GLOBAL NETWORK OF DIRECTOR INSTITUTES

Member Newsletter
April 2026

Welcome to the **April 2026** edition of the Global Network of Director Institutes (GNDI) newsletter. As we step into a new year, this edition sets the tone for the governance priorities, opportunities, and challenges shaping the road ahead. Across our global membership, director institutes are engaging with the critical shifts redefining boardrooms worldwide.

This edition explores how boards can navigate uncertainty, sharpen their strategic focus, and build resilient organisations equipped for what lies ahead.

To feature your organisation's latest updates in an upcoming edition, please contact the GNDI Secretariat at communications@yourhub.co.za

Boardroom Trends and Insights: Guidance from AICD

The Power of Presence in Leadership

As organisations navigate growing complexity and change, leadership development is shifting beyond technical expertise toward authenticity, emotional intelligence, and self-awareness. From equine-assisted leadership coaching to mindful leadership practices, leaders are exploring new ways to strengthen communication, resilience, and team connection.

Read more >

How to beat groupthink in the boardroom

Experienced director highlights the dangers of groupthink and the importance of strong boardroom leadership in encouraging diverse perspectives and robust debate. Drawing on her experience across infrastructure, transport, and government sectors, she explains how boards can become ineffective when decisions are made outside formal meetings or when directors simply "rubber-stamp" outcomes.

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Stronger Governance for Safer Care

Australia's aged care, childcare, and human services sectors are undergoing major governance reforms following serious failures that exposed weaknesses in oversight, accountability, and care standards. New regulations are placing greater responsibility on directors to prioritise the wellbeing of care recipients, strengthen clinical governance, and improve organisational culture.

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BDA Türkiye: Strengthens Boardroom Dialogue and Governance Leadership

BDA Türkiye Launched the Artificial Intelligence Master Class Series for Boards

The first workshop of the series examined AI through the lenses of board awareness, best practices, risks, and governance, with a focus on strategic oversight rather than technical depth. The second workshop highlighted AI as a critical board agenda item, covering regulation, liability, and risk management, while emphasizing the role of technology-experienced board members in securing future competitive advantage. The series will continue throughout the year with additional sessions.

BDA Türkiye Hosted “Growth vs. Governance: What Are the Trade-offs for Startups & VCs?”

During this exclusive session, participants explored the strategic trade-offs faced by startups and venture capitalists in today’s dynamic market. Moderated by Mehmet Sami - BDA Chairperson, the discussion featured insights from esteemed speakers İlker Sözdinler – Managing Partner at Oleka Capital, Pete Benedetto - Head of EMEA at Endeavor Catalyst, and Ahu Serter – Founder of Fark Labs. The discussion focused on balancing rapid scaling with investor expectations for governance frameworks, as well as the tension between short-term valuation and long-term sustainability.

BDA Türkiye’s New Year Member Meeting

BDA Türkiye held its first member meeting of 2026 with the active participation of its members. In line with the Association’s goals of knowledge sharing, interaction, and building strong connections, the gathering provided an opportunity for members to network and enjoy a pleasant evening together.

BDA Türkiye's Fifth Members’ Breakfast Meeting

During BDA Türkiye’s monthly members’ breakfast meeting, participants evaluated current political developments in the US, Europe, and the Far East, and discussed how these shifts are being reflected on board agendas.

Vietnam’s Governance Moment: Boards, Trust and the Road to 2030

VIOD – 8 Years of Pioneering And Shaping Value For Vietnam's Capital Market Ecosystem

On 17 April 2026, the celebrated its 8th anniversary, marking its continued contribution to strengthening corporate governance and board professionalism in Vietnam’s growing capital market.

Over the past eight years, VIOD has helped promote international governance practices while building a strong community of directors, corporate secretaries, audit committee members, and governance professionals. As expectations around transparency, accountability, board effectiveness, and sustainable growth continue to rise, VIOD’s work highlights the growing role of governance in building market confidence, supporting long-term value creation, and strengthening Vietnam’s integration into global capital markets.

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FTSE Russell Upgrades Vietnam's Stock Market: Quality, Not Title, Will Define What Comes Next

FTSE Russell’s upgrade of Vietnam from Frontier Market to Secondary Emerging Market marks a major milestone for the country’s capital markets, with index inclusion scheduled between September 2026 and 2027. The upgrade is expected to attract an estimated USD 1.5 billion in passive investment inflows.However, CEO emphasised that the upgrade is ultimately a test of the market’s governance quality rather than simply a financial achievement. The article highlights that attracting long-term institutional investors will depend on strong governance standards, transparency, effective board oversight, and the ability of boards to move beyond compliance toward strategic leadership and risk oversight.

