

8 March 2018

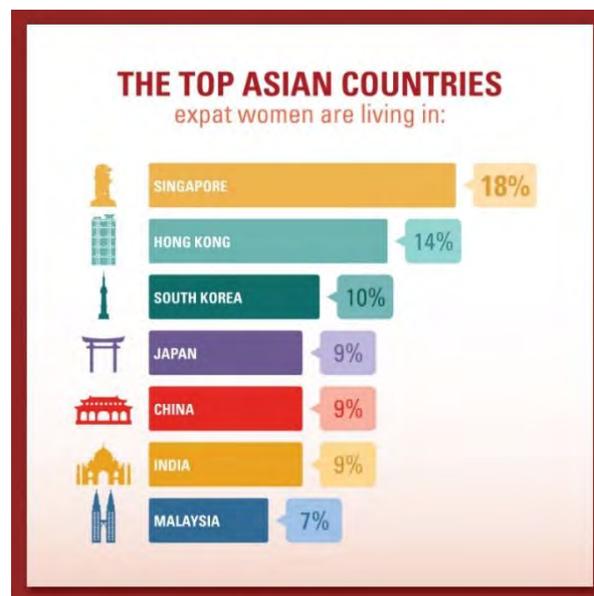
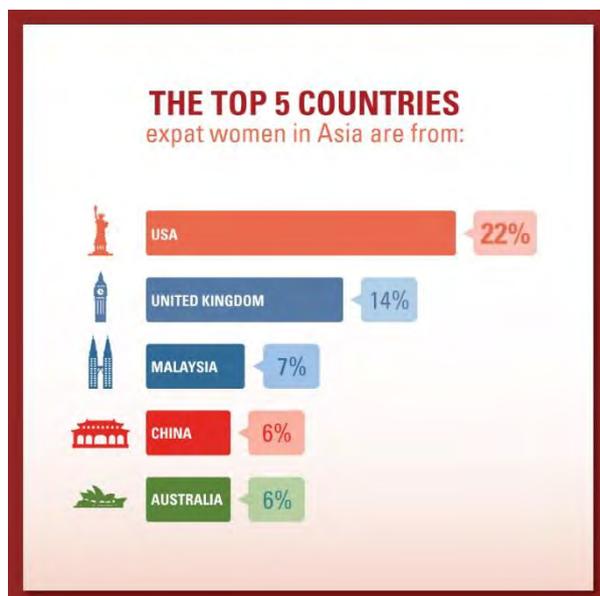
Female Expats Are Succeeding in Asia

Asia is a great place for expat women to progress their career and increase their earnings potential

As we celebrate International Women's Day #pressforprogress, we take a look at expat working women. Since the 1990s, women's participation in the global workforce has been steady at about 40%¹ More and more women are getting an education and have a broader choice of employment options, including working overseas.

Expat women in Asia

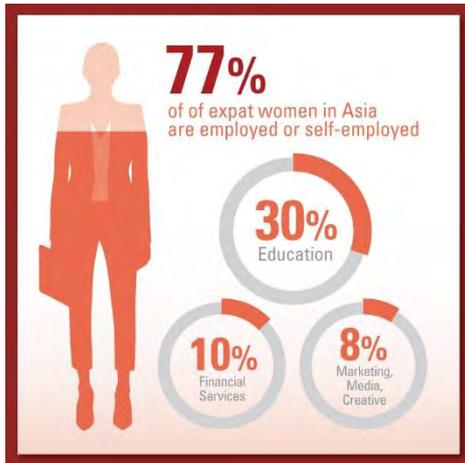
HSBC's 2017 Expat Explorer survey reveals that within Asia, female expats come predominantly from the West, but a significant proportion is coming from the region as trade and investments within Asia continue to grow.



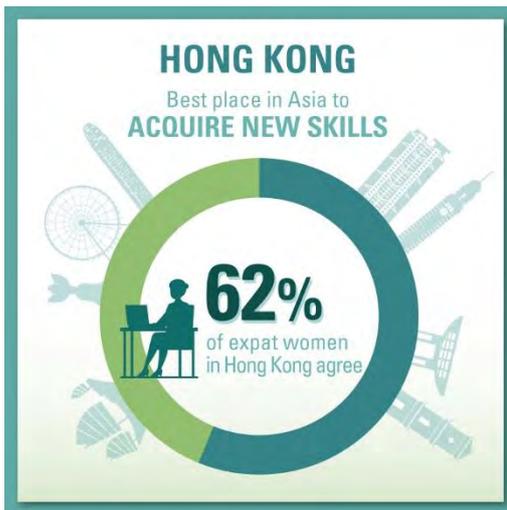
* See appendix for top 10 tables

Almost 8 in 10 female expats in Asia are employed, either full time (64%), part-time (6%) or self-employed (7%), This is a far cry from the traditional view of women as trailing spouses, less than 10% are a stay-at-home partner. Almost 50% of expat women in Asia are employed in education, financial services or marketing and media.

