

Dear TWF friends



GGT Virtual Hackathon

"Creativity is the secret sauce to science, technology, engineering and math." - Ainissa Ramirez, award-winning scientist and science communicator

At TWF, we know digital literacy and STEM skills are not optional for the future workforce. COVID-19 has only magnified the critical role that technology serves in our lives. From our research, we also know that girls have less confidence and support as well as fewer opportunities in applying and mastering these skills. This is compounded by other factors like socio-economic background, and teacher and parental support. This is why opportunities like our first-ever virtual Hackathon, as part of our Girls Go Tech (GGT) Programme co-organised by Bloomberg, are so important and provide a direct means for participants to understand how their tech skills can immediately help society.

Our virtual Hackathon concluded last Saturday. Over the course of three weeks, 60 GGT participants - divided into 15 student teams - joined a series of virtual workshops and self-directed learning courses. Students learned how to use app-builder Thinkable and how to create different types of AI application elements including pronunciation correction, translation, and image recognition.

Each team utilised what they learned to develop a unique mobile app aimed at solving an everyday problem arising from COVID-19, with advice and support from Bloomberg volunteers. These ideas were then pitched to a panel of judges who selected three winning projects.

We couldn't be more proud of the creativity, collaboration, and innovation demonstrated by the final apps each team created. Here are some highlights (please follow our [GGT Instagram](#) for more updates):

SafetyBuddy – Your COVID-19 Activity Advisor (Gold Award): Based on user information, the app provides optimised suggestions on fun activities to engage in and checks whether the specified outdoor activity is safe to carry out under current health precautions. If yes, the AI advisor will inform the user of the safest place to carry out this activity. If not, the app will suggest safer alternatives.

The Hungry Traveler (Silver Award): For people unused to cooking at home, this app identifies and shares information about the ingredients users have at home and recommends recipes based on these ingredients.

Maskabase (Bronze Award): This app tracks the number of masks users have and how many masks the household uses each day. Based on this information, it calculates when the household will need to restock and sends audio reminders.

Your Emotion Friend (Best Social Impact Award): This app is designed to talk through user's thoughts and emotional challenges encountered during the pandemic. Based on the conversations, the app will generate updates to send to your social worker. This app also provides inspiring quotes and pictures to help users cope with increased anxiety.

Emo' Diary (Netizen's Choice Award; Best Presentation Award): The app allows users to record their feelings and emotions, and recommends Canto-pop songs and quotes that match these emotions. The app also provides a to-do list to help users allocate their time better.

Participants gave glowing feedback about how much they valued learning more about AI and coding, the sense of community that came from shared goals and working in a team, and the experience, insights and advice from volunteers. A warm congratulations to all the participants and our deep thanks to Bloomberg, their volunteers, and to the judges for their time and support.

Get in touch at Fiona.Nott@twfhk.org.



The COVID-19 pandemic is not only having a profound impact on our health, but also on our society. Women will continue to be disproportionately impacted by this crisis – from large numbers of redundancies in female-dominated sectors to facing increased risks of domestic abuse and other forms of gender-based violence.

At TWF, we are committed to working with you all in forging a path forward that is equal – for men and women, boys and girls. As we build our new normal, it's more vital than ever that gender equality, diversity and the needs of our most vulnerable are kept in mind.

We would ask you to consider donating a portion of your HK\$10,000 Cash Payout to support our critical work. Help us as we continue to empower and improve the lives of women and girls in Hong Kong.

[Make your donation here](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS



Gala Dinner 2020 - Save The Date

On November 5, we will be hosting our Annual Gala Dinner – be sure to Save the Date!

TWF is monitoring the COVID-19 situation closely. The format of the programme is being carefully designed to keep our guests safe, which remains our priority. We will update you on the format of our event in due course.

Whatever the situation, whatever the format – let's come together for a gender equal Hong Kong.

We look forward to celebrating with you.

[Contact us for corporate sponsorship opportunities here](#)

Virtual Panel - Building a Sexual Violence Free Hong Kong

Join TWF and our panel of experts as we explore how to build a city free from sexual violence. This conversation will also touch on the ways in which COVID-19 has impacted or altered some of these developments and practices. Moderated by Fiona Nott | TWF, panelists include Amber Hawkes | Facebook, Dr Trisha Leahy | Hong Kong Sports Institute, Tim Mak | Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, and Tiffany Ng | RainLily.

Date: Wednesday, August 26
Time: 12.30-1.30pm
Platform: Zoom webinar

[Register now!](#)



TWF PROGRAMME UPDATES



Mentoring Programme - Info Sessions

The first two Information Sessions for our flagship Mentoring Programme for Women Leaders Cohort 2020 – 2021 were held on July 16 and August 12. Thanks to our

Group Mentoring
Groups of 10 will meet independently to discuss key topics
One per month

Leadership Development Workshops
Minimum attendance of 50% of the leadership development workshops with a suggested attendance of at least 75% of all sessions
One per month

alumni who joined us and shared their experience, and all potential mentors and protégés who have attended the sessions to understand more about our best in class programme.

