



**Asia**  
Society™

India Centre

# Asia Society India Centre Monsoon Edition 2011

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## Message from the Executive Director

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the Monsoon 2011 edition of Asia Society India Centre's quarterly newsletter. This is our way to help members stay informed about the array of activities that Asia Society is engaged in across our 11 global centres.

This quarter, Asia Society developed a range of programmes that helped our audiences stay ahead of latest developments in the Asia Pacific. These included an exhibition of photographs by renowned Chinese artist, Ai Wei Wei, and discussions with Hu Guangbei, Chief Executive and Vice Chairman of the Bank of China, and Kevin Rudd, former Prime Minister of Australia.

Though such programmes may be our most visible front, we also host a range of transnational and multidisciplinary initiatives. These reflect Asia Society's international presence and boost multilateral collaboration for regional progress. In this newsletter, we will

## Quick Links

[www.asiasociety.org/centers/india](http://www.asiasociety.org/centers/india)  
[www.facebook.com/AsiaSocietyIndiaCentre](https://www.facebook.com/AsiaSocietyIndiaCentre)  
[www.twitter.com/#!/AsiaSocietyIC](https://www.twitter.com/#!/AsiaSocietyIC)

## Upcoming Events

3 August  
*Landscape of Pluralism: An Illustrated Lecture on 'Architecture in India since 1990'*  
 With *Rahul Mehrotra*, Architect and Professor of Urban Planning and Design, Harvard University; *Naresh Fernandes*, Editor-in-Chief, TimeOut India  
 NCPA, 6:30pm, Mumbai

4 August  
*Growth with Financial Stability: Central Banking in an Emerging Market*  
 With *Rakesh Mohan*, Former Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India; *D Subbarao*, Governor, Reserve Bank of India; and *Y. V. Reddy*, Former Governor, Reserve Bank of India  
 The Lotus Room, Trident Hotel, Mumbai

3-4 September  
*InspirED Education Conference: A Conference on Transformation in Education*  
 With speakers including *Madhav Chavan*, CEO and Co-founder, Pratham; *Umesh Malhotra*, Chief Executive Director and Founder, Hippocampus Reading Foundation; *Steven Farr*, Chief Knowledge Officer, Teach for America; and *Norman Atkins*, Co-Founder and CEO, Teacher U  
 American School of Bombay, Mumbai

22 September,  
*Consumptionomics: Asia's Role in Reshaping Capitalism and Saving the Planet*  
 With *Chandran Nair*, Author and

spotlight such projects.

To stay abreast with our activities, do visit our Events Calendar (<http://www.asiasociety.org/events-calendar>), our Facebook page, (<http://www.facebook.com/AsiaSocietyIndiaCentre>), our Past Events page ([www.asiasociety.org/centers/india](http://www.asiasociety.org/centers/india)), and our Twitter page (<http://twitter.com/#!/AsiaSocietyIC>).

As a membership-based organization, Asia Society looks to the contributions of its supporters to sustain quality programming. Please see our membership form for information on how to become a member, and feel free to contact us with any questions: <http://www.asiasociety.org/support/membership/india>.

Our next newsletter will reach you in October 2011. Until then, we hope to welcome you at one of our upcoming events!

Bunty Chand  
Executive Director  
Asia Society India Centre

Founder, Global Institute for  
Tomorrow  
Mumbai

[www.asiasociety.org/events](http://www.asiasociety.org/events)

## Women Leaders of New Asia



In April 2011, Asia Society's Women Leaders of New Asia Summit in Singapore brought together leading women across sectors to discuss their roles, today and tomorrow, in an increasingly powerful Asia.

The event featured over 130 delegates from more than 22 countries. These included Selima Ahmad, President and Founder of the Bangladesh Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BWCCI), Margaret Alva, Governor of the State of Uttarakhand and

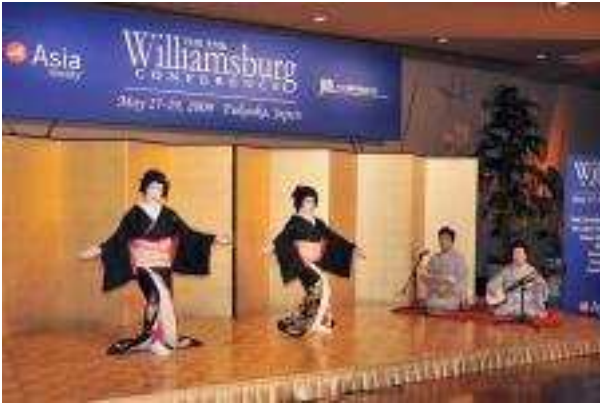
Shelly Lazarus, Chairman of Ogilvy & Mather Worldwide.

