

Speaker 1:

Know what you, I'm I

Speaker 2:

For the school pressure to teach the student I to know day after find where they go to when they complain, find way they go onto you. I want know. I want to know. I want know.

Speaker 3:

Michelle.

Speaker 1:

Michelle,

Speaker 4:

Good morning, good afternoon, good evening everyone, depending on where you are joining us from. And welcome to the 2023 Baba Summit. My name is Rose, I'm ra and I'm a MasterCard Foundation Scholars Programme alumni joining you from Rwanda. Please, I would like to ask you if you didn't do so to write the name of your country and tell us where you are coming from. We want to celebrate the diversity in our audience and please feel free also to teach us one word in your language. Let's say how to say hello or something like that. I'm really excited to be a host and moderator for this kickoff event here and now, the Arts of Courage. We're even more delighted to see so many of you joining us from around the world for this exciting journey of discovery, impact, collaboration, and inspiration. So over next several weeks, we will be exploring this year's BAAB summit theme, which is here now using our voices shaping the word.

Speaker 4:

Yes, you heard me very correctly. Throughout this summit, we will be discussing how we can use our voices in order to change our community and the world at large. So this is going really to be an opportunity of discovery, learning, and empowerment for all of us. If this is your first time attending the summit, I would like to tell you that the MasterCard Foundation Baba Summit is an esteemed event that brings together student alumni, educators, partners and professionals from various institution and discipline together to discuss pristine, global and topics to explore innovation solutions. So our lineup of esteem speakers, facilitators, and thoughtful provoking sessions really promise us to empower us or to make a positive impact in our community and beyond. So we hope that by the end of this virtual summit you will not have engaged with these incredible speakers and facilitators, but also have built networks, collaborated, exchanged ideas, and last but not least, inspired one another along the way.

Speaker 4:

So we really encourage you also to actively participate in networking and sharing experience on the Baba platform where you can connect with peers, access variable resources, and engage in discussion. To learn more about the upcoming event lineup for this summit, be sure to check out on the Barbara platform. So before we begin, let's just take a moment to finalise ourself with the virtual platform that we are using. Now, I want you to look on your screen. Can you do that so that we can make sure that we are all on the same page? I want to see if you are all looking on our screen so that we can learn how to

use the virtual platform that you're using today. So if you can look at just on the right of your screen, you'll find the chat box and other interactive tools to engage with fellow attendees.

Speaker 4:

You'll also see the q and a button, which you will use to submit your questions to our speakers and facilitators during the q a segment. So something you have to know is that this event is also being recorded and will be included in highlight video after the summit. So for today's kickoff session, we'll use Zoom event live caption to ensure that the event is more accessible and inclusive. So please can you try to look at the button of your zoom window and for the show caption button where you have the option to turn it on and off according to your preference. We also have French language.

Speaker 4:

We've got you, so don't worry. And for the people also who need sign language, we are using sign language transition throughout this programme. So to change your range to French, you can activate by clicking the Leo Globe icon in your Zoom event control. Then select French. There is another option by the way, if you want, you can also choose to hear the interpreted language only. So to do so you can click on mute original audio, then you'll be able to follow the conversation in French directly. So in case you have you experienced any audio or video issues at any point during the event, please reach out via the chat and event team member will be in touch with you. So please, there's something that I want you to note to make sure that you put in your mind. The MasterCard Foundation is dedicated to cultivating environment where the kindness and respect listening, humility, and co-creation are cherished values.

Speaker 4:

So on the behalf of the MasterCard Foundation Scholars Programme, we extend our hatford gratitude for your commitment to create a respectful and inclusive environment and ensuring a meaningful experience for your fellow scholars, alumni, partners, speakers, and guests throughout the summit. So we would also like to extend our gratitude to the MasterCard Foundation, the Bob platform team, and our event planning partner for their support in making this event an upcoming sessions possible. So let's just talk about today. I hope you're excited like I am. Are you excited? I want to see if you're really excited. So today we are lucky to have opportunity to hear from Rita and based on the registration and conversation on the BA platform for sure, I know I'm not the only one looking forward to hearing her insight and experience. Am I right? Just show it in the chat. I want to see if I am not the only one.

Speaker 4:

So this theme of today is art of courage. So today we are going to approach college more than just the spontaneous reaction or inner treat, but ladder something that can be developed and we find over time through conscious effort and practise. So we'll have time for question. I know you are looking forward for this, but this will follow RO remarks. We'll start with ROS remarks and then we get time to have question from our audience. So be prepared. So I would like to remind you that during that segment you can submit your own question or vote up other questions that you would like, that you would like to be answered. So you can do this by clicking on the thumbs up icon on the bottom of that patient. So if you see that a question has been asked, you can just afford that question to show us that this question is need really answered.

