

Women's Forum Singapore 2024

Public programme

Change Education, Educate for Change: Tech as a Vector of Inclusion

Since its inception in 2005, the Women's Forum has emerged as the leading international platform for transforming the power of women's voices and perspectives into forward-thinking economic and policy initiatives for societal change. Across the world, women's leadership and their full participation in economies and societies is key to creating a sustainable future. With global influence, we pioneer in highlighting the voice of women leaders and in promoting their increasing role in the economy and society at all levels during our events: the Women's Forum Global Meeting, which will celebrate its 19th anniversary next year, as well as at our regional events, that will be held this year in Paris on November 28-29th and in **Singapore on March 20-21st**.

Following the success of the first two editions of the Women's Forum in Singapore, in 2018 and 2019, the Women's Forum will focus this year on the theme "*Change education, Educate for change*". The full power of education is critical to empower women, foster economic, social and political transformation, and create a more just, prosperous and inclusive world.

Gathering a community of 500+ leaders from diverse backgrounds, the Women's Forum Singapore will highlight the role of education as a vector of inclusion, with a specific focus on its interaction with technology, and its impact on various essential domains: climate, health, future of work, entrepreneurship, feminist diplomacy and women & money.

We'll hear from experts from the public and private sectors as well as civil society and youth community on the role of education and tech in improving the advancement of gender equality and in providing solutions to today's most pressing problems at individual, corporate and social-level.

The Women's Forum believes that **Tech can provide effective solutions to enhance education to Raise Women's Voices and Create Change.**

Programme

March 20th

14:00-14:15 **Welcome remarks**

14:15-14:30 **In conversation with...**

14:30-15:15 **Harnessing the potential of technology to educate for change**

Plenary session

Education Technology (EdTech) facilitates and enhances learning by democratising and improving access to learning for all. It has the potential to improve inclusivity, efficiency and collaboration in educational environments and therefore holds immense potential in tackling the barriers that many women and girls face in their pursuit of upskilling. How can technology be used to maximise learning outcomes for girls?

15:15-16:00 **STEM from change: diversifying pathways and promoting economic development**

Plenary session

STEM education plays a crucial role in promoting economic and social development. As demand for STEM professionals vastly outstrips supply, the need for more inclusive pathways into these fields is evident. What are the necessary conditions for inclusive STEM education? How can we encourage girls into these pathways and support their long-term commitment to the field?

16:00-16:30 *Break*

16:30-17:45 **Discovery sessions**

Digital violence: battling backlash to women's rights online	Innovating education: exploring the contributions of women entrepreneurs in the field	Women in STEM and AI in Asia with Standard Chartered
<p>Women's rights must be protected online as well as offline. However, according to Plan International, <u>over 50% of girls around the world</u> have been harassed online and this is worse where they are politically outspoken, disabled, Black or identify as LGBTQ+. What is the role of internet 'hashtivism' in educating for change and feminist dialogue? How can education equip women with</p>	<p>Education is a key field for societal progress and improvement of humanity's life conditions. Today, the sector of education is witnessing many radical changes due to new technologies, innovative approaches and reformed educational content responding to the new type of careers of the 21st century. Women's participation from the very beginning of this educational revolution is fundamental to ensure equality and sensitivity to</p>	

<p>the tools to combat this violence?</p>	<p>diversity: What are some of the new solutions being provided by women social entrepreneurs? What problems are they tackling?</p>	
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18:00-18:45 Discovery sessions

<p>Building women into cities: a feminist reimagining of urban planning</p> <p>Gender bias is literally built into urban spaces. Different mobility patterns, healthcare needs, and caregiving tendencies are among the factors which impact how successfully cities serve women. In the era of smart cities, how can we accommodate women's distinct needs in urban policy making and ensure a gendered perspective be applied ? How can we facilitate women's access to these decision-making processes?</p>	<p>Women and Space: how are women participating in the golden age of astronomy?</p> <p>Women have been the protagonists of pivotal moments of discovery in astronomy, however, as in the majority of science fields, their presence is still minor leaving their enriching perspectives aside and their potential untapped. Astronomy is currently witnessing a golden age with innovations making space exploration a tangible and ordinary experience and leaving us to wonder: what is the place of women in this renewed interest for space conquering? How are women navigating these challenging fields, and what tools can education bring to ensure their participation?</p>	<p>Youth Voices session</p>
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19:30-21:30 Networking cocktail

March 21st

08:50-09:05 Welcome day 2 and wrap-up day 1

09:05-09:15 In conversation with...

09:15-10:00 **Fostering Women's Peace and Security in the Digital World**

Plenary session

Cybersecurity issues are increasingly at the forefront of national and international security strategy. While public awareness for gender-sensitive policy is growing, women are disproportionately impacted, with 38% of women having personal experiences of online violence. Where are the blind spots in current security policy and what are the biggest challenges to fostering peace in the digital world?