Singapore was chosen as the host city not only for its world-class facilities, but also its impressive record on gender issues in business and government.

The summit saw the launch of a bold new project in collaboration with the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy at the National University of Singapore, looking at Pathways to Women's Leadership in Asia- including academic research, capacity-building and networking. This project will aim to boost women's leadership in Asia in three different ways. Firstly, by gathering data on women's leadership in Asia, leading to a comparison between countries at next year's summit; secondly, analysing the factors, with specific focus on Asia, that affect women's leadership; and lastly, actively working to change the gender-balanced leadership culture in Asia via executive training and annual summits, which afford opportunities for women to learn, network and collaborate. This project will be led by Astrid S. Tuminez, Vice Dean of Research at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, and Vishakha Desai, President of Asia Society.

Visit <http://sites.asiasociety.org/womenleaders/> for more information.

## Williamsburg Conference



Asia Society's 39<sup>th</sup> Williamsburg Conference took place in May 2011 in Singapore, co-hosted with the Singapore Institute of International Affairs (SIIA).

This year's conference was titled *America and Asian Regionalism - a New Strategy for Multilateral Engagement*, and featured panelists such as Tommy Koh, Ambassador-At-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Singapore,

and Nayan Chanda, Director of Publications and Editor of Yale Global Online Magazine.

The Williamsburg Conference is the pre-eminent gathering of leading Americans and Asians committed to strengthening US-Asia relations. Founded by John D. Rockefeller the 3<sup>rd</sup> in 1971, the Williamsburg Conference has brought top leaders from Asia and the United States together for the past 38 years to discuss the greatest challenges facing the Asia-Pacific community and develop creative approaches for addressing them.

Visit <http://asiasociety.org/policy/williamsburg-conference> for more information.

## Asia Society Conference on Indo-US Cultural Exchange



(L-R) Joseph Melillo, Rajeev Sethi, Vishakha Desai, Julián Zugazagoitia and Homi K. Bhabha

The Asia Society Conference on Indo-US Cultural Exchange was held in New Delhi in June 2011, fully supported by a grant from the U.S Department of State. An initiative of Asia Society in New York and the Asia Society India Centre in Mumbai, the conference saw twenty museum and performing arts professionals from India and the United States come together for a three-day meeting, with the aim of developing and strengthening cooperation between museums and cultural organizations, sharing best practices, and providing support for cultural exchanges and collaborative visual and performing arts productions between institutions.

The conference culminated in a two-hour public programme, which included speakers Homi K. Bhabha, Director of the Humanities Centre at Harvard University, Kristy Edmunds, Executive and Artistic Director of UCLA Live at Los Angeles, Julián Zugazagoitia, Director of Nelson-Atkins Museum at Kansas City, and Rajeev Sethi, Chairman of Asian Heritage Foundation in New Delhi. The panel discussion explored the role of culture in an increasingly globalised world, how to bring about arts collaboration in cross cultural situations, and the challenges and opportunities faced by innovators working in a transnational environment.

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## New Voices Fellowship for Screenwriters (NVFS)

Asia Society India Centre announced the launch of the New Voices Fellowship for Screenwriters (NVFS) in July 2011, a programme to identify and support a group of six talented independent screenwriters to develop their feature film scripts by working in a dynamic and innovative environment with guidance from eminent filmmakers and screenwriters. The Fellowship is guided by an Advisory Council, led by Anjum Rajabali. Other members of the council include Dev Benegal, Saket Chaudhary, Nandita Das, Maithili Rao and Jaideep Sahni. The Mentors for the Fellows are Ashwini Malik, Sriram Raghavan and Vinay Shukla.



