

Hong Kong's Secondary School Girls Leading on Technology for Social Good through The Women's Foundation STEM Competition

Hong Kong, March 13, 2021: The Women's Foundation, Hong Kong's leading NGO dedicated to improving the lives of women and girls, successfully held its virtual Girls Go Tech (GGT) STEM Competition 2020 Award Presentation, co-organised by Goldman Sachs, as part of its signature GGT Programme.

Under the theme "STEM for Social Good – Let's Support our Community", the STEM Competition challenged GGT participants aged 14-17 to build an app or a product prototype that would help improve the well-being and support resilience of the Hong Kong community under COVID-19.

100+ participants – divided into 32 teams - joined a series of virtual workshops where they learned how to utilise augmented reality, develop apps, use Python programming and polish their presentation skills. Each team then developed a unique mobile app or product prototype, with advice and support from corporate volunteers. These ideas were then pitched to a panel of judges who shortlisted 10 teams who made their final project presentations today.

Fiona Nott, CEO of TWF remarked: "STEM skills are essential for the future workforce but girls face many barriers in developing their STEM skills and pursuing related careers. From our research, we know girls have less confidence and support, and fewer opportunities in applying and mastering these skills. This is impacted by factors like socio-economic backgrounds, gender stereotypes and teacher and parental support. This is why opportunities like our virtual STEM Competition are so important to show how technology is applied in daily life and can help society, and in turn to build girls' confidence and future opportunities. These girls are the engineers, scientists and technologists of the future. We must work to close the gender gap in STEM as every girl deserves the opportunity to fully participate in the jobs of the future."

The event also served as the GGT Closing Ceremony 2020, celebrating the achievements of the Programme over the course of last year and featured an engaging panel discussion with four speakers from different generations of girls and young women interested in STEM, including two GGT participants, who explored the topic "How Has Technology Helped with our Well-being During the Pandemic?" The discussion addressed some of the challenges they observed over the past year and how they see technology alleviating some of these difficulties.

Marie Louise Kirk, head of Engineering for Asia Pacific at Goldman Sachs, said: "It has been a privilege to work with TWF over this competition and to support the Girls Go Tech Programme over the years.



The firm is committed to closing the gender gap in technology and empowering young women to pursue STEM careers.”

Here is a selection of the apps and product prototypes created by winning teams:

Grand Award and Best Market Potential Award

Smart Love Along App: An app that helps the elderly to take their medicine through a ‘smart’ dispensary that recognises the elderly through facial recognition and dispenses medicines with time reminders. The app also sends data to family members to send them caring messages and encouragement.

Team members: Luk Ka Man, Chan Man Hei, Hung Yui
School: Kit Sam Lam Bing Yim Secondary School

Best Creativity and Innovation Award

Caeles: An app that combines daily exercises and activities with fun online animations and games to keep people healthy and activities.

Team members: Chan Yuen Hei, Kwok Cheuk Yin, Juliana Lau
School: Ju Ching Chu Secondary School (Yuen Long)

Best Functionality Award

VR mental health counselling game at home: A VR mental health counselling game that helps people understand symptoms of mental health issues, offers online therapy, mindfulness exercises and other at-home activities to help regulate their emotional well-being.

Team members: Chan Pui Chi, Lo Yi Ching, Chik Hoi Lam
School: Ho Dao College (sponsored by Sik Sik Yuen)

Best Presentation Award

For U: An app that provides an outlet for stress relief through gratitude photo-journaling, mini-games, daily motivational quotes and self-care tips, and mental health check-ins.

Team members: Au Yeung Tin Kit, Zhang Mei Yi (Minnie), Tang Sin Yan, and Natalie Yuen
School: Belilios Public School

Netizen’s Choice Award – public vote

Mask Off: A app that encourages users to strengthen their interpersonal relationships through guessing each other's facial expressions and competing to mimic actions, with an added function of virtually dressing up your pets and sharing photos across social media platforms.

Team members: Leung Cheuk Ying, Chau Ho Yan (Katie), Chen Yanzhi, Lui Hoi Ting
School: St. Catharine’s School for Girls (Kwun Tong)



The final project pitches submitted by 28 teams can be viewed here:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvbCtVr3XkuEw_dMk2rdg-Q/videos?view=0&sort=da

GGT participant Ho Chi Hin from SKH All Saints Middle School, said: “My interest in STEM began when I was in Form 2. I felt a bit embarrassed as female participants were the minority in the STEM team. But after I joined the GGT Programme, I was able to find many female friends who are also interested in STEM. I [also] had the opportunity to serve as a teaching assistant for a GGT workshop. I [enjoyed] shar[ing] my coding skills with the participants and realised that I have the ability to teach to others. I feel equipped with the skills to pursue ICT subjects at university.”

The GGT STEM Competition Awards Presentation 2020 had training support from the Association of I.T. Leaders in Education, Hour of Code Hong Kong and Google, and venue support from the Hong Kong Productivity Council, as well as the support of the Association of Hong Kong Chinese Middle Schools, Education Bureau, eLearning Consortium, Hong Kong Association for Computer Education, Hong Kong Association for Science and Mathematics Education, Hong Kong Association of Careers Masters and Guidance Masters, Hong Kong Association of the Heads of Secondary Schools, Hong Kong EdCity.

