

Dear TWF friends

As Hong Kong gears up to play host to the likes of Arkady Dvorkovich, Ben Bernanke and Peter Brabeck-Letmathe at next week's Asia Financial Forum which will bring together some of the most influential members of the global financial and business community, we note there is just one woman – Dr Zeti Akhtar Aziz from Malaysia – speaking on the first day of the summit alongside 33 men across the 8 opening, plenary and panel sessions. The overall gender balance is a little better on Day 2 largely because of the 7 women featuring in the Women as Change Agents, Innovators and Entrepreneurs Workshop but 5 out of the 8 sessions on Day 2 still have all-male speakers.

Of course, in this, the AFF is not alone. Sadly, women are under-represented at too many high-profile conferences and events around the world when it comes to keynote speakers and panelists.

At TWF, we believe gender balance in important debates and public discussion is good for women, good for men, and good for business because more perspectives improve the quality of the conversation. Moreover, when visible role models are male, the absence of women perpetuates the absence of women. Speaking at conferences is also a helpful way for women to build their profiles and gain recognition.

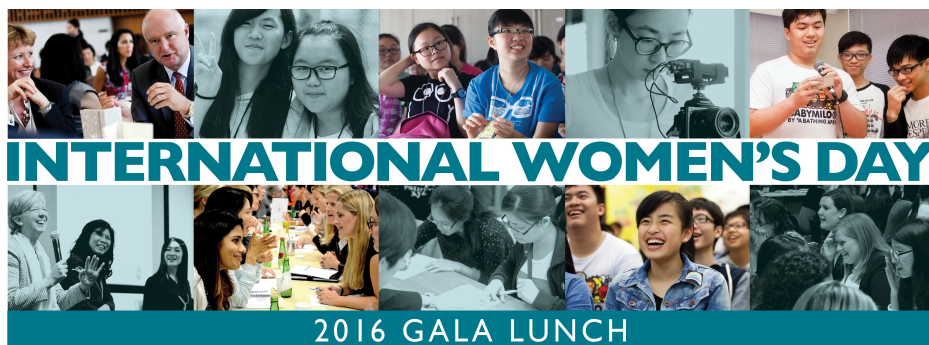
So, for anyone looking for a(nother) New Year's Resolution, we have a suggestion for you which is that in the coming year, if you are invited to speak at or sponsor a panel or conference, be proactive about asking who the other speakers are and if there are no or very few women – don't let the moment pass! Point this out and ask what the organisers are doing to ensure women are represented. You can also offer ideas for women speakers from within your organisation or network and in the last resort, you can point them in TWF's direction - we would be happy to help them identify more female speakers!

Just to show, TWF is practising what we preach - our keynote speaker for this year's [TWF IWD Lunch](#) on March 4 is Jackson Katz – the internationally renowned American educator, author, filmmaker and cultural theorist, a key architect of the "Bystander" approach to limiting violence against women and popular TED presenter. We very much hope that at least 50% (ha!) of our attendees at this year's lunch will be men. This is a wonderful opportunity to engage male managers and colleagues in a celebration of International Women's Day and a discussion of what men can do to champion gender equality! To reserve a table or tickets, please see below.

Warm regards

Su-Mei Thompson
 CEO, The Women's Foundation

UPCOMING EVENTS



Celebrate International Women's Day with The Women's Foundation
 12.00-2.00pm | Friday, March 4 2016 | The Conrad, Pacific Place

Join The Women's Foundation on March 4 for delectable food and wine, enticing draw prizes and an inspirational keynote address by Jackson Katz Ph.D. – American educator, author, filmmaker and cultural theorist, internationally renowned for his pioneering scholarship and activism on issues of gender and violence.

[Visit our website for more details.](#)

TWF PROGRAMME UPDATES



Launch of Kering's Asia Pacific



Mentoring Programme!

TWF is delighted to be supporting Kering in the launch of their Asia Pacific Mentoring Programme for their female employees. The year-long cross-brand programme is part of Kering Group's Leadership and Gender Diversity initiatives to develop female talent within the Group.



GirlSpark 2016!

This past Saturday, our eight GirlSpark groups of students from HK's leading universities made their presentations in the finale of our business case competition. While the judges deliberated, the girls heard from a panel of experts how social media is changing the face of business. A huge thank you to Microsoft, Ivey Business School and all our interviewers, mentors, judges and presenters who made the camp such a transformative and enjoyable experience for the participants. To read today's SCMP's feature on GirlSpark, please click [here](#).

IN THE COMMUNITY

THE SECURITIES
AND FUTURES
COMMISSION (SFC)
WOMEN'S NETWORK
LAUNCH



Launch of SFC Women's Network

Congratulations to the Securities and Futures Commission (SFC) on being the first statutory body in Hong Kong to set up a women's group for staff. The Women's Network will enhance professional development and inspire women for leadership roles in the SFC. Watch the launch video [here](#).

EXTERNAL EVENTS

TWF is delighted to be supporting the following events:

JANUARY 19: [Sit Down Comedy: Why Gender Values Are A Joke](#). An alternative comedy event by Linda Kennedy.

JANUARY 21-22: [Women in Leadership Summit](#)

WHAT WE'RE READING

Our top picks for recommended reading and listening on the key trends and breaking stories about women and gender:

- [Sisters in Law - Saudi Women Are Beginning To Know Their Rights](#) (The New Yorker)
- [The Invisible Force Holding Women Back At Work](#) (Yahoo News)
- [Enough Platitudes And Excuses: Here Is The Truth About This Week Of Sexism](#) (The Guardian)
- [Timeline: Gender Equality, 2015 Year In Review](#) (UN Women)
- [What's The Key To Gender Equality? Mentoring](#) (Huffington Post)
- [New Chrome App Helps Women Stop Saying "Just" And "Sorry" In Emails](#) (Slate)

9A Chun Wo Commercial Centre, 23-29 Wing Wo Street, Sheung Wan
E: info@twfhk.org | W: twfhk.org | T: +852-2592-8265 | F: +852-2592-8264

You received this e-mail because you subscribed to The Women's Foundation database.
To unsubscribe, please click [here](#).