
NEWS RELEASE

MSD Media Contact Donna Brown, Tel (852) 3971 2828	Asia Society Media Contact Katherine Yu, Tel (852) 2103 9513
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MSD and the Asia Society partner to raise awareness about Women's Health**"Women's Healthcare - Asia's Report Card" program launched on International Women's Day**

HONG KONG, March 8, 2012 - MSD and The Asia Society Hong Kong Center (ASHK Center) today announced a partnership to raise awareness about women's health issues in Hong Kong. The program – called "MSD and Asia Society Women's Healthcare – Asia's Report Card" - was officially inaugurated at the Asia Society's Hong Kong Center to mark International Women's Day.

The program includes a series of three events in 2012 directed at professional women with a focus on health and wellbeing, balancing the challenging demands of work and family, and the importance of regular health screening. The first program "Women on the Go – Working Women Today" is held in Asia Society's new state of art home in Hong Kong which recently also has it grand opening in a restored British military colonial buildings a month ago.

"We are excited to sponsor the Asia Report Card series with the Asia Society. This collaboration is another example of MSD's commitment to increasing awareness, prevention and treatment of diseases affecting women," said Grace Lau, managing director of MSD in Hong Kong. "We believe this program will help contribute to the important dialogue of women's well-being, and complements the work that the company has been doing with medical professionals and societies to increase public awareness around these critical health issues that so profoundly impact women, as well as our society and our economic prosperity and strength."

Today, women are increasingly under stress due to the twin demands of professional and societal expectations that often revolve around family. "Better educated women in Asia are fighting for equality in the workplace and taking on executive positions in the corporate world as well as leadership roles in many sectors," said Asia Society President Vishakha N. Desai. "This is a good thing. But there is also a downside to their professional success in the form of health problems. Because women play such critical multifaceted roles in the community, any steps that improve their health prospects will have a definite, positive impact on society as a whole.

Pam P. Cheng, senior vice president and chief operating officer for MSD in China was invited as a guest panelists together with 3 other panlists: Robin Bishop, chief operating officer, Community Business; Professor Sian Griffiths, director, school of public health and primary care, faculty of medicine, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, and Sophia Kao, former chairperson, Women's Commission, helped to launch the program today. They shared their view that Women Leader while enjoying their professional success should put more attention to their own health. Any improvements in health of any Women Leader in fact will have a positive impact on the society.

About Asia Society

Asia Society is the leading educational organization dedicated to promoting mutual understanding and strengthening partnerships among peoples, leaders and institutions of Asia and the United States in a global context. Across the fields of arts, business, culture, education, and policy, the Society provides insight, generates ideas, and promotes collaboration to address present challenges and create a shared future. Founded in 1956 by John D. Rockefeller 3rd, Asia Society is a nonpartisan, nonprofit institution with headquarters in New York, centers in Hong Kong and Houston, and affiliated offices in Los Angeles, Manila, Sydney, Mumbai, San Francisco, Seoul, Shanghai, and Washington, DC. Asia Society is hosting its “Women Leaders in New Asia” Conference in Shanghai and Zhenjiang, Jiangsu Province, People’s Republic of China, April 19 – 21, 2012.

Asia Society Hong Kong Center was established in 1990 by a group of Hong Kong community leaders as the Society's first overseas office. It is a leading platform in the discussion of pan-Asian issues, US-Asia relations and global matters that affect the region. Asia Society Hong Kong's newly opened Center will host close to 100 programs annually, including lectures, film screenings, performances and tours that cover areas as diverse as business, economics, politics, education, and arts and culture.

About MSD

Merck Sharp & Dohme ("MSD") is a global research-driven pharmaceutical company dedicated to putting patients first. Established in 1891, MSD currently discovers, develops, manufactures and markets vaccines and medicines to address unmet medical needs. The company devotes extensive efforts to increase access to medicines through far-reaching programs that not only donate MSD medicines but help deliver them to the people who need them. MSD also publishes unbiased health information as a not-for-profit service. For more information, visit www.merck.com.

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