



**MARIANELA MIRPURI**  
**PRESIDENT, PORTUGAL - INDIA BUSINESS COUNCIL**

**WOMEN'S INDIAN CHAMBER OF  
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (WICCI)**

**INDIA'S FIRST NATIONAL BUSINESS CHAMBER FOR WOMEN**

**[WWW.WICCI.IN](http://WWW.WICCI.IN)**



Mariana Côrte Real Mirpuri

[Portuguese nationality](#)

Studied between Portugal, Switzerland and Spain

Entrepreneur experience:

Founder and CEO of Luxor Congressos & Promoções

Co- Founder of UAT – United Air Taxis

Co- Founder of Netjets Europe

General Manager of Air Luxor Corporate Jets

Vice President Marketing and Sales of Air Luxor

Co-Founder and CEO of Masterjet

President of Jetlink SA

Associate at Sparfell & Partners

[ASR for Cessna/Textron for Portugal and Spain](#)

Partner and International Director of Manifesto Moda

Founder of Luxor Home Label

Philanthropist experience:

Vice President of AANL ( Welfare Association of Homeless)

Philanthropist at Associação Bianca ( rescue animals)

Advisory board member of Mirpuri Foundation

Founder of Hera- The Light of Women

[President of Hera Association](#)

Guest Speaker at national and international conferences

[International and National Awards](#)



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Vice President:

- Sangeeta Ahir

Board:

- Alexandra Bonte
- Bibi Sattar
- Carla Fontes
- Cristina Dangerfield
- Judite Correia
- Linda Pereira
- Mary Pagano
- Sandra Sanchez
- Seema Lodi
- Sophie Le Ray
- Veronique Queffelec



Sangeeta Ahir  
Vice President

Smt. Sangeeta Ahir is an established Bollywood producer, fitness enthusiast, and philanthropist/social entrepreneur, in addition to being a leading figure on Mumbai's social circuit. Sangeeta first ventured into the world of filmmaking in the '90s, and rapidly became one of India's first female film distributors. At the helm of her company Sangeeta Ahir Moviez she has made a name for herself producing blockbuster hits such as Pahaar, Golmaal Again, and Total Dhamaal (the third highest grossing Bollywood film of 2019). She has also distributed the Hollywood film "Batman v Superman" pan India, Bahubali in Karnataka and the Ajay Devgan Starrer Baadshaho pan India and many more.

Smt. Sangeeta Ahir is also the patron of a number of local charities. As the co-founder of the Shri Sankalp Pratishthan and the Maitree Charitable Trust, Sangeeta has contributed immensely to improving the social wellbeing of those less fortunate, in addition to initiating multiple cleanliness drives aimed at upholding Mumbai's reputation as a truly global city.

She has also worked tirelessly for the empowerment of women in society, through public awareness campaigns and the organisation of training and medical camps. Sangeeta's passion for giving back to society has also seen her appointed the Indian ambassador of HERA – The Light of Women, a global project dedicated to improving the condition of women across the world.

Sangeeta is also internationally renowned as a fashionista, and widely considered one of the city's leading trendsetters. In 2018, Sangeeta was the only invitee from India's film industry invited to the launch of the Gucci Garden in Florence, Italy. This was followed by an exclusive lunch at Castello Sonnino – an antique wine estate owned by the Baroness Caterina de Renzis Sonnino – attended by an international who's who list. She is also a frequent guest at events organised by luxury fashion brands, such as Luis Vuitton, Gucci, and Christian Dior.

An avid fitness enthusiast, Sangeeta believes in the importance of a healthy routine to a balanced lifestyle. A frequent advocate for the benefits of exercise, she enjoys jogging and follows a strict cardio-meets-weight training exercise routine.



Alexandra Monte  
Board Member

“Crede... lotare... vincere...” I’m a true believer in self-made human beings and that hard work, dedication, passion and determination always pays off in the end.

