



## EVENTS | PROGRAMMES | CEO BLOG

Dear Stephanie

TWF applauds the SCMP for its courageous and definitive retraction of Mike Rowse's extraordinary column on 'How Hong Kong women manage to dress so well in cold climes' and its apology for having published the piece in the first place. In the piece, Mike Rowse shared his appreciation of women who "[continue to wear miniskirts, shorts and skimpy tops in colder weather... The boots finished a couple of inches below the knee, the coat two inches or so above, and inside a dress or skirt not quite as long. So with every confident stride forward that they took, there would be just a glimpse of thigh, nothing immodest you understand, but enough to light a spark in an old man's eye.](#)" The piece goes on to castigate women who "at the first cold blast of air... throw on two or more shapeless quilts and stagger around looking like eskimos who took a wrong turn at the North Pole", and ends with this eye-watering sentence: "Now before the thought police come to take us all in to custody, let us sing along with Maurice Chevalier "Thank Heaven for little girls, they grow up in the most delightful way..."

We think the [SCMP's retraction and apology](#) are worth publishing in full:

*"The SCMP takes very seriously our role as a forum for meaningful discourse in society. We welcome diverse views and never shy away from controversial issues. However, we will not be a platform that perpetuates the objectification of women, nor the demeaning of any group in society.*

*In this case, our online posting of the column "How Hong Kong women manage to dress so well in cold climes" represented a serious lapse in judgement. We realised shortly after posting the column online that it did not meet our high standards. We removed the article from our website and deleted the relevant Facebook post and tweet as soon as was practicable. We also removed it from the list of articles to be published in the next morning's print edition.*

*We did so not because the article was controversial, but rather because it goes against the SCMP's editorial and company values. We have notified the author of our decision and stand by it.*

*We take full responsibility for this mistake and apologise to our readers for not living up to the standards that they deserve from us."*

At TWF, especially in the wake of the launch of our new campaign - see [www.myrealcareerline.hk](http://www.myrealcareerline.hk) - we hope more local media titles will take the same decisive stance as the SCMP to stand up to sexist and objectifying language and actions. And individuals have an important part to play in holding perpetrators in check - we urge women and men to speak up and speak out about incidents of sexism that they encounter. At TWF, we believe it is only through everyday interventions and individual actions that shifts in traditional mindsets and societal change will ultimately happen so we hope you will all do your part!

Warm regards

Su-Mei Thompson  
 CEO, The Women's Foundation

## TWF PROGRAMME UPDATES



### Mentoring Programme Effective Negotiating Workshop

Last week, TWF ran a session for a packed room of protégés and mentors on successful negotiation strategies including thinking creatively, developing alternatives, recognising options, reducing resistance and minimising conflict. Many thanks to Soundari Mukherjea and Arunanjali Maria for facilitating the session and to PwC for hosting.



### Girls Go Tech Programme Update

Last week, we completed a Plantbot Workshop at Carmel Alison Lam Foundation Secondary School in Kwai Chung. The 30 F.1 and F.2 girls were introduced to more advanced hardware and coding skills that enabled them to build and manage smart plant watering kits.



### She Objects Media Literacy Workshop

Last Friday, TWF was delighted to partner with HKEX to run a Media Literacy Workshop for 160 F.4 girls from Ying Wa Girls' School. Drawing on extracts from She Objects, TWF and HKEX volunteers facilitated a lively discussion on the correlation between gender biases promoted by the media and social issues like bullying and discrimination. Huge thanks to HKEX for sponsoring and facilitating the workshop.



### She Objects Screening in Cambridge!

TWF CEO, Su-Mei Thompson, was the guest speaker at last Thursday's well-attended event organised by Trinity College Students' Union and the Trinity Feminist Society in Cambridge, as part of the College's series of 40 Years of Women @Trinity celebrations. The event included a screening of the 10-minute version of She Objects followed by a Q&A with Su-Mei chaired by TCSU Women's Officer Raniyah Qureshi and Trinity FemSoc President Beth Cloughton.



### Upcoming She Objects Screenings

The Independent Schools Foundation Academy will be hosting a screening of She Objects as a part of their parent teacher association gathering on March 23. This will be followed by another school screening organised by Australian International School on March 28. To arrange a screening for your company, women's network, school or university, please email

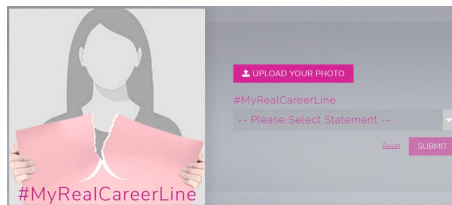
[Sarah.AbbottLadner@twfhk.org](mailto:Sarah.AbbottLadner@twfhk.org).

## #MYREALCAREERLINE



### Watch & Share Our Hero Video!

We are thrilled that our hero video has been watched by almost 100,000 people! To watch the video, please click [here](#) and please share it with your networks.



### Upload Your Photo To Show Your Support

Click [here](#) to access the gallery of #MyRealCareerLine supporters who have uploaded their photo using our online tool. We hope more people will follow suit. Please also post your photo to Facebook or Instagram with the hashtag #MyRealCareerLine #我真正的事業線 and invite your friends to do the same! Men are welcome too!



### Team Videos!

If you are a member of an organisation or a team, why not make a team video to support the campaign? See these examples for inspiration: [Edelman](#) and [J. Walter Thompson](#).

