At home with Mr Mom

Not every trailing spouse of an expat on the move is a man. Qiu Yiijiao profiles two high-flying executives whose husbands manage the home front.

It is often said, "behind every successful man there is a woman." But as more women storm the corporate world, hardest hit may be the careers of the trailing spouses. For these women, the question of managing the home front is an important one. Many women have found themselves in a similar situation when they were posted to Beijing. But hard luck and shrewd planning can help ease the pain.

"When we arrived in China, we were so young and my husband thought we would have this foreign exposure while we were young," says Jill Lee. "I was more interested in the opportunity.

"Anthony changed their traditional beliefs that men must do good housework. The husband and wife attended even renamed the Mothers' Association to Fathers' Association," says Lee.

"Right from the beginning, it was very open-minded about this (different gender roles)," says Leong. "It is also good to believe in both Bill and I share the idea that each of us contribute. Our main concerns are the family. We are very comfortable with the different responsibilities we manage."

One of Les' colleagues who had not yet left asked him which department he headed. "I told him I was responsible for Jill and we both had a good laugh.

Les has no qualms about telling people that at home Lee is the senior. The fact that she can move all the decisions making to me she feels more secure at work.

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