforts have concluded in organizing conferences and for the 2030 Agenda there are also discussions concerning gender equality. Thus this conference is crucial for discussing women’s leadership in higher learning and research institutions, since the proportion of women leadership in the world is only 29%.

Sağlamer Gülsün, President of the European Women Rectors Association, Former Rector of Istanbul Technical University, Turkey, underlined the importance of women’s roles in university leadership. She also mentioned that she likes Romania very much and whenever she visits “Dimitrie Cantemir” Christian University she feels as being at home while having President Corina Adriana Dumitrescu and Rector Cristiana Cristureanu as very close friends.

Tian Shulan, Former Vice-president of the All-China Women’s Federation and former Vice-minister of Education, China, talked about her personal experience that constituted her focus on the beginning of gender equality. She also added that, in higher education, women university presidents not only embody the women’s talent and wisdom, but also promote the improvement of women status as leaders of cultivating high-level talent. The important social role status of women university presidents makes them an important force in promoting gender equality.

In the end of the opening speeches session, **Luminița Gheorghiu**, Member of Directory College of the National Council for Combating Discrimination, The Romanian Parliament, affirmed that women are real values for education and health, the sine qua non conditions for civilization.

During the gift ceremony, Professor Ph.D. **Liu Jinan** offered a piece of ceramic art named the *Net Bottle* to Professor Ph.D. Corina Adriana Dumitrescu, the President of the Senate of “Dimitrie Cantemir” Christian University. Its shape originated from a kind of musical instrument held in the hand of the Buddhist Goddess, Guanyin, meaning “taking a drop of sweet dew from the net bottle, benefiting all beings.” As the competitive products, its

craft of glaze firing is perfect, demonstrating the unique charm of under-glaze red. *Net Bottle* is Mr. Ye Jianxin's masterpiece, who is a professor and doctoral tutor of Communication University of China. As Chinese Ceramic Design Art Master, through seven years of innovation and research, professor Ye inherited the traditional Chinese under-glaze red firing craft, achieved the art crossover integration by applying the artistic conception of Chinese drawing into the ceramic art, and reached the new height of Chinese under-glaze red.

The sub-forum opened its working debates with the keynote speech session moderated by **Chen Naifang** and **Ramona Mihăilă**. The first speaker, **Ma Dexiu** (Honorary Chairperson of Shanghai Jiao Tong University), tried to "Answer the Call of Our Times: Ways to Make Universities Creative and Innovative," while **Corina Adriana Dumitrescu** (Professor Ph.D., President of the Senate of "Dimitrie Cantemir" Christian University, Bucharest) talked about the influences of "The Intercultural Dynamic Ecology of Higher Education Landscape."

The next two presentations discussed issues of higher education in Asia: **Chen Weijia** (Vice-director and Secretary General of Women Leadership Academy, China) analyzed "The Progress of and Thinking on the Internationalization of China's Higher Education," while **Park Dong Soon** (Chancellor at Dongseo Educational Foundation, Republic of Korea) focused her speech on "Innovation in Higher Education: A Case Study of Global Access Asia." Then, **Zou Xiaoqiao** (Vice-president, UN Committee on the Elimination Discrimination against Women/ Women Leadership Academy, China) shifted the discussion to "Gender Equality and Women's Leadership from the International Perspective." In her speech, "Bologna Process and the European Integration in Higher Education," **Ramona Mihăilă** (Vice-rector for International Relations, "Dimitrie Cantemir" Christian University, Bucharest, Romania) made an introspection upon the way the Bologna Process influenced the higher education in Europe, neighboring European countries, and the Asian countries. The last presentation was an analysis of "The Changing Role of Women in Higher Education 3.0 and beyond" made by **Olga Burukina** (Director of the Centre for International Students' Recruitment, National Moscow State Institute for Tourism Industry, Russian Federation).

