

## Webinar: Gender & COVID-19 – The Role of Boards

Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2020 | 1:30 pm – 3:05 pm

### ABOUT THE WEBINAR

Multiple studies show that female talent is among the least utilized economic and business resource around the world. At the same time, making even small improvements in closing the gender gap could quickly yield strong results. For example, a recent IFC board Gender Diversity Study in ASEAN found that board gender diversity can positively affect a company’s financial and organizational performance. And yet, women hold only 15 percent of board seats and only 4 percent of CEO and board chair positions worldwide. Considering the needs of women employees is particularly important during the COVID-19 pandemic, during which many women are facing disproportionate economic challenges, taking on additional care burdens and suffering increased risk of gender-based violence.

The Webinar will help the participants to:

- Better understand the business case and benefits for gender equality and diversity;
- Provide guidance for directors and executives with developing a plan for improving gender equality in their companies; and
- Review practical examples of how gender equality and diversity practices can be implemented during the Covid-19 Pandemic;



### AGENDA

1:30 pm – 1:35 pm	<b>Welcoming Remarks</b> <b>Thiri Thant Mon</b> , CEO, Myanmar Institute of Directors
1:35 pm – 2:00 pm	<b>The business case for gender equality on boards</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commercial returns from diverse boards</li> <li>• Evidence for EAP drawn from report <a href="#">Board Gender Diversity in ASEAN</a></li> </ul> <b>Anar Aliyev</b> , Corporate Governance Officer, IFC
2:00 pm – 2:35 pm	<b>Five strategic gender priorities for companies in Myanmar during COVID</b> - based on recent guidance note <a href="#">COVID-19 and Gender Equality: Six Actions for the Private Sector</a> ) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Retain female employees during and after the crisis, drawing from research conducted with the World Bank on the pandemic’s impact on women</li> <li>Consider the digital gender divide in digitalization efforts</li> </ol>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>iii. Provide support to employees facing increased care demands - drawing from IFC's <a href="#">research on childcare in Myanmar</a>,</li> <li>iv. Ensure respectful workplace cultures (both virtual and in-person) - drawing from IFC's <a href="#">research on respectful workplaces in Myanmar</a></li> <li>v. Support employees' mental health and well-being</li> </ul> <p><b>Ellen Maynes</b>, Operations Officer, IFC  <b>Oliver Rowntree</b>, Gender Associate, IFC</p>
2:35 pm – 3:00 pm	<p><b>Panel discussion and Q&amp;A with Myanmar companies</b></p> <p><b>Pwint Phyu Han</b>, Group Chief People Officer, City Holding Limited  <b>Brad Jones</b>, CEO, Wave Money  Moderated by <b>Thiri Thant Mon</b>, CEO, Myanmar Institute of Directors</p>
3:00 pm – 3:05 pm	<p><b>Closing Remarks</b></p> <p><b>Kate Lazarus</b>, Senior Asia ESG Advisory Lead, IFC</p>

*\*The webinar will be in English language*

## SPEAKERS



**Anar Aliyev** is the Corporate Governance Officer for the East Asia & Pacific Corporate Governance Advisory Program and leads IFC CG advisory activities in Myanmar. Prior to joining IFC, Anar was in private practice in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Anar has over 15 years professional experience in consulting and law spent in the emerging markets of the Eastern Europe, former Soviet Union and East Asia/Pacific. Anar assisted companies in these jurisdictions implement international best practices of corporate governance and advised on draft legislation/regulations in eight separate countries.



**Ellen Maynes** is an Operations Officer for the IFC Gender and Economic Inclusion Group who leads projects to close employment gaps between men and women in Myanmar, Papua New Guinea and Fiji. Recently Ellen has led research to demonstrate the business case for the private sector to invest in gender equality on topics including Respectful Workplaces, Tackling Childcare and Gender and Microfinance in Myanmar. Before joining IFC, Ellen spent more than 20 years working across the private and not for profit sectors in the Asia Pacific and Europe.

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**Oliver Rowntree** is a Gender Associate for International Finance Corporation, working across IFC’s portfolio of projects in Myanmar to drive women’s economic empowerment. Oliver was previously Senior Insights Manager at the GSMA in London, where he led research on the digital and financial gender gap in low- and middle-income countries and conducted fieldwork in countries across Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia.



**Pwint Phyu Hun** is currently the Group Chief People Officer of City Holdings Limited, a Myanmar group company of several key businesses in Retail, Food and Beverages, Distribution and Property sectors. Prior to joining City Holdings Limited, Pwint has worked in the UK Aerospace and Engineering sector with companies such as BAE Systems, Rolls Royce and Caterpillar for more than 10 years. Pwint has a Master’s degree in Human Resources Management and Development from Manchester University, UK. She is also a charter holder from the Chartered Institute of Personnel Development (CIPD), UK.



**Brad Jones** is the Chief Executive Officer of Wave Money, a role he has held for the last five years. Wave Money is a fintech joint venture in Myanmar owned by Telenor Group, Yoma Strategic Holdings and Yoma Bank. Wave Money is the leading mobile financial services provider in Myanmar, serving millions of customers monthly across a network of more than 64,000 agents.

Previously Brad headed mobile money and innovation for Visa in Asia Pacific, North Africa and the Middle East. He has also been an emerging payments consultant to World Bank Group, working in a variety of markets including the Philippines, Indonesia, Bangladesh and China. Prior to Visa, Brad was the founding Managing Director of Wing Cambodia, the first bank-led mobile money deployment in Asia. Brad has worked in financial services for 18 years and is well known in the emerging payments and mobile money industry as a delivery focused executive.

Brad holds a Bachelor of Commerce from Griffith University of Australia and post-graduate business qualifications from the University of Queensland.



**Thiri Thant Mon** is the CEO of the Myanmar Institute of Directors and the Managing Partner of Pegu Partners. She has over 20 years of experience in the US, UK and Myanmar, including as an investment banker with Morgan Stanley in London and the member of the senior management team at Yoma Strategic Holdings in Myanmar. She is a board member of Dawn Microfinance Myanmar and a trustee for Turquoise Mountain Foundation, Yangon Heritage Trust and Doh Eain. She holds a BA in Economics from William & Mary, an MBA from the London Business School and a Director Certification Diploma from the Thai Institute of Directors.

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*Registration is first come, first served.*

### About the Myanmar Institute of Directors

The Myanmar Institute of Directors (MioD) is an independent organization promoting corporate governance standards and best practices in Myanmar. It aims to advance board professionalism, promote business ethics and transparency, create networks between corporate leaders and stakeholders, and boost investor confidence in Myanmar's capital markets. The institute's activities include providing board and corporate governance training, helping raise awareness on governance topics, and advocating for market reforms. MioD was formed with support from the International Finance Corporation (IFC), a sister organization of the World Bank and a member of the World Bank Group, and the governments of Australia and the United Kingdom. For more information, visit [www.myanmariod.com](http://www.myanmariod.com)

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