

International Women's Conference

Workshop 7 – Women's Vision for Future Society

This workshop was led by Dr Mee-Yan Cheung-Judge and addressed the issue “what kind of society do we want to co-create through our leadership capability?”

First we ‘got connected’. We learnt many personal things about each other and the most memorable was that one of our colleagues has 3 wardrobes full of shoes but we agreed that she needs every single pair! The relevance of this became clear when we learnt that in the US 81% of women control household expenditure. Women can influence change through their use of buying power

Mee-Yan introduced us to a method adapted from ‘future search’, which when used fully takes two days.

First we used time lines to identify;

- global factors impacting on a specific period
- significant happenings for women during the period
- key life experiences of the participants during the period

Then we extracted from these time lines the story they had to tell.

- The global story was one of cycles of optimism, opportunity and hope for peace and prosperity, punctuated with conflict and aggression. We don't understand this new order or where the power lies but we see women contributing to the peace process through direct action and helping to set the foundations for a new kind of society. Technological and social change is challenging but also provides exciting opportunities.
- The women's journey (in the western world at least) shows gradual progress towards more equal rights in society and in work. As societies change the type of journey women need to make may change too. Do we want to play the existing game better or do we want to change the game?
- Key life experiences for women are very personal and holistic focusing on relationships and family.

After reflection on these stories we co-created a vision for the future. For some this took the shape of a personal pledge to take action but overall it was a view not just about the future of and for women, but a vision about how to make the world a better place for everyone.

These are the photographs of the timelines, stories and vision from both workshops