The first panel, "University's Challenges and Opportunities in New Ecology," moderated by **Marja-Liisa Tenhunen** and **Chen Naifang**, dealt with teaching and researching methods in higher education, and opened the discussions with **Guo Shulan** (Chairperson of Board of School Administration, Central Conservatory of Music, Beijing, China) who talked about "Challenges and Opportunities for Art Institutions in New Ecology." She was followed by **Giuli Alasania** (President of the University of Georgia, Georgia) and **Mariam Janjaria** (Head of Human Resources Department, University

of Georgia, Georgia), who presented a case study on “Women in Georgia Facing the New Challenges. Case Study: Females at the University of Georgia.” The discussion moved on “Characteristics Development: The Optimal Strategy for Challenges in the New Ecology of Chinese Higher Education Institutions,” as **Zhang Fuzhen** (Vice-president of China Pharmaceutical University, Nanjing, China) asserted, while **Tamara Gella** (Dean, I.S. Turgenev Orel State University, Russian Federation) emphasized, the “New Ecology in Russian Universities in the Era of Innovative Technologies.” **Esza Agha Malak** (Vice President of the Faculty of Arts, Lebanese University) tried to answer the question “Is University Innovation Possible in a Sick Country?”

The next presentations turned the discussion towards educational environment. Thus, **Ren Fang** (President of Xijing University, China) talked “On Reform of Higher Learning Institutions Expedited by Relation between Teaching and Learning under New Ecology of Education,” **Yang Xuemei** (President of Huanghe Science and Technology College, Zhengzhou, Henan, China) emphasized the “Strategic Choices for the Educational Reform of Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Colleges and Universities under the New Ecology,” while **Chen Naifang** (Professor, Former President of Beijing Foreign Studies University, China) presented the “Challenges and Innovations in the Reform and Development of China’s Higher Education in the New Era.”

Marja-Liisa Tenhunen (Shanghai University, MBA Center & Global Management Education Institute, Former President of Centria University of Applied Sciences, Finland) answered the question “How to Boost Sustainable Development in Higher Education?” while the next speakers talked about “Challenges and Approaches in Research and Doctoral Studies in the New Ecology,” **Anca Hermenean** (Vice-Rector, “Vasile Goldiș” Western University of Arad, Romania), “Group Research: Management and Authorship in Academic Environment,” **Silvia Tita** (Center for Advanced Study of the Visual Arts, National Gallery Washington, United States), “The Environmental Policy of Azerbaijan and its Realization,” **Lala Ahmadova** (Institute on Law and Human Rights of Azerbaijan National Academy of Science, Azerbaijan), and “University’s Role in Preservation of Ethnic Diversity and Traditional Culture in New Ecology,” **Iuliia Sushkova** (Ogarev Mordovia State University, Saransk, Russian Federation).

The second panel, “University’s Innovation on Education and Teaching in the Era of ‘Internet+’,” moderated by **Ileana Alexandra Orlich** and **Guan Naijia**, dealt with topics concerning teaching methods in the era of “Internet+” as adapted to different educational environments. Thus **Ileana Alexandra Orlich** (President’s Professor, Director of Romanian Studies, Honorary Consul General of Romania in Arizona, Arizona State University, United States)

referred to ways of “Adapting Textual Tradition in the Era of the Internet,” while **Wu Hui** (Vice-president of University of International Relations, Beijing, China) underlined the ways of “Braving Challenges to Classroom Teaching in the Internet Age,” and **Gao Xiaohong** (Director of Faculty of Journalism & Communications, Communication University of China, Beijing, China) offered solutions for “Trimming the Sail China’s Media Transition and Journalism-Communication Education Reform,” while **Tatiana A. Gurko** (Head researcher, Institute of Sociology, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow, Russia) talked about “Gender Equality in Professional Education and Formation of the Family in Russia.”

