

GUEST SPEAKER & TABLE HOST 1 : GERT SCHOONBEE

Gert Schoonbee was appointed Managing Director of T-Systems in South Africa in 2012. Gert has more than 20 years of experience in the ICT Industry spanning all the key industries, where he played different roles including Solution Crafting, Business Development and Sales.

His experience in the Strategic Management of information in large enterprises assisted to shape, conclude and run large outsourcing deals with the biggest corporates in South Africa.

In 2012, Gert launched the T-Systems Nation Building initiative to ensure stronger relevance of T-Systems as a multi-national in South Africa by creating people purpose. This ongoing initiative continues to shape the cultural character of T-Systems.

Gert Joined T-Systems in August 2000. Prior to T-Systems, Gert was a director and co-owner at e-volution responsible for Business Development.

Other formal employers are IBM Consulting Group (2 years) and Coopers & Lybrand Management Advisory Services (2 years) Gert holds a Bachelors degree in Industrial Engineering from the University of Pretoria, and a MBA from the Graduate School of Business of the University of Cape Town.

MC : ADRÉ DU PLESSIS

Adré du Plessis joined T-Systems South Africa in 2008.

Her working career started doing vacation work at Coopers & Lybrand as a bursary student. She qualified as a Chartered Accountant and completed her articles at PricewaterhouseCoopers. She had the privilege to work in various industries various functional disciplines and various countries including Israel (Tel-Aviv), Belgium, Germany (Stuttgart, Munich), Luxembourg, Switzerland (Geneva) and Turkey (Istanbul).

Upon joining T-Systems SA in 2008 Adré started off in the Corporate Business Development department, where she was responsible for the deployment of the T-Systems South Africa Strategy which included managing the BBBEE accreditation process and Service Integration in a Multi- Sourcing environment.

She was appointed as Account Executive of a key customer in April 2010 and moved on to become the Vice President of Service in TSSA in April 2012 where she was responsible for the Service organisation and for the implementation of the Service Strategy in South Africa, including amongst others Service Delivery, Solution Design and Strategic Programme Management.

In April 2013 she was appointed Vice President Strategy and Transformation. Adré's focus areas include Strategy, Governance, Internal IT, Process, Quality, Risk Management, Internal Audit, BBBEE, Internship Programmes, Enterprise Supplier Development, Organisational Culture and Change Management, Talent Management and Leadership Programmes.

TABLE HOST 2 : ABENA AMANKWAH

Human Resource Director for TNS South Africa and is in a process of being appointed on the board of trustees for the company BEE Employee Trust.

Prior to this Abena was the Human Resource Leader for Genpact Africa responsible for all HR activities across the region. As a strong and experienced Human Resource Practitioner Abena played a key role in helping Genpact set up its Shared Services Centre Operations in South Africa through the Section 197 transfer of SAB Miller's Finance and Accounting division in 2009. The South African operations witnessed exponential growth since 2009 and Abena led the HR Division in setting up new client process within Genpact South Africa and setting up a new Operation in Kenya. Prior to joining Genpact, Abena worked for Faritec and Netcare.

Abena has over 10 years' experience across the BPO, IT and Healthcare industries. She is extremely people driven, analytical and critical thinker with a broad base expertise in Human Resources. She has a proven ability to gain quick insight into HR business drivers and develop strategies to drive HR value to the business.

Due to her expertise in the HR field, in 2008 Abena had a privileged of being invited for an Interview on Talent Management and Immigration in SA and the impact on South African economy looking at the brain drain in the country and the impact of the home coming revolution on Africa's Boardroom on CNBC Africa and Morning live on SABC 2 respectively.

She has a BCom Degree through Rhodes University. She has Advance Labour Law from the University of Pretoria. Abena is Lean and Six Sigma trained and tested. She has completed her global Leadership Development Program through Harvard Business School where is was awarded Best Project Award and Best Student Award.

Abena is passionate about been an authentic leader who shows vulnerability and demonstrate that you can be successful without pushing others down.

Abena is married, has 3 children and enjoys spending quality time with her family.

TABLE HOST 3 : GAIL DOWNING

Gail Downing - Managing Director, Acorn Group of Companies, an organisation that owns a number of leading brands in the Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) sector. The business was founded by Gail and her late husband Colin in 1996, and has grown to become one of the most successful and respected independently owned enterprises of its kind in Southern Africa.

Acorn Group comprises a manufacturing facility, a pharmaceutical company and laboratory, and a specialised sales management and representation business amongst its operating divisions. Its proprietary brands include Tabard insect repellents, Vapona insecticides, Teepol detergents and Carbro - a wide range of cleaning and general home-care products.

Gail has served for many years on the board of the South African Women Entrepreneurs' Network (SAWEN) and is currently its Chairperson. She has always maintained a special place in her life for the advancement of women in the economy and hence was invited by government, during the early years of our democracy, to assist in the development of SAWEN as an initiative conceived at the time by the Department of Trade and Industry. She has also served on the board of the Independent Development Trust (IDT).

TABLE HOST 4 : GETTY SIMELANE

From 1993 to 2010 held Human Resources Senior/Director level positions in various industries including chemicals, textiles, telecommunications, FMCG and investment banking. Left the Corporate arena in 2010 where she had been a Director in holding company and Executive for Human Resources at a local subsidiary of a global entity for six years. Currently shareholder and a director of a management consultancy company, The HR Touch.

