

## Key trends and women's advancement in energy at 4th annual conference

The 2018 Women In Energy Conference, an interactive side event of the African Energy Indaba (AEI), aims to provide a platform for advancing and promoting talented women within the energy sector on 19 February 2018 at the Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa. The 4th annual Women in Energy Conference is designed to aid an increase in leadership and the development of women involved in the African energy space.



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## Women in Energy: A global perspective of women in Energy

According to the Clinton Climate Initiative (CCI), there is a gender gap in leadership as women make up only 5% of board executives across the global power and utilities sector. Women's leadership is essential for the task of building a sustainable energy future, and by not honing the essential skills of women worldwide, the energy sector is profoundly lacking in essential perspectives and innovation. The Women in Power and Utilities Index (2016) tracked the number of women in the boardrooms of the world's largest utilities in revenue, and it was established that there are 16% women on Power and Utilities boards, with progress at an extremely slow increase of only 1% over three years.

An ROE analysis on the top 200 utilities in the world indicated that the top 20 gender-diverse utilities substantially outperformed the bottom 20, endorsing an obvious connection between gender diversity and financial performance. Energy remains an evolving industry constantly trying to accommodate the growing demand and supply of power to homes, businesses and infrastructure. These numerous challenges call for innovative approaches, and this is why diversity is so significant. Numerous studies have indicated that the more diverse a group, the quicker and easier it'll be to identify and solve problems and create a competitive advantage by encouraging businesses to consider new methods and practices. A group of men all of similar ages and outlook will in all likelihood maintain familiar structures, however a diverse group of different genders, ages and backgrounds will change the status quo, and increase the possibility of creative thinking.

## Key future trends, and the way forward for women in the Africa Energy sector

Overall the energy industry is experiencing an era of transition and transformation, with new fuels, technologies and innovation motivating opportunities. A resilient, reliable and secure energy future is essential for the stability of the global