For more information about the GGT STEM Competition 2020, visit:

<https://sites.google.com/view/ggt-stem-competition>

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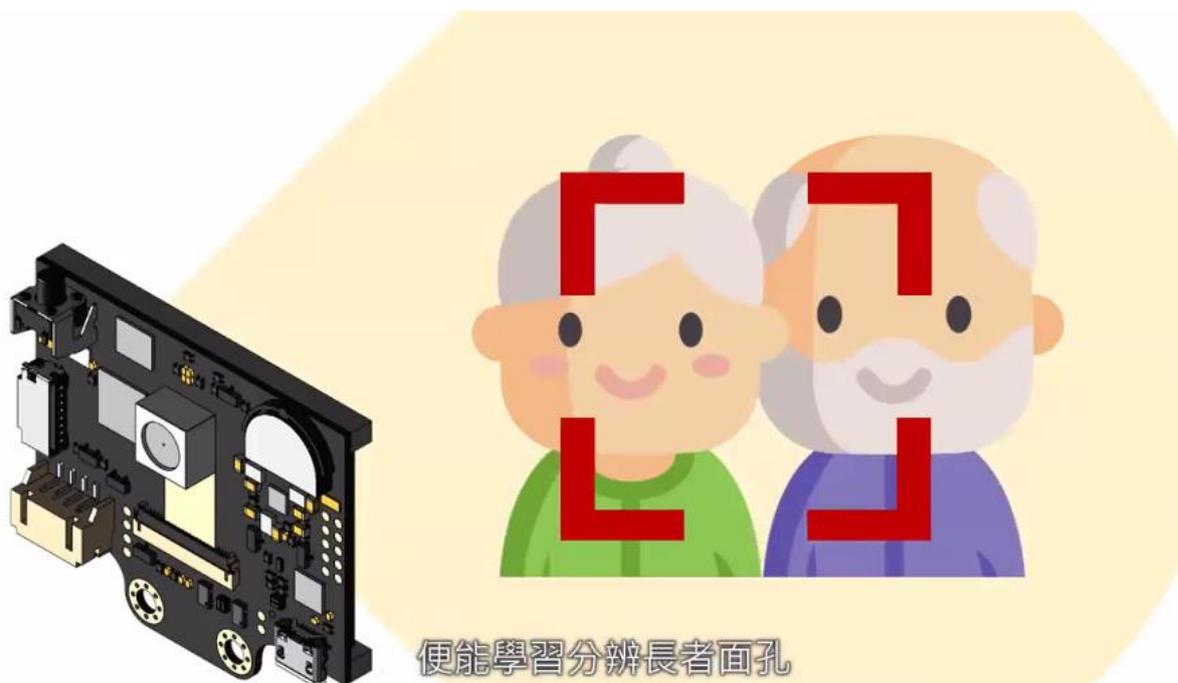
Photo Caption:



From left to right and top to bottom: **Marie Louise Kirk**, Head of Engineering, Asia Pacific, Goldman Sachs; **Karen Fung**, Head of HKPC Academy, Hong Kong Productivity Council; **Jimmy Lam**, Executive Committee Member, Association of I.T. Leaders in Education; **Ada Au**, Industry Head, Large Customer Sales, Google; **Fiona Nott**, CEO, The Women's Foundation; **Angelina Kwan**, Board Vice Chair, The Women's Foundation; Team 27 SHK All Saints' Middle School, Team 17 Ju Ching Chu Secondary School, **Chi Keung Tse**, head of Asia Pacific Technology and head of Equities Technology and Prime Services Technology in Asia Pacific and Bengaluru, Goldman Sachs



From left to right: **Connie Cheung**, Programme Director (Acting), The Women's Foundation; **Akemi Kwong**, former GGT Participant (2015) and current Year 1 university student (Computer Science); **Phoenix Yau**, Digital Literacy Programme participant and student at Sau Mau Ping Catholic Primary School; **Ho Chi Hin**, GGT participant and student at SKH All Saints Middle School; **Lily Yung**, an associate in Engineering at Goldman Sachs



Grand Prize Award winner, Smart Love Along App, presentation excerpt



About The Women's Foundation

The Women's Foundation is a Hong Kong registered not-for-profit organisation dedicated to improving the lives of women and girls in Hong Kong. TWF is focused on challenging gender stereotypes, increasing the number of women in decision-making and leadership roles, and empowering women in poverty through ground-breaking research, innovative and impactful community programmes, and education and advocacy.

Follow TWF on [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#). Stay connected by [signing up](#) to TWF's newsletter to receive regular updates on its initiatives, programmes and events.

About the Girls Go Tech (GGT) Programme

The GGT Programme aims to inspire underprivileged secondary school girls to view the traditionally male-dominated subjects and careers of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) as viable future options. Participants engage in online self-learning courses and a resources sharing platform paired with real-life tech-related activities to further develop their skills, knowledge and interest in coding and STEM-related initiatives.

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