**Let's Continue The Fight Beyond International Women's Day**

This week, TWF Board Member, Rachel Cartland, wrote about the importance of continuing the fight for gender equality beyond International Women's Day. To read Rachel's article which was published on EJ Insight, please click [here](#).

**INSPIRATIONAL WOMAN  
INTERVIEW: MARIE CLAIRE LIM  
MOORE**



**Inspirational Women Series interview with Marie Claire Lim Moore**

TWF Development Director, Claire Lim, was interviewed for the Inspirational Women Series and shared her background and insights on women empowerment. Click [here](#) to read the interview.

**GIRLS AND STEM EDUCATION IN HONG KONG**

DSE SUBJECTS CHOSE	26.5% (STEM subjects)	10.2% (STEM subjects)	4.7% (STEM subjects)
	13.2% (STEM subjects)		

**STEM 學科枯燥沉悶，生物構造較有趣？**

在中學文憑試中，只有數學為必修科，物理、資訊及通訊科技科（下稱ICT）及其他科學科等為加選科目，大多女學生相對認為生物比較有趣，而且未來有機會對醫學作貢獻，即業即工是會有關聯性。科技等科較枯燥，需要死背硬記，加上坊間「女生不會做工程師」等對於女性工作性質的觀念，減低女學生選擇STEM科目的機會。

根據美國的研究報告指出，隨著科技發展迅速，十年後將有三成工作被人工智能取代，65%的工作現在還不存在。換言之，獲得科技對未來就業較有優勢。不過，但隨婦女基本素质的提高，從未來應在STEM中學，八區多區中三女學生，46名STEM科目老師和中三班主任的意見，發現女學生對STEM受早期接觸STEM科目的興趣影響，例如家長、學校、職業社會等轉為正面性的觀念，影響她們決定選擇STEM科目與否。當她們發現自己的競爭力、興趣及志願的培養。

圖為「Girls Go Tech」活動，由多間學校學生參與STEM教育推廣活動。

**Girls Go Tech Programme Media Coverage**

Click [here](#) to read PCM's feature on our STEM Launch and Girls Go Tech Programme.

**IN THE COMMUNITY**



**Standard Chartered's New Parental Leave Policy!**

Beginning next month, women at Standard Chartered will be entitled to 20 fully paid weeks of maternity leave and men will be entitled to two full weeks of [paternity leave](#). This is a huge bump up from the current entitlement of 12 weeks of maternity leave and five days of paternity leave, respectively. The bank is also introducing two full paid weeks of leave for adoptive parents and a series of flexible working arrangements.

**HACK HORIZON**

**TRAVELTECH HACKATHON ON A PLANE**

10,000 km | 80 hours | 32 participants

hackhorizon.com

**#TravelTech Hackathon**

TWF is delighted to support the first #TravelTech hackathon on a plane that will fly from Hong Kong to London this May. During the hackathon, participants will have access to some of the best travel technologies and APIs as well as have the support and mentorship of leading industry experts. There are only 3 days left to apply! Help us make sure we have women on board! Please go to the Hack Horizon [website](#) for more information.

**IFLR**  
INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL LAW REVIEW

**LEGAL MEDIA GROUP**  
EUROMONEY

**Asia Women in Business Law Forum 2017**

**IFLR Asia Women in Business Law Forum 2017**

TWF are delighted to be supporting the 2017 IFLR Asia Women in Business Law Forum. For more information, download the [brochure](#). Register at [registrations@iflr.com](mailto:registrations@iflr.com).

**FUNDRAISERS FOR TWF!**



*basics for basics*



### Women's Empowerment Charity Photo Auction at The Landmark Mandarin Oriental – BIDDING OPEN NOW!

Fancy an exclusive cooking class with Asia's Best Female Chef 2017 May Chow, a swimming/gym training session with Olympic swimmer Stephanie Au, or a behind-the-scenes media shoot with international singer Karen Mok? [Bid now](#) for the chance to win these unique experiences which are part of a one-of-a-kind photo exhibition & auction celebrating women's empowerment. Arranged by The Landmark Mandarin Oriental and Basics for Basics and captured by Sean Lee-Davies, the unique exhibition features photos of and experiences with 9 Hong Kong-based icons – from entertainment stars to Olympic athletes. The photos are on display in the hotel lobby and MO Bar. Place your bids [here!](#)



### FACE Charity Walk in aid of TWF's Girls Go Tech Programme

TWF is delighted to have been selected as the beneficiary of FACE Club and HK Computer Society's [Charity Walk and Family Carnival](#) celebrating the 2 year anniversary of FACE Club. Why not organise a team of colleagues or family members to join us on Sunday, May 14 for this 2km walk in Cyberport to celebrate women in the ICT industry and raise money for TWF's Girls Go Tech Programme. Email [Sarah.AbbottLadner@twfhk.org](mailto:Sarah.AbbottLadner@twfhk.org) for more information about team and corporate sponsorship opportunities.

## WHAT WE'RE READING

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

- [Growing Up Without The Gender Gap](#) (CNN)
- [Gender Agendas Shape Creativity](#) (Campaign Asia-Pacific)
- [Gender Diversity: Are We Asking The Right Questions?](#) (Huffington Post)
- [Too Many Men Are Silent Bystanders To Sexual Harassment](#) (Harvard Business Review)
- [Teenagers Who Play Video Games Are More Prone To Sexism And Gender Stereotypes](#) (SCMP)
- [Why All New Parents Need Leave: He Took Unpaid Leave To Be With His Newborn And His Colleagues Taunted Him](#) (Washington Post)

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