The India Centre's Executive Director, Bunty Chand, said about this Fellowship, "We are delighted to launch the New Voices Fellowship for Screenwriters. This initiative, coordinated by Asia Society's offices in New York and India, represents Asia Society's commitment to fostering creativity and nurturing new talent whether it be Asia Society's commitment to young leaders, women or in this instance, New Voices in Screenwriting."

Time Warner is the Founding Sponsor of the New Voices Fellowship for Screenwriters.

"As a company in the business of telling meaningful stories to audiences around the globe, Time Warner is proud to support Asia Society in launching this innovative program to find and nurture a new generation of talented Indian storytellers," said Lisa Garcia Quiroz, Senior Vice President of Corporate Responsibility at Time Warner.

We invite writers from across the country to submit an original story for consideration between July 11 and August 31 for the 2011 Fellowship.

For more details visit: <http://asiasociety.org/centers/india/new-voices-fellowship-screenwriters>

Join NVFS on Facebook for updates: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/New-Voices-Fellowship-for-Screenwriters/116942175060276>

If you have any questions write to [fellowship@asiasociety.org.in](mailto:fellowship@asiasociety.org.in)

## Asia Society Welcomes New Co-chairs: Henrietta Fore and Ronnie C. Chan

Asia Society has appointed its first ever Co-Chairs, Henrietta Holsman Fore and Ronnie C. Chan, in a move that mirrors the rise of both global interdependence and growing regional partnerships. As well as being Asia Society's first Co-Chairs in Asia and the United States, Ms. Fore is the first woman, and Mr. Chan the first Asian, to lead the Board since the institution was founded by John D. Rockefeller 3rd in 1956.

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Nitin Nayar  
Devita Saraf

Fore is Chairman and CEO of Holsman International, an investment and management company. From 2007 to 2009, she was Administrator of the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and Director of US Foreign Assistance, holding the rank equivalent to Deputy Secretary of State. Between 2005 and 2007, Fore served as Undersecretary of State for Management. Her prior appointments include Director of the US Mint in the Department of Treasury; Assistant Administrator for Asia and for Asia and Private Enterprise; and she also served as the Founding Chair of the US-Asia Environmental Partnership announced in Singapore by President George H.W. Bush. Fore received the Distinguished Service Award in 2009, the highest award the Secretary of State can bestow, and the Alexander Hamilton Award in 2005.

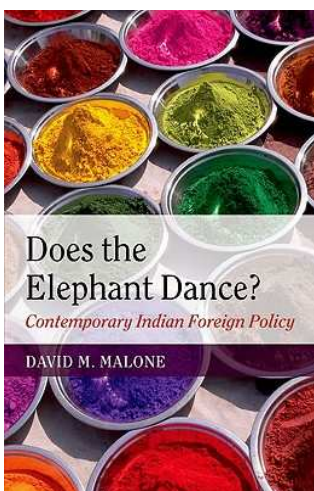


Chan is Chairman of Hang Lung Group Limited and its subsidiary, Hang Lung Properties Limited. Chan also co-founded the privately held Morningside group, which has invested in many businesses around the world and has many capital venture investments. Chan is actively involved with many non-profits, philanthropic endeavours and educational organizations. Chan is Chairman of Asia Society's Hong Kong Center and has worked extensively with Asia Society for over 20 years.

Soon after their appointment, the Co-Chairs began a tour through Asia Society's global centres.

Please visit: <http://asiasociety.org/video/policy/meet-asia-societys-first-co-chairs-0> and <http://asiasociety.org/media/press-releases/asia-society-appoints-first-ever-co-chairs-united-states-and-asia> for video interviews with the Co-chairs and for more information.

## Book Corner



### Does the Elephant Dance?: Contemporary Foreign Policy in India

*Does the Elephant Dance?: Contemporary Foreign Policy in India* by David M. Malone examines India's approach to foreign policy making in accordance with their increasing international stature.

Malone explores how Indian foreign policy is changing both within its South Asian neighbourhood and with respect to global powers such as the US and the EU and the impact of India's foreign policy strategies. Malone emphasizes how India seeks to outgrow Pakistan, rendering China India's principal regional relationship.

David Malone was a former Canadian High Commissioner to India, non-resident Ambassador to Bhutan and Nepal, managing Canada's largest diplomatic mission abroad. He is currently President of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC). Before this book, he also published *The Law and Practice of the United Nations*.

