

WISTA-UK Digest

July 2010 Edition

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4. Afrimari surges ahead and thanks WISTA

WISTA-UK was delighted to be represented at the second meeting of the new London networking group Afrimari, founded earlier this year by two WISTA members, Gemina Cooper and Temi Binitie. The network is designed for those of African descent and links working in maritime, energy and trade. Open to men and women, Afrimari has similar objectives to WISTA and judging by the attendance of 40 mainly young people at the June event, the group has strong appeal as an organisation. Its arrival on the trading scene is long overdue.

Gemina and Temi are members of the Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers and work for Braemar Seascope and AET tanker group respectively. The third member of the leadership is Femi Adewale, a credit hybrids trader at JP Morgan.

Gemina delivered an inspiring welcome in which she said that Afrimari was seeking ambassadors to take the group forward. Membership of the group was by invitation “of people we know and trust.” It wanted to attract individuals who strive for excellence and understand the complexities of dealing with Africa, “the new global frontier.” Members would support one another on the road to professional excellence.



Afrimari will consist of five “houses” namely maritime and logistics, energy commodities and trade, banking and finance, insurance and risk, and legal. Each house will have one adviser and two representatives, the latter voted for by the members.

We are looking for people who are competitive, who make a difference – and are the difference, said Gemina. Quarterly meetings will develop Afrimari as a platform for knowledge sharing and discussion about new developments in the industry. Information is key in this industry, and without it, we are nothing, said Gemina. During her address, she generously praised WISTA for encouraging high standards and greater levels of contact among professionals.

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