

Driving Global Corporate Excellence

* *Helen Brand OBE*

IOD's Principal Strategic Partner

ACCA Think Ahead



Thank you for this tremendous honour of the prestigious IOD Distinguished Fellow award.

It's very humbling indeed to receive it. In advance of this evening, I took the opportunity to look at the list of previous recipients. And seeing the company I am now keeping – including past leaders of nations – makes it all the more humbling.

All of us are here this evening because we share IOD's aspiration of a world of strong and responsible corporate leadership. I know that this is a vision, which can only be fully realized if all parts of the corporate eco-system work together to pursue excellence.

ACCA is very conscious of its responsibility here, by producing ethically driven professional accountants who never lose sight of their role in creating public value. We define this as acting in the public interest, promoting ethical business and supporting economic growth - and it's at the core of everything we do.

In creating these ACCA members and helping them develop their careers, we rely on corporate leaders to recognise their value, take their expert counsel and create the sort of working environments that enable them to become business leaders we can be proud of. This is what we mean when we say ACCA works to develop the accountancy profession the world needs.

And what is needed now, more than ever, is truth and the courage to speak it – whether this is around the very real threat of climate change to business and livelihoods; challenging so-called 'fake news' with hard facts; or ensuring that leaders in every walk of life live up to their responsibilities. This is what we ask our members to do. And it is what IOD proudly champions and has become celebrated for.

IOD is truly a leader in driving global corporate excellence and we, at ACCA, look forward to continuing our collaboration on the most important contemporary business issues we all face.

It only remains for me to say how much ACCA values and cherishes the partnership we enjoy with IOD – something that I know will only grow and deepen in the years ahead, because of the common values we share. ■

Thank you again for this wonderful honour.

* Excerpts from the acceptance speech delivered by **Helen Brand OBE**, on her felicitation as Distinguished Fellow of the Institute of Directors, India at the 19th London Global Convention, UK.