An athlete at heart having won many competitions in equestrian sports throughout my whole life, I set up my real estate business at 23 years old in a country that I had just moved to and came to love, Portugal. Seeing an incredible opportunity in this industry for growth, my love for architecture, design and passion for helping people set off a light bulb in my head to begin property development and a real estate company mainly targeted at expats relocating to Lisbon and investment funds looking for enticing residential and commercial real estate investment opportunities.

My background in majoring finance for my MBA helped me understand the commercial / investment real estate industry and my background in majoring in marketing for my BBA as well as 3 years in web development, event management and wine sales helped me understand the communication side of my real estate business.

Being American, Italian and British, speaking five languages and having travelled and lived in various countries has helped me understand what global expats look for when relocating.

As a strong career focused young woman I believe in integrity and leadership. When I relocated to Portugal at the beginning of adulthood I was surrounded by strong career focused women that not only helped me in my business and personal life but inspired me to be the woman I am today, CEO, entrepreneur, wife, mother and motivational speaker. I figured in November 2019 on Caras Portugal as “talented women of Lisbon”.

Dressage has been my passion since I was a toddler. I strive to train my horses on a daily basis and I have a business of training and selling dressage sport horses between Europe and the USA providing only the best lusitanos and warmbloods with excellent characters and fully trained for their new owners! Having trained and worked in France, Holland, Germany and now Portugal I have learnt the skills and know-how as well as maintained a strong network. I was part of Benfica team for young Olympic prospect talent in 2012.

I believe that I have very strong ethical and hardworking principles.





Bibi Sattar  
Board Member

Bibi Sattar Marques is a specialized professional in the financial sector accumulating 17 years of experience, starting in PwC (2003-2008) and then in ANACOM (2008-2017), acquiring extensive knowledge in financial audit, corporate finance and regulatory issues and was member of the Regulatory Accounting Group - Board of European Regulators of Electronic Communications.

In 2014, Bibi founded a non-profit organization, aTTitude IPSS, dedicated to projects in the health and education sectors, social finance innovation and social entrepreneurship.

In 2017, Bibi joined **BLUECROW** Venture Capital as a Partner and Executive Board Member. Bibi holds a Master in Finance and an Economics degree by Universidade Católica Portuguesa and a PGrad in Political Science and International Affairs also from Universidade Católica Portuguesa



Carla Fontes  
Board Member

Carla Fontes, born in Lourenço Marques (Maputo) city/Mozambique on March, 22, 1958.

Studied at Instituto Verney, and LM/University for a History degree.

At that time I started also studies in Marketing, PR and Communication in South Africa for 3 years until I finished the bachelor's degree. Then I started to teach History at a Mozambican school and work on events for the USA embassy, FAO, Red Cross and Unicef.

In 1983 I came to Lisbon and in 1987 I started to work as a MKT, PR and Communications at Meridien Lisbon and Oporto for several years and at same time I participated in several courses of Management supported by Meridien Human Resources to improve my performance in my area of work and in hotellerie Management in general.

Several years later the brand change from Meridien Hotels to Tiara Hotels & Resorts and I start to work as a MKT, PR and Communications for the hotel group: Tiara Park AtLantic Lisbon, Tiara Park AtLantic Porto, Yaktsa Cote D'Azur, Miramar Beach Hotel Spa, Chateau Hotel Mont Royal /Chantilly and also in the renovation process for Hotel Astoria Brussels By Tiara.

Now I work for InterContinental Lisbon and InterContinental Cascais-Estoril as MKT, PR and Communications since 1914 since the IHG Group started to operate the brand in Lisbon and Estoril. During this time I attended in London at IHG headquarters and IC Park Lane hotel several courses to improve my skills in brand identity and performances.



Cristina Dangerfield  
Board Member

### ***Professional Qualifications***

Journalist since 2011 at Portugal Post, writing for other Media.  
Member of Institute of Translation and Interpreting (London) 1989  
Member of Chartered Institute of Linguists (London) 1990  
Member of Portuguese Translators Association 2017

### ***Language Qualifications***

Diplôme de Hautes Etudes Françaises option littérature - Alliance Française de Paris, Mention Très Honorable, 1981  
Certificate of Proficiency in English, University of Cambridge, 1981, Grade A  
Kleines Deutsches Sprachdiplom - Goethe Institut in Berlin –1996  
C2 Turkish Yunus Emre Enstitüsü  
Ottoman Turkish Yunus Emre Enstitüsü  
Arabic (ongoing learning)

***Mother tongue:*** Portuguese (European)

### ***Foreign languages***

Fluent in French, English and German; Very good knowledge of Turkish (Advanced C2);  
Some Hebrew, basic Arabic and Ottoman Turkish.