Speaker 4:

So I think I have been just talking myself. This is your time. I want to hear from you. Let me just come to the chat because we are going to be discussing using the chat right now. So what I'm going to do is just I'm going to teach you something and I know for some and others you don't know, it's a way of appreciating the speaker. We learned this from the Bob up Summit 2022 and it's way of doing Wow or wowing somebody. I think some of you. So even if we are virtual, we want to make this really interactive and I will be saying let's just do wow to our speaker we count 1, 2, 3. We do. Wow, wow, wow. And what you're going to do is just to write in the chat. Wow. Wow. Three times and then add emoji that represent your feeling.

Speaker 4:

Okay. Can we do that in the chat? Can we, I'm going to count 1, 2, 3, then you do. Wow, you are going to wow me because wow. 1, 2, 3. Wow, wow, wow. Thank you so much. Thank you so much for the love and celebration and oh my god, this is so beautiful. And I think now we're going to have a quiz just to test your knowledge about the MasterCard Foundation Scholars Programme and also the Baab Summit. Are you ready? Okay. Thank you for the Wow, are you ready? Are you ready for the quiz? And there are prizes if you win, if you win, you got prizes. So I hope you can be excited. So are you ready for the quiz? Are you ready for the quiz? What you're going to do, you're going to look at your screen and then answer the question. Can we start? The first question is on your screen.

Speaker 4:

Can we do that? So the first question is in what year was the MasterCard Foundation created? Okay, we want to see the answer. There is 2006. There is 2000. Okay, can we, okay, thank you so much. I can see that 39% chose 2006, 23 chose 2008 21. It shows 202,001 shows by 12 people out of 12, 11%. Yes. And 33% shows 2012. Yeah. And the right answer, are you ready for the right answer? The right answer is 2006. So 35% who say 2006. Wow to you. So I want to tell you a short story about this year. So this is 17 years ago, and on that day it was an initial public offering of the MasterCard and the MasterCard shareholders made unprecedented gift of shares to establish an independence foundation, which is MasterCard Foundation, a foundation that have made change into our lives. Are you grateful for that gift? So can we wow the MasterCard? 1, 2, 3. Wow, wow, wow. We are so grateful for that gift because it's changed a lot of lives and including hours and still there is a lot of things to happen. Thank you MasterCard, for just making this incredible gift that changed so many of our lives. So let's go for the next question. Thank you guys. You're so grateful. I can see in the chat. Thank you. And the second question is, in what year was the first B servant health? Okay, you have to choose the right answer.

Speaker 4:

Okay, there is 2020 12, there's 2013, there is 2015. Okay, I can see the answer. So 38% said 2012 and 11% said 2013 and 21% said 2014 and 29% said 2015. Oh my god, you all tried. But the right answer is drummers please drum roll. And I have a bonus point by the way for some people who can guess the location of this summit, the first summit location. What was the company? Where was the company for the first Baba summit? You can put in the chat and you get the bonus point. So the right answer is 2014, that is nine years ago. So the right answer is 2014. Congratulations to those one, which just answer it correctly. And the company, where is the company? What did you say? Ghana. Some people are saying Ghana, South Africa. Keep trying, keep trying, keep trying. Okay, Kenya, Arizona. Okay guys.

Speaker 4:

Ghana, thank you so much for keeping trying, but now I'm going to give the answer us where or Canada where. So the right answer is thank you so much for really participating. For those one who chose Canada, you have one point out of let's say five determining has happened at University of British Columbia in Vancouver, in Canada. So those one who said, Canada, you did something, but of course you forget the university. So let's go to the next question. The final one actually the final question. So what is the theme of these years? Ment? I want to see how you are good at following because I think I talked about this.

Speaker 4:

Let's see. Okay, so thank you so much. There are some people who answered, 41% answered here. Now the act of courage, 54% answered here now using our voices and 5% answered here now, transforming our future. So are you ready for the correct answer? So the answer is, the answer is here. Now using our voices shaping the word, that's the right answer. So if you really answered all the question correctly, we are going to, sorry if you answered the correct answer, all of the question, you have answered them very well. So you will get your clients or I have to tell you is that please keep following on the B platform. That's where we will announce the winner. The winner of this, Chris. Okay, thank you so much. I can see so much love in the chat and we are so excited, excited for your participation.