The remaining Information Sessions will be held virtually on August 24 and September 1. If you are interested please sign up below. Attendance at one session is a compulsory component of the application process. Please [register](#) for ONE session only.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT



TWF Acting Programme Director Interviewed by OpenSchool

TWF Acting Programme Director Connie Cheung was interviewed by OpenSchool to examine the gender gap in STEM education in Hong Kong. Connie also discussed how our Girls Go Tech Programme inspires junior secondary school girls' interest in STEM and how NGOs, schools and the business sector can work together to increase girls' participation in STEM.

[Read the full interview here](#)

#TECHFORGOOD



Help Us Support Underprivileged Families

As we are facing the third wave of COVID-19 cases, making sure underprivileged students, in particular girls, have equal access to the technology they need to support their education during uncertain times continues to be a priority.

In collaboration with The Hong Kong Association for Computer Education (HKACE), TWF intends to donate 500 much needed second-hand portable devices to underprivileged families to enable their children to have access to online classes, schoolwork, tools, and resources.

We have delivered over 400 computers to families in need, but we need your help to give devices to our last few families. Please consider joining this vital project for our community by donating 25-50 laptops, iPads or tablets; or by helping us [cover](#) the costs for coordination of this outreach project.

Visit [here](#) for more information. Kindly contact Connie.Cheung@twfhk.org or Deanie.Chiu@twfhk.org with any questions.

TAKE ACTION THIS SUMMER!

Over the next six weeks, TWF will feature one action each Connect to inspire you to engage in gender equality this summer.



Redefine Masculinity

Traditional gender norms and stereotypes affect everyone, men and boys included. Rigid constructions of masculinity have often hindered boys and men from opening up and communicating their feelings in healthy ways, which has [adversely impacted](#) their mental health. [Research](#) by Ipsos shows that although

76% of men believe open communication can have a positive effect on mental health, 58% think society expects them to be emotionally strong and not show weakness, and 38% avoid discussing their feelings so as not to appear “unmanly”.

We can be a better friend, family member, co-worker and partner by embracing expressions of traditionally non-masculine traits in boys and men. Create a safe environment that enables them to show their emotions and allow men and boys to be vulnerable by listening attentively, encouraging them to share, and validating their feelings. Stop using phrases that exacerbate traditional notions of masculinity, such as “Boys don’t cry” or “Stop acting like a girl”. With our collective efforts, we can redefine masculinity and change gender norms. Check out this [comic](#) that illustrates the harmful effects of traditional masculinity.

WHAT WE'RE READING

Gender Equality

- [Criticism of South Korean MP's red dress stirs sexism debate](#) (Guardian)
- [Just 13 women lead world's 500 biggest companies. And no women of colour](#) (Women's Agenda)
- [The gender pay gap that no one is paying attention to](#) (Salon)
- [Teenage girls are at risk of not returning to team sport post-COVID](#) (Women's Agenda)
- [Women political leaders key to 'more equal and caring societies'](#) (GIWL)
- [TV show's 'Cook well, marry well' promise shockingly sexist](#) (SCMP)
- [Research finds gender stereotypes embedded in 25 languages. It impacts kids as young as two](#) (Women's Agenda)
- [Real Life Horror Stories From the World of Pandemic Motherhood](#) (NYT)
- [Dublin's first ethnic-Chinese mayor on racism, her parents' work ethic, and teaching poor children in China](#) (SCMP)
- [Why WFH Isn't Necessarily Good for Women](#) (HBR)
- [Black Women Asked Their Party for What They Wanted. What Happens Next?](#) (NYT)
- [The docility myth flattening Asian women's careers](#) (BBC)
- [I've seen first-hand the toxic racism in international women's rights groups](#) (Guardian)

Sexual Violence & Harassment

- [Uber has a new training requirement for drivers](#) (Fortune)
- [Will South Korea Finally Have Its Reckoning on Sex Crimes?](#) (The Diplomat)

Masculinity

- [Men With Harmful Attitudes About Masculinity More Prone to Violence and Mental Illness](#) (Psych Central)
- [The dangers of toxic masculinity](#) (Kidscreen)

Board Diversity

- [Women Who Board: Board Veteran Kate Buggeln On Being Relentless And Behaving More Like A Man](#) (Forbes)

Summer Picks

- [Finding Your Way Forward with Clarity and Love](#) (Mindful)
- [Working At A Laptop All Day? How To Combat The Aches And Pains](#) (Huffpost)
- [What Is Mindful Walking Meditation and How Can It Impact Your Life?](#) (Positive Psychology)
- [How a Body Scan Can Help With Strong Emotions](#) (Greater Good Magazine)
- [5 Ways To Recognise And Prevent Burnout](#) (Sassy)

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