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# The Hong Kong Institute of Chartered Secretaries

## Enhanced Continuing Professional Development (ECPD) Training

### Women on Boards: Value All Around

9 January 2020

Presenter:

**Ms Teresa Ko**

Ms Teresa Ko BBS JP is Freshfields' China Chairman and Senior Partner, Hong Kong.

Described as "an icon in the industry", she is one of the most prominent corporate and securities lawyers in Hong Kong.

Teresa has helped numerous businesses list on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange (HKSE), including Chinese state-owned, privately owned and international companies. Many of these were high-profile or "first of a kind" ground-breaking transactions. She has listed nine out of ten of the largest IPOs in Hong Kong including Alibaba and Budweiser APAC, the two biggest Hong Kong IPOs in 2019. She has also advised public and private companies on mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures and corporate governance matters.

Teresa currently serves as one of four co-Chairmen of the HKSE's inaugural Listing Review Committee. She is also a Deputy Chairman of the Securities and Futures Commission's Takeovers and Mergers Panel, a Trustee of the IFRS Foundation and a member of the Cyberport Advisory Panel.

Among her many public service appointments, Teresa was the first female to chair the HKSE's Listing Committee (between 2009 and 2011) and served as its Deputy Chairman from 2006 to 2008. She also served as a non-executive director of the SFC from 2012 to 2018.

As the first female chair of HKSE's Listing Committee, Teresa initiated a discussion on board diversity which led to Hong Kong's listed companies being required to disclose their diversity policy and recently, strongly advocated Hong Kong IPO applicants to include a gender diverse board.



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**Ms Teresa Ko (Cont'd)**

She is a founding member and a steering committee member of The 30% Club Hong Kong and an active supporter of The Women's Foundation having hosted or through Freshfields, sponsored many of their events.

She was recently awarded as Champion of Women in Business by the HERoes Women Role Model List which is supported by Yahoo Finance and the Bronze Bauhinia Star (BBS) by the Hong Kong Government.

Teresa joined Freshfields in 1988, becoming a partner in 1993 and China Chairman in 2011.

Teresa earned a first class master's degree in law from Jesus College, Cambridge, England.