Speaker 4:

So please remember to stay tuned on the Baba platform because our winners will be announced there. While to you, everybody, and now to continue the rest of the programme, I would like to introduce the talented Rosa Abraham. So Rosa please Kia. Welcome. Rosa is a scholar from the University of Uganda in Ethiopia where she's pursuing a bachelor's degree in social work. Rosa is joining us from Aisa Baba and is one of this year's Pick your Mind winner, her love for poetry, theatre and singing started at young age where it's led to her determination in using her education and her voice to empower marginalised community. Rosa will be sharing a beautiful poem in Amharic with us today. Please see the chat for the translated version. If you use French or English, see the translated version in the chat. Welcome Rosa, cannot wait to hear from.

Speaker 5:

Okay, thank you Rosie. Hi everyone, my name is Rosa Abraham. I'm going to present it my poem titled The World Through My Imperfectly Perfect Vision. So I'm going to present it and I'm ha thank you very much.

Speaker 4:

Thank you so much. Thank you so much, Rosa, for this beautiful piece. Oh my God, I don't know how even to thank you because there is something that I want to repeat that Rosa said, we will promote justice, be a voice for the voiceless, lend ourselves to others and innovate solutions and provide voices of those who need megaphones, share our skills, selfless with the community and so on. Oh my God, there's a place also she say that we'll change words into, I mean we change with peace instead of war. Something like that. This is so beautiful and Rosa, oh my god, you're so talented and can you help me to give Wow to Rosa because I think she deserve it. Can we do that? Wow. 1, 2, 3. Wow, wow, wow. Rosa, we have so much love for you and thank you for aspiring and thank you for using your voice and talent to impact the community.

Speaker 4:

I think, and I saw in the chat some people say, wow, what a beautiful language. I think Amharic is becoming one of my favourite language as well. I used to hear Amharic in Ethiopia era, but now it's so beautiful to hear it live here. Thank you so much once again Rosa. And now without further ado, I would like to welcome the visionary leader of the MasterCard Foundation, Rita Law on the screen. So as president and CEO of the MasterCard Foundation, Rita leads one of the largest private foundation in the world. At the heart, she's an optimist who believes that everyone deserves an opportunity to learn and prosper. Rita's work and life has inspired countless individuals and today we are delighted to have her share how courage has anchored our leadership journey. And Rita Walker, I not wait to hear from you.

Speaker 6:

Hello everyone. Thank you so much Rose and kudos to you. Rosa, what a phenomenal thank you. Thank you so much. And I, I've already taken some quotes from your lines in your poem because I think they're going to be very much what I'd like to share today as well. First of all, I want to thank all of my colleagues, all of the scholars, alumni who have helped put this baba summit together. It's amazing to see that there are more than 800 people online and I'm just grateful to all have the opportunity to be with all of you. We have themed this particular session together about courage and whether it is about courage to lead, courage to move ahead. I hope that a few things which I have to share can be helpful to you. First of all, it's already intimidating following Rosa. And so I'm a little bit nervous about just following in her footsteps.

Speaker 6:

When you look around the world and I think about Rosa's poem, calling for Peace, we live in such a fractious world at this point in time. There are many issues, many issues which you know about and perhaps see more closely whether it is about the extremes, the extremes between wealth and poverty, the extremes between those who have power and vulnerable, whether it's the extremes which are brought to us because of how the climate and the planet is shifting, whether it is extremes of conflict, conflict on a grand scale, on continent in a part of the world, conflict which may reside in our community, conflict that may reside even in our families and in our lives. All of that may seem at many times extremely overwhelmingly. And so you ask, where does courage start? How do I find courage? What's courage? And while there may be many definitions about courage, I think about two things which I've heard.

Speaker 6:

One, courage is not about absence of fear. Courage is sometimes living and acknowledging that fear is real, but courage also comes from within. And it's a line which Rosa you have in your poem, you said, it is change that starts within us. And there's a wonderful speaker who talks about life. Her name's Brene Brown and you may have heard of her or listened to some of her Ted talks or podcasts. And she traces the word courage to its Latin roots, which means core or heart. And she translates it as tell the story of your heart, tell the story of who you're, and that's courage. That's courage. And so when we think about where journeys begin for us as leaders, even before you ever heard the term leadership, I suspect for everybody who's on this platform who's listening, I already know you are on a leadership journey.