The next presentations approached “University’s Innovation on Education and Teaching in the Era of ‘Internet+’,” by **Jasminka Hasic Telalovic** (Head of Department, International University of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina), “Reform Approaches of Higher Education in the Internet Era,” by **Zhao Huili** (Vice-president of Huanghe S&T College, Zhengzhou, China), “Research on Entrepreneurship Education Mode of Private Universities and Colleges in China-Based on the Practical Explorations of Changchun University of Science and Technology,” by **Wang Yanmei** (Vice-president of Changchun Sci-Tech University, Changchun, China), “The Transformation of Knowledge Production and Imparting Mode of Private Institutions of Higher Learning in the New Ecology,” by **Ding Jing** (Chairman of Board, Xi’an Fanyi University, China), “The Innovational Road of Education and Teaching Mode in University – The Case of Nankai University,” by **Guan Naijia** (Professor, the Former Vice-president of Nankai University, Tianjin, China), “Information Technology and New Ecology in the Management of the University,” by **Olga Pilipenko Vasilevna** (I.S. Turgenev Orel State University, Russian Federation), “Kenya’s 8-4-4- Education System,” by **Nancy Abwalaba Owano** (Department of Educational Foundations and Policy Studies at Pwani University, Kenya), and “Bridging Cultures: The Role of the International Student Coordinator,” by **Carmen Săpunaru Tamaş** (International Student Coordinator, Graduate School of Humanities and Faculty of Letters, Kobe University, Japan) and **Mihaela Sighinaş** (Kobe-Oxford Japanese Studies Program Coordinator, Kobe University, Japan).

The third panel, “University and Women’s Role and Mission in New Ecology” moderated by **Ines Sanchez de Madariaga**, **Marija Bogdanovic**, and **Qin He**, emphasized the women’s roles in higher education leadership towards matters of responsibility, power, missions, success, discrimination, and gender equality. Thus, **Tian Shulan** (Former Vice-president of the All-China Women’s Federation and former Vice-minister of Education, China) approached “Women University Presidents’ Social Responsibility and the Power of Role Models in Pushing Gender Equality,” **Ines Sanchez de Madariaga** (UNESCO Chair on Gender Equality Policies in Science, Technology

and Innovation; Member of the Leadership Council, REDS, UN-SDSN; Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, Spain) introduced the audience to the “Keys to Effective Implementation of Gender Equality Plans in Technological Universities. The TRIGGER Project at Universidad Politécnica de Madrid.” **Sümeýra Buran Utku** (Counsellor, Department of Women Studies, Social Sciences University of Ankara Council of Higher Education, Turkey) and **Aşkın Asan** (Rector, Avrasya University, Former Minister of Family, Ankara, Turkey) talked about “Women Academics in Strategic Administrative Positions in Turkey’s Higher Education,” **Zhao Hui** (Vice-president of Communication University of China, Beijing, China) pointed to the “New Ecology of Education and the Mission of Women University Presidents,” while **Marija Bogdanovic** (Former Rector of the University of Belgrade, Serbia) analyzed the “Ethics in Science.”

The next three presentations focused on Chinese higher education: **Zhang Qin** (Vice-president of Guizhou University, Guiyang, China) discussed about “The Role, Mission and Responsibility of Female University Presidents in China,” **Wu Jianhua** (Professor of Nanjing Institute of Technology, Nanjing, Jiangsu province, China) presented “Decision Making: Key Ability for Success of Female University Presidents,” and **Qin He** (President of Jilin Huaqiao University of Foreign Languages, Changchun City, China) argued on “The Facilitating Role of Female Leaders in Educational Reform and Innovation.”

Alenka Jensterle Doležalová (Director of Department of South Slavonic and Balkan Studies, Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic) talked about “New Ecology and Gender Roles in the University Teaching,” **Efstratia Oktapoda** (European Projects coordinator, University Paris IV-Sorbonne, France) showed “The Involvement of Universities and Women Presidents and Rectors for Equality between Women and Men and the Creation of Innovative Missions for Equality and Fight against Discrimination in France, in Universities, and at the Sorbonne University,” while **Svetlana Aronova Anatolevna** (Department Director, I.S. Turgenev Orel State University, Russian Federation) underlined “The Evolvement of Women’s Contribution in the Higher Education Authority.”

