



KAREN HENKEN

Professor of Practice and Institutional Relations, Kroc School, University of San Diego

Karen Henken's work focuses on fostering social impact, economic empowerment and system change through entrepreneurship and social innovation regionally and globally.

Karen Henken is Professor of Practice and Institutional Relations at the Kroc School, University of San Diego. She was responsible for launching the new graduate program, the Master of Arts in Social Innovation, designing and teaching core curriculum and developing global and regional partnerships with leading organizations to facilitate consulting and internship opportunities for graduate students. She teaches workshops on social entrepreneurship and design thinking with the City of San Diego's Nonprofit Academy and Nonprofit Institute. She also teaches social innovation, innovation and entrepreneurship workshops globally with leading universities, businesses and NGOs in Colombia, Vietnam and Brazil. Beginning in 2014, Ms. Henken taught several courses on business and social innovation at USD's School of Business and co-chaired the Kroc School Board of Advisors before joining the Kroc School full time.

Before joining the Kroc School, Karen was Vice President of Business Development at Kountable, a financial technology start-up providing affordable financing for entrepreneurs in emerging markets. Developing partnerships with global suppliers and regional entrepreneurs, Karen helped launch the company's exponential growth in East Africa. Kountable's solutions provide critical funding to enable access to life-changing products including health care and IT products in these emerging markets, contributing to economic growth and social impact.

She also served for 3 years as facilitator and international advisor for the Innovation Partnership Program in Vietnam, a joint venture of the Vietnam Ministry of Science and Technology and the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In that role she developed and supported entrepreneurship and innovation training programs for Vietnamese startups as well as developed curriculum and taught faculty and staff from 24 Vietnamese universities to advance entrepreneurship programs and develop an innovation "mindset."

Karen served as the founder and principal of Henken & Associates, helping businesses and nonprofits develop market opportunities, partnerships, growth strategies and sustainable revenue models to expand their impact. Her clients ranged from startups to Fortune 500 companies. She spent 20 years in Silicon Valley as an executive in high technology management, launching and managing international markets for high growth businesses in Asia and Europe.

Karen has been a speaker at numerous regional and international conferences including University of San Diego's Nonprofit Governance Symposium, Startup San Diego, Ethical Business Corporation's Responsible Business Summit, Ho Chi Minh Association of Women Entrepreneurs and Executives, Corporate Council on Africa and Alliance4Empowerment. Henken also serves on the boards of several leading nonprofits in San Diego and globally

She holds an MBA from Stanford Graduate School of Business, a BA from Bowdoin College and was a Rotary Graduate Fellow in Tokyo, Japan. She is proficient in Spanish, teaching in Spanish as well as English in her work in Latin America.