Previous Board level positions held include management Board in the office of the Auditor General, the South African Board of People Practice, currently is independent Chair of the Mentoring Committee; in the municipal owned entities of CoJ has been non-executive director [NED] and Chair of City Power, Johannesburg Development Agency and is current Chair of Johannesburg Water. She currently also serve as Non-Executive Director in several private sector companies, not for profit companies, trusts and state owned entities [based in KZN.]her home province.

She is passionate about Youth Development and currently serve as one of the founding directors of a Not for Profit Company in Diepsloot focusing on skills for youth.

OTHER EXPERIENCE: Strategy development; leadership as member of both Executive and Board;

Mentorship both formal & informal; Strategic and operational management; executive compensation plans; independent advisor/member to HR and Remuneration Committees of Boards; Coaching and Mentoring professionals at executive levels.

TABLE HOST 6: KUBEN PILLAY

Chairman Primedia Group.
Main Board Director.
Executive Committee and Divisional Boards.
Retired Chairman and founding Executive director of Mic (Mineworkers Investment Company)

TABLE HOST 7 : MPHO LETLAPE

Currently the Deputy Vice Chancellor responsible for Strategic Services at the University of Johannesburg. She has the CHRO, the CIO and the CMO reporting to her.

She is also the founder and chairman of Lethushane Properties, a family social entrepreneurship initiative aiming to alleviate the chronic challenges of unemployment and housing.

The principal facet of her career is information systems with 19 years at IBM where she joined as a trainee systems engineer and left as the Director of Human Resources for South Africa. She has 20 years' experience as executive responsible for human resources, general management, procurement, property development and education amongst others at IBM, Eskom and Sasol.

Mpho is currently on the boards of T-Systems South Africa, the National Research Foundation, South African Women in Dialogue and is Vice President of the South Africa chapter of the International Women's Forum. She was previously a board member at Air Traffic Navigation Systems, South African Post Office, amongst others.

Her personal values and principles of integrity, consistency, transparency, and empathy are inspired by the life she has lived and the shared responsibility to build South Africa into a truly great country. She got married to Kgosi Letlape, an ophthalmologist and health activist in 1983, they have four children and live in Johannesburg.

TABLE HOST 8 : FLORENCE MUSENGI

Florence Musengi, an MBA graduate and Chartered Public Relations Practitioner has held high level Corporate positions including Head of Communications and Public Affairs and later Vice President of SAAB AB, Executive Director of Reutech and Chief Executive Officer Paramount South Africa, a position she currently holds. She has worked in other various Institutions and Organizations encapsulating Universities, The United Nations and large International Corporates.

She is the founder of WAYAM Communications Consulting, an organization that deals with Strategic Media Relations, Internal Employee Engagement and Brand Building and Reputational Management. Florence is a seasoned Empowerment Coach, self-made Businesswoman who co-founded FLOIDA Engineering Services a company that focuses in strategic research and development, engineering consulting and project management among others.

The owner of a clothing company called WAYAM Clothing, specializing in African Garments, Personal Image Making and Corporate Dressing for Success. She believes Fashion is instant language; what you wear is how you present yourself to the world especially in

today's world.

Her Leadership Empowerment Book titled "Woman at the Top" will inspire you to reach the top of your goals no matter the odds!

She is a member of the Institute of Directors (IODSA), Public Relations Institute of Southern Africa (PRISA) and the International Association of Business Communicators (IABC).

Current Executive membership:

Dec 2015 – Director & Board Member, Lapalala Wilderness School

June 2014 to present – Board Member, Aerospace & Maritime Industry Association (AMD)

Sept 2014 to 2015 – Paramount Group Board of Trustees

Feb 2013 – May 2014 Executive Board member : Reutech PTY Ltd

2011- 2012 Executive Board member: Saab Grintek Technologies

Chair of AMD Marketing Portfolio Committee

Member of AMD Policy and Strategy Committee

Prism Awards Panel Judge 2013/2014

TABLE HOST 9 : PHOKENG MOHATLANE

Phokeng Mohatlane is a seasoned IT professional with over 15 year's experience in the ICT industry spanning across both public and private sector. She established herself as an IT business leader and a well-rounded digitization professional focusing on converting traditional businesses to digital businesses.

Phokeng is currently the CIO of the Cross Boarder Road Transport Agency.

Before this role; she headed a Software Development & Maintenance portfolio at the State Information Technology Agency with repeated success in leading the development, delivery, maintenance and support of software products and projects.

Her extensive experience in the business development and customer related roles adds a dimension that creates a balance between business and technical competency that would add value at a strategic level of any organization.

She previously held other key roles in Sita, Datacentrix, EDS and CSIR and acquired extensive experience in Strategy Development and implementation, Business development, IT Service Management, SDLC, Customer Services and product development.

TABLE HOST 10 : SAMANTHA POKROY

Samantha is the founder and CEO of Sanari Capital, a private equity firm specialising in founder-run, owner-managed and family-owned businesses in the lower-middle market.

Samantha has twelve years of private equity and venture capital experience in SA and US markets. She played a leading role in investments at Ethos Private Equity, which she joined in 2006.

Previously, Samantha worked at a Chicago-based private equity firm and in investment banking and consulting in New York. Samantha holds an MBA (Chicago Booth), BCom (Wits), BA Hons (Industrial Psychology)(Wits) and CFA. She is a director on the board of SAVCA.