

MIT Professor Speaks at American Chamber of Commerce Chile Workshop Santiago, Chile

June 19, 2015



Daena Giardella, a professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Sloan School of Management, taught the Workshop MIT: Improvisational Leadership, The Art of the Moment, at AmCham Chile. This workshop analyzes the most advanced techniques to improvise and respond adequately to uncertainty, using case studies that offer real-world examples of businesses.

Professor Giardella is a world-renowned expert who pioneered an innovative method for teaching improvisation to people from virtually every profession. The workshop, which was well attended by managers and executives from many companies and organizations, focused on negotiation and team building skills, which were taught through a creative and engaging approach based on emotional intelligence.

Daena Giardella has over 25 years of experience on this field and she is an expert in the performing arts, organizational development, and executive coaching. In addition, she is an expert in the development of leadership and teamwork skills.



Professor Giardella said “I was positively impressed by the organization of the activity in AmCham Chile. The workshop was a success because attendees were very engaged; they were always willing to take risks and they were enthusiastic about getting out of their comfort zone to learn new skills. I noticed how eager professionals from different fields were to learn how to embrace new practices in collaboration with others”.

Giardella also talked about the importance of improvisation as a valuable tool in the business world, although that term sometimes might have a misleading connotation: “A lot of people misinterpret the concept of improvisation. They think improvisation refers to avoiding planning or structure or they believe it is about acting without prior preparation. Improvisational leadership is something much more complex and useful than that. It is a crucial business skill that requires preparation and utilizes structure; it is very important to know how to use improvisational leadership skills in the business world in order to respond adequately to uncertainty, surprise, and change. We need to deal with ambiguity and we also need to develop our listening skills. That involves the development of our adaptation skills.”