



# Asia Society

## ASIA 21 YOUNG LEADERS

### 2017 Asia 21 Young Leaders Summit

November 28 – December 1, 2017

Melbourne, Australia

### WORLD DISRUPTED: ASIA'S FUTURE



*Attendees of the 2017 Asia 21 Young Leaders Summit with the Hon. Linda Dessau, Governor of Victoria (November 30, 2017)*

The 12th annual summit of the **Asia 21 Young Leaders Network** convened in Melbourne from **November 28 to December 1, 2017**— the first time Asia Society’s signature Young Leaders Initiative was held in Australia and presented in partnership with the Victorian Government. Even before the formal summit proceedings got underway, the incoming members of the Asia 21 Network were showered with praise. “We are in absolute awe,” said **The Hon. Linda Dessau**, governor of the state of Victoria, who graciously hosted a reception and garden party at Government House. Deputy Premier of Victoria **James Merlino** pronounced himself “truly impressed” when he officially welcomed the Class of 2017 to the Victorian Parliament. Former Australian Foreign Minister and Asia Society Global Council Member **Gareth Evans** opened a keynote address by welcoming “this extraordinary, alarmingly distinguished group of young leaders.”

Selected through a highly competitive process based on outstanding achievement, commitment to public service, and a proven ability to make the world a better place, thirty young professionals from 20 nations made up the Asia 21 Class of 2017. They were joined in Melbourne by around 50 alumni of the network, which brings together the next generation of leaders in government, business, arts, media, and the nonprofit sector to collectively tackle a range of regional as well as global issues. This year’s theme was “**World Disrupted: Asia's Future**” and the summit featured special sessions that specifically addressed upheavals in the fields of politics, media, technology and the environment and their wide-ranging implications.



## 2017 SUMMIT HIGHLIGHTS

### KEYNOTE ADDRESS: ASIAN GEOPOLITICS IN TRANSITION

Professor **The Hon. Gareth Evans** AC QC, Chancellor of the Australian National University and Former Australian Foreign Minister delivered an insightful keynote address on the changing landscape of geopolitics in Asia, followed by a question and answer session moderated by **Yeganeh Torbati**, award-winning journalist, Reuters (Asia 21 Class of 2017)



*“Australia, like the rest of the region, must prepare itself to live in Asia without the United States.”*

- The Hon. Gareth Evans

### Politics and Media Disrupted: Governing in a Fragmented and Interconnected World

**Penny Low**, Founder, Social Innovation Park (Asia 21 Class of 2007) led a discussion featuring **Yusra Askari**, Pakistan Correspondent, New Delhi TV (Asia 21 Class of 2014); **Lotfullah Najafizada**, Director TOLONews TV (Asia 21 Class of 2012); **Jieun Beak**, PhD candidate, Oxford University (Asia 21 Class of 2017) and **Tom Lembong**, Inaugural Asia Society – Victoria Distinguished Fellow; Chairman, Indonesia Investment Coordinating Board and former Indonesian Trade Minister



*“You must understand – 15 years ago there was no real news and political discussion at all in my country. That’s positive disruption...it’s an unprecedented opportunity. You could call it a revolution.”*

- Lotfullah Najafizada (Asia 21 Class of 2012)



### Environment Disrupted: Ensuring a Sustainable Future for Asia

**Dorjee Sun**, COO, Santiment.net (Asia 21 Class of 2011) in conversation with **Zhao Zhong**, founder and board director, Green Camel Bell (Asia 21 Class of 2017); **Gede Robi Supriyanto**, Activist, Writer, and Farmer, (Asia 21 Class of 2016); **Kushal Gurung**, Founder and CEO, WindPower Nepal (Asia 21 Class of 2017); **Ewa Wojkowska**, Co-founder and COO, Kopernik (Asia 21 Class of 2013)



### Summit Challenge: Inclusive Growth *(presented in partnership with Deloitte)*

The Asia 21 Class of 2017 joined hands with Deloitte to explore how businesses can prosper without jeopardizing the economic, social, and environmental fabric of society.

### A Story by Sana Mir, Captain of Pakistan Women's Cricket Team

Captain of Pakistan Women's Cricket Team and Asia 21 Young Leader Class of 2017, Sana Mir showed a short not-yet released powerful film, a tribute to the persistence of young girls drawn to cricket in a part of the world where the sport's pitches are typically populated by boys and men.

