Heather MCGREGOR
Managing Director of Taylor, Bennett and Financial Times columnist
United Kingdom

Heather McGregor is the Managing Director and the principal shareholder of the executive search company Taylor Bennett, which specialises in communications appointments. She has an MBA from the London Business School and a PhD from the University of Hong Kong. Heather was the founder of the Taylor Bennett Foundation, which works to promote diversity in the communications industry by equipping talented graduates from ethnic minorities with the skills and confidence to pursue successful communications careers.

Heather is also the current chair of the charity Career Academies UK which works with 16-19 year olds to raise their aspirations through the provision of a structured programme including a six week paid internship, and was a founding member of the steering committee of the 30% Club, which is working to raise the representation of women at senior levels within the UK’s publicly quoted companies.

She is also an experienced writer and broadcaster, and has a weekly column in the Financial Times. Her book Careers Advice for Ambitious Women was published by Penguin in 2012 and has been translated into six languages.

“I believe that women can secure more of the most senior positions than previously, through a combination of educating employers, and supporting the women themselves. The 30% Club in the UK has shown what can be achieved without legislation, and non-executive director appointments here are well on target to get to 30% by 2015. Attention now needs to turn to the pipeline.”

Closing the Gender Gap: Act Now