Speaker 6:

You are leaving. And that leadership journey likely started when you were quite young, even younger than you are now in your family when you were tasked to look after a younger brother or younger sister

or when you were given some responsibility or your mom, your dad to do something, to be useful, to be of service to your family. And perhaps later on as you are in school and through your career up to now when you are called upon to take on some responsibility, that's leadership. But that leadership also requires knowing who we're, and I want to say a couple things about my own journey before we open up. Even just coming onto this platform, there's a little nervousness and I think, gosh, I may have spoken in many different circumstances, but I'm nervous. I'm nervous because I'm seeing all of you and I want to do a good job.

Speaker 6:

And then I think to myself, that's human. That's human. And part of being courageous is also understanding who you are, what your strengths are, what you're comfortable with, what you're not comfortable with. It's understanding where there may be gaps. And I think about that often as a little bit, what do I have and what am I missing and how do I strengthen what it is that where I may have some weaknesses, where I may not have understanding and how do I do that I can learn and I can also make sure that I have good colleagues, people around me, people in my life who are there to give green courage. It goes back to Rosa's poem. There was a line which Rosa, where you said, let us celebrate we us.

Speaker 6:

So we more than I abandon the eye and think about the weak. And so when you understand a bit more about who you are, that's when you start to begin to identify what's my purpose? Why am I here? What's important to me? What do I believe in? And what am I willing to do either to speak out, to stand up for something that I believe in, but more importantly, what am I willing to do to give, to commit, to act upon and to stick to for the long term? That is courage. There are many acts of courage, big and small. None of us are marvel characters in a movie. We're just human beings and yet human beings to do extraordinary, extraordinary things given the opportunity. And then I think about this summit, this gathering, and I think about the opportunities to have an education, to learn, to acquire knowledge, to share that knowledge, that's courage.

Speaker 6:

You are on the journey when you begin by trying something. Could be a social enterprise, could be starting a business, could be a project, could be an assignment for education, that journey. And in some cases perhaps not succeeding, at least not succeeding the first time, but thinking, oh, what can I learn and how do I start again? That very process is courage. So I know everybody here practises being courageous, whether you recognise it or given it a name, that's what we're doing. That's what each of us is doing each day being courageous. And so when it comes to these circumstances of leading, leading, being given, held accountable, being asked to make the contribution, being responsible, that does take courage, takes courage not to anyone else, but first and foremost to yourself to say, am I willing to commit? Am I ready to take the first step even though I may not know everything or have everything I need to be able to complete this assignment?

Speaker 6:

But courage, if you go back to the root cause, the root word which is about the heart, it's about believing. Believing that not only that you can do, but you will know when to ask for help, when to surround yourself with the right people who can help you accomplish the task. All of us here at the MasterCard Foundation, all of us here as MasterCard Foundation scholars have an incredible

assignment. It's an assignment to be of service, to take the knowledge that we have and transfer in different ways which create good, good in our community, good in the larger places that we work, in our fields of work, largely good in the world. So I'm really excited, I'm excited to hear your questions, what's on your mind, and I just thank you, thank you for inviting me and for including me today. So back to you Rosa.

Speaker 4:

Thank you so much. Thank you so much Rita, for your insightful and thoughtful provoking remarks and your perception on courage and leadership to resonate with me. And I imagine with our audience as well, I have been seeing in the chat where some of our audience were talking about what they understand about courage from your insight, how we see it. So thank you so much for reminding us how important to know who we are and always to know that it's not about doing it right, it's about practise. And coming back to the sub team of today, which is the art of courage, it's really something important to do practise because when we take courage as an art at that time, we just make sure that we do practise as the musician can practise to have those beautiful voice. You can also practise to be courageous. So thank you so much Rita.

Speaker 4:

Your remarks has certainly set a tone for the rest of our event and we now have a lot to reflect and discuss really what is an inspiring way to kick off the 2023 summit. So continue to share your thoughts on the chat. We can see that. Thank you so much. And now this is the time you are all waiting, Paul, for the question and answer. And before we get started on our discussion, please as a reminder, I'm going to ask some few questions that we received from scholars on the Bob platform. Before we move on the audience question in the q and a window, please write the question, if you have a question in the q and a window and we encourage you or in case you find any question, have already been already asked, just up vote that question or comment on that question in the q and a window. So when I would just start taking the question from our audience, I would start by the top ranked question. So make sure you avoid the question that's already there already. Get us started. So my first question is that in your experience leading the MasterCard Foundation, how have you seen young people uniquely contribute to social change? And what innovative approach have you witnessed that inspire you?

