

**Taking the lead for inclusion:
Accelerating through diversity**
Singapore, 18-20 September 2019

Asia's young, increasingly educated workforce and its growing middle class are a wellspring of dynamism. Millennials and women in Asia are poised to comprise a new generation of leaders, and engage in [entrepreneurship](#) at exponential rate. Nineteen of twenty of the world's most [dynamic cities](#) are in Asia, making the region attractive to investment, capital, and talent.

Yet across Asia, [gaps remain](#) in women's political empowerment, educational attainment and other measures of gender parity. At current rates of change, the gender gap in East Asia and the Pacific will take 171 years to be closed. Women's full participation and leadership in its economies and societies is needed to sustain Asia's attractiveness, grow its influence globally, and build a brighter future for its people from the ground up. Global challenges like climate change, technological disruption and political upheaval will not be fully addressed without diverse ideas, vision and commitments, including those of women.

Women's leadership is critical to unlock the power of Asia's rich diversity - of culture, age, gender, class, and religion, among others - to ensure that solutions to those challenges are inclusive and lasting. Diverse viewpoints and experiences must be included and put towards a common good, whether the creation of inclusive communities, built environments and public spaces; making organisations future-ready; or fairly sharing the rewards of trade, growth and technological change.

Drawing from insights and conclusions of Women's Forum Meetings across the year, as well as the G7 summit in August and other global conversations, the very first Women's Forum Asia meeting will take place from 18-20 September 2019 in Singapore. Under the theme *Taking the lead for inclusion: Accelerating through diversity*, it will gather 1,500 leaders from across the region and the world to connect on how women's leadership can accelerate revolutionary and inclusive changes in our communities, organisations and economies for better future for all.

Women's Forum Asia 2019 will take you on the journey to accelerate positive changes through diversity. On the first day, we focus on [Breaking barriers to inclusion](#). This pathway focuses on ways and means to drive inclusion and women's empowerment, such as education and culture, and create lasting change both within organisations and across wider society.

The second day's focus [Embracing inclusive growth](#) examines ways to accelerate growth that is sustainable by making inclusion a core guiding principle of cities, systems and communities - for example, by tapping women's leadership to help address climate change, and designing cities and public spaces that harness new technology but are also safe for all. Such inclusive growth helps sustain the region's attractiveness in the long run.

PROGRAMME

Tuesday 17 September

8:30-13:30

ACCELERATE HER: Training for startups [INSEAD] [By invitation only]

In partnership with Facebook and INSEAD Centre for Entrepreneurship and INSEAD Executive Education

13:30-17:30

Youth & Leaders Forum [Facebook] [By invitation only]

Wednesday 18 September

In focus: Breaking barriers to inclusion

12:00 Registration

12:30 Networking coffee

13:30-13:40 **Opening keynote speech by Mdm Halimah Yacob, President of the Republic of Singapore**

13:40 – 14:30

[Opening plenary]

Leading Asia's future: Attract and retain capital, talent & investors

Developing Asia is facing a serious infrastructure shortfall, [requiring \\$1.7 trillion per year](#). Also more than [60% of employers are experiencing difficulty attracting critical-skill employees and retaining high-potential employees](#). How can gender inclusion and women leadership help Asia address the challenges of attracting and retaining talent, drawing private capital for infrastructure investment - and how can these challenges be addressed in a way that promotes diversity and inclusion? In what ways governments and companies can collaborate to turn the promise of Asia into reality, while ensure fairer and more inclusive opportunities for all?

14:30 – 15:15

All in the family: Nurturing creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship for good

Family businesses are a critical pillar of many Asian economies, and have [different needs](#) at different stages of growth: some are seeking non-family professionals to lead their businesses, while others are tapping their next generation to form new ventures and harness technology to scale. How can Asia's family firms nurture the entrepreneurship of their millennial generations a- [particularly women](#) - for longevity? In a world with increasing connectivity between businesses; and greater mobility and collaboration, how does entrepreneurship help firms adapt to change, compete, and survive? How can government help to support entrepreneurs, and in turn how can entrepreneurship foster inclusion and women's leadership?

15:15-15:30 **Networking break**

15:30-16:15

Up with inclusion: How businesses can take a stand for inclusive growth

Women & supply chain DC session

By examining markets through a lens of inclusion, businesses can uncover new opportunities: for instance, the base-of-pyramid market worldwide comprises 4 billion people and is worth an estimated \$5 trillion. Throughout Asia, what supply chain investments and business models are helping to create income opportunities and deliver affordable, relevant products and services to low-income and marginalized communities? How might businesses take a stand for inclusive growth beyond their own organisational practices in ways that also benefit their bottom line? What kinds of perspectives and leadership do they need to do so?

