

## **Ivey & TWF award new Executive MBA scholarships for exceptional female executives**

***Program in its second year aims to build and promote female talent in Asia***

**Hong Kong, 12 June, 2014** – The Ivey Business School (Ivey Asia) and The Women's Foundation (TWF) today announced the six winners of the second annual TWF Ivey Executive MBA scholarships program for outstanding women. The scholarship program was launched in April 2013 to help build and promote a pipeline of women for senior executive and non-executive roles in Asia.

The 2014 Ivey scholarships have been awarded to: Edith Ang, Director, Private Wealth Management, Family Services, UBS AG; Natalie Spicer, Manager, Advocacy and Merger Integration Planning, Telstra International Group; Nancy Yee, Founder of media company, Media Synergy; Melanie Coate, Senior Manager HR - Global Functions Asia-Pacific, HSBC; Laura Brown, Associate Director, Publishing, LexisNexis; and Lydia Yang, Managing Director, Gold Mountains (H.K.) - International Mining Co. Ltd.

This follows the launch of the program last year where four scholarships were awarded to female executives from BMO Financial Group, J.P. Morgan; Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Ltd.; and Maze Atelier Ltd.

More needs to be done to tap Hong Kong's and Asia's talented pool of female executives, providing a path for senior leadership roles. Hong Kong-listed companies have just 11% of women on their boards and only 1.1% of c-suite positions are occupied by women in Asia (Catalyst).

"The full potential of half the population isn't being tapped in Hong Kong, Asia and around the world," said Dr. Janet De Silva, Dean of Ivey Asia. "Institutional restrictions are breaking in many organizations. Women now have fewer obstacles and greater opportunities to make it to senior leadership positions. But women need to break through their own aspiration gap and feel empowered and enabled to reach senior roles. The TWF Ivey scholarship program plays a crucial role in inspiring women to advance their careers. Ultimately, it will increase the supply of suitable women candidates for C-suite positions."

Su-Mei Thompson, CEO of The Women's Foundation, said: "This scholarship program is part of TWF's mission to challenge gender stereotypes and increase the number of women in decision-making and leadership positions. We are delighted to be partnering with Ivey on a second round of scholarships for accomplished female executives in Hong Kong. We are confident that all our scholarship recipients will emerge from the program to be role models, mentors and sponsors for other women around them."

Elizabeth Li, Vice President, J.P. Morgan, who won a 2013 scholarship said: "Ivey's Case Study Method is intuitive and really forces me to think more critically. I needed to sharpen



my skills, widen my horizon and to refresh what I learned in college. The Ivey EMBA program really does that for me.”

The six winners of the 2014 TWF Ivey Executive MBA scholarships will start their course on August 9, 2014 and graduate in 2016.

Full details can be found at [www.ivey.com.hk/emba/twfScholarship.html](http://www.ivey.com.hk/emba/twfScholarship.html)

**ENDS**

## **ABOUT IVEY BUSINESS SCHOOL ASIA**

The Ivey Business School ([www.ivey.com.hk](http://www.ivey.com.hk)) at Western University, the first international business school to establish a standalone campus in Greater China in Hong Kong in 1998, is Canada’s leading provider of relevant, innovative and comprehensive business education. Ivey Asia offers a top-ranked Executive MBA program, as well as a diverse range of Executive Development programs to over 1,000 executives annually in Hong Kong. Renowned for its case method teaching, Ivey Asia is recognized as one of just four exclusive Case Study Method schools globally and is the world’s foremost producer of Asian and Indian case studies and largest overall producer of business cases after Harvard Business School. The Case Study Method draws on extensive research and business experience, where Ivey Asia faculty provide an engaging and intensive educational experience, equipping graduates with the skills and capabilities needed to tackle leadership challenges in today’s complex business world. Ivey offers world-renowned undergraduate, Masters in Science, and doctoral degree programs at its Campus in London, Ontario, Canada. Ivey Asia also offers Chinese language executive education and a new EMBA program in the Mainland.

## **About The Women’s Foundation**

TWF is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of women in Hong Kong. The organization focuses on challenging gender stereotypes, increasing the number of women in decision-making and leadership positions, and empowering women in poverty to achieve a better quality of life for themselves and their families.

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