

Asia Society Inside and Outside of California

Asia Society Northern California has become more active in Asia as well as our home base of Northern California. Some highlights from programming these past few months include:

- In September, ASNC organized a panel to look beyond the headlines at what life is really like in North Korea with defector **Sunhee Jo**, whose story of courage in the face of unimaginable hardship was both inspiring and eye-opening.
- In October, we brought together leading healthcare experts to explore the key issues affecting healthcare across Asia at a time when people in the region are aging rapidly and the middle class is booming. The program was sponsored by **Pfizer**.
- In October, we helped organize a major Asia Society conference on innovation in China, "**From Silicon Valley to China: Innovation 2013.**" The conference was held in Tianjin, one of China's most rapidly growing cities, and featured business leaders and innovation experts from across Asia and the United States.
- In November, we partnered with the Natural Resources Defense Council to welcome **Ma Jun**, one of China's foremost environmental figures, who joined in conversation with ASNC Advisory Board Member **Lenny Mendonca** of McKinsey & Co. along with other experts.

Looking ahead, ASNC will continue to focus on bringing our programming outside California as well as serving our growing local audience. In March, the next Pacific Cities Sustainability Initiative Forum will be held in Manila and will focus on resilient and livable cities. In March, we will deliver another report on Chinese direct investment in the U.S. – the third in an increasingly high profile series. The report will focus on growing Chinese investment in U.S. high-technology sectors and will be launched at events in San Francisco, New York, and China.

Our close work with our many partners in Asia has made ASNC an innovative leader in U.S.-Asia relations. We hope to see you at coming events in San Francisco and beyond!

Sincerely,



N. Bruce Pickering
Vice President of Global Programs, Asia Society
Executive Director, Asia Society Northern California



Defector Sunhee Jo speaks about her experience escaping from North Korea (Asia Society)



Ma Jun speaks to the audience on creating a cleaner China (Asia Society)



Josselyn Sheeran and Ethan Allen CEO Farooq Kathwari at Innovation 2013 (Asia Society)



Healthcare panel discussion featuring Jorge Puente, Regis Kelly, Karen Eggleston, Wei Siang Yu (Asia Society)

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The Pacific Cities Sustainability Initiative Goes to Manila



Manila, Philippines (Asia Society)

The Pacific Cities Sustainability Initiative (PCSI) continues to evolve and provide a platform for the sharing of innovative approaches to challenging urban sustainability issues faced by Pacific cities. This year, Asia Society is pleased to continue its partnership with the Urban Land Institute (ULI) to PCSI. We are also pleased to announce that

Emily Peckenham recently joined the San Francisco office as a full-time staff member to manage the project.

In addition to an ongoing series of strategy meetings, PCSI's **Second Annual Forum** will be held on March 11-13, 2014 in Manila, Philippines. The Forum is an invitation-only leadership dialogue that convenes global experts representing a wide range of disciplines working on sustainable cities across the Asia-Pacific region for three days of discussions, workshops, and site visits sharing best practices and finding new approaches to creating tomorrow's cities.

PCSI's theme this year, "Resilient and Livable Cities," has particular resonance in the Philippines in the aftermath of Typhoon Haiyan. With a lens on livability, this year's theme explores approaches to improving resiliency that are regionally appropriate. For more information about PCSI, visit AsiaSociety.org/PCSI or email Emily at epeckenham@asiasociety.org.

New Asia Society Study: Chinese Investment in U.S. High Tech



High-tech firms like Baidu rapidly expanding in U.S. (Stefen Chow/Bloomberg)

In March 2014, Asia Society and the Rhodium Group will release a major new study on Chinese investment in high-tech sectors in the U.S. The report will provide an overview of Chinese high-tech investments in the U.S. to date, analyze the drivers and impacts of these investments, and discuss political and commercial barriers.

The report follows on two previous Asia Society/Rhodium Group studies, one in 2011 and the second in 2012, looking at emerging trends in Chinese direct investment in the U.S. and in California respectively. Both reports drew significant domestic and international media interest and were presented at conferences in the U.S. and China.

The forthcoming study focuses on Chinese investments in high technology in the U.S., surveying the deal flow, providing authoritative data, and presenting objective analysis. The study will provide common ground for the ongoing, often polarizing, debate over U.S.-China high-tech trade and investment in sectors like life sciences, clean tech, and information technology.

Watch for the report's publication in March 2014 and release events shortly afterward!

Asia Society Welcomes its New President, Josette Sheeran



Iran's President Hassan Rouhani and Josette Sheeran (Asia Society)

On June 10, 2013 Josette Sheeran became the seventh President and CEO of Asia Society. Previously, Sheeran served as Vice Chair of the World Economic Forum and was Executive Director of the United Nations World Food Programme, the world's largest humanitarian organization.

She has also held senior positions in the U.S. government, including as Under Secretary of State for Economic, Business, and Agricultural Affairs and as Deputy U.S. Trade Representative.

"I am very honored to be selected to lead the premier institution connecting Asia to the world and the world to Asia," said Sheeran.

"Josette Sheeran is a proven executive with a long and successful record of global leadership, and far-reaching diplomatic experience with the nations of Asia," Asia Society Board Co-Chairs Henrietta Fore and Ronnie Chan said in a joint statement.

Since joining the Asia Society, Sheeran has interviewed Iran's President Hassan Rouhani and participated in a major Asia Society conference on innovation in Tianjin, China. She is looking forward to engaging the Asia Society's global network of offices in the coming months.