¹ World Bank <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.TLF.TOTL.FE.ZS?view=chart>

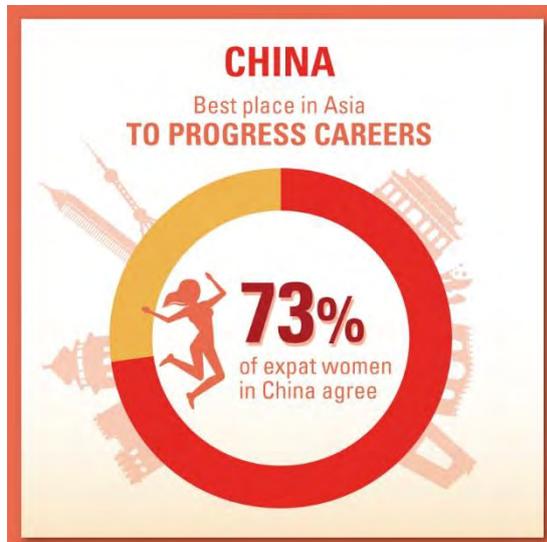


There are a variety of reasons why female expats choose to live and work in Asian countries:



Hong Kong tops the best places to acquire new skills in Asia for female expats with 62%, Singapore a close second at 61%, China at 47%, Taiwan at 44% and Vietnam at 43%.

For those female expats looking to progress their careers, China tops the this list with 73% agreeing, 64% in Hong Kong, 62% in India, 60% in Singapore and 52% in Indonesia.



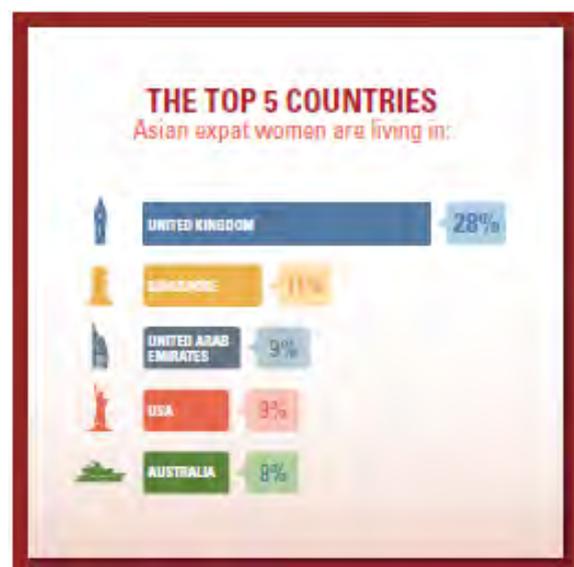


The best place for female expats to improve their earning prospects is Singapore with 71% agreeing, followed by Hong Kong 55%, China 45%, South Korea 44% and Vietnam 42%.

- The top 5 countries for female expats in Asia to experience good work/life balance are Thailand 62%, Vietnam 58%, Singapore & Taiwan 49%, Indonesia 44% and Malaysia 42%.
- In terms of job security, Japan and Taiwan are rated the best at 50%, with Singapore a close second at 49% and Hong Kong following closely behind at 47%, India is placed fourth at 45% and China at 41%.
- For work culture, the top 5 countries are Singapore 51%, Hong Kong 44%, Vietnam 43%, Indonesia 39% and China 36%.
- For those female expats looking to find personal fulfillment at work, the best places in Asia are: Singapore 56%, China 48%, India 48%, Hong Kong 47% and Indonesia 41%.

Asian expat women

Asia is not only a destination for expats but a source of female talent for Europe, North America and key markets in Asia-Pacific. We are seeing Asian women venturing abroad especially from India, Philippines, China, Malaysia and Hong Kong in professions such as financial services, health and education. We are also seeing female expats increasingly move intra-Asia as intra-regional trade and investments continue to grow.



* See appendix for top 10 tables

Around 7 in 10 female, Asian expats are employed full-time (60%), part-time (8%) or self-employed (4%). Only 9% of Asian, expat women are a stay-at-home partner. Almost 40% of Asian, expat women are employed in financial services, health or education.



Financial Planning for Expat Women

Mark Surgenor, Acting Head of Premier & Wealth, Asia Pacific at HSBC, says, “Female expats bring new energy to a growing international workforce. There are a myriad of benefits as well as challenges in a life away from home, which includes adapting to a new culture and lifestyle, managing complex finances and staying connected to family and friends back home.”.