### ***Hobbies***

Writing, photography and travelling; interested in arts, literature and international politics and history; walking and cycling. Fitness; Ongoing learning of Turkish (including Ottoman Turkish) and Arabic (a life's task).





Judite Correia  
Board Member

FIRST WOMAN BROKER OF THE LISBON STOCK EXCHANGE

REGENT OF THE PORTUGUESE ECONOMICS SCHOOL UNIT OF THE 4TH ACADEMIC YEAR OF ISE, CURRENT ISEG- HIGHER INSTITUTE OF ECONOMICS AND MANAGEMENT, TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF LISBON

COORDINATOR OF THE PORTUGUESE ECONOMICS SECTION, WHICH ENCOMPASSED 10 UISE SCHOOL ISSUES

ADMINISTRATOR OF THE PORTUGUESE ASSOCIATION OF ECONOMISTS (CURRENT ORDER OF ECONOMISTS) OF PORTUGAL (1981-82)

COORDINATOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CONJUNCTURE ANALYSIS OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE OF PORTUGAL

SINCE 2006 HE HAS BEEN IN ANGOLA, WHERE HE WENT;

CONSULTANT OF THE ANGOLAN STOCK AND DERIVATIVES EXCHANGE (BVDA) AND THE CAPITAL MARKETS COMMISSION (CMC), 2006-2009;

FOUNDER AND PROMTORA OF "SAVINGS GROUP", SINCE 2009 UNTIL NOW;

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND ADMINISTRATOR OF THE SOCIEDADE DE MICROCRÉDITO (FACILCRED) OF BANCO BNI IN ANGOLA, FROM 2012 TO 2014;;

CONSULTANT TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF BANCO SOL SINCE 2014, UNTIL NOW;

ELECTED OF THE PERSONALITIES OF THE YEAR OF ANGOLA, BY THE NEWSPAPER "EXPANSÃO", FOR SEVERAL CONSECUTIVE YEARS, NAMELY IN 2019;;

SPEAKER AT VARIOUS CONFERENCES AND PUBLISHES REGULAR AND FREQUENTLY OPINION ARTICLES IN NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES OF THE SPECIALTY.



Linda Pereira  
Board Member

Linda Pereira is the senior partner and CEO of the L&I Communications Group. In addition to her long and respected career as one of the most influential voices in the Meetings Industry, she is also Executive Director of CPL Meetings & Events. Respected internationally as a speaker, writer and as an educator, she has been an invited speaker in over 143 cities and all continents. She is also most proud of being invited by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as a keynote speaker at a national event. She is internationally known as the Destination Diva for her work as expert bidder and is a feared competitor. She is often contracted by a variety of destinations to present bids on their behalf. She has also played an active role in many major events and bids for world events. She has worked on the major events which marked the last 30 years from EXPO '98, EURO 2004, World Stage Fencing Championship and various EU Presidencies among others. She is also an invited lecturer at three different international Universities where she lectures strategic meetings management. She is recognized for her efficiency and professionalism and thinking outside the box. She is absolutely passionate about associations and sits on a variety of international association boards herself. Linda is also a consultant to a variety of international Governments and associations. She is considered one of Europe's most influential voices in the industry and received various education awards from USA-based IAHP. In 2009 she received the medal of honour for responsible entrepreneurship for her commitment to promoting culture and heritage and for CSR initiatives. In 2012 she was voted one of world's top 100 PCOs for the third year running and was listed among the top 100 Women CEOs of ecommerce companies by WE magazine from the USA. She was also the European Ambassador for the Sands COTAI Macao' for five years, and is the current ambassador for the City of Johannesburg in South Africa and Yekateringburg in Russia. She sits on various Advisory Boards, most notably the Meetings UK Show since 2013 and various Events Industry Awards as well as the IAHP Education Committee which she presides and was the Chair of the International and European Association Congress for three years. In 2014 she was voted the Events Personality of the Year in Portugal and received the Global Marketing Personality Award from WE Magazine in the USA. In 2016 she was elected president of the Global Council for Women in Leadership. She is currently President of Spring Up Europe which attracts investment and venture capital for companies founded by women. She has recently been appointed as Secretary-General of the Observatory for the Future of Humanity. She has been an activist for gender parity for over 30 years..



