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 leadership strategies for board impact tailored to their career ambitions, 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:

- Nick Allen - Chairman of Link REIT and INED of CLP, HKEX
- May Tan - INED of CLP, Manulife, and JP Morgan China
- Rachel Duan - INED of HSBC plc

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.

Gender-balanced boards are proven to result in greater business success, and yet women are still hugely underrepresented in boardrooms across the world. The Women’s Directorship Programme, now in its tenth year, addresses this imbalance by enabling more board-ready female leaders to rise to the challenge.

Registration close: 31st March 2024
Tuition: USD $13,500
Tuition includes some meals and materials, excludes accommodation
More information: www.wdp-international.com
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 board 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 organisation 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.

The Women’s Directorship Programme is supported by The Women’s Foundation and Community Business.

Views of past participants

Anna Yip
CEO, Singtel Consumer Singapore
“I joined the Women’s Directorship Programme a couple of years ago and found it a practical and refreshing learning experience. It opens the doors to the boardroom, demystifying the discussions and challenges facing board members globally. The programme enables more female talent to gain exposure to the high-level decision makers for future opportunities.”

Polly Wang
CEO, Eastspring Investment Taiwan
“An amazing program filled with intellectual sharing from the experienced professors and prestigious guest speakers, and the valuable interactions among the professional female leaders from diverse industries and geographies. The content and cases were very well designed to inspire the participants how should we position ourselves in the board and the role and responsibilities that a good iNED should play. Wonderful experience!”

Joanne Hon
GM, North Asia Broadridge
“I am really impressed with the Women’s Directorship Programme. The programme is very well designed to inspire and refresh our learning 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.”

Andrea Fletcher
Chief Operating Officer Asia, Citi
“This enlightening programme provides a greater understanding of the role, responsibilities and pressures on iNEDs and members of the board. The Women’s Directorship Programme explores the challenges and opportunities for the board now and in the future, and serves to open up the board network to fresh talent and perspectives.”

Louise Moat
COO APAC (ex Japan)
NOMURA IBD
“For anyone considering taking on a directorship role, the programme offers an excellent opportunity to better understand the more formal, as well as the more practical aspects involved in becoming a board member.”

Patsy Chan
CEO Northeast Asia, Richmont APAC Ltd
“This is a great program that brings professional women together from different walks of life, different professions to share and learn from each other, the power of woman is being amplified by our guest speakers Rachel Duan and May Tan. WDP provides practical insights and real business cases covering board fiduciary responsibilities, ethical decision making and best practices of effective board governance. I like the final Boardroom dynamics simulation to complete the course.”

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