

**EVENTS | PROGRAMMES | CEO BLOG**

Dear TWF friends

The lack of gender balance in two high octane environments - Davos and Hollywood - made the headlines last week.

At Davos, a number of distinguished observers including PM Trudeau of Canada criticised the paucity of women. Anticipating this, the organisers had offered corporate partners who are normally restricted to four passes an additional pass if they had a woman in their midst. In spite of this, women made up just 17.8% of delegates this year compared to 17% five years ago.

Meanwhile, in LA, this year's starkly homogenous roster of 20 white nominees for the acting categories and 0 women nominees for best director or screenwriter caused Hollywood heavyweights like George Clooney, Whoopi Goldberg and Idris Elba to bemoan the lack of diversity while the likes of Spike Lee and Jada Pinkett Smith have announced they are boycotting the Oscars altogether. Amid the public uproar, the Academy has quickly promised to alter the makeup of its membership body. And change is needed: a recent LA Times study revealed the Academy is 90% white and 70% male.

The lack of diversity at the Oscars is symptomatic of the lack of diversity in the film industry as a whole. Only 6.4% of features released in 2013 and 2014 were directed by women and only 12.5% were from minority directors. 91% of working directors are male, 85% of working screenwriters are male, 83% of executive producers are male, and 98% of cinematographers are male.

The overwhelmingly white, male dominated film industry means that what is assumed to be mainstream is actually far from the truth. Is it any surprise that most films typecast women and minorities, perpetuate gender stereotypes and offer a limited range of role models for the young?

At TWF, we are also committed to changing the media landscape through our documentary "She Objects" and the critical thinking and media literacy programmes we plan to roll out in secondary schools later this year. We are delighted to have as our IWD Lunch guest speaker this year Jackson Katz, the eminent US anti-sexism author, film-maker, academic, TED presenter and architect of the Bystander Approach to reducing violence against women. Of any year, this is the year when we hope 50% of the room will be male! Thank you so much to everyone who has already bought a table or ticket - we have a limited number of tables and seats left. To reserve a place, please email Jessica Boyle at [jessica.boyle@twfhk.org](mailto:jessica.boyle@twfhk.org) as soon as possible.

Warm regards - and we do hope everyone is managing to stay warm!

Su-Mei Thompson  
CEO, The Women's Foundation

**UPCOMING EVENTS****TWF PRESENTS SHANTHI FLYNN**

ON MAKING CHOICES  
AND TAKING RISKS

**REGISTER NOW****TWF presents Shanthi Flynn on Making Choices and Taking Risks**

Shanthi will talk about making choices and taking risks, drawing on her success as a female executive in many male dominated sectors.

**DATE:** Friday, January 29

**TIME:** 8.00 – 9.30 a.m. (A light breakfast will be provided)

**VENUE:** Latham & Watkins, 18/F, One Exchange Square  
8 Connaught Place, Central Hong Kong

[Register Now](#)

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

2016 GALA  
LUNCH  
FRIDAY  
MARCH 4

EARLY BIRD TICKETS  
NOW SELLING

**Celebrate International Women's Day with The Women's Foundation**

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

**DATE:** Friday, March 4

**TIME:** 12.00 – 2.00 p.m.

**VENUE:** The Conrad, Pacific Place

[Click here to learn more](#)

## TWF PROGRAMME UPDATES



### Girls Go Tech

Last week, 400 Form 1 and Form 2 girls from Pope Paul VI College and United Christian College were introduced to our Girls Go Tech Programme over 2 briefing sessions. The Programme will run during the Easter holidays and will provide workshops in coding, technology and problem-solving skills. We are very grateful to Cisco, Accenture and Barclays for their support for the Programme.



### Career Workshop for Life Skills Programme Participants

Last Friday, TWF organised a career workshop for 140 Form 4 students of Po Leung Kuk Lo Kit Shing College, one of the partner schools for our Life Skills Programme. Thanks to the passionate volunteers from the APCO World, who delivered engaging and interactive sessions covering effective communication, interview skills and presentation techniques.

## IN THE COMMUNITY



### Women Entrepreneurs Network Mentoring Circle Launch

The Women Entrepreneurs Network held its first Mentoring Circle event on January 20. 25 women entrepreneurs gathered for small group discussions, moderated by established women business owners - Lori Granito, Cheryl Raper, Esther Ma, Anna Treier and Suzanne Liu - who shared their business insights with their enthusiastic and inquisitive groups. For more information on WEN, please visit and 'like' [WEN's Facebook page!](#)

## EXTERNAL EVENTS

**TWF is delighted to be supporting the following events:**

**MARCH 7:** Launch of [Financial Times Non-Executive Director Diploma ASIA](#) Cohort 6. Mention TWF to enjoy preferential pricing!

**APRIL 12:** International Finance Law Review's [Asia Women in Business Law Forum](#)

## WHAT WE'RE READING

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

- [What It's Like To Be A Female Startup Founder In India](#) (Forbes)
- [Iceland Might Become the First Country to Close the Gender Gap](#) (Mic)
- [David Morrison, Former Chief Of Army, Named Australian Of The Year](#) (The Guardian)
- [For Women, The Future of Work Is Looking Bleak](#) (Fortune)
- [Are Kids of Working Moms Better Prepared For Their Future Careers?](#) (Fast Company)
- [Video Calls Out Sexism In Advertising By Showcasing Ads That Objectify Women](#) (A Plus)

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