16:15-17:00

Rebooting finance: how can fintech shape a more inclusive financial system?

Banking development in Asia, with a more focus on corporate lending, is leaving 800 million Asians [without access to traditional banking](#). Meanwhile, innovations like mobile banking, crowdfunding and blockchain have radically transformed the way we shop, pay, even purchase insurance, making financial services more inclusive and purposeful. What is the future of traditional banks? How should governments and regulators facilitate digital finance and at the same time manage cybersecurity and other risks? And how can women's perspectives enable financial products and the regulations that govern them to reflect users' and clients' needs?

17:00-17:45

The talent puzzle: Filling the gaps through inclusion

One variable that's rarely discussed about the future of work is [labour mobility](#): how and where people move for work. Demographic changes such as falling birth rates, combined with technology and other disruptions, mean gaps in talent need to be filled. [Asian women](#), in particular, are one of the fastest-growing mobile worker groups, and their contribution is critical to economies. What are the risks of business-as-usual mobility, recruitment and retention policies? What policies help develop homegrown but globally-minded talent and inclusive organisations for the future of work in Asia?

17:45-18:25

Reinventing cities for life through urban innovation and design

Advancements in big data analytics and other technologies offer governments, planners and the private sector new opportunities to make urban life more sustainable, inclusive and efficient, from platforms involved in [shared mobility](#), to giving people more control over their [healthcare data](#). How can cities reduce the negative impacts of car traffic without reducing the mobility of their citizens? Can air pollution, congestion, CO2 emissions or the use of public space be limited while enhancing people's access to jobs, shops, health services or educational institutions? How open data and urban innovations, viewed through a lens of inclusion, can help to build human-centered cities? In what ways do they create value for the people and support the sustainable development of the city?

19:00-21:30

Cocktail Reception at Canning Room, Raffle City Convention Center

Thursday 19 September

In focus: Embracing inclusive growth

8:00-8:30 **Networking coffee**

8:30-9:00

Connecting Asia: infrastructure and mobility for tomorrow

Asia is undergoing a much-needed infrastructure boom, building transport and communication links that facilitate [integration and trade](#), and urbanising developing regions. As the impacts of climate change intensify, resilient built infrastructure will become essential. Meanwhile, the need to build access to unserved and underserved communities cannot be ignored. How can we build infrastructure while enhancing access, convenience and efficiency for all users? How to ensure that mobility technology also used to address environmental issues? What roles do industry and government play in ensuring the right enabling environment to deliver sustainable and inclusive solutions?

9:00-10:00

Embracing humility: When AI meets with Emotional Intelligence

Women & AI DC session

The adoption of machines and algorithms in the workplace will [create 133 million new jobs, compared to 75 million lost by 2022](#). As artificial intelligence is applied [more and more widely](#) throughout business, healthcare, cybersecurity and other domains, these applications will also need to be paired with high emotional intelligence (EQ) and [empathy](#). What skills will we need to imbue AI with EQ? What are the implications for women who are shown to have a distinct EI advantage? What is the role of business, government and civic organisations in rebuilding citizens' trust in AI?

10:00-10:45

Beyond the tipping point: Gender balance cannot wait!

In collaboration with INSEAD

Gender diversity is not only the right thing to do but it also makes smart business sense, from improving organisational performance, boosting employee retention, driving transparency, fairness to encouraging innovation and more. Yet, why is it still difficult? How does gender bias manifest within an organization? And how can individuals and organizations be effective in tipping the scales?

10:45-11:00

Take the lead for inclusion: Charter on women leading climate action

11:00-11:45

Climate consciousness: Make climate action count

Women & climate DC session

[The world has only until 2030 to stem catastrophic climate change](#). The environmental impact will directly affect business, society, and ecosystems; and governments are seeking to mitigate its effects with far-reaching regulations. Meanwhile, the private sector, accounting for 60% of global GDP, are taking the lead in dealing with climate change. Yet, to be effective in this leadership role, businesses need a radical shift in their consciousness. So how do companies shift from treating climate change solely as a corporate social responsibility issue to an important business problem? What are the opportunities for consumers and governments to demand more sustainable environmental, labor and other practices from the private sector? And what can be done to catalyze such action?

