There are few women at the top

Gender diversity is beneficial to firms but only eight in 100 directors here are female

By ANGELA TAN

Gender diversity has been found to enhance financial performance and corporate governance, and yet the number of female directors on Singapore Exchange (SGX) listed firms is low. And not only is it low, it is rising at only a snail’s pace.

These are the findings in the third edition of the Singapore Board Diversity Report, an annual publication of the National University of Singapore (NUS) Business School’s Centre for Governance, Institutions and Organisations (CGIO) and BoardArend, an initiative of the Singapore Council of Women’s Organisations.

The report is based on an annual survey of the top 50 companies on the SGX market in 2012. The report shows that only 7.66 per cent of all board directors are women.

This is up from 7.5 per cent in 2010.

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