

# WOMEN'S BUSINESS MATTERS WORKSHOP

THE 9TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY  
NOVEMBER 2020 - PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA

This workshop will be hosted coinciding with the International Conference on Appropriate Technology. The theme of this year's conference is *Technology Exchange and Employment Creation for Community Empowerment: Cross-Pollinating Innovative Models*.

The goal of the **Women's Business Matters Workshop** is to provide the audience with information about how 4 successful African AT business examples were created or run by women and empower attendees with feedback and guidance to assist them develop their own enterprise ideas.

## FEATURED PANELISTS



**Dr. Lilia A. Abron**

Dr. Lilia A. Abron, P.E., BCEE, the CEO/President and Founder of PEER Consultants, P.C. (PEER) is a trailblazer, an entrepreneur. She is the first African-American woman in the nation to earn a Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering and the first African-American to start an engineering consulting firm focused on the environment and its environmental issues. To help advance the condition of the impoverished sector worldwide using sustainability measures, Lilia also founded PEER Africa Western Cape, CC in 1995. It emphasizes empowering poor communities in Africa and the developing world to take charge and control of their livelihoods in a responsible manner.

PEER is a 42-year-old, full-service environmental and civil engineering consulting firm. In 1978, PEER was established under Dr. Abron's belief that humans and the physical environment are fully compatible and co-exist to mutually benefit one another. Since 1978, the firm has focused on providing transformative, appropriate, and sustainable solutions for its clients' challenging environmental problems. Through the focus areas – Water Engineering & Sciences; Environmental Management; Energy Efficiency, Renewable Energy (EERE), Sustainability, & Resiliency.

In 1966, Dr. Abron graduated with a B.S. degree in Chemistry from Lemoyne College in Memphis, TN, with Distinction. In 1968, she earned her M.S. degree in Environmental and Sanitary Engineering from Washington University in St. Louis. In 1972, Dr. Abron obtained her Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering from the University of Iowa.

Most recently, Dr. Abron has been inducted to the prestigious National Academy of Engineering (NAE) - election to the National Academy of Engineering is among the highest professional distinctions accorded to an engineer.



**Fumani Mthembi**

Fumani Mthembi is a Managing Director of Knowledge Pele, Research and Innovation Lead of the Pele Energy Group. She is co-founder and director the Pele Energy Group (PEG), South Africa's largest 100% black-owned independent power producer. Her educational achievements include University of Cape Town BCom Politics, Philosophy and Economics 2003-2005; University of the Witwatersrand BA Honours Politics and Development Studies (with distinction); University of Sussex, Institute of Development Studies MA Science, Society & Development (with distinction) 2008/09 Moonstone Business School RE 5: Financial Representatives Exam 2017 Publications.

The Pele Energy Group owes over 800MW in renewable energy power plants. Mthembi has grown the PEG subsidiary, Knowledge Pele, into a leading research, development and social impact investment firm, with a specific competence in developing township, rural and peri-urban communities into self-sustaining economies. Pele Energy Group's renewable energy packages for households and small businesses across Africa are described in Chapter 7 in a book titled 'Breakthrough: Corporate South Africa in a Green Economy' published by The Africa Institute of South Africa in 2015. 'Lost in Procurement: An Assessment of the Development Impact of the Renewable Energy Procurement Programme' is described in Chapter 6 in book titled, 'Earth, Wind and Fire: Unpacking the Political, Economic and Security Implications of Discourse on the Green Economy' published by Mapungubwe Institute for Strategic Reflection in 2018 and in "Where Constitutionalists Fear To Trade" in Chapter 12 in book titled 'Seeking The Ethical Foundations of The South African Nation' published by Mapungubwe Institute for Strategic Reflection.

Prior to starting the Pele Energy Group, Mthembi held a number of positions such as a Research Assistant to Lecturer Mary Simons, University of Cape Town Politics Department in 2006. Other employment includes she was a Politics Tutor, Wits Politics Department ; Communications Intern – Homeowner Magazine, Johnnic Communications in 2007 ; Graduate Analyst: Lending and Savings Products Design & Piloting – Community Banking, Standard Bank South Africa in 2008 ; Junior Manager: Lending and Savings Products Design & Piloting- Community Banking, Standard Bank South Africa in 2009 ; Senior Researcher: Children, Youth, Family and Social Development – Human Sciences Research Council in 2010 ; Consultant: Savings Products Design & Piloting – Inclusive Banking, Standard Bank South Africa Entrepreneurial and Management Highlights.



**Rosley Sibanda**

An experienced Senior Leader in the Financial Industry who has committedly worked in eight Banks within the Southern African Development Community, three of which are amongst the top four South African banks, thus affording her exposure to diverse banking strategies, operating models, and cultures. She has held leadership positions at different levels of the banking sector, in various business units and successfully led high-performing teams.

Her work ethic is primarily premised upon her strong and unwavering belief in placing people in optimal positions to drive the highest levels of Return on Investment and inspiring them to achieve results in alignment with business objectives. She is passionate and enthusiastic about adding value to leadership roles that require and encompass all elements of Sustainability (profit, people, and planet); this being evident in her remarkable Renewable Energy business venture.

Due to the climate change realities and her sense of urgency to make the world realise that indeed WE OWE OUR PLANET, she is also on a personal journey to transforming contexts in strategy and policy creation on issues of Sustainability at Board Level and the community in general, one person at a time. Amongst the arsenal of her secret weapons to making a resounding impact on what is generally viewed as a man's world is that she is a highly motivated woman, with strong leadership and interpersonal skills.

- **The 2020 Africa Green Woman of the Year** award given by Sunshine International and recognised by Minister of Zimbabwe Environmental Climate & Hospitality Industry – October 2020
- Holds an executive MBA - Leadership and Sustainability with University of Cumbria, UK
- Sustainability Practitioner Programme (SPP) with University of Cambridge, UK
- Holds numerous SAQA and Bank Seta recognised Banking Qualifications
- Currently enrolled with Sirdar Global Group for a 11-month Applied Directorship Programme
- Member of TheBoardroom Africa
- Member of IoDSA
- [www.linkedin.com/in/rosleysibanda123](https://www.linkedin.com/in/rosleysibanda123)



**Tory Livingston**

Tory Livingston is an Innovator, Author, Technical Consultant, Project Manager, Evangelist and Educator with over 35 years of Information Technology experience. Tory has used her software development, engineering, and IT Project Management skills to help companies, both private and governmental agencies, successfully complete their mission critical projects.

Tory loves to encourage others to fulfill their God given purpose and to be the best person that they can be. Tory is inspired daily by her husband and their seven children and two grandchildren. Tory likes to play golf/tennis/basketball, and travel