Speaker 6:

Thank you so much. I will have to say that the whole premise for the MasterCard Foundation is because we were inspired by young people. I remember many years ago, perhaps it was in 2008, nine or 10, when I was on a visit to Senegal, I met with a number of young people. We were not doing any programmes in Senegal at that time, but I had the opportunity to meet with about 15 young people who were working on very interesting projects. And I came in thinking that this will be a 20 minute, 30 minute conversation to say hello and to listen. I was there for three hours. We got into a deep conversation and each of them were working on, each person was working on something extraordinary, something which no one else believed in that they did. They were working on projects such as new ways of education. A young woman was looking to start a newspaper for children. There was a young man who was working on a film. There was yet another person who was helping Runaways street children, the community.

Speaker 6:

One of started out with very little in some cases their parents said, why are you doing this? Why are you doing this? Go get a different kind of job. You are educated, you don't have to do this. But they were doing that. And since that time, I've never forgot that experience since that time. Every year, every day we see right here among the scholars community, among other communities of young people who are absolutely solving problems and they are reinventing ways of sharing information, ways of inspiring others. And so when I think about the heart of the MasterCard Foundation and this work, it's about that inspiration that comes from all of you. So I thank you.

Speaker 4:

Okay, thank you so much Rita for sharing that. And that made me think about one question that I saw that there is often a tension that comes with expectation of what a transformative breeder should be doing, as you were saying, like changing their communities, giving back, influencing on external levels, being seen and heard beyond their immediate experience and so on. So how can young leaders balance this expectation with other priorities such as career building, health and wellness, personal development and interest that are sometime viewed as outsized of the orphan prescribed expectation of just formative data?

Speaker 6:

First of all, I want everyone to know each of us. There was a line again in Rosa's poem and I think it said something to effect, let's celebrate being human, being human. Let's celebrate that. So that's also recognised. We're not super human. I think you are all beginning your journeys right now. And one thing which is really important to hold onto is not everything has to be done in one day, one month, one unit. You have a lifetime ahead of you. And when you take that kind of time horizon, you just have to think what it means to come into who you are. It's about learning, educating themselves, growing in your career, your career. It's taking on projects and sometimes that project is part of what you do every single day, but may not even recognise balance. Balance is a word about integrating all aspects of our lives.

Speaker 6:

We aren't expected to be heroes every single day. We're just expect it to be human beings who are trying to do our best. And part of doing your best is setting goals, small goals and big goals. It's also about thinking about what does it take to be a healthy person? I woke up early this morning and I went for a run because when I run I can think and when I can think I feel better and I feel more confident. But it's that integration of everything that makes you who you are. So expectations, sometimes the hardest expectations to overcome are the expectations we set for ourselves, not the ones that others impose on us, but the ones we impose on ourselves. So pay attention to that.

Speaker 4:

Okay, thank you so much. Sometimes expectation, our expectation, those are the ones that limit us. So make sure you think about that and remember to don't forget about yourself. Okay, another question is, as you very well know, diversity and inclusion are crucial for the sustainable development. How does the MasterCard Foundation ensure that its programme and initiatives are inclusive and representative of diverse voices, particularly those of young people from different regions, backgrounds and abilities?

Speaker 6:



Thank you. I think you've hit on a core of how we approach our work. And so one, having occasions like this for us to gather as a community on this virtual platform is to make sure that everyone is welcome. One of the things I know sometimes it's disappointing, you want to see each other in person and yet there are moments where you think, how can we ensure the greatest access to participation that for folks who may not be able to travel, that they can join us. And so we think about sometimes it's a design feature and you do something like this. In other cases, when we are putting together the scholars programme, we think about who are we trying to reach. And so the intention starts right from the beginning with the design to make sure that they're young women, that they are young people who may be living with a disability, who are differently abled.

Speaker 6:

When you think about young people whose circumstances are very difficult because they are not in their home country, they've been displaced, they may be in a different community. You think about young people who maybe aren't as young because they couldn't go to school right at the beginning, but they're reentering education now. And so it's about imagining for us, opportunities for young people who have been most excluded, excluded because of circumstances and building that in. But more than just building that in at the foundation, we set targets, targets for ourselves, whether it's 5%, 10%, 15% for different categories or in the case of Young Africa works, our major initiative, our major core strategy right now, 70% of that 30 million of young women, young people should be young women. So it's intention that gets put into action, but it is also programming into our d n a young people's input perspective, participation and partnership. So I hope all of you keep us true and keep us on the road and keep us grounded in this as well. We need that. We need to hear from you.

