

## Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Tanzania Women Architects for Humanity holds inaugural Board of Directors Meeting**

Tanzanian women builders seek to expand their reach and impact

Dar es Salaam, Tanzania (10 June 2017) – The Tanzania Women Architects for Humanity (TAWAH) inaugural Board of Directors meeting was held on Saturday, 10 June at the Regency Park Hotel in Dar es Salaam. TAWAH grew from an informal group of women architects and scientists with the mission of improving the living environments for poor and marginalized groups in Tanzania. TAWAH's first project involved working with women in Ololosokwan village in Loliondo to modify traditional houses in order to reduce indoor pollution from cooking and improve heat retention during the cool nights.

TAWAH uses a unique participatory approach to development that brings its expertise in design, engineering, science and finance into a partnership with the marginalized groups it serves to solve problems with housing, sanitation and educational facilities. In doing so, TAWAH helps marginalized communities to enhance their social and economic capabilities, including learning new skills. TAWAH projects leave tangible benefits for communities, such as new or improved housing, classrooms, and sanitation systems.

"One of the great things about our work," notes TAWAH Secretariat Chairperson Victoria Marwa Heilman, "is that we are builders. We build stronger community relations and help to build people's problem solving and practical construction skills, but the key thing is that we create something of practical value for people: classrooms, houses, and toilets that will be used for years and help to reduce the hardships of everyday life." Victoria Marwa Heilman concluded that, "Long after a project has ended, every time people use the new building, they remember us."

With a Board in place, TAWAH seeks to expand its reach and impact by pursuing new funding opportunities and growing its portfolio of projects. The Board of Directors is composed of eight accomplished Tanzanian and American professionals from the economics, development, finance and academic fields:

- **Angela Howard**, Managing Director of Culture, Health & Education Practice, Jonathan Rose Companies
- **Helen Lauer**, Professor of Philosophy & Religious Studies, University of Dar es Salaam



## *Promoting decent shelter for all*

- **Fortunata Songora Makene**, Associate Professor and Head of Strategic Research and Publications, Economic and Social Research Foundation (ESRF)
- **Kaanaeli Makundi**, International Program Development and Implementation Manager (Retired), Lutheran World Federation (LWF)
- **Joseph Mhilu**, Assistant to Vice Chancellor and Principal Planning Officer, Mbeya University of Science and Technology (MUST)
- **Sabasaba Kitewita Moshingi**, CEO, TPB Bank PLC
- **Ladislaus Joseph Mwamanga**, Executive Director, Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF)
- **Winnie Terry**, CEO, Tanzania Association of Microfinance Institutions (TAMFI)

The new members are poised to provide strategic leadership and a network of institutional relationships for the innovative non-profit to expand its operations and make a greater impact in alleviating poverty.

For more information about TAWAH, contact [info@tawahtanzania.org](mailto:info@tawahtanzania.org) or visit the website [www.tawahtanzania.org](http://www.tawahtanzania.org).

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