

SPARK: Thought leadership panel discussion

Session Title: **Gender perspectives: A discussion on Technology with Purpose**
Date & Time: 20 January 2019, Sunday, 14.00 – 15.30
Venue: SPARK Hub, Tai Kwun

Summary / Description:

Leading tech companies acknowledge that gender balance among their employees adds value to their business and helps drive creativity and innovation.

However, a recent study commissioned by The Women's Foundation found that girls and young women choose not to study STEM subjects or follow tech careers because they do not see the connection between the theory they learn in the classroom and the contributions these subjects make to society.

For women, understanding the purpose of what they do is a key factor in the choices they make. This panel discussion will examine the factors that influence the career choices of women and girls and consider what both the education sector and employers can do to make STEM and tech more attractive to women, while demonstrating that a career in technology is worthwhile and highly rewarding.

Panel Speakers





Dr Esther Ho, Vice-Chair, Hong Kong Association of Careers Masters and Guidance Masters

Dr. HO Yuk Fan, Esther (BSc., PgDE, M.Ed. (Educational Psychology), D.Ed. (Educational Administration and Policy, CUHK)

Principal, Carmel Alison Lam Foundation Secondary School; Vice-chairperson, Hong Kong Association of Careers Masters and Guidance Masters (HKACMGM); Member, Youth Development Commission; Member, Quality Education Fund Steering Committee, radio host of a RTHK program on education.

Dr. HO is an experienced school administrator of secondary education sector, tutor and trainer in professional development programmes organized by EDB and various tertiary institutes on career guidance, general guidance, curriculum development and research methods. She is also the editor and author of the two career development tools most widely used by local secondary school students. She advocates in building connectedness among academic researches, practical applications

	<p>in schools and teachers' empowerment through professional training. Dr. Ho was awarded Chief Executive's Commendation for Community Service for valuable contribution to the promotion of quality careers education in 2013.</p> <p><i>Dr Ho will discuss the following:</i> Gender stereotype exists, as evident in local empirical studies and our daily observations, towards differentiation in aptitudes and performance among boys and girls in various disciplines, especially those STEM-related ones. The prevalent biases have profound impacts on youth's learning experiences, opportunities given in school setting, and thus development of their career interests as well as decisions towards their further studies and occupational preferences. It takes a whole village, by building alliance among schools, NGOs and business sectors, to revitalize the education and social culture. Good practices would be shared which inform us with essential elements of success in instilling gender and career perspective in STEM education to foster equality and holistic development of youth.</p>
	<p>Candy Liu, General Manager of HKC Technology and Co-Chairman of the HK Computer Society FACE Club</p>
	<p>Charles Mok, Legislative Council Member (Functional Constituency - Information Technology) Honorable Charles Mok, JP</p> <p>Charles Mok is the Legislative Councillor representing the Information Technology Functional Constituency, member of The Professionals Guild. He has been serving the ICT industry for 30 years. He is currently the Vice Chairman of the Professional Commons, Honorary President of the Hong Kong Information Technology Federation and Founding Chairman of the Internet Society Hong Kong.</p> <p>Charles Mok is dedicated in fostering the development of innovation & technology in Hong Kong. A wide array of issues he pursues include Smart City, nurturing of tech talents, supports to start-ups, STEM education, review of outdated</p>

	<p>regulations, open data, privacy concerns, Internet freedom and information security.</p> <p>Charles graduated from Purdue University in the United States with his Bachelor and Master degrees of Science in Computer and Electrical Engineering.</p>
	<p>Jacqui Speculand, Course Director, School of Media and Performing Arts, Coventry University</p> <p>Jacqui Speculand is a Senior Lecturer in Media Entrepreneurship and Course Director of the BA Media degree programme at Coventry University where she has been teaching for 20 years. With a BA in Social Work and an MSc in Information Technology, her interest in how people and technology interact supported her work as an Information and User Experience Designer in the software industry.</p> <p>As a lecturer she has worked with creative students looking to start their own businesses and explore niche markets for their expertise, including how media and design graduates can contribute to technology and science.</p> <p>Her research area is entrepreneurial learning and she is currently studying for a Doctor of Education at Bournemouth University.</p>
	<p>Moderator and Lead: Fiona Nott, CEO, The Women's Foundation</p> <p>Fiona Nott is CEO at The Women's Foundation, a non-profit that aims to improve the lives of women and girls in Hong Kong. A former lawyer and Hang Seng Index company secretary, Fiona has lived in Hong Kong for nearly two decades having cultivated a career as a senior legal professional and adviser to a number of leading corporations in Hong Kong and around Asia including PCCW, AIA, AIG, Aviva, Chow Tai Fook Jewellery as well as SMEs, start ups and non-profit organisations.</p> <p>She is the Co-Founder of Room to Read's Hong Kong Chapter and helped establish the Regional Programme office in New Delhi, India. She is Deputy Chair of the Australian Chamber of Commerce Hong Kong & Macau and was Founder and Chair of its</p>

	<p>Women in Business Network. She is also is a Non-Executive Director of Aesop Hong Kong and Taiwan. In 2015, Fiona won the People’s Choice Award for the Advancement of Women in Business at the Austcham-Westpac Australia China Business Awards.</p> <p>Fiona holds a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) and Bachelor of Laws from the University of Sydney and is a Fellow (FCIS) of the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators, a member of the Law Society of New South Wales, Australia and a Graduate member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (GAICD) and sits on AICD’s Hong Kong Committee.</p>
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