Speaker 4:

Thank you so much Rita. And I think we all have also to play our role as MasterCard Foundation scholars and alumni partners just to make sure that the diversity is respected. Thank you so much for that. And let's just now go for the question from our audience. Let me see. In the q a, there is somebody called nie. Hi ma'am. With Roy, the first foremost, I would love to thank you for this great opportunity you have given to me and my community by sponsoring my university degree at university in Africa. I would love to ask if you had to leave three guiding principles as legacy for the next generation, what they be, they will be three guiding. Thank you.

Speaker 6:

So the first thing I'd say is I hope very, very much that you will discover your purpose. And that's the assignment for everybody here. I came to mind much later, but understand who you are and what matters to you. That's your purpose. That's your purpose said in a very simple way. The second thing is to think about what that just know every one of us, no matter what we think we can do or what our limitations are, each of us as a gift, we have a gift. And part of your obligation being a human being, a good human being is to share that gift, which means be of service, be of service. And the third thing, be kind. And that is a mark of great people. Whether they hold high station in office, by office, people of status or not be kind. That's the definition of being a good human.

Speaker 4:

Thank you so much. There is another question. Let me check so many question here. Lemme make sure that I start by, okay, there is question from, sorry, they're just talking.

Speaker 6:

No, take your time. Fine.

Speaker 4:

Okay. There is a question from Juliet. How do we start? Sometime we have ideas, but it's hard to start. At what point did you decide to start?

Speaker 6:

I think it was a very, very long time ago when I decided to start. But I really appreciate the question. Sometimes when you have a big dream or you have a big idea, you tell yourself, oh, I can't do anything. I don't have all the things, I don't have all the money, I don't have all the tools, I don't have the organisation. How could I even begin? But the fact is you already have an idea. You've begun just by having that idea. The second thing to do, which I find is when something seems so large and overwhelming, is to break it down into small pieces. When you break it down to smaller pieces, you think about what are the things I can do now even without anything else, can I speak to somebody? Can I recruit a friend or a classmate and ask them if they're interested in helping me? Could I mobilise? Maybe not one classmate, but five who can assist me? How can we pool resources, who can provide us resources? Sometimes the resource is not money, it's a space. Perhaps it's access to a particular tool. So think in terms of what are the micro tasks that help you begin because you've already,

Speaker 4:

Okay, and another question is from what career advice would you give to a young self? If you take your time back and you give yourself an advice, what could be?

Speaker 6:

I think I would've told myself, don't be afraid. Have faith. Have faith. There were so many times in my life, and I'm sure many of you can relate to this, I didn't know where the financial support would come from. This was before I got a scholarship. When I had a scholarship. I wondered what would happen when the scholarship was over. What would happen when I finished my education? Would I get a job? There were many times I thought about when I had a job, what would I do when this job is over? What would happen next? And so if I look back, I think being afraid, I was asking myself the wrong question. I should have been asking myself not what will I do, but what do I want to do? What have I learned? What am I good at and what do I love? What do I love? And I would've told myself and as I would tell myself, now focus on that. So it comes back in a way, in a crazy way to the word courage. It's about knowing your heart and knowing what we care about.

Speaker 4:

Thank you so much. And there is someone also who asked when you started at the foundation, did you imagine that the foundation would be where it is today?

Speaker 6:

The short answer is no. I thought that I knew we would be great, but if somebody asked me what does that mean? I would say I'm still figuring it out. I'm still figuring it out. No, where we have come today is the work of many, many people. Many people at the foundation have come to join us. Many partners who we have been so privileged to work with some of the universities that all of you are part of and

frankly help the young people who came into our lives, who came into our lives. I would never, never have in my wildest dreams, but I'm so grateful that we are where we are now and we still have a long way to go, long way to go. But I probably have more courage now than ever before that We'll get there.

Speaker 4:

Thank you so much. And also this person asked, were there any challenges and what are the lesson, the care lesson that you learned throughout the experience?

Speaker 6:

There are many challenges and there were many challenges and they still are challenges. And there're probably going to be challenges I cannot even imagine ahead. But what I have to rest on is history that we have come far, that we have overcome challenges. And I think of the biggest challenge of all which the world had to face the pandemic that completely became an existential threat. And here we are, here we are hopefully wiser, hopefully kinder, and hopefully more courageous. So imagine, and I have to tell, I'll share something I use periodically when I'm having a tough day or I'm facing something, which I think, oh my goodness, what do we do? I have never seen this problem before. And then I think to myself, where were you a year ago? What problem was in front of you? What were you worried about? And where, you know, it always just gives me a little bit of hope, just knowing that we'll figure it out. And it goes back to what Rosa said, celebrate the week. You don't have to figure these things out by, but you need to have others and surround yourself with a community of people who can together solve problems.

