



Asia  
Society

ASIA 21  
YOUNG LEADERS



ASIA 21  
CHANGING THE WORLD

# What is Asia 21?

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## *From a dream to a movement*

A decade ago, Asia Society had a **dream**: To build a **network of young leaders** (under the age of 40) across the Asia-Pacific as a way to promote mutual understanding and effective collaboration among the next generation's most important and influential leaders. A decade later, we have built a **movement** of almost 900 alumni from 40 countries. Today, the **Asia 21 Young Leaders Initiative** stands as the Asia-Pacific's foremost young leaders network.

**Asia 21** crosses geographic and sectoral boundaries. It convenes young leaders for discussions and collaboration and unleashes them to continue working across borders to maximize impact. Local **Asia 21** chapters have sprouted in some of the toughest parts of Asia, where people are anxious for the connections and counsel that the Asia 21 network has provided. The result is an incredibly active and vibrant community of young people dedicated to values-based leadership and to changing the world. Not surprisingly, many of the Asia 21 Young Leaders, especially those who joined the network in the earlier years, are today recognized as leading figures in politics, business, arts, media and the non-profit sector.

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## What makes Asia 21 *different*?

Asia 21 is the only network of young leaders focused on shaping a brighter future for the Asia-Pacific region. We are laying the groundwork for a robust Asia-Pacific community capable of tackling the most vexing challenges facing the region—**one leader, one connection, one project at a time.**

“For the past ten years, we’ve been cultivating a network of **diverse change-makers**, united by a shared commitment to leadership with impact. As the network continues to mature and the original members move into positions of greater influence, **Asia 21’s** long-term ‘dividend’ will become increasingly apparent: **a more connected, better integrated Asia-Pacific region** with leaders capable of drawing on vital connections to move the region forward, for the betterment of all.”

– *Josette Sheeran, President & CEO, The Asia Society*

# In Their Own Words

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Meet just a few of the almost 900  
young leaders of the **Asia 21** Network

“Leadership to me is being able to influence, inspire and empower others to work towards a vision together to contribute towards the greater good of society. Asia 21 facilitates the growth of young leaders on working together to achieve solutions for the most pressing issues of the region, and I am humbled and honored to be part of the Initiative.”

**Anoka Abeyrathne** is an eco-social entrepreneur and policy advocate, with a passion for sustainable urban development. She is the co-founder and director of SustainSolutions.org, a social enterprise dedicated to solving social and environmental issues through community participation. It operates in over 5,000 villages in Sri Lanka, India, Bangladesh and the Maldives with over 20,000 volunteers. Anoka is the first Sri Lankan Representative to UN-Habitat’s Youth Advisory Board, and a Global Youth Ambassador for the UN Special Envoy on Global Education. She is also the first Sri Lankan woman to be selected as a “New Champion” by the World Economic Forum, and the youngest recipient of the Commonwealth Youth Award in Development. Anoka was featured in the 2012 List of 25 Most Influential and Powerful Young Persons of the World by the *Huffington Post* and Youth Service America.

## Advocating for Sustainable Urban Development



**Anoka Abeyrathne**  
Sri Lanka  
Class of 2016

# Shaping the Media Landscape



**Ravi Agrawal**  
India/United Kingdom  
Class of 2016

“Many of Asia’s countries are fast-growing and dynamic, but they are also young democracies with major problems to tackle: from climate change to jobs crises, and from corruption to weak press freedoms. Asia has immense potential but it can’t afford to get complacent. That’s why a community like Asia 21 is crucial — to compare notes, to debate, to mobilize — and its importance will only grow as its young leaders rise in influence.”

