



WOB /PR/1/2016

Celebrating the First Anniversary of Women on Boards NGO

Women on Boards NGO (WOB) came to life with the vision to accelerate progress towards a better gender balance on the corporate boards and top management of Maldivian companies and organizations.

We are honored to have created an organization more than 200 strong within the course of a single year. We have formed a diverse set of relationships between key corporations, international organizations and individuals who are very passionate about the development of women.

On behalf of Women on Boards, I would like to present a quick picture of what we have accomplished in Year one.

1. Lobbying the Government to pass facilitative legislation such as imposing a quota system for Government affiliated boards and leadership positions.
 2. WOB introduced an “outreach agent” service in the Atolls to help disseminate information relating to women development work done by WOB as well as create awareness of the opportunities relating to education and employment available generally to women living outside Male’.
 3. WOB on average conducted one major program a month relating to educating women, with a focus not just on empowerment but also subjects which would give them marketable skills. Other services we provided also include independent appraisals and helpful suggestions on CV’s, presentation skills and pre-interview preparation.
 4. WOB became a member of South Asian Federation of Exchanges and participated in activities organized by SAFE and other relevant international organizations to promote the economic empowerment of women.
 5. WOB became the first NGO in Maldives to establish corporate and individual membership benefits to all members through the WOB membership card. The card gives the cardholder significant discounts from selected service members and is part of our “care concept”. The discounts and concession granted under the WOB membership cards are provided in collaboration with a number of outside vendors.
 6. WOB celebrated the achievements of some of the most remarkable women in Maldives through our publications, website and social media. Work has also started on a documentary recognizing the work of 50 of the leading women in business and finance.
 7. WOB Secretary General, was selected to receive the first ever Queens Young Leader Award from the Republic of Maldives, which relates to the work done in WOB.
 8. The four-year Strategic Business Plan of WOB, which is underway, will be published in 2016 and will lay out our plans which are geared towards achieving our vision to be a leading organization for economic empowerment of women.
- I am proud to have led the WOB team that has done groundbreaking work in the past year. The strength of our team, volunteers, and professional contributors, international and national experts have given us a strong foundation to grow and continually improve our service as we enter our second year of operations.

I would like to thank you all, on behalf of WOB for supporting us every step of the way. I hope many of you will join us in our journey to promote women empowerment and gender diversity in the future.

Fathimath Shafeega

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Fathimath Shafeega', written over a faint blue grid background.

President, Women on Boards NGO

Dated: 13 January 2016