

# International Company Directors Course, Abu Dhabi - a director perspective

By Kirstin Ferguson  
March 2013

I am a non-executive director on a diverse range of boards and was fortunate enough to be awarded the Talbot Foundation Scholarship by the Australian Institute of Company Directors in 2012. This scholarship provided me with the opportunity to attend the International Company Directors Course which I have just completed in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

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Abu Dhabi and Australia. This meant that the anecdotes we were able to share during the course were incredibly relevant and brought to light issues of operating across countries and cultures which were invaluable.

I am fortunate to have graduated from the Company Directors Course in Australia as well as now having graduated from the International Program in Abu Dhabi. What I appreciated about the International Program was the focus on operating in an international context. This enhanced the ability to work on case studies that went well beyond the Australian context. In addition, having such a diverse set of backgrounds and experiences amongst participants also provided the course with greater insight into the impact of culture on board dynamics, contract negotiations, assessment of risk and the impact of social licence, to name a few.

I thoroughly recommend the International Company

Directors Course to any future or current director who is looking to further their professional development. The course is of the highest quality with facilitators who are able to engage all course members in the material they have to share. If you are operating in the international environment, this course will equip you very

well for the often challenging waters you are sure to navigate as a director working across the globe.

I am sincerely grateful to the Australian Institute of Company Directors and the Talbot Foundation for providing me with this professional development opportunity and learning experience. 11



Kirstin Ferguson GAICD, Ivan Holyman FAICD, Emma Shand MAICD and Lyn Boxall MAICD

