Women’s Directorship Programme

Meraki Executive Search & Consulting and The University of Hong Kong

Session 1
18-20 May 2023 (Thur-Sat) 3 days

Session 2
21-23 September 2023 (Thur-Sat) 3 days

Overview

Through a comprehensive combination of lectures, interactive sessions, leadership exercises and input from international faculty members and senior business leaders, the Women’s Directorship Programme offers a blend of both academic and practical learning. The programme serves to address contemporary issues in the workplace, across industries and geographies.

The Women’s Directorship Programme is designed to help participants develop their own set of strategies tailored to their career ambitions, situation and personality, recognising that these will evolve over time as new challenges arise and elements in their lives change.

The six-day programme, split into two sessions of three days each, will be held at The University of Hong Kong’s Cyberport Campus.

Participants will have the opportunity to meet and network with counterparts from different countries and influential guest speakers, such as:

Sir Donald Brydon, Chairman of Tide Holdings
Jean-Pascal Tricoire, Chairman & CEO of Schneider Electric
Christine Hodgson, Chairman of Severn Trent
Harriet Green, Executive Chair of Mission Beyond

Who Should Attend

The programme is designed to equip participants with the skills and knowledge to assume boardroom responsibilities as a Director or Non-Executive Director.

Guest speakers

Rick Haythornthwaite
Chairman of Ocado Group
“Tackling the current massive gender imbalance in the boardroom is a top priority for businesses around the globe. Boardrooms need to adequately represent their consumer base in order to be most effective. We wholeheartedly support this initiative to develop female leaders.”

Ruth Markland
INED of Quilter Pic and Arcadia NV
“This programme is absolutely crucial in making a difference at boardroom level as it serves to empower board-ready women to step up and maximize their potential. I look forward to working with participants to fulfil their professional aspirations and devise career strategies that will work for them.”

Sir Donald Brydon
Chairman of Tide Holdings
“In this fast-paced world, we need to ensure the business community evolves to best reflect the interests of consumers – well balanced boardrooms are important in achieving success. This programme is most beneficial in terms of enhancing the development of women leaders to provide the next generation of board members.”

Harriet Green
Executive Chair of Mission Beyond
“The opportunity to share real board experiences, take questions and together empower women leaders is such an honour. I look forward to supporting the latest cohort on this incredible programme and providing whatever advice I can to you all.”
Programme Modules

Session 1
Module 1. The Roles And Responsibilities Of Board Members
The first module of the programme provides participants with perspective on the roles of the board and supporting committees, plus practical insights regarding the roles and responsibilities of independent non-executive directors (INEDs) in terms of the finance, audit, risk oversight and remuneration committees. This module will discuss the typical responsibilities of the nominator committee and explore the most effective processes for making board appointments.

Module 2. Strategic Leadership
To achieve organisational goals, board directors as leaders, must collaborate with people across and outside of their organisational boundaries – serving to acquire new ideas and resources. This module will explore strategic thinking, focused on the benefits of various business models and their evolution, as well as understanding the key issues facing listed companies, and what and how to advise the board and managing executives.

Module 3. Persuasive Communication And Conflict Resolutions
This dynamic, interactive communications module will engage participants in a full day of intense skills development, to enhance understanding and awareness of self and how to communicate and influence others. The concepts of trust, power navigation, executive presence and crisis communication styles will all be explored. This module enables participants to contribute maximum value to their board by communicating effectively under pressure, whilst remaining composed, data-driven and credible.

Session 2
Module 4. Securities Market Regulation
This module equips participants with a working knowledge of securities regulation and directors’ obligations and responsibilities with respect to the public companies they oversee. After working through case studies and examples from major public markets, participants will gain a better understanding of the often-problematic issues that regularly present themselves to directors of public companies.

Module 5. Ethics And Compliance
This module focuses on moral philosophy, organisational psychology, and cognitive biology, with an emphasis on communication and ethical reasoning skills that impact on professional performance. Two primary areas of business ethics will be highlighted: firstly how directors can utilise “moral architecture” to build mechanisms that help employees and executive teams avoid unethical behaviour. Secondly, individual ethics will be discussed, reviewing universal cognitive biases, exploring how to best motivate people and how we can improve ethical decision-making.

Module 6. Board Simulation Exercise
This simulation exercise enables participants to put lessons learned throughout the programme into practice. This module will explore how to operate legally, ethically and efficiently in the current economic and legal environment. Participants will discuss how making decisions causes a ripple effect across the entire business.

Examination
The Women’s Directorship Programme is accredited as an MA equivalent. To receive this qualification all participants are required to undertake an examination at the close of the programme.

Information
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Business success hinges on a gender-balanced boardroom for continued growth. Please visit www.wdp-international.com for further details and registration.