

Hong Kong

## Mainland MBA launched for female entrepreneurs

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Top European business school HEC Paris has joined forces with investment bank Goldman Sachs and Tsinghua University to offer a new business programme aimed at nurturing young female entrepreneurs on the mainland.

Sponsored by Goldman Sachs, the course is part of the bank's "10,000 Women" initiative to empower females to pursue success in the business world. Based on HEC's MBA programme, the 3-1/2-month course will admit 50 female students in May, with the aim of training more than 450 female entrepreneurs on the mainland over the next five years.

Candidates must have an undergraduate degree and a minimum of three years' work experience. It will be conducted by academics from HEC's and Tsinghua's business faculties and Goldman Sachs business veterans will serve as mentors.

HEC associate dean Valerie Gauthier said the programme would fill the gap in business education for females on the mainland.

"There is a very strong groundswell of entrepreneurship in China," she said. "However, many women there are still lacking the tools and guidance that would allow them to take small successful businesses to the next stage where they would begin to generate wealth and employment on a wider basis. We believe that this new programme will be the first important step in helping to solve that problem."

Director of executive development programmes with Tsinghua, Xue Lei, said the initiative could give aspiring mainland businesswomen a better opportunity of succeeding.

"The programme can help underserved Chinese businesswomen develop knowledge, skills and networks to create innovative and sustainable businesses," he said.