11:45-12:30

What if the future of work is the key?

Technological advances, demographic shifts, and consumer pulls are fundamentally changing the way we work and the way companies design jobs and environments. What are implications for policy makers, for companies and for individuals? How will businesses operate under the new realities of work? What are the impacts of the future of work? How can we take this opportunity to reimagine talent models, organizational practices, and business models for a more inclusive organizations and better future for both women and men?

12:30-13:30 **Networking lunch**

13:30-14:15

Step in, step up: Closing the leadership gap in the boardroom

In Asia Pacific, women account for just [12.4% of board seats](#). The lack of women in leadership positions remains significant, even though compelling research shows that women enhance the top decision-making process dramatically. There are proposed solutions like imposing regulatory quotas that might [not fully address the underlying issue and be culturally appropriate](#). What is contributing to this gap, and how can executives remedy it?

14:15-15:00

Underhyped, overstretched: Health Innovation in Asia

Women & Access to Health DC session

With an ageing population and a rising incidence of chronic and non-communicable diseases such as cancer, cardiovascular disease and mental health conditions, Asia needs new health technology, products and services, as well as innovative solutions and strategies. What are the opportunities and challenges for healthcare in Asia's markets? How can governments, businesses and tech companies collectively build an enabling environment for support citizens' access to health tech solutions and better healthcare, especially for women who often have unique health challenges?

15:00-15:15 **Networking break**

15:15-15:50

Moving the needle: A conversation with inclusive leaders

15:50-16:45

Building an inclusive future: Be the change-makers

Women & STEM DC Session

Globally, women are underrepresented in STEM at all levels. According to the OECD, only 29 percent of those in science research and development are women, with a low of 19 percent in South and West Asia and a high of 48.8 percent in some countries like Malaysia. This disparity of inclusion will further perpetuate gender-biased technology in different parts of the world. How can we create a new narrative on the crucial participation of women in STEM, which can address gaps in technology design and usability? How should different stakeholders work together to encourage women and girls pursue careers in STEM?

16:45-17:30

Ask us the moon: Extraordinary women in space

Fifty years on from the first moon landing, we have not yet gotten further. NASA and SpaceX are planning missions to Mars, and these endeavors to make humans a space-faring civilization requires diverse perspectives and equal representation to drive innovation as we venture out into the solar system. Yet much more work to be done to diversify the scientific community and STEM occupations. Let's listen to the extraordinary stories and reflection of women who are rewriting the history of astronomy and space.

17:30-18:15

[Closing Plenary]

HIStory & HERstory: Inclusion for sustainable governance and attractiveness

Women represent 50% of the world's working age population but generate only [37% of GDP](#). What are the implications for Asia if this gap is not closed? How can governments and companies lead the way to enhance women's leadership? How do we shift the culture and narrative of business, science, government and other institutions to value better the qualities of feminine leadership, both in the professional realm and in other domains?

19:30-21:30

Cocktail Reception at The Clifford Pier, The Fullerton Bay Hotel

THROUGHOUT THE DAY

Side activities: Deep dive workshops on centered-leadership, meditation & mindfulness, speed mentoring, and dialogue in the dark

Friday 20 September

8:00-10:00

ACCELERATE HER: Startup Pitch Contest [By invitation only]

In partnership with Facebook, INSEAD Centre for Entrepreneurship, INSEAD Executive Education and La French Tech

12:00-14:30

CEO Champions Initiative [By invitation only]

Co-organized with Singapore Summit and McKinsey

SELECTED CONFIRMED SPEAKERS

Opening Speaker: Mdm Halimah Yacob, President of the Republic of Singapore
 Master of Ceremony: Martin Roll, Business & Brand Strategist, Martin Roll Company LTD

Borina	Andrieu	Managing Director	Wilmotte & Associates
Sim	Ann	Senior Minister of State	Government of Singapore
Amar	Babu	Vice President, Intelligent Devices Group Rest of World Services	Lenovo
Bidushi	Bhattacharya	CEO & Founder Former Scientist	Astropreneurs HUB Pte Ltd NASA
Natalia	Blokhina	Co-founder	Brighter Ventures
Natalia	Cano	Head of Brand & Reputation APAC	Google
Jérôme	Chartier	Vice President	Regional Council Ile-de-France
Ming	Chen	Chief Culture Officer	EF Education First
Sarah	Chen	Co-Founder & Managing Partner	The Billion Dollar Fund for Women
Sara	Cheng	CEO	Fuji Xerox Singapore
Helen	Clark	Former Prime Minister Former Executive Director	Government of New Zealand United Nations Development Programme
Chiara	Corazza	Managing Director	Women's Forum for the Economy & Society
Sandhya	Devanathan	Managing Director	Facebook Singapore
Simonetta	Di Pippo	Director	United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs
Michael	Distefano	President Asia Pacific	Korn Ferry
Helen	Duce	Leader	Lean In Singapore
Anindo	Dutta	Vice President	Microsoft Asia Pacific
Julien	Esch	CEO	Bouygues Construction Singapore

