

The Women's Foundation Virtual Gala Continues to Fuel Change for Hong Kong's Women & Girls

Hong Kong, November 5, 2020 – The Women's Foundation (TWF), Hong Kong's leading non-profit dedicated to improving the lives of women and girls, held their first virtual Gala with the support of Bloomberg as Title Sponsor and Cathay Pacific as Associate Sponsor.

In their largest attended Gala to date, over 1,000 individuals joined from a cross-section of industries, consulates, NGOs, academics, and diversity champions attended to support efforts to create a gender equal city.

The event featured a fireside chat between the Hon Julia Gillard AC, 27th Prime Minister of Australia, and Christine Loh, Chief Development Strategist, Institute for the Environment, HKUST, moderated by David Ingles, Anchor and Head of Markets Coverage for Bloomberg TV Asia. The discussion addressed challenges women leaders face, what effective leadership looks like under COVID-19 and whether current conditions will help to accelerate gender equality.

Fiona Nott, CEO of The Women's Foundation commented, "COVID-19 has exposed inequalities and disproportionately impacted the women and girls of our city. We must face these challenges with courage and community, inspiring the bold endeavours that make change possible so that women and girls aren't the victims of COVID-19 but part of the solution. Together, we can fuel a future that is gender equal once and for all."

Under the theme "Facing Challenge, Fuelling Change," TWF is re-committed to forging a path forward that is gender equal to address concerning issues including low female workforce participation rates, lack of support for women in poverty, persistent gender stereotypes and pervasive gender-based violence.

COVID-19 has only exacerbated inequalities women face across the city. Women have also disproportionately suffered from extra care responsibilities, unequal access to technology, financial vulnerability and poor mental health which is amplified among marginalised groups of women. During the height of social distancing measures, some NGOs noted a 25-30% increase in the use of their hotlines to report instances of domestic and sexual violence.

Bing Li, Head of APAC for Bloomberg added, "We are extremely proud to support the work of The Women's Foundation, as we also share a strong commitment to diversity, inclusion and allyship. Building the pipeline for women to succeed has never been more important and their contribution cannot be understated. We thank them for their continued efforts in advancing positive change in every one of their activities."

The funds raised from the gala event will be used to support their programmes, initiatives, research and advocacy that tackle issues facing women and girls across Hong Kong, including new initiatives that will target adverse impacts of the pandemic on women and girls.

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Photo Caption:



A fireside chat with the Hon Julia Gillard AC, 27th Prime Minister of Australia, and Christine Loh, Chief Development Strategist, Institute for the Environment, HKUST, moderated by David Ingles, Anchor and Head of Markets Coverage for Bloomberg TV Asia.

About The Women's Foundation

The Women's Foundation is a Hong Kong registered not-for-profit organisation dedicated to improving the lives of women and girls in Hong Kong. TWF is focused on challenging gender stereotypes, increasing the number of women in decision-making and leadership roles, and empowering women in poverty through ground-breaking research, innovative and impactful community programmes, and education and advocacy.

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