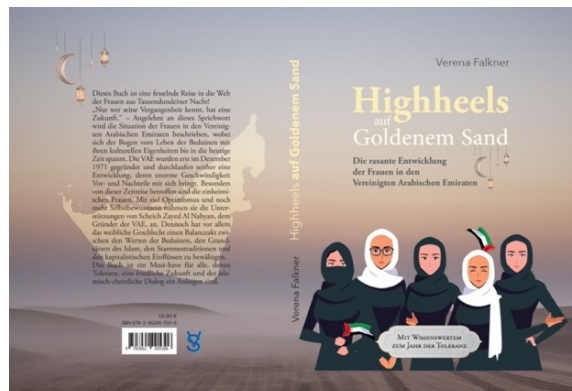


An exciting evening straight out of One Thousand and One Nights!

*Invitation to the first public reading of*  
**“Highheels on golden Sand”**

**26th February 2022** VIP-Lounge of the Austria Pavilion at Expo Dubai **16.00 to 20.00**

Readings will take place at 16.30, 17.30 and 18.30; in between, there is time for questions and conversation.



The positive book, which excites with surprising facts, is a thrilling journey into the world of the women from One Thousand and One Nights. “Only those who know their past have a future“ – based on this proverb, the book describes the progress of the native women in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), from the life of the Bedouins and their values, traditions and cultural idiosyncrasies to life today. The UAE were only founded in December 1971 and have been on a singularly rapid journey of development ever since, resulting in various advantages and disadvantages. Local women are affected the most by this fast journey through time. With much optimism and even more self-confidence, they accepted the support of Sheikh Zayed, the founding father of the UAE. Still, it is most of all the women who have to manage a balance between the values of the Bedouins, the principles of Islam, the traditions of the tribes and the capitalistic influences introduced by modernity. The book also includes a chapter on the Year of Tolerance 2019 and the meeting between Pope Francis and Grand Imam Al Tayyeb of Al-Azhar University. *High Heels on golden Sand* is a must-read for everyone interested in tolerance, a peaceful future and the interreligious dialogue.

Verena Falkner is a business consultant and the author of several books. She has a master’s degree in Intercultural Studies and a diploma in Intercultural Competence (specialisation: Economy and Law) from Paris Lodron University Salzburg and is a speaker and consultant with international experience and expertise. As a result of her years in the Gulf States and the Orient, she is familiar with the idiosyncrasies of different cultures. After her return to Tyrol, Verena – who is also a marriage, family and life counsellor – started to focus on issues of the Gulf States and the Orient with her business consulting firm “Verena Falkner Intercultural Consulting”. She also founded the cultural forum “Orient – Occident”, which she uses to inform others about traditions and cultural differences. She is a great lover of the Arab and oriental cuisine and is known as an expert for spices with her own cooking shows, books on cooking and spices and her own line of spices. For more information, please visit her website [www.verenafalkner.at](http://www.verenafalkner.at)