*"We are just following in the footsteps of the strong women of Pakistan. When I put on the uniform of my country, and the national anthem plays, it's the best feeling. I feel I am one of the luckiest women in the world."*

- Sana Mir (Asia 21 Class of 2017)



### Technology Disrupted: Asia's Digital Revolution and Society

**James Kondo**, Senior Advisor, Geodesic Capital: Co-Chairman, Silicon Valley Japan Platform (Asia 21 Class of 2007) in conversation with **The Hon. Philip Dalidakis MLC**, Minister for Trade and Investment, Small Business and Innovation, Government of Victoria; **Bernise Ang**, Co-founder and Executive Director of Zeroth Labs; **Paul Chong**, Director of Product, Salesforce (Asia 21 Class of 2009); **Chenhui Liu**, co-founder and COO, Apricot Forest (Class of 2017); **"Allen" Ali Mohammadi**, CEO & Co-Founder, Hippogriff AB (Asia 21 Class of 2017) and **Dyan Shinto Ekopuri**, Head of Government Relations and Public Policy, Google Indonesia (Asia 21 Class of 2012)



### Summit Challenge: Blockchain *(presented in partnership with HCash)*

**Dorjee Sun**, CEO, Carbon Conservation (Asia 21 Class of 2011) led an interactive brainstorming and partnership building session focused on blockchain and its impact on economy, market and society. The idea for a "Blockchain for Asia 21" as well as many other insightful ideas were explored during the session.



## MEMBERS OF THE 2017 CLASS:



**Sayed Zafar Hashemi** is the political counselor at the embassy of Afghanistan in Washington, D.C., where he manages the embassy's relations with the U.S. Congress. Prior to this, he was deputy (and acting) spokesman for the president of Afghanistan, managing and coordinating communication between the presidential palace and government with local and international media. Previously, Hashemi worked for the Afghanistan service of Voice of America, reporting on Afghan, American, and world affairs for radio, television and the web — in both Farsi and English. He managed public affairs and communications at the Afghanistan Stabilization Program under the Afghan Interior Ministry, and a UNDP-funded project to produce media content about democracy, elections, and civic participation in post-9/11 Afghanistan. Hashemi holds a bachelor's in political science and journalism from the University of Maryland University College and an master's in public management from Johns Hopkins University.



**Melissa Jardine** is board director for the Global Law Enforcement and Public Health Association (GLEPHA) and gender advisor and communications manager for the Centre for Law Enforcement and Public Health. She is a former police officer with a deep interest in the development of policing, law, and security in Asia. Jardine began her Vietnamese-language studies at Monash University in 1997 and is currently a doctoral candidate at the UNSW Law School on the topic "Policing in a Changing Vietnam." She has conducted primary research on provincial economic growth in China and its relationship to punishment for economic crimes, has studied Arabic, and has examined counterterrorism in the ASEAN region. Prior to commencing her doctorate, Jardine completed a master of Asian studies at Monash University followed by a master of philosophy at The University of Melbourne, where her thesis examined police responses to the implementation of drug harm reduction programs in Hanoi, Vietnam.

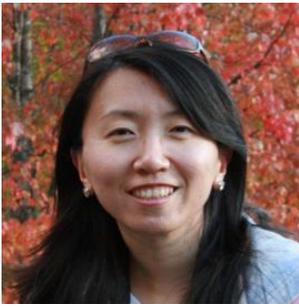


**Raheel Khursheed** heads news partnerships for Twitter in India and Southeast Asia. In this role, he leads the development and rollout of civic tech products — such as Twitter Seva, Twitter Samvad, and SmartFeed — that democratize information, help governments perform their jobs with accountability and transparency, and enable meaningful citizen engagement. Khursheed's innovative product and partnerships work — from Twitter SMS alerts to live data on national television — have dramatically altered how elections and politics are narrated in India. He previously served as director of communications for India at Change.org, leading an effective strategy that seeded petitioning as an organizing tool, and organized the "Stop Rape" campaign that helped change rape laws in India. A cross-platform journalist and storyteller, Khursheed has worked in, written, produced, and broken stories for outlets such as Vice and PBS. He has had the rare distinction of winning the 2017 Knight Visiting Nieman Fellowship at Harvard and the 2017 Yale World Fellowship in the same academic year.