Mary Pegano  
Board Member

Born in mid-west US, Ms Pagano graduated with a BS in Finance from Central Missouri State, MBA from Webster University & MIT and pursued her academic and professional experiences in St. Louis, Chicago, New York, and Miami.

In the last 25 years, Ms Pagano has worked at large Fortune 30 companies, such as Motorola, AT&T, GE and tech starts up in many capacities with a focus of driving and building new businesses and revenue, valued from \$100M to \$3B. Roles include leading many businesses and organizations, such as; Founding Partner, SVP Global Sales, VP Strategic Marketing, Strategic Alliances/Partnerships, VP Business Development, Product Development and Strategy, working with all market segments, such as Education, Large Enterprises, Government, Entertainment, Technology and Consumer segments.

Mary has an uncanny ability to help companies see their potential vision and achieve it using the best technology or services to surpass their goals in customer acquisition and satisfaction. Technology solutions such as; Intelligent environments, industrial IoT, big data, social media marketing, cloud computing, Smart Buildings, Work Place of the Future, Smart Cities, sustainability, mobility applications, augmented reality, etc.

As a female P & L leader in a male dominated tech industry, Mary has mentored and is on advisory boards for several tech companies & charities and is very enthusiastic about uplifting women in all capacities of living their best life and surpassing their dreams and full potential.



Sandra M. Sánchez  
Board Member

Sandra M. Sánchez has been immersed in the Real Estate business most of her adult life, first in Mexico, where she was born, and later on in Europe.

In the early 2000s she moved to Spain. Based on the Costa del Sol in the South of Spain, she worked for different companies in the property field, spending several years in the New Development Sector and acquiring comprehensive know-how concerning the different stages of property development from the off-plan stage up to the sales and marketing culminating in the granting of the title deeds.

After working for several property developers, she started collaborating with Real Estate agencies all over the Costa del Sol from Malaga to Sotogrande, including Marbella, finding the best opportunities and helping her clients with all the due diligences in order to acquire the right asset.

In parallel, being a fashion lover, she founded **It Covers**: she designed patented, high quality leather mobile phone bags for men and women, with great success at different international exhibitions, such as MICAM in Milan, Italy, GDS Messe in Düsseldorf, Germany, etc...

### **Currently**

In 2015 she founded **Buy House in Marbella**. The following year, due to an increased demand from all over the world for prime land in order to build new developments and hotels, she founded **International Assets and Business Opportunities**. She is currently doing business in Spain, Europe and Latin America.

As an advisor to the **Hera Association**, she is striving to make a positive impact and create initiatives in order to care for the planet.

She is currently in charge of the **Hera Diamond Club of Philanthropy**.





Seema Lodi  
Board Member

Born in Mysore, India, Seema Lodi successfully completed her Master Degree in Psychology from Mysore University In india and was awarded the Gold Medal for being a topper in the class of 1985-1987. She started her professional career in the hospitality industry in 1991 by attending the Oberoi Centre for Learning and Development, Delhi as Housekeeping Executive during a 2 year traineeship and gained the following 17 years experience as Assistant Executive Housekeeper and Executive housekeeper in some of the best established hotels in India, Sri Lanka and Mauritius such as The Krishna Oberoi, The Oberoi, Bangalore (A member of Leading Hotels of the World), Park Sheraton Hotel and towers in Chennai India, The Lanka Oberoi in Colombo Sri Lanka, The Oberoi, Mauritius ( member of Small Luxury hotels) and Constance Le Prince Maurice ( member of Leading Hotels of the world) in Mauritius.

