

# MEET THE AXIS FEMALE ALPHAS

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In light of the celebration of the International Women's Day, please meet the prominent Ladies who are at the helm of key departments within Axis, as they share with us a synopsis of their success, challenges and aspirations.

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**NIGAAR ABUBAKER  
ESMAEL**

### 1. WHO IS NIGAAR ABUBAKER ESMAEL?

Company Secretary and an FCIS and Registered Insolvency Practitioner. Highly ethical and believes strongly in her principles- someone who does not go with the flow but with what she believes is right. A fighter and someone who is a perfectionist which can be both an asset but also a flaw.

### 2. TALK US THROUGH YOUR CAREER PATH, CHALLENGES AND INSPIRATIONS THAT BROUGHT YOU TO YOUR CURRENT POSITION.

I joined Axis with a wealth of experience of more than 15 years in the financial global sector having worked for 11 years at Kross Border Trust Services, offshoot of KPMG Mauritius, where my last position was Assistant Departmental Manager and Company

Secretary. My previous job was Company Secretary and Head of Compliance of COPEX Group, an international financial services company. Working in the financial services sector is very challenging as it's a dynamic one which constantly evolves and changes and one needs to keep abreast of all the latest developments at all times.

### 3. HOW DID AXIS CONTRIBUTE TO YOUR PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AND SUCCESS IN YOUR CAREER?

At Axis, I am/have been involved amongst my manifold duties in various other aspects of the business, such as training, compliance, business development, procedures & systems, insolvency services, and working on various other projects of the company at the strategic level which has enabled me to be an all-rounder and understand the business better- it also enables me to develop and enhance my skills in areas other than company secretarial. Axis allowed me to further progress in my career and am now part of the senior management team.

### 4. WHO IS YOUR ROLE MODEL?

My late Mom- for her elegance, perseverance, strong sense of ethics and principles, her "never give up attitude", for being a fighter throughout her life and above all for being the strongWoman that she was.

### 5. YOUR ADVICES TO ASPIRING WOMEN IN THIS MODERN AND CHALLENGING SOCIETY.

Always aim high and always believe in yourself as a woman. Believe in equality for all and always fight for your rights and your position in society- the biggest challenge is balancing your various roles in society and to do it well. But never do what others expect of you- you work towards achieving your own goals and targets. Do not strive to become the Superwoman as it's not worth it. Striving to stay the woman is as good. Women are as capable as men... they only need to believe in themselves.

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## CYNTHIA SIONG

### 1. WHO IS CYNTHIA SIONG?

I am the IT Manager of Axis and have been working there for more than 8 years. I am a determined person. No matter what, I will push through limitations and adversity to try and get the result. Beyond that, I am outgoing with a great sense of humor.

### 2. TALK US THROUGH YOUR CAREER PATH, CHALLENGES AND INSPIRATIONS THAT BROUGHT YOU TO YOUR CURRENT POSITION.

I have experienced lot of challenges as a woman in the technology sector that men otherwise have not.

Earlier in my career when I had less experience or empowerment, I learned how to be effective by listening well and accept all challenges that come my way. Inspiration, truly, is everywhere. You just need to open your eyes a little bit to see it all around you.

### 3. HOW DID AXIS CONTRIBUTE TO YOUR PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AND SUCCESS IN YOUR CAREER?

We are all here because we love and are passionate about what we were doing. I am grateful for the opportunity to have worked alongside some incredible people, from whom I learned a great deal that really taught me how to be effective later in my career. I would rather say Growth than Success and it simply comes with the trust and continued support that I get from Axis.

### 4. WHO IS YOUR ROLE MODEL?

My Grandfather

### 5. YOUR ADVICES TO ASPIRING WOMEN IN THIS MODERN AND CHALLENGING SOCIETY.

Be yourself and humble. Circumstances can be sometimes very tough and discouraging but keep going, always see failure as an opportunity and never give up. Great works are performed, not by strength, but by perseverance. Find something you are passionate about and give your very best to do it, you will surely enjoy the process.

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## NADIA SYED

### 1. WHO IS NADIA SYED?

In terms of my current position, I am a Manager of the client services department at Axis and have been with the company for the past 6 years now. I am someone who has always been very committed and passionate towards her job and firmly believe that you should do what you love and if you love what you do, you will give it your best and satisfaction and happiness will be the end result. I also always strive to stay true to my beliefs and values no matter the situation.