The gender issue was debated during the next presentations: “Structural Change Promoting Gender Equality in Lithuanian Science System: Requirements, Possibilities and Challenges,” by **Aurelija Novelskaite** (Coordinator of European Projects, Vilnius University, Lithuanian Social Research Center, Institute of Sociology, Vilnius Gediminas, Lithuania), “Role and Position of University Women’s Leaders in The New Ecology through Gender Lens,” by **Kim Anh Duong** (Dean of Gender and Development Faculty, Vietnam Women’s Academy, Hanoi), “Reflecting on a Decade of Gender and Diversity Education at SUNY Cortland” by **Mechthild Nagel** (Director, Center

for Gender and Intercultural Studies, State University of New York, College at Cortland, United States), and “Female Leadership: The Way We Look: What Do We Stand for?” by **Isabel Lousada** (Director, Nova University of Lisbon, Portuguese Association of Women in Science, Portugal).

During the last day of the subforum, **Qin He** and **Giuli Alasania** moderated the roundtable “University Development and Innovation in New Ecology of Education Policy: Challenges of Private and Public Institutions.” **Xu Xuefen** (Institute of Communication Studies, Communication University of China, China) started the discussion by analyzing the opportunities and challenges faced by private higher education in China, **Long Xiaonong** (Institute of Communication Studies, Communication University of China, Beijing, China) presented the application-oriented type or research – elitist type: the repositioning of talent cultivating in private university, while the rest of the participants in the round table, **Park Dong Soon** (Chancellor at Dongseo Educational Foundation, Republic of Korea), **Ren Fang** (President of Xijing University, China), **Wang Yanmei** (Vice-president of Changchun Sci-Tech University, Changchun, China), **Zhao Huili** (Vice-president of Huanghe S&T College, Zhengzhou, China), took the floor and added new aspects of the development and innovation in new ecology both from the private and public higher education institutions.

Closing Speeches session drew the conclusions of three fruitful working days of the subforum, and all the speakers, **Corina Adriana Dumitrescu** (President of the Senate of “Dimitrie Cantemir” Christian University), **Cristiana Cristureanu** (Rector of “Dimitrie Cantemir” Christian University), **Ileana Alexandra Orlich** (Honorary Consul of Romania, Arizona State University), and **Liu Jinan** (Chairman of World Women University Presidents Forum/President of Women Leadership Academy / Honorary President of Communication University of China), emphasized the university women’s roles in the academic leadership.

So far, the WWUPF has published six collected works and 50 books as a series of “World Women Presidents and Women’s Universities,” reflecting women university presidents’ thoughts and visions.

The papers delivered at the subforum “Adaptability and Breakthrough: University’s Reform and Innovation in the New Ecology of Higher Education” will be published by Addleton Academic Publishers, New York, as a volume indexed in many first-rate international databases.

The subforum had the following scientific partners: *Scientific Journals: Journal of Research in Gender Studies*, Addleton Academic Publishers, New York, *Wagado*, A Journal of Transnational Women’s and Gender Studies, SUNY Cortland, New York, *Navegações*, Universidade de Lisboa, Lisbon, *HISTORIÆ*, Universidade Federal do Rio Grande, Brazil, and *Media Part-*

ners: București TV, Nașul TV, Agerpres, Radio România, Economistul, UCDC TV.

The organizing committee of “Dimitrie Cantemir” Christian University led by **Corina Adriana Dumitrescu** (President of the Senate) and **Cristiana Cristureanu** (Rector) reunited efforts of the vice rectors Ramona Mihăilă and Georgeta Ilie, members of the Department of International Relations, Andreea Danielescu and Dominic Perez Danielescu, the director of the university’s television channel UCDC TV, Ștefan Vartolomei, and teaching staff and student volunteers of the Faculty of Foreign Languages and Literatures.

The subforum registered a high participation of women university leaders from over 20 countries, and as the initiator of organizing the subforum at “Dimitrie Cantemir” Christian University, **President Corina Adriana Dumitrescu** added that “she had been equally concerned to offer these ladies – who represent the University Leadership, the World University Leadership – the occasion to get acquainted with ‘Dimitrie Cantemir’ Christian University, with the Romanian higher education and especially to succeed – and we have succeeded – in having dialogues and exchanging ideas. And the conclusion can be that regardless the countries these ladies stand for – the Far East, the Middle East, Europe, USA – the set of values they share – which we also share with them – is the same.”

Ramona Mihăilă