

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Women's Foundation Tech Challenge Day for Girls Go Tech Programme

Hong Kong, July 5, 2017 – To celebrate the achievements of the secondary school girls who have completed The Women's Foundation's signature programme – “Girls Go Tech” (“GGT”) in 2016/17, The Women's Foundation (“TWF”) organised “Tech Challenge Day” on July 4, 2017 at Technological and Higher Education Institute of Hong Kong (THEi). About 160 junior Form 1 to Form 2 girls from 9 different secondary schools participated in the event.

Rita Ching, TWF Deputy CEO said, “TWF's Girls Go Tech Programme aims at encouraging girls in Hong Kong to pursue traditionally male-dominated STEM related subjects to maximise their future career options. Aligned with that aim, we hope today's Tech Challenge Day will sustain the girls' interest in technology and reinforce the application of technology in their daily lives”.

The Chairman of the Commission of Youth, Lau Ming Wai, BBS, JP was the main officiating guest at the event. Mr Lau encouraged the GGT participants to be curious about and open to engaging with STEM concepts and initiatives, saying “the important thing is not being afraid to try since you learn something from every time you experiment with something new.”

Students were divided into groups of 4 to pursue technology related challenges at the 9 games booth specially designed by the different participating corporate and supporting partners of TWF. Activities include touchscreen photo kiosks by Accenture, a session on The Internet of Things (IoT) by Cisco, an interactive map of submarine cables and AR catch game demonstrated by Telstra and a dashboard design workshop by SevOne. The volunteers from the corporate partners who hosted the booths enjoyed the interaction with the junior participants and the students enjoyed the opportunity to apply what they learnt during the GGT programme.

Maisie Yan and Michelle Wu, two Form 1 students from Pope Paul VI College who completed the GGT Programme in 2016/17, shared that they come from families with very traditional mindsets believing that technology is for boys not girls. Now, after completing the GGT Programme, they feel empowered and more positive about technology. According to Maisie, “Through the GGT Programme, I now know technology is not as difficult as I thought. The Tech Challenge Day has really reinforced my interest in the practical application of what I learnt during GGT. I can see how technology is providing solutions to everyday issues and improving our quality of life.”

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About The Women's Foundation

The Women's Foundation ("TWF") is a Hong Kong registered non-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. For more information on TWF, please visit <http://www.thewomensfoundationhk.org>.

About Girls Go Tech Programme

Girls Go Tech Programme ("GGT") is a year-long school-based programme that aims to encourage junior secondary school girls from under-privileged backgrounds to pursue traditionally male-dominated STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) related subjects to maximise their future career options. Our comprehensive curriculum covers three areas: basic coding and computer skills, non-cognitive skills such as problem solving skills and analytical skills, and increasing confidence around STEM. TWF also arranges female role-model/career talks and company visits for our GGT student participants. The programme has been endorsed by the Education Bureau and Equal Opportunities Commission, and is supported by many local and international corporates includes Accenture, Bloomberg, Capital Group, Cisco, Goldman Sachs, Google, HKT Education, MTR and Telstra. Nearly 500 students and 500 teachers have benefited from GGT since the launch of the pilot programme in 2015. According to the interim results of the impact assessment by our independent evaluator, the Education University of Hong Kong, GGT participants showed significant improvements in their interest in and self-efficacy in relation to STEM subjects, intention to study or work in STEM related fields, enhanced confidence particularly in their problem solving skills and awareness of STEM-related gender stereotypes. For more information on GGT, please visit <https://twfhk.org/girls-go-tech-programme>. For a copy of TWF's recent ground-breaking study on why girls in HK are not opting for STEM subjects, please visit <https://twfhk.org/research/girls-and-stem-education-hong-kong/summary>

Photos with Captions

01 : Group Photo – Mr. Lau Ming-wai, BBS, JP, the Officiating Guest (the 2nd row from 4th), other guests, and the participating teachers and students



02 : Booth introducing how to make healthy milk tea and ice-cream



03 : Workshop for using a pair of “VR glasses” to travel around the world



04 : The Internet of Things (IoT) which helps you design your ideal home



05 : Workshop that uses an interactive map to show the submarine cables around the world



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