Elizabeth	Faber	Chief Talent Officer	Deloitte Asia Pacific
Maria	Faury	Director of International & Big Infrastructures of Research	Alternative Energies & Atomic Energy Commission (CEA)
Gabriele	Fioni	Director of International Cooperation Chairman of the Global Science Forum	Alternative Energies & Atomic Energy Commission (CEA) OECD
Vidhya	Ganesan	Partner	McKinsey Singapore
Marie	Guillemot	Partner, Executive Committee Member	KPMG
Claudie	Haigneré	Former Minister, Former Astronaut	National Centre of Space Agency European Space Agency
Anne-Gabrielle	Heilbronner	Member of the Directoire and Secretary General	Publicis Groupe
Julia	Harrison	Senior Managing Director, Head of Brussels Strategic Communications	FTI Consulting
Kwon Ping	Ho	Conference Chairman	Singapore Summit
Asako	Hoshino	Executive Officer, Executive Vice President	Nissan Asia & Oceania
Agnès	Hugot	Co-Founder	Fasttracktrade
Nurul Jihadah	Hussain	Founder	The Codette Project
Emmanuel	Jacomy	Partner	Shearman & Sterling
Aruna	Jayanthi	Managing Director APAC and LatAm Member of the Group Executive Committee	Capgemini Group
Harjit	Jill	CEO	Asia Pacific Medical Technology Association
Star	Jones	President	Professional Diversity Network, NASDAQ
Sasha	Kalb	VP Risk & Compliance, APAC and Global Alliances	American Express Global Business Travel
Chanamrithvatey	Kim	Co-Founder & CEO	SmartBin Cambodia
Young Tae	Kim	Secretary-General	International Transport Forum

Chris	Kimmell	Executive VP & Head of EdTech, Asia	EF Education First
Lily	Kong	President and Lee Jong Chain Chair Professor of Social Sciences	Singapore Management University
Rosaline	Koo	Founder & CEO	CXA
Rashmi	Kwatra	Founder & CEO	Sixteenth Street Capital
Linda	Lee	Head of Communications Southeast & North Asia	LinkedIn
Su Shyan	Lee	Head Planning & Control & Investor Relations	Singapore Press Holdings
Craig	Leeson	Director, Producer, Writer	"A Plastic Ocean" and "The Last Glaciers"
Jeanne	Lim	CEO	Hanson Robotics
Sophia		Human-like Robot	Hanson Robotics
Jane	Lin-Baden	Managing Partner APAC	Publicis Groupe
Helena	Ma	Head of Global Public Affairs	Sino International Entrepreneurs Federation (SIEF)
Janet	Neo	Rising Talent	Women's Forum for the Economy & Society
Thu Huong	Nguyen	President Director	Women Leaders International Network Nam Huong Corp
Balaka	Niyazee	CEO	P&G Korea
Indra	Nooyi	Former CEO & Chairwoman	PepsiCo
Chelsea	Ong	Research Associate	Shirin Fozdar Programme
Violet	Oon	Culinary Curator & Chef	Violet Oon Inc.
Agnès	Pannier-Runacher	Secretary of State for Economy and Finance of France	Government of France
Vanessa	Paranjothy	Co-Founder	Freedom Cups
Supriya	Paul	Co-Founder & Director	Josh Talks
Smita	Pillai	Chief Diversity & Inclusion Officer	The Wall Street Journal
Pamela	Qiu	Director, Economist Corporate Network, South-East Asia	The Economist