### 2. TALK US THROUGH YOUR CAREER PATH, CHALLENGES AND INSPIRATIONS THAT BROUGHT YOU TO YOUR CURRENT POSITION.

Anyone progressing in their career will be faced with highs and lows and mine was no different. What helped me reach my current position despite the challenges is by staying true to who I am, by constantly keeping

my motivation level running and by always trying to do something a little different from the pack. I remember when I first applied for a job, I printed my CV on a blue coloured paper with my photo on it simply because I wanted to distinguish myself from others and in the end, my ingenuity was appreciated and I was recruited! Throughout my career, I did little things differently which did not go unnoticed. I have also been fortunate to be surrounded by great and talented people. Having faith in other people is at the core of how I work and lead and I believe in helping people grow to their full potential.

### 3. HOW DID AXIS CONTRIBUTE TO YOUR PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AND SUCCESS IN YOUR CAREER?

Axis has contributed immensely to my development, both on the personal front and professional front. When I joined the company, I seriously lacked self-confidence and being in the position that I was meant that I should be able to have one to one exchange with clients and communicate without any kind of fear and hesitation. Axis gave me every opportunity to overcome my fears and build my confidence. I can say I have come a long way in that sense.

### 4. WHO IS YOUR ROLE MODEL?

I do not have a specific one but I do look up to few people for different things they have done or achieved. In my view, no single human can be an example of all aspects of life which is why I draw from the qualities which inspires me the most from different people.

### 5. YOUR ADVICES TO ASPIRING WOMEN IN THIS MODERN AND CHALLENGING SOCIETY.

Be authentic! Unfortunately, superficiality has become a norm now so don't give up on who you are and hold on to your fundamental beliefs and values no matter how tough a situation gets. Also, do not rely on others to stand up for you and your rights. Do it yourself!

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## LANA SO WAN YUEN

### 1. WHO IS LANA SO WAN YUEN?

I'm Client Services Manager at AXIS for almost 2 years now. I'm very determined, passionate and as committed as ever to fundamental values, like discipline, hard work, respect, integrity and empathy. My very early exposure in the work environment shaped my personal and professional life and brought me to a maturity level that I'm proud of. Lana is also a super "family person" and a "dog lover".

### 2. TALK US THROUGH YOUR CAREER PATH, CHALLENGES AND INSPIRATIONS THAT BROUGHT YOU TO YOUR CURRENT POSITION.

I started my career in the offshore industry, as a mere trainee 10 years ago straight after I finished high school and slowly climbed the ladder to where I am now. Interesting fact is that I pushed/allowed myself to take the challenge for a managerial position despite difficult family times in March 2017 when I attended

a conference for International Women Day and the theme was "Be bold for change". This major leap in my career since then, has inspired me to continue along that path that is to slowly but surely build on a professional record I will be extremely proud of when I will retire!

### 3. HOW DID AXIS CONTRIBUTE TO YOUR PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AND SUCCESS IN YOUR CAREER?

AXIS has opened the door to many opportunities. Since my early days in the offshore industry, I've always liked my job for the interaction I have with people of different backgrounds across the globe and for the never ending learning process that I experience. At AXIS, the interaction and experience are multiplied. In this challenging yet deeply enriching environment, I meet and interact with new people, enhance my technical and professional competencies and skills and most importantly I'm constantly pushed to get out of my comfort zone to outperform.

### 4. WHO IS YOUR ROLE MODEL?

All the women out there being wives, mothers, active workers/professionals and who are all the time making all sorts of decisions, are the "superwomen" of our society. I truly take off my hat to them as it takes a lot to fulfill numerous roles.

I admit that "Michelle Obama" is one great lady I look up to and that inspires me a lot. Reading of "Becoming" in progress.

### 5. YOUR ADVICES TO ASPIRING WOMEN IN THIS MODERN AND CHALLENGING SOCIETY.

I will replicate what inspires me 2 years ago "Be bold for change" and never give up on your dreams. I also personally believe that there is no fast track route to success and that it is only truly appreciated and self-rewarding when it comes with hard work and learning from failure.