10:00-10:45 **The frontline of climate change: women as agents for social progress and climate advocacy**

Plenary session

Climate change disproportionately impacts women and is a 'threat multiplier' in worsening existing inequalities. Women in Asia are currently at greatest risk, with over 100 million people affected by climate change in the region annually. This session explores how education empowers women and girls as agents for social change around climate issues. What are the specific skills and knowledge they will need at the frontline of climate change?

10:45-11:15 **Networking break**

11:15-12:00 **Discovery sessions**

Growing ideas and widening pathways for women entrepreneurs	Ensuring diversity in new AI technologies	Achieving climate goals through diversity
<p>Entrepreneurship is essential to improving the resilience and stability of economies and thus achieving better living standards globally. There is therefore a great need for policy frameworks to widen pathways for women to fully participate in economies by growing their ideas into businesses. What possibilities does technology hold in increasing the representation for women's entrepreneurship? How does the tech industry create new</p>	<p>Firms around the world are adopting AI due to its capacity to lower costs and process large quantities of data efficiently. In the near future, this transition will create millions of jobs. In order to create AI for good, we need to improve diversity in both its inception and usage. How do we encourage diversity in the creation of AI technologies and ensure this is reflected in its functionality?</p>	<p>The need for innovation that can help us to reduce human impact on the natural world can only continue to grow rapidly in the near future. Women represent an untapped and diverse talent resource but face many barriers into these industries. How can gender equality and environmental goals reinforce one another through technology?</p>

opportunities for women entrepreneurs?		
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12:15-13:15 *Lunch break*

13:15-14:00 Discovery sessions

<p>Meet with some of Femtech's most innovative entrepreneurs</p> <p>As opportunities in women's health accelerate within the femtech sector, with an expected value of \$135 billion by 2032, vs \$30 billion in 2022, the entrepreneurs are developing new solutions that help meet the unmet needs of women, while putting tech at the service of women's health. Let's meet some of the most innovative entrepreneurs in this area.</p>	<p>Harnessing the transformative potential of FinTech</p> <p>Higher financial and digital literacy of women is associated with lower gender gaps in digital financial literacy (IMF, 2022). Given existing inequalities in education between genders, how can we ensure that women have access to learning around cryptocurrency, blockchain and other financial technologies which have gone from fringe technologies to widely adopted financial tools?</p>	<p>Session TBC</p>
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14:10-14:50 Empowerment and minimising threat through accessible finance education

Plenary session

Economic abuse is behaviour which controls a victim's ability to acquire, use, and maintain resources, thus threatening their economic security and potential for self-sufficiency. In combating this, women's education around employment, financial law and resource management are powerful tools of empowerment. Which tools exist to help women improve their financial literacy? How can this learning be more broadly accessible?

14:50-15:30 Rejecting a 'one-size-fits-all' approach to healthcare: gender-sensitive solutions to systemic problems

Plenary session

The specific health issues of women have been recognised more in recent years, including maternal and child nutrition, reproductive rights, mental wellness, to stigma and invisibility around the menopause. Yet, a lack of information persists around how to address those specific needs. How can Tech improve access to this specialised information and create a personalised, individualised toolkit for women's health?

15:30-16:15 Misinformation and the potential of AI to tackle fake news*Plenary session*

Thanks to its capacity to process enormous quantities of data and recognise patterns and anomalies, Artificial Intelligence is well-positioned to detect fake news and become a leading tool in the fight against propaganda and misinformation online. Given that up to 70% of people may not be able to distinguish real from fake news, what application does AI have in the context of defending gender equality online?

*16:15-16:45 Break***16:45-17:30 Navigating a fairer future of work for all***Plenary session*

Diversity drives creative solutions and has greater potential for innovations that meet different needs and promote gender equality. There are therefore strong economic incentives for companies, who are learning how to transform workplaces to make them more inclusive. How can technology provide them with the tools to address this challenge ?

17:30-18:10 The successes and challenges of modern feminist diplomacy*Plenary session*

Feminist diplomacy applies a gendered lens to all political pursuits, including poverty reduction, sustainable development, peace and security, defence and the protection of human rights. How do educational inequalities impact the success of these political objectives? How can gender-based violence be prevented and eliminated at policy level? What are the most effective ways of diffusing the need to learn about and from feminist diplomacy?

18:10-18:50 Improving the Digital Divide in Education*Plenary session*

The gendered 'digital divide' sees lower technological literacy rates among women and girls, impacting almost every aspect of their education. [259 million](#) fewer women have access to the internet than men, leading to a silencing of their voices, lower employability and fewer economic opportunities. How can the public and private sector tackle this divide? What are some emerging solutions and what does a future without this divide look like?

18:50-19:00 In conversation with...**19:00-19:10 Closing remarks**