

POSITION: IIRSM Comms Co-ordinator/Secretary
ORGANISATION: IIRSM Scotland Branch, UK
INDUSTRY/SECTOR: Industrial, manufacturing and oil and gas
SOCIAL:



Member Profile:

Patricia Nkiruka Onoh, MIIRSM

In this interview, Patricia Nkiruka Onoh highlights her career to date, the reasons why she became a risk and safety management professional and how joining IIRSM can help you build and strengthen your skills, and support professional development



Tell us about your background, your current role and IIRSM membership grade

I have more than 15 years' experience in environment and sustainability consultancy, occupational health and safety, hospitality, facilities management, education, plant operations, maintenance and quality across industrial, manufacturing and oil and gas.

My last position was as Head of Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) in a pipes and bags manufacturing factory in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). I am currently pursuing a Master's degree in environmental sustainability at Edinburgh Napier University in Scotland.

I am the Comms Co-ordinator/Secretary for IIRSM's Scotland branch and hold membership grade with the professional body.

What prompted you to become a risk and safety management professional?

One of the main reasons why I

decided to become a risk and safety management professional was the passion I have held since childhood to care for people, especially in the workplace.

Working alongside managers and those who operate on the front-line for more than 15 years has enabled me to make the safety of all employees a priority.

Tell us about why you joined IIRSM and how it has helped you

I joined IIRSM in 2017 to expand and improve my knowledge and skills in risk and safety management. First through the UAE Branch, and ever since, I have been offered countless opportunities to do this, gaining important experience in developing and implementing risk and safety management systems.

Through different mentoring platforms, my mentors have gone out of their way to help me, enabling me to become the risk and safety management professional that I am today. I am particularly indebted to Frank Higgins, former IIRSM UAE vice-chair.

How can IIRSM membership help risk and safety management professionals?

I have the privilege of being a member of other membership bodies but the enormous support I have received from being an IIRSM member and the relationship I have with the professional body stands out. It has shaped me both personally and professionally in positive ways. I have developed and grown significantly and this experience has prompted me to advise friends and colleagues to become an IIRSM member.

My experience as an IIRSM member has helped me to become a successful risk and safety management professional. My advice to others is that empathy and proactive listening skills go a long way in securing management buy-in and encouraging employees to comply with legal requirements.