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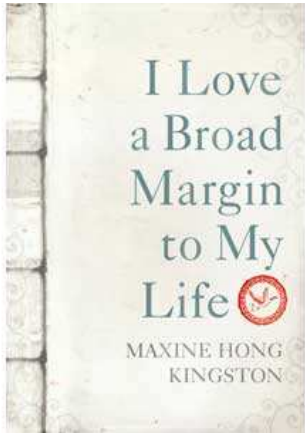
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On 18 May 2011, Asia Society's India Centre hosted an evening reception for David Malone to discuss his book with Political Columnist and Former Managing Director of India Today, Swapan Dasgupta, in collaboration with the Consulate General of Canada and International Development Research Centre.

Learn more about the programme at

<http://asiasociety.org/policy/governance/global/does-elephant-dance-indias-reactionary-foreign-policy-strategy>

### I Love a Broad Margin to My Life



Maxine Hong Kingston's last original work, *I Love a Broad Margin to My Life*, is a memoir of her life, drawing upon characters, themes and events from her previous works, focussing on the value of civil disobedience.

Kingston's other writings include *The Women Warrior* and *China Men*. She is concerned with the value of civil disobedience and the value of nonviolent action after being arrested in a 2003 demonstration against the war in Iraq.

On 21 April 2011, Asia Society's Northern California centre hosted an evening for Kingston which took on a valedictory air as she reflected on her legacy and spoke to Andrew Lam

at the Mechanics' Institute about her new book.

Learn more about the programme at <http://asiasociety.org/arts/literature/maxine-hong-kingston-broad-margin-her-life>

### Asia 21 - Vinita Shetty Investigates What Matters

*The Asia Society India Centre supports over 80 Asia 21 Fellows with varied backgrounds in areas such as environment, film, business, health, and education. This space will feature a different Asia 21 India Fellow in each edition and highlight their organisations, initiatives, and projects. To learn more about Asia 21 visit [www.asiasociety.org/asia21](http://www.asiasociety.org/asia21). This quarter, we look at Vinita Shetty, an accomplished journalist and writer.*

Vinita Shetty has previously served as Senior Editor of DNA. In her career spanning over a decade, she has worked for publications such as The Times of India and the Asian Age. She is deeply involved in issues of advocacy, social reform, grass roots activism, development and human rights, on both a personal level and as a journalist. Shetty has covered a wide variety of issues gripping Bangalore as the first City Editor of Bangalore Mirror, the city's first compact daily. She has lectured on women's rights, newsroom ethics, Indian media and youth issues.



Shetty is also part of I-Volunteer, which provides assistance to terminally ill children, the elderly, and the physically challenged, and volunteers and consults for other NGOs including

### About Asia Society

Asia Society is the leading global and pan-Asian organization working to strengthen relationships and promote understanding among the people, leaders, and institutions of the United States and Asia. We seek to increase knowledge and enhance dialogue, encourage creative expression, and generate new ideas across the fields of arts and culture, policy and business, and education.

Founded in 1956, Asia Society is a nonpartisan, nonprofit educational institution with offices in Hong Kong, Houston, Los Angeles, Manila, Melbourne, Mumbai, New York, San Francisco, Seoul, Shanghai, and Washington, DC.

Charles R. Kaye, Chairman,  
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Vishakha N. Desai, President

### Mailing List, Membership, and More

For more information on the following, please email

[admin@asiasociety.org.in](mailto:admin@asiasociety.org.in)

- Upcoming events
- Join the mailing list
- Individual membership
- Corporate Membership

If you would like to react, offer suggestions, or comment on any of the content you have read in this newsletter, we would be happy to hear from you. Please write to [asiasociety@asiasociety.org.in](mailto:asiasociety@asiasociety.org.in). We look forward to

the Network of Women in Media, India (NWIM). In addition, Shetty has scripted, researched and anchored a number of TV projects and is currently working on a documentary for the BBC. She graduated from Christ University with a degree in Journalism, Psychology and English, and was recently awarded a fellowship at Prague by the Fund for American Studies of the European Journalism Institute.

your active participation in the Asia Society India Centre community.

Thank you!