Mark continues, “Working abroad offers a premium on earnings so expat women need to be money-wise and wealth-savvy. Financial independence and long-term security start with a plan. Financial planning allows women to map out their goals based on their present circumstances and future needs. With early preparation and a disciplined approach to finances, female expats can take advantage of extra income to support a variety of needs – from emergency funds to retirement, health protection to children’s education. And make informed changes along the way as their personal situation and financial holdings evolve.”

A 3-point financial checklist for female expats

Save now. Build up your own savings fund and be disciplined to set aside a specific amount on a regular basis. No amount is too small, and you can top-up whenever you have extra income or a bonus. You can use these funds to create an emergency stash, save for the down payment for a new car or flat, or accumulate excess funds to start investing for long-term goals such as retirement.

Manage multiple savings and investments efficiently. You will find yourself with savings, investments and credit cards in both your home and host markets which may feel daunting without a single view of your balances, transactions and investment holdings. Check for international banking services that allow you to access your range of accounts at home and abroad. Online and mobile banking will help you do many transactions remotely, such as paying bills or making routine transfers.

There could be new investment options suitable for you in your host market especially if you are in an international finance centre such as Hong Kong,

Singapore, the US or the UK. Bear in mind, whether you're new to investing or experienced enough to DIY (do-it-yourself), a balanced and diversified portfolio consisting of cash and suitable investments may help you take advantage of opportunities to cope with inflation, grow wealth and manage volatility. You'll also need to take an active approach to managing your currency exposures.

Prepare for the unexpected. At home or away, insurance protection is critical to ensure the needs and lifestyle of your dependents and other family members are met and future goals are left unchanged. Women's health issues can be varied and change over time. Make sure you have adequate health coverage to take care of short term illnesses and preventive care but more importantly, review and adjust coverage to prepare for rising costs of critical illness and health care. You may also need to supplement existing policies with cover for specific needs such as maternity, travel, evacuation and repatriation. Don't leave yourself unprepared and underinsured in a foreign country.

Expatriate Explorer online:

Report and country comparisons: <https://expatexplorer.hsbc.com/survey/>

Tweet @: www.twitter.com/expatexplorer

Facebook: www.facebook.com/hsbcexpat

Expatriate experiences blog: www.expatexplorer.blogspot.com/

Expatriates' ratings of 46 host countries are available to explore online through the [Expatriate Explorer interactive tool](#).

Are you an expatriate? [Take the 2018 survey here](#).

ends/more

Note to editors:

HSBC Holdings plc

HSBC Holdings plc, the parent company of HSBC Group, is headquartered in London. The Group serves customers worldwide from around 3,900 offices in 67 countries and territories in Europe, Asia, North and Latin America, and the Middle East and North Africa. With assets of \$2,522bn at 31 December 2017, HSBC is one of the world's largest banking and financial services organisations.

About the Expatriate Explorer survey

The Expatriate Explorer survey was open to adults over 18 years old currently living away from their country of origin/home country.

The survey was completed by 27,587 expatriates from 159 countries and territories through an online questionnaire in March and April 2017, conducted by YouGov and commissioned by HSBC Expatriate. With a minimum sample of 90 expatriate respondents required, 52 cities were included in the data analysis.

About HSBC Expatriate

HSBC Expatriate is a trading name of HSBC Bank International Limited. HSBC Expatriate is an award winning provider of expatriate financial services, with its head office based in Jersey, Channel Islands. It also has representation in Dubai and Hong Kong. As part of HSBC Holdings plc, HSBC Expatriate has the experience to offer tailored financial solutions to customers living and working abroad. For more information visit: www.expatriate.hsbc.com.

Appendix: Additional Data

Top 10 Home Countries of Expatriate Women Living & Working in Asia (in a host country)		
1	USA	22%
2	United Kingdom	14%
3	Malaysia	7%
4	China	6%
5	Australia	6%
= 6	Canada	4%
= 6	India	4%
= 7	Philippines	3%
= 7	France	3%
= 7	Germany	3%

Top 10 Countries for Expat Women to live in, in Asia		
1	Singapore	18%
2	Hong Kong	14%
3	South Korea	10%
= 4	Japan	9%
= 4	China	9%
= 4	India	9%
5	Malaysia	7%
6	Taiwan	6%
= 7	Thailand	5%
= 7	Indonesia	5%

Top 10 Home Countries of Asian Expatriate Women living in a Host Country		
1	India	25%
2	Philippines	15%
3	Malaysia	11%
= 3	China	11%
4	Hong Kong	7%
5	Japan	5%
6	Singapore	4%
= 7	Indonesia	3%
= 7	Sri Lanka	3%
8	Taiwan	2%

Top 10 Countries for Asian Expat Women to Live In		
1	United Kingdom	28%
2	Singapore	11%
3	UAE	9%
= 4	USA	8%

= 4	Australia	8%
5	Canada	6%
6	Hong Kong	5%
= 7	China	2%
= 7	Qatar	2%
= 7	Russia	2%

ends/all