Vaishali	Rastogi	Managing Director & Senior Partner, Head Southeast Asia	The Boston Consulting Group
Carlo	Ratti	Director Founding Partner	MIT Senseable City Lab CRA – Carlo Ratti Associati
Martin	Roll	Business & Brand Strategist	Martin Roll Company LTD
Syed	Saddiq Sayed Abdul Rahman	Minister of Youth & Sports	Government of Malaysia
Yutaka	Sanada	Regional Senior Vice President	Nissan Asia & Oceania
Kaori	Sasaki	Founder & CEO	ewoman, Inc. JAPAN
Shweta	Sharma	Managing Director Global Travel Retail Rising Talent	Protect & Gamble Women's Forum for the Economy & Society
Chetna	Sinha	Founder	Mann Deshi Bank
Antoine	Sire	Director of the Company Engagement Department	BNP Paribas
Leesa	Soulodre	General Partner	r3i Ventures
Vikram	Subrahmanyam	MD, CIO and Asia Pacific Operations & Technology Head	Citi Group
Miyuki	Suzuki	President APJC	Cisco
Georgette	Tan	President	UN Women Singapore
Su-Lyn	Tay	Director	Violet Oon Inc
Wendy	Teleki	Head of Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative (We-Fi) Secretariat	World Bank
Lay Lim	Teo	Senior Managing Director ASEAN	Accenture Singapore
Neha	Thakkar	Associate Director Associate Director for Asia	Gender Initiative Social Impact Initiative Hoffmann Global Institute for Business and Society
Irene	Tham	Tech Editor	The Straits Times
Jean-Pascal	Tricoire	Chairman & CEO	Schneider Electric
Ersilia	Vaudo	Chief Diversity Officer	European Space Agency

Andrew	Vo	Head of HR Asia Pacific Africa and Middle East	Accenture
Gordon	Watson	CEO of Asia and Member of the Management Committee	Axa
Margie	Warrell	Founder	Global Courage
Chuu	Wai Nyein	Artist	
Venezia	Wee	Founder	Global Water-crisis Awareness (GWA) International Movement
Vincent	Wijnen	Senior Vice President	Nissan Asia & Oceania
Jay	Wong	Head	Fossil Free Yale-NUS
Halimah	Yacob	President	Republic of Singapore
Wy-Lene	Yap	Founder & Managing Editor	High Net Worth
Kevyn	Young	Associate Professor of Management & Associate Dean of Executive Education	ESSEC Business School APAC
Lihui	Zhang	Executive President	Caixin Media

CEO CHAMPIONS MEMBERS

Roslina	Abdul Rahman	Group CEO	Value CAP
Jérôme	Chartier	Vice President	Conseil Régional Ile-de-France
Lorna	Chen	Partner, Head of Greater Asia	Shearman & Sterling
Sara	Cheng	CEO	Fuji Xerox Singapore
Chiara	Corazza	Managing Director	Women's Forum for the Economy & Society
Sandhya	Devanathan	Managing Director	Facebook Singapore
Mike	Distefano	President Asia Pacific	Korn Ferry
Steve	Ellis	President, EF Corporate Solutions Japan	EF Education First
Peter	Grauer	Chairman	Bloomberg
Julia	Harrison	Senior Managing Director	FTI Consulting

Anne-Gabrielle	Heilbronner	Member of the Directoire and Secretary General	Publicis Groupe
Kwon Ping	Ho	Chairman	Singapore Summit
Matthew	Layton	Global Managing Partner	Clifford Chance
Tommy	Leong	Zone President, East Asia & Japan	Schneider Electric
Diaan-Yi	Lin	Managing Partner	McKinsey Singapore
Datuk Shireen	Muhiudeen	Chairman	Bursa Malaysia
Balaka	Niyazee	CEO	P&G Korea
Eric	Raynaud	Head of Asia-Pacific Region	BNP Paribas
Martin	Roll	Business & Brand Strategist	Martin Roll Company
Pierre-Eric	Saint Andre	CEO Asia Pacific	Bouygues Construction
Luc-François	Salvador	Executive Chairman of Asia Pacific and middle East	Capgemini
Kevin	Sneader	Global Managing Partner	McKinsey
Jenny	Sofian	ED and CEO	Fullerton Fund Management Company Ltd.
Selin	Song	Vice President, APAC Google Marketing Solutions	Google
Jo	Sully	Vice President and Regional General Manager Australia, NZ & Southeast Asia	American Express Global Business Travel
Lay Lim	Teo	Senior Managing Director, ASEAN and Country Managing Director, Singapore	Accenture
Kwee Eng	Thien	Assistant Managing Director	EDB
Ruth	Yeoh	Executive Director	YTL Singapore
Tae Kim	Young	Secretary-General	International Transport Forum (ITF)