**Sasibai Kimis** is currently managing partner at Earth Heir, a luxury craftsmanship brand that infuses modern design into traditional crafts. Prior to this, she was a vice president in the investments division at Khazanah Nasional and served as a director in the private equity team at First Avenue Partners LLP. Kimis also worked in Ghana with Opportunities Industrialization Centers International and UNDP, and in New York as an investment banking analyst at Lehman Brothers. She was one of Wharton's "40 under 40" award winners in 2015 and was an Eisenhower Fellow in the 2015 Women's Leadership Program, where she focused on socio-entrepreneurship and preserving heritage craftsmanship skills. Kimis graduated cum laude from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania with a

bachelor's in economics (finance and management) and obtained a master's in environment and development from Cambridge University.



**Liu Chenhui** is the co-founder and chief operating officer of Apricot Forest Inc., a leading mobile health startup in China that serves over one-third of all Chinese doctors. In 2015, Apricot Forest was named one of the most innovative health care companies in the world by Fast Company magazine. Liu received her postdoctoral training at the Harvard School of Public Health, focusing on health care system reform research in rural China. As a fellow, Liu led a research project on health care reform in Ningxia Province funded by the Gates Foundation. Prior to this, she served as a research fellow with the China Medical Board and research assistant with the Global Commission on Health Professional Education. Liu graduated from the Harvard School of Public Health with a master of public health degree in 2010 and Peking Union Medical College with a doctor of medicine degree in 2009.



**Sana Mir** is captain of the Pakistan women's cricket team and part of a select group of seven international women cricketers who have achieved the double feat of 1,000 runs and 100 wickets in One Day International (ODI) cricket. She led the Pakistan women's cricket team to two gold medal wins at the Asia Games in 2010 and 2014 and was decorated with the Tamgha-e-Imtiaz (Medal of Excellence) in 2012 by the president of Pakistan. She was also named the PCB Woman Cricketer of the Year. She has captained the Pakistan women's cricket team for six ICC Cricket World Cups. On the domestic circuit, Mir captains the Zarai Taraqiati Bank Ltd. (ZTBL) team — now undefeated for the past eight years. On and off the field she serves as a role model for girls and women in Pakistan and works toward changing attitudes about women's participation in the traditionally male-dominated sport of cricket.



**Eugene Yi** is co-founder of Cortico, a social venture launched from the MIT Media Lab that uses artificial intelligence-driven media insights to connect people on greater common ground. Previously, he led product development for the Electome project at the MIT Media Lab using machine learning analytics to track the 2016 U.S. presidential election. From 2013 to 2016, he was the head of Asia Public Policy for Twitter and helped develop the company's global corporate social responsibility mission. He served at the U.S. Embassy in Beijing as a political officer covering internet freedom and the Six-Party talks on North Korean denuclearization from 2009 to 2011. He was a strategist for East Asia national security issues at the office of the U.S. Secretary of Defense and also previously served as a country director for China and Korea at the office. He obtained a bachelor's and a master's in public affairs from the Woodrow Wilson School of International and Public Affairs at Princeton University.

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## WHAT ASIA 21 YOUNG LEADERS HAVE TO SAY ABOUT THE SUMMIT:

*"I love coming back to Asia 21 summits...and whenever new members come in I always see fresh blood with lots of experience, from very different sectors, very innovative people. Every time that I come here I learn a lot. I take away with me many new ideas, projects, and experiences that are vital for my country and the youth of Afghanistan."*

- [Omaid Sharifi](#), Co-founder and President, ArtLords, Asia 21 Class of 2011

*"I've had a fairly disruptive year. I started with a fellowship at Harvard, another at Yale through spring and through the fall term. I've had an opportunity to hang out with some of the smartest people in the world. And the cherry on top of my year has been this Asia 21 fellowship. It's been an incredible infusion of fresh ideas, fresh energy, and fresh perspectives. I hope that I'm able to give as much as I'm taking."*

- [Raheel Khursheed](#), Head of News Partnerships, Twitter India & South East Asia, Asia 21 Class of 2017

*"It's a very welcoming forum and I really look forward to us all working together, and actually finding solutions for Asia. Because it's a region which is of high importance for everyone around the world. So it's very important that we make use of this time very intelligently."*

- [Sana Mir](#), Pakistan Women's Cricket Team, Asia 21 Class of 2017

The 2018 Asia 21 Young Leaders Summit is scheduled to take place in **Manila, Philippines** in **November 2018**. Please mark your calendar! If you are interested in partnering with Asia 21 please contact [globalinitiatives@asiasociety.org](mailto:globalinitiatives@asiasociety.org)