



Patrick Obath speaks at our September board talk

Dear WOBN Family,

Our annual conference is here! We are thrilled to invite you to partake of what will be an undeniably singular experience, from the 16th-18th of October in Naivasha. We are honoured to have Hon. Martha Karua as one of our esteemed guest speakers. All the details on the conference can be found on pages 8-9.

Do find, as well, the highlights of our last board talk on pages 2 and 3, and photos from the August board talk on page 4. On pages 6 and 7 we introduce you to one of our incredible members, Maryanne Karanja. If you would like your profile featured on the WOBN newsletter, or for any other inquiries, do not hesitate to write to us at info@womenonboardskenya.co.ke.

Warmest,

The WOBN Team



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BOARD TALK WITH PATRICK OBATH

BOARD TALK: Competent & Likeable: Board Conflicts & Relationship Management in a Culture of Corporate Governance

- Remember that you are exercising a fiduciary duty
- Do not be afraid to assert your authority on the board
- Remember that you have the right to disagree—you disagree with the subject matter; not the people
- Allow dissenting voices to be recorded, especially if you're chair of the board. Over and above allowing dissenting opinions to be recorded, let them be discussed
- Get your facts straight and stand up for your point of view
- Understand the strengths and weaknesses of members of your board, and then use this to learn the right language for support; a lot comes down to sheer communication
- Learn how to understand, appreciate, and make those from other cultures comfortable
- In moments of tension, do take a break
- Do not corner anyone in moments of disagreement
- You can approach the chair outside the meeting about an issue you may have if you feel they may be able to communicate it to the board better
- A key thing is setting the board and company up correctly, making sure everybody knows their roles—this is at the core of ensuring everything runs smoothly



PHOTOS FROM OUR BOARD TALK



**IN CASE YOU MISSED IT: PHOTOS FROM OUR AUGUST BOARD
TALK WITH MARTIN ODUOR**





OPPORTUNITIES

Update your CVs and send them to us as we are part of your network. We are requested from time to time to recommend members to boards, and you should not be left out.

MEMBERSHIP

The membership fee for the Women on Boards Network is KES **25,000/-** (Joining fee **15,000/-** and the annual subscription **10,000/-**). Download a membership registration form from www.womenonboardskenya.co.ke

THE WOMEN ON BOARDS NETWORK COURSES ON OFFER:

THE WOMEN ON BOARDS CORPORATE GOVERNANCE TRAINING

This is a 30 hour Corporate Governance and leadership training programme offered by The Women On Boards Network with the aim of equipping the ladies involved with leadership and governance skills and to prepare them for Board positions. The Women on Boards Network provides seasoned facilitators with valuable experience in corporate governance and board leadership.

COTERIES:

If you've joined WOBN and you're not in a coterie, or if you would like to change your coterie, let us know!

Coteries are absolutely voluntary—we just want ladies to hold our ladies accountable.

MEMBER PROFILES: MARYANNE KARANJA





Maryanne Karanja is a business leader with over 20 years' track record in Supply Chain and Business Strategy Development and Execution Support across Africa. Working at group level and in central roles in multinational companies, Maryanne has honed the necessary skills in strategy development, team leadership, embedding change, supply chain management and in project management. She has also worked with cross functional teams and in matrix organisational structures and developed appreciation of management of multidisciplinary and diverse teams across Africa.

In her role as Group PMO at Vivo Energy, she instituted project management methodology; the standard documentation, processes, checklists and the overall program management discipline for the 4 critical programs in the organization of value \$38m in 2018. In her role, she successfully negotiated complex, interlinked contracts that will deliver the requisite automation and business transformation. The contracts of value \$50m will lead to co-development by 23 lead and support partners in 10 countries in Africa in 2018-2021 period.

In her previous role as the Africa Category Manager, Vivo Energy, Maryanne led multidisciplinary teams to turn around project delivery that resulted in reduction of overall construction time by 50% with significant contribution to group revenues in 2016. Working with her colleague, the Africa Head of Retail Engineering, Maryanne led the re-engineering of all associated processes, developed optimal cost model, formalized the execution plan and tracker resulted in a 5% reduction in the site build cost.

Maryanne is an MBA, MCIPS with an accountancy qualification (CPA-K). She is also a Non-Executive Director of a bespoke strategy consulting company in Kenya. She is also the current CIPS Kenya Branch Chair and is a member of the Institute of Directors of Kenya (IOD) and the Women on Boards Network (WOBN).





WOBN
THE WOMEN ON BOARDS NETWORK

WOMEN ON BOARDS NETWORK PRESENTS

6TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

**THEME, CHALLENGING THE NORMS OF
BOARD LEADERSHIP**

GOVERNANCE



GENDER DIVERSITY

BUSINESS

WEDNESDAY 16TH TO FRIDAY 18TH OCTOBER

SENTRIM ELEMENTAITA HOTEL, NAIVASHA

20,000ksh/=MEMBERS FEE

25,000 ksh/= NON MEMBERS FEE



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MPESA TILL:893437



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**Strathmore
UNIVERSITY**

2019 FEATURING:

WOBN
THE WOMEN ON BOARDS NETWORK



HON MARTHA KARUA



H.E ADELINA MWAU



CAREN WAKOLI



MUCHA MLINGO



RITA KAVASHE



JOHN NGUMI



PROF NYOKABI KAMAU



**REV. GEOFFREY
NJENGA**



DR JEAN KAGIA



SHARON KISIRE



WILLIAM MAKATIANI



MR. MURIITHI NDEGWA



HARRIETTE CHIGGAI

20,000ksh/=MEMBERS FEE

25,000 ksh/= NON MEMBERS FEE

MPESA TILL:893437



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www.womenonboardskenya.co.ke

Call : 020 2353383

Email:

info@womenonboardskenya.co.ke

