

Name: Yingjing Deng

Organization: Nanjing World Youth Development Service Center

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good afternoon. My name is Yingjing Deng, and I am a Senior Program Manager at MIT, also represent the Nanjing World Youth Development Service Center, an NGO from China focusing on global youth development, with a focus of supporting young women in their career development.

To encourage more women to engage in the sciences, I think it is critical to create spaces within research institutions where women scientists and practitioners can exchange ideas and support each other. For example, two years ago, I managed a China-US education and research collaborative program at MIT. Of the 11 Chinese students who visited MIT that year, only two were female. During our weekly meetings, the two girls often remained silent, merely listening as conversations were predominantly led by their male counterparts. However, this changed after I invited them to a women-only weekend lunch with a female professor. The transformation was remarkable. They became more talkative and formed a close, supportive group. They not only encouraged each other but also found inspiration in the example set by their female professor mentor. Research shows that female scientists without mentors have the lowest levels of career optimism. It is crucial to stimulate the scientific interests of young women and to arrange for mentors to guide their career development. This support group provided them with tremendous support and encouragement and subsequently, one of these students received an offer from MIT and committed herself to pursuing scientific research.

Similarly, the NGO I am representing, Nanjing World Youth Development Service Center, also co-organized many training program to support young women in their career development.

Although women are in the minority in scientific fields, by forming tight-knit, supportive communities, they can draw immense strength and advance their contributions to science and technology.

Thank you for your attention.