All hotels are known for their high standards in luxury services, high level of guest satisfaction and have the best reputations of running operations with 80 to 600 rooms and suites as well as world class award winning Spas´, best gastronomical facilites, banqueting and meeting venues.

In 2009 Seema started a new challenge as Executive Assitant Manager at Constance Lemuria Resort in Seychelles, Indian Ocean which is also a member of Leading Hotels of the World, followed in 2012 as Executive Assistant Manager at Constance Ephelia Resort, Seychelles . In November 2014 she took over responsibilities as a Spa Director at Kempinski Hotel Ishtar, Dead Sea in Jordan, Middle East for Resense Spas .

Throughout her career Seema focused always towards maintaining consistency in service excellence, creating unique & memorable experiences for guests, being innovative in promoting and developing new initiatives to improve revenue and to go beyond the norm by maintaining an atmosphere of high motivation and passion within the team to deliver the best team engagement and financial results.

Since Seema Lodi joined Martinhal Cascais, Lisbon in January 2018 as Resident Manager the Martinhal Hotels & Resorts has gained an accomplished, passionate and experienced professional Manager with excellent industry background and high level of service excellence. Seema is an exceptionally good team motivator and leader and she has the full confidence and trust of the Group General Manager to run the operations in the best possible way for the small collection of Martinhal Hotels & Resorts and delivers on the promise to the guests.



Sophie Le Ray  
Board Member

Sophie Le Ray is an entrepreneur, an author and an experienced business facilitator.

In 2003, she co-founded Naseba, a business information company specialised in supporting enterprise development in emerging markets. She was instrumental in its international expansion, and in accompanying the group when it went public in 2006. She was appointed CEO in 2009 and was responsible for its strategic development and overseeing its operations worldwide until 2019.

For 15 years, Naseba pioneered in growth markets: Middle East, Africa, South East Asia, China. First European company to host a business summit in Saudi Arabia, in Algeria, Libya, Irak, the Naseba team conceptualised hundreds of summits from Healthcare to Fintech, Real estate to Renewable energy and facilitated \$Billions of business transactions.

Sophie is the founder and spokesperson for the WIL Economic Forum, the first platform for business women leaders in the Middle East and Asia. Based in Dubai for over a decade, she is the co-author of award winner 'Game Changers: How Women in the Arab World Are Changing the Rules and Shaping the Future', published in May 2016.

She now lives in Europe where she advises companies on their D&I practices and regularly speaks in global conferences on entrepreneurship and women economic empowerment.

She is currently launching EVE List, a global platform dedicated to connect and equip rising professional women and support organisations aiming at reaching gender parity in senior management.

Sophie was born in Nice, France in 1970 and holds a Master's degree in Ancient History. She lives now in France with her family. The proud mother of two girls, her passions include ancient cultures, mountain trekking and vegan cuisine.





Véronique QUEFFELEC  
Board Member

Véronique QUEFFELEC is CEO at EUROMEDIATIONS, and Associate Partner of QOTMII Technologies Inc (reputation engine).

“Le Figaro Madame” selected her as one of the 50th more influential French women. She advised political leaders, including two heads of State, some ministers, and Members of Parliament groups.

After holding a dual Master' s studies in Political Science and Public Law from (Paris-1 University, Panthéon -Sorbonne), She practiced law in large firms, working with Higher Courts (Conseil d'État and Cour de Cassation).

She was a lecturer in constitutional law and parliament law at the University of Paris V. Véronique was a counselor of Defense of the Ministry of the Environment alongside High Official of Defense. Simultaneously, she continued her lobbying endeavors.

She was selected by the PM to attend the 44th national session of the Institute of Higher Studies of National Defence (I.H.E.D.N.) Only 12 women out of 80 people have access to this Government school per year.

She is a colonel (Civil Reserve) of the French Air Force.

She has a decoration State award, Chevalier de “l'Ordre National du Mérite.”



Portugal - India Business Council

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