

## TWF - Off To An Exciting Start In 2014!

Dear TWF friends

Happy New Year from The Women's Foundation!

### 2014 SO FAR

We have some exciting initiatives planned for 2014 and look forward to sharing them with you as they unfold. As we start the year, our grassroots programmes continue to occupy our emotional heartland with TWF's signature **TEEN** and **Life Skills Programmes** for under-privileged teens and **Financial Literacy Programme for Marginalised Women** all extending into 2014.

Meanwhile, we've just completed the pairing of the mentors and proteges in the fifth cycle of our **Mentoring Programme for Women Leaders**, we're poised to launch **Lean-In Circles** involving our Mentoring Programme Alumni and we're looking forward to the sixth event in our **Leading Women Speaker Series** which will be a panel looking at the opportunities and challenges for Women in Energy.

Our work to promote board diversity is also going strong with 60 chairmen and business leaders signed up as **30% Club** members and we are looking forward to the next **30% Club lunch** on February 18 featuring Lord Mervyn Davies speaking on the 21st Century Boardroom.

On the research front, we will be launching a new report on **Women & Entrepreneurship in Hong Kong** in the next few weeks and we are also hard at work on TWF's Shadow Report to the UN on Hong Kong's compliance with the **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women**.

Other exciting initiatives for 2014 include a renewed focus on combatting gender stereotyping by the media and plans to address the **under-representation of women in STEM**.

In terms of **gender and media**, as some of you know, TWF is making a **documentary** on the topic which we hope to complete by year-end. We are also developing a **women-experts database** as part of our plan to promote a more diverse range of experts voices and profiles on the Op-ed pages and news channels.

Meanwhile, our enhanced focus on women and STEM got off to a good start this week with the launch of **GirlSpark** in partnership with Microsoft and a new round of **TWF Women Make The Web Scholarships** - more on which below.

Finally, we look forward to celebrating **International Women's Day** with hopefully many of you and other members of Hong Kong's leading women's networks at our **IWD Lunch** on March 3 featuring Debora Spar, President of Barnard, as our keynote speaker. That same evening, TWF is delighted to be supporting the **Intelligence Squared debate**: "The Hand That Rocks the Cradle Cannot Rock the Boardroom" which will pit Debora and Allison Pearson against Helena Morrissey and Zhang Xin in a heady discussion of whether maternal responsibilities can be reconciled with professional fulfilment.

Whew! - stay tuned for more updates over the coming months.....

### GIRLSPARK

This week saw the launch of **GirlSpark**, a unique three-day programme designed and organised by TWF in partnership with Microsoft, for 51 final-year and penultimate-year female under-graduates from five Hong Kong universities studying a range of disciplines from computer engineering and information systems to business and the arts, to encourage them to pursue a career in the ICT industry. Participants enjoyed the opportunity to work in teams on a technology-based business case study with the help of industry mentors, inspirational sharing sessions featuring leaders from government, academia, business and the NGO sector, and networking opportunities with successful female role models in the IT and technology community.

Our heartfelt thanks to Microsoft, the Ivey Business School and all our other partners, presenters, mentors and volunteers for their invaluable contributions to GirlSpark. For a full account, please go to our [website](#).

### TWF'S WOMEN MAKE THE WEB SCHOLARSHIPS

The Women's Foundation's **Women Make the Web** scholarships facilitate aspiring women web developers to pursue General Assembly's 12-week full-time Web Development Immersive course beginning on February 17, 2014.

The Women's Foundation's scholarships will offer two levels of support for successful candidates:

- An Empower Scholarship (HK\$40,000 scholarship towards the full tuition of HK\$90,000)
- Two Power Scholarships (HK\$10,000 each, towards the full tuition of HK\$90,000)

More information about the course and scholarships can be found [here](#) or by contacting Diane Mensah at [diane@generalassemb.ly](mailto:diane@generalassemb.ly). Applications are due Tuesday, January 21. General Assembly will also be hosting a Career Panel for aspiring web developers on Thursday, January 16 at 7pm at The Hive in Wan Chai. Please click [here](#) to register.

### WRITE TO US!

If you have thoughts or suggestions on the above or ideas for other issues and initiatives that you think are important, we would love to hear from you. Please write to me at [sthompson@thewomensfoundationhk.org](mailto:sthompson@thewomensfoundationhk.org).

On behalf of all of us at The Women's Foundation, thank you for your continued support and we look forward to seeing you at our events over the next 12 months!

Warm regards

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