**Ravi Agrawal** is CNN International’s New Delhi Bureau Chief, responsible for the network’s multi-platform news coverage of South Asia. Since moving to this role in 2014, he has reported on several important regional stories including elections in India and Sri Lanka, Nepal’s deadly earthquake, and a spate of murders of secular writers in Bangladesh. Ravi has also produced exclusive interviews with high-profile subjects including Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and U.S. President Barack Obama. Prior to his current role, Ravi worked in several of CNN’s U.K. and U.S. offices for eight years. In New York, he was the senior producer of the network’s flagship world affairs program Fareed Zakaria GPS — while he was there, the program won its first Peabody Award. Ravi is a Young Global Shaper at the World Economic Forum and a graduate of Harvard University. He was born in London and grew up in Kolkata.

“Many of the challenges we are facing in the world today are interconnected and hence require a multi-disciplinary approach to problem solving. The strength of Asia 21 is in its capacity to bring together young leaders from diverse sectors and to engage them in dialogue and knowledge sharing. I have greatly benefited from my association with Asia 21. The Summits provide a space for reflection and learning, and I continue to cherish many of the friendships that I forged during my fellowship year.”

**Ejaj Ahmad** is Founder and President of Bangladesh Youth Leadership Center (BYLC), Bangladesh’s first youth leadership institute which aims to foster a more tolerant, inclusive, and just society by training the next generation of leaders in Bangladesh. As president, Ejaj spearheads BYLC’s international award-winning leadership program which unites youth from diverse educational and socio-economic backgrounds, equips them with leadership skills, and engages them in service-oriented projects in local communities to address Bangladesh’s most urgent developmental needs. Ejaj is also actively engaged with several youth-run initiatives in Bangladesh and serves on the board of a secondary girls’ high school. He speaks on leadership to diverse audiences, including, in recent years, Geneva, Kyoto, Nairobi, San Francisco, Washington D.C., New Delhi, and Kuala Lumpur.

## Mobilizing Youth



**Ejaj Ahmad**  
Bangladesh  
Class of 2012

# Political Leadership - in the Fight Against Poverty



**Paolo Benigno Aquino**  
Philippines  
Class of 2006

“I am honored to be part of the Asia 21 Young Leaders Initiative. Asia 21 is a platform where people who are passionate about different advocacies can share practical learning to better the communities we serve. It’s a great support system that helps us find new and innovative solutions to age-old problems.”

**Senator Bam Aquino** is currently the chairman of the Senate Committee on Education, Culture and the Arts and the Senate Committee on Science and Technology in the 17th Congress. A world-renowned social entrepreneur turned senator, Sen. Paolo Benigno “Bam” Aquino IV dedicated his career to empowering the youth and the poor, helping Filipino families improve their lives through education, employment, and entrepreneurship. Bam was first elected as the youngest senator of the 16th Congress in 2013, and has since authored and sponsored 17 laws including the Go Negosyo Act, and the landmark Philippine Competition Act, the Philippines’ first anti-trust law. The neophyte senator also utilized the senate’s investigatory powers to fight corruption, promote good governance, improve infrastructure, and enhance living conditions of Filipinos. Sen. Bam continues to push for innovative legislation and reforms to empower entrepreneurs, bolster education, and ensure prosperity for every Filipino family.



“The Asia 21 Fellowship has been profoundly inspiring right from the get-go. It has provided me an opportunity to meet trailblazers from around the world, from disciplines and regions I would otherwise have little exposure to, and learn so much about their journeys – professional, personal, social. Year after year, watching their stories develop, seeing nascent ideas transform into concrete actions and often develop into social and political milestones of international significance has been a most exhilarating experience. And being able to now call many of them my friends, is priceless. I am never disappointed by the quality of the people I meet. Never. That’s why I keep coming back.”

**Satchit Balsari** is Chief of the Weill Cornell Global Emergency Medicine Division and fellow at the Harvard FXB Center for Health and Human Rights. His inter-disciplinary research interests in mobile technology, disaster response and population health have been informed by his clinical practice in New York, and his field work around the world including, Jordan, Iraq, South Sudan, Bangladesh, Pakistan and India. His research