

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### TWF CEO SU-MEI THOMPSON RECEIVES PUBLICAFFAIRSASIA'S 2016 GOLD STANDARD COMMUNICATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

**Hong Kong, December 2, 2016** - The Women's Foundation is delighted to announce that TWF CEO - Su-Mei Thompson, received the 2016 Gold Standard Communicator of the Year Award at an awards reception last night hosted by PublicAffairsAsia at the Foreign Correspondents' Club in Hong Kong.

The awards, now in their eighth year, are unrivalled in Asia Pacific, with peer-on-peer judging across 17 categories covering all aspects of communications, public affairs and stakeholder engagement across agencies, corporations, government and the not-for-profit sector. Entries to the programme, which is operated by PublicAffairsAsia, are judged by an expert panel of nearly 80 frontline practitioners drawn from communications, government relations, public bodies and the media. According to Craig Hoy, Executive Director of PublicAffairsAsia, "This year, we are honoured to have such a strong line up of categories, judges and sponsors. No other awards programme in Asia Pacific has the same breadth, depth and senior-level engagement. The Gold Standard Awards stand out from the crowd and are truly the awards to win in this region today."

The other shortlisted candidates for the 2016 Gold Standard Communicator of the Year Award which was sponsored by The House of Rose Professional were Matthew Friedman – CEO, The Mekong Club, Simon Tay – Chairman, Singapore Institute of International Affairs, and Penny Wong – Leader of the Opposition in the Australian Senate.

In announcing Su-Mei as this year's Award winner, Awards Chairman Penny Burt, Vice-President of Government Affairs, Asia Pacific at Visa, said the judges had been particularly impressed by Su-Mei's tireless efforts to raise awareness of women's and gender issues and the way The Women's Foundation has significantly expanded its influence and impact under her leadership over the past seven years. The judges also commended Su-Mei's avid campaigning for the positive portrayal of women in the media, the subject of "She Objects", a documentary for which Su-Mei was Associate Producer and which was screened at this year's Sundance Film Festival Hong Kong. Meanwhile, Su-Mei's TED talk "[Dying To Be Thin](#)" has attracted 30,000 views. Su-Mei also served as a judge for the Diageo WE Journalism Awards (2014) and a jury member for the Cannes Glass Lions Awards (2016). The judges also commended Su-Mei's efforts to mobilise male champions for gender equality through initiatives like the 30% Club Hong Kong and the TWF Male Allies.

Members of global investment firm KKR nominated Su-Mei for this year's award. Steven Okun, Director of Public Affairs, KKR Asia Pacific, said, "Thanks to Su-Mei's inspirational leadership and passionate advocacy, The Women's Foundation has become a beacon for ground-breaking research and innovative programmes that are changing mindsets and transforming the lives of women and girls in Hong Kong. KKR's partnership with TWF, led by KKR Asia Pacific's Director for Human Resources and TWF Board Chair Susan Hutchison, includes KKR's involvement in the 30% Club and TWF's best-in-class Mentoring Programme for Women Leaders. With this partnership, Su-Mei and TWF are better enabling KKR to learn, promote and support greater diversity and inclusion in the workplace and beyond."

In addition to running The Women's Foundation, Su-Mei is a member of the Equal Opportunities Commission, a board member of Opera HK and a council member of The Cheltenham Ladies College, her alma mater. She holds law degrees from Cambridge and Oxford and an MBA from IMD. She is also a recent recipient of the

Andy Choa scholarship which sponsors Hong Kong non-profit leaders to pursue the Strategic Perspectives in Non-Profit Management Program at Harvard Business School.

### **About PublicAffairsAsia**

PublicAffairsAsia is the leading network for senior government relations, corporate affairs and corporate communications professionals operating across the Asia Pacific region. It offers cutting edge insight through events, intelligence, publications, awards and the recently launched platform SharingValueAsia. PublicAffairsAsia also connects corporations to their stakeholders through a series of online briefings and events; convening MNOs, governmental groups and NGOs on neutral platforms to debate emerging policy, regulatory and partnership-based developments. For more information on PublicAffairsAsia, please visit <http://publicaffairsasia.com/>.

### **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 policy and decision-making roles, and empowering women in poverty through ground-breaking research, innovative and impactful community programmes, and education and advocacy. For more information on The Women’s Foundation, please visit [www.twfhk.org](http://www.twfhk.org).

### **Photos of the Awards Ceremony**



On behalf of TWF CEO Su-Mei Thompson, TWF Board Chair and KKR Asia Pacific’s Director for Human Resources Susan Hutchison received The PublicAffairsAsia’s 2016 Gold Standard Communicator of The Year Award from the award sponsor Anthony A. Rose, Founder Chairman and CEO of the House of Rose Professional.



TWF Board Chair and KKR Asia Pacific's Director for Human Resources Susan Hutchison delivered an acceptance speech at the PublicAffairsAsia's 2016 Gold Standard Awards ceremony on behalf of TWF CEO Su-Mei Thompson who was speaking at Women's Forum for the Economy & Society in France.

### Media Enquiries

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Crystal Chan  
Communications Director  
The Women's Foundation  
Tel: +852 2592 8265  
Email: [Crystal.Chan@twfhk.org](mailto:Crystal.Chan@twfhk.org)