

Organized by HKFW and co-organized by GBWEA, the first Women Power Forum WPF was held on 29 July 2019 at Ocean Park Marriott Hotel attracting over 600 distinguished guests from different parts of the world. 30 star-studded prominent female leaders such as government officials, policy makers, business leaders, eminent scholars, economists, representatives of social organizations shared their experiences on how they reached excellence in the business and finance, cultural and arts, technology and social innovation arena.

## Women as Game Changers Creating a favorable working environment in Hong Kong

The Opening Ceremony was officiated by the Honorary Patron, Chief Executive of HKSAR Mrs. Carrie Lam; Deputy Director of the Liaison Office of the Central Peoples' Government in HKSAR Ms. Qiu Hong; Director of the Liaison Department of All-China Women's Federation Ms. Mou Hong; with the Regional Director of UN Women's Asia-Pacific Office Mrs. Mohammad Naciri as the keynote speakers and Ms. Liu Xin, anchor of China's Global Television Network, as the Master of Ceremony.

In her opening speech, Our Hon. Patron, Chief Executive of HKSAR Mrs. Carrie Lam said "Women in Hong Kong have come a long way since the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region 22 years ago. In 1997, Dr. Elsie Leung became our first Secretary for Justice and Mrs. Rita Fan Hong Kong's first female Legislative Council President. In 2006, Dr. Margaret Chan, our first female Director of Health, was named Director-General of the World Health Organization. These and many other "game changers" in business, sports, arts and culture, technology and innovation, have blazed a trail for Hong Kong women. But in 2018, our female labour force was just under 51 per cent, well under the 68.5 per cent participation rate for men. It is also well below the 61 per cent in Mainland China, and 60 per cent in Singapore."

"My Government accords high priority to creating a more enabling environment for women wanting to join, or remain, in the workforce. In terms of policy, we are strengthening our support for families in areas ranging from child-care and elderly support services, to ensuring a breastfeeding-friendly workplace and

implementing family-friendly employment practices. In my Policy Address last October, I announced a number of measures. They include extending maternity leave from 10 weeks to 14 weeks," said Mrs. Carrie Lam. She also added, "We are also working to expand the number of female members in statutory boards and advisory committees. We want more women's voices to be heard in policy-making. And to promote women's participation in the boards of listed companies, we called on all listed companies to appoint more female board members."

At the forum, on the theme of the Forum - "Striving beyond the limits, making changes and creating new chapters", through discussions, exchange of ideas and thorough analysis of their work areas, the prominent leaders studied how best to advance and fully utilize women's innovative and creative power.

This first and ever Women Power Forum and its panel sessions were presented and sponsored by AMTD, AMTD Foundation, BNP Paribas, Cartier the theme lunch by PWC. HKFW's gratitude goes to its venue partner Marriott HK Ocean Park, theme park partner Ocean Park, strategic media partner Bloomberg Businessweek, digital news partner China Daily, media partners finance.ifeng.com and National Humanity History for their support.



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