

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Asia Society Hong Kong Center Appoints Scholar-in-Residence

Hong Kong, June 14th, 2023 - The Asia Society Hong Kong Center (ASHK) is honored to announce the appointment of two Scholars, Professor Christine Loh and Professor Alejandro Reyes, to the Scholar-in-Residence Program.

The ASHK Scholar-in-Residence Program is an initiative to appoint and engage leading thinkers based in Hong Kong to contribute significant research and original analysis in areas of critical importance to the current state of affairs in Asia. Professor Loh and Professor Reyes are experts in their own fields and have reached outstanding achievements. At the same time, they have combined teaching and academic research with professional careers.

Ms. S. Alice Mong, Executive Director at ASHK, said, “the Scholar-in-Residence Program will deepen Hong Kong’s understanding of Asia and our role in the region through research, analysis and policy recommendations, and inform Hong Kong businesses, government and education organizations of major existing and emerging trends that have an impact on our future engagement in Asia and the world. We are proud to have Professor Loh and Professor Reyes joining our Scholar-in-Residence Program that commences in July 2023.”

The Scholar-in-Residence Program is awarded to established thought-leaders from academia with expertise in the areas of foreign policy, geo-economics, sustainability/climate/environment, business, trade, finance, and investment. It is planned that the 2 Scholars will give public talks and briefings to present and discuss research findings, analysis and policy recommendations.

The Scholar-in-Residence Program will contribute to the work of ASHK, to extend the diverse network across the globe, with the mission to promote the idea of a shared future for Asia and the world in the fields of arts and culture, business and policy.

The Scholar-in-Residence Series will kick off on July 5 with the first of a two-part program featuring [Professor Loh and exploring China’s environmental journey since the 1980s](#) and its road to decarbonization. Professor Loh will discuss the environmental challenges China has faced over the past forty years, concluding with where China finds itself at this point in time, including Hong Kong’s role over the decades. The second part will take place on September 5 and will focus on China’s decarbonization pathway going forward, discussing how China plans to achieve carbon neutrality by 2060. Register to attend the program [here](#).



Professor Christine Loh joins ASHK as Scholar-In-Residence

Research Areas: Sustainability/Environment, Geopolitics, Green Finance, China

Professor Christine Loh, SBS, JP, OBE, Chevalier de l'Ordre National du Mérite, is Chief Development Strategist at the Institute for the Environment, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST), engaging in teaching and research. Her teaching experience includes a course on Non-Market Risks at the Anderson School of Management, University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) from 2018-2022. She is a Visiting Scholar at the Anderson School of Management's Center for Global Management.

She was Under Secretary for the Environment in the HKSAR Government (2012-17). Between April 2019 and March 2020, she was the Special Consultant to the Office of the Chief Executive of the HKSAR Government on the ecological civilization aspects of the Greater Bay Area Outline Development Plan. She has also been a member of the Hong Kong Legislative Council. She has been active in public policy and politics since the 1980s. She founded and was the CEO of the non-profit think tank, Civic Exchange (2000-12), and helped to establish several charitable foundations, and non-profit organizations in Hong Kong related to the environment, equal opportunities, and arts and culture. She serves on several for profit and non-profit boards in Hong Kong and overseas. A lawyer by training and a commodities trader by profession, Professor Loh is also a published author of many academic and popular works.

Professor Loh is currently a board member of CDP Worldwide, Global Maritime Forum, New Forests Pty Ltd, and Towngas Smart Energy Company Limited. She is also a member of the BASF Stakeholder Advisory Council. She holds an English law degree from the University of Hull, England, and a Masters of Law degree in Chinese and Comparative Law from the City University of Hong Kong. She has been awarded the degree of Doctor of Law, honoris causa, by the University of Hull in 2001, and Doctor of Science, honoris causa by the University of Exeter in 2016.



Professor Alejandro Reyes joins ASHK as Scholar-In-Residence

Research Area: Asia-Pacific Affairs – Multilateralism

Professor Alejandro Reyes is adjunct professor and director of knowledge dissemination at Asia Global Institute, the think tank on global issues at The University of Hong Kong (HKU), where he manages the digital journal *AsiaGlobal Online*. Prior to joining the Institute, he was for two years senior policy adviser to the assistant deputy minister for Asia Pacific and set up and led the Asia-Pacific policy planning unit at Global Affairs Canada, the Canadian foreign ministry. He had previously served in the department in 2002 as a senior policy adviser to the Canadian foreign minister, working on the G8 and a review of Canadian foreign policy.

From 2007 to 2017, he was an associate professor in the Department of Politics and Public Administration at HKU. A Hong Kong-based independent consultant from 2001 to 2017, he worked with several foundations and international organizations including the G20 Business Summit, the Clinton Global Initiative, the World Economic Forum and the US-Asia Institute, as well as some corporate clients. He has edited or written several books including a history of Manila in the closing days of the Japanese Occupation, an Asian investment guide, and a survey of the financial services sector in Asia. He began his professional career as a journalist with *Asiaweek* magazine, part of Time Inc, where he worked from 1988 to 2001 in Hong Kong and Singapore. Born in the Philippines and a citizen of Canada, he was educated at Harvard University and the University of Oxford and in 2000 was awarded an honorary doctorate by Queens University in Charlotte, North Carolina.

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About Asia Society Hong Kong Center

Asia Society Hong Kong Center (ASHK) is an independent non-governmental educational organization established in 1990 by a group of Hong Kong community leaders led by Sir Quo-wei Lee, then Chairman of Hang Seng Bank. It is one of 14 centers of Asia Society's diverse network across the globe, with the mission to navigate shared futures for Asia and the world in the fields of arts and culture, business and policy. Since 2012, ASHK is situated at the Former Explosives Magazine of the Victoria Barracks, a site steeped in history, cultural significance, and natural beauty. The 1.3 hectares site, housing four former British military buildings, was built by the British Army in the mid-19th century for explosives and ammunition production and storage. Through conservation, restoration and adaptive reuse, the heritage site has been transformed into a cultural and intellectual hub, combining heritage preservation with a distinct modern aesthetic complete with world-class performance and conference facilities that offer a broad range of arts and culture, business and policy programs, and exhibitions to the community. ASHK was established entirely with local funding, and is supported through membership dues, fundraising events, and contributions from individuals, corporations and foundations that support and advance its mission.

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