The upgrade signals a new phase for Vietnam’s market development, where stronger governance practices will play a critical role in sustaining investor confidence and long-term growth.

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GCC Women on Boards Report Highlights Slow but Steady Progress

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The latest Women on Boards report from the examines gender diversity across publicly listed companies in the Gulf region, highlighting gradual progress in increasing female representation at board level. The report shows that women now hold a growing share of board positions across GCC markets, although representation remains uneven across countries and sectors.

The report emphasises the importance of board diversity in strengthening governance, improving decision-making, and supporting long-term organisational resilience. It also highlights the need for continued efforts to accelerate female participation in leadership and boardroom roles across the region.

View Report >

IoD UK Brings Directors Together to Explore Leadership and Competitive Advantage

IoD Certificate in Company Direction China Programme

In April, the Institute of Directors successfully delivered its three-day Finance for Non-Finance Directors module of the IoD Certificate in Company Direction China Programme at the British Consulate-General Shanghai's Office. This was followed by a panel discussion on 'Issues for the Board in a World of Turmoil' sharing the expert advice with business leaders at the British Chamber of Commerce Shanghai.

Upcoming modules of the 2026/7 China Programme include:

- Leadership for Directors (2–3 July 2026, Hong Kong)
- International Role of the Director and the Board (15–16 October 2026, Shanghai)
- Strategy for Directors (21–23 April 2027, Beijing)
- Finance for Non-Finance Directors (31 June–2 July 2027, Hong Kong).

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Chartered Director Conference 2026

On 25 June, our exclusive Chartered Director community will meet at the Science and Industry Museum in Manchester for a high-energy day of bold ideas, expert insight and powerful peer connections. The conference will explore how today's leaders can turn intelligence – data, experience, insight and expertise – into real competitive advantage.

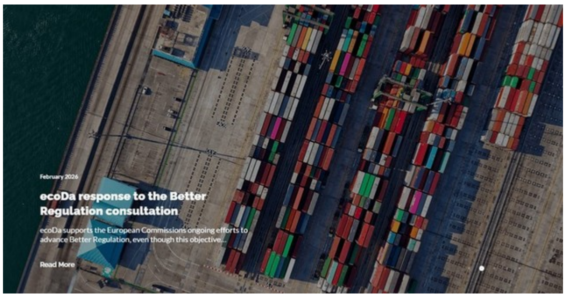
There will be thought-provoking panels, lively discussions and practical takeaways on the issues shaping modern boardrooms. For qualifying attendees, tickets are available at the link below.

Tickets Available Here >

News from ecoDa

ecoDa responds to the European Commission consultation on Better Regulation

ecoDa view on VSME digital tools and platforms - Response to EFRAG



ecoDa supports the European Commission's ongoing efforts to advance Better Regulation. Regulatory convergence has long been one of the EU's key competitive strengths, but growing complexity and regulatory layering now risk turning this advantage into a barrier to innovation and market entry.

To restore impact, ecoDa calls for diversifying evidence providers of survey, fair, unbiased consultations accessible to SMEs and smaller markets and reduced reliance on delegated and implementing acts to improve legal certainty.

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ecoDa welcomes EFRAG's initiative to map existing and "in development" initiatives supporting voluntary sustainability reporting by SMEs. First, when implemented effectively, VSME reporting can support SMEs' competitiveness, resilience, and long-term value creation. Second, from a board perspective, digital platforms (whether AI-enabled or not) should be based on a robust and transparent data model and support directors in fulfilling their fiduciary duties. Finally, european companies should seek to reduce reliance on non-European digital suppliers, while European solution providers should continue strengthening their offerings by building on the ESRS framework.

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GNDI Member News & Updates

SLID Director Magazine Showcases Governance and Leadership Excellence

The continues to strengthen governance thought leadership through its flagship publication, The SLID Director Magazine. The publication features expert insights on corporate governance, leadership, and emerging business trends, offering valuable perspectives and best practices for today's corporate leaders.

The latest edition also highlights key industry initiatives, including the inaugural SLID/ACCA National Corporate Director Awards 2025, which celebrates excellence in corporate leadership and governance across Sri Lanka.

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Switzerland Launches First Magazine Dedicated to Board Directors

The Swiss Institute of Directors and the Swiss Board School announce the launch of Board Leaders – The Magazine for Board Directors, the first publication in Switzerland dedicated exclusively to board members. Published in German and French, Board Leaders offers concise, high-quality insights on key boardroom topics including strategy, governance, and leadership. The magazine aims to strengthen exchange among board professionals and advance excellence in corporate governance in Switzerland and beyond. The inaugural issue will be distributed nationwide as a supplement to BILANZ and PME Magazine, two leading business publications in Switzerland, and is also available online at boardleaders.org.

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