Speaker 4:

There is someone who asked also, I think in French Mame, the difference between courage and confidence, the difference, courage and confidence. The difference between that,

Speaker 6:

What a insightful question. I hope I can give you at least my thoughts on courage. For me, courage as I mentioned before, is also appreciating, and I don't want to run away from this word fear. Sometimes that fear is also lack of confidence. And what needs to happen is to understand where is that fear? Where is that lack of confidence coming from? So don't just stop at the fear, get underneath it. And just like the Toms break it down, is it that I'm afraid that I'm going to be embarrassed? Am I afraid that I don't know the answer, am afraid because I don't have experience solving this problem. Am I afraid because of something else? Get to the root. Get to the root why you are uncomfortable or why you're feeling your life confidence. And that is how you start to build confidence because you think about what is the root cause and you think about how do I go about solving that? Who can I speak to? How do I get the resources that I need? There are others, I'm not alone. Someone has faced this problem before and how can I get their results? So these things are very much interrelated, but I think it requires deeper level of thinking and asking ourselves a different set of questions. I hope that helps.

Speaker 4:

There is a question from Nico and he said, could you share an unexpected story from your time as CEO that helped you learn a variable reason about leadership? What impact did that encounter have on that way, on the way you handled leadership at the MasterCard Foundation?

Speaker 6:

So I'll tell you some stories, at least one story at the foundation. And I know many young people that I meet say, oh, it must be so important. You get to make important decisions. The foundation is doing great work. You are wonderful. And then I want to say thank you, thank you, thank you for believing in us, thank you for trusting. But there are moments where sometimes as an organisation, sometimes as a leader, you make a mistake, you make a bad decision in the haste, in the hurry, you didn't listen or I didn't listen and I didn't listen fully and therefore I may have offended someone or I may have hurt someone's feelings or I came to the wrong decision. That has happened, that's happened for myself, for my colleagues, I imagine. And what's important it was when someone calls that out, as I've learned as I've aged to acknowledge, stop, be quiet, listen, listen.

Speaker 6:

And in some cases apologise. Say I'm sorry, say thank you for pointing this. Help me so that I get back on right path. Courage is also about understanding where sometimes we've made mistakes and not being afraid to own up to them because that's the only way. When I think about, someone asked me about failure and what came to my mind was failure is not changing, failure is not listening, failure is not going. And so these are some of the lessons that have come from multiple things that have occurred over the life of the foundation and frankly even before I got here. So it's so important for all of you as you're starting out, the moments which are going to be uncomfortable, we feel, oh, I'm embarrassed. I could have done something better. I made a mistake, I wasn't kind. It's okay to own that. What's more important is then to learn from them.

Speaker 4:

Thank you so much. I hope Nicholas, you got your answer. And there is another question from robot. Leading a group of people with diverse mindset is challenging, especially when it comes to making crucial decision. What are the key factors essential for restructuring and achieving collective goals successfully? As a team,

Speaker 6:

One of the wonderful things about being part of an organisation, whether you're leaving it or not, is to have people who think so differently. Because that's probably the best classroom to stretch your mind and to expand your ideas. And so a critical part there of leading, which for me, my personal philosophy is the importance of listening. And I mean really listening, not listening as a tick box. Oh yes, I had a focus group. And you move on because you already have your idea in your head really listening because when you do, sometimes you understand or I understand people are actually talking about the same thing, you're just expressing it in different things. Sometimes they have very different points of view. And this requires debate discussion so that we can lay out what is the best thing, not for me, not for them, but what is the best thing for the organisation if we are to achieve our goal and we filter that everything through, is it getting us closer to our goal?

Speaker 6:

So it transcends individuals, but it comes back to the mission. So that's one. I think the second part of bringing diverse ideas together is to also ask some very interesting questions. Are we the best ones to undertake this idea? These are fantastic ideas. Are we the best ones or is there someone else out there, another organisation who has far more expertise than ours? So it's in a way when you have conversations like this, you're respecting the idea, you're respecting the person who's brought the idea forward. But now you are asking a different question about how do we bring it to reality, which doesn't

take away from the importance of that idea. So it always comes back to listening. But the foundation of this listening also has to be trust in the organisation. Nobody wants to follow a leader they don't trust. And no leader can lead without their trust.

Speaker 4:

Thank you so much. No leader can lead without trust. Thank you. That's so good. And as we are learning out of time, please audience, I know I can see a lot of questions, but please allow me to ask one last question, like from joy from Olivia, Olivia said, how do you feel waking up each day and knowing that at least one person is at a step closer to their dream because of you and your team's work? And this is a good way to end.

Speaker 6:

Thank you so much for that question. First of all, I want to say that for each person who's closer to that dream, we are so blessed and we are so happy to be part of your journey. But you have to realise you are the one doing the work. We're a friend, we're a partner, we're a supporter. But you are making it happen. Only you can make it happen for yourself. So I want to say that this has to be probably the most, I can't even call this job a job. I just feel blessed. I feel blessed for a lot of my colleagues. I feel blessed for everybody who's on this. And I just want to say thank you, thank you for leading, and I know all of you will lead us as well in solving many different problems. And I'm just looking forward to seeing your ideas and what you do. Thank you. Thank you so much. And thank you again to Rosa.

Speaker 4:

Thank you so much. Sometimes Rita, sometimes really we can forget many things, but I allow me to ask you this again. Can you tell us that? Give us a takeaway. What do you want to take away today? Even if we can forget everything, what do you want to keep reflecting on?

Speaker 6:

I want to come back to this word courage because when I was asked, invited to come and asked to come, I had to look up the word and remind myself. So if there's one thing you take away today is to know your heart. Know your heart. And I say this because over the years scholars, you've asked me, oh, I want to study this, I want to study that, but my parents want me to do this and want to do that, what should I do? And I always come back and say, I think you already know the answer. I think you already know the answer because it's in your heart. You have a feeling, you have an intuition about what feels good for you. So I just ask you to hold onto that. Hold onto your heart just as you know your heart.

Speaker 4:

Thank you so much. Just hold on to your heart. And it was so exciting, really to hear from you Rita. And really thank you so much for giving us your time today and sharing your incredible leadership journey and insight on what the future hold for the foundation and for all of us as change makers. And now I would like to ask the audience to help me give you, wow, I think you deserve a wow. Are you really for the, wow,

Speaker 6:

Thank you. Thank you so much. Thank you. Thank you, thank you. Love all of you. Thank you.

Speaker 4:

Wow. Wow. Thank you

Speaker 6:

So much. Wow. To all of you, thank you, thank you, thank you

Speaker 4:

So much. Thank you so much for the impact your work is having on our world. And all I can say it is just thank you. We're so thankful. Thank you once again to also our talented speaker mind performer Rosa and our event planning partner for their support on this event. And course of course, thank you for all of you who have been with us from the starting and for your conversation today. And also for all your thought for provoking questions and active engagement. I loved how you were so active and sharing so much love in the chat. Thank you so much to all of you. And I would like to invite scholars and alumni to register and join us on Thursday, September 14th for an engaging and interactive workshop where our expat guest writer Jackson Bko, will provide variable and practical insight into how you can write for social change.

Speaker 4:

If you are a MasterCard Foundation scholar or alumni, you'll receive an email from the foundation with registration information. You can also connect with your Baba ambassadors for more details on this event. Remember to register for each event and stay connected and engaged throughout the summit by following our social media pages. So you can find us on Facebook as MasterCard Foundation on Instagram as at MasterCard Foundation on LinkedIn as MasterCard Foundation, and on Twitter as at MasterCard, F D N. And we really encourage you also to use hashtag 2023 to follow all the conversation and insight throughout the summit. So this brings our programme to a close and I would like to thank you all for joining us and really, what can I say? Just have a great rest of your day and we are looking forward to see all of you scholars and alumni in the next week on the 14th. Please guys, thank you so much. I can see the love. Wow. Wow. Everybody. Thank you

Speaker 7:

As

Speaker 8:

I'll never be more loved than I am right now. Was in holding you up so there's nothing I can do to let you down. Doesn't take a trophy to make you proud. I'll never love than I'm right now

Speaker 9:

Through storm. I won't

Speaker 1:

Go down.

Speaker 8:

Hear

Speaker 9:

Your in the rhythm. So you

Speaker 1:

I'll

Speaker 8:

I feel right now on the mountain I can see so clear the sun goes

Speaker 1:

Down. I

Speaker 9:

Already chosen, I know who

Speaker 1:

I'm,

Speaker 9:

I know what you,

Speaker 1:

I'm already I

Speaker 2:

System for the school government lawyer about pressure upon teacher to teach the student Rin. I'm robust takeover. I know I want pull up after they go to, I want to know. I want, I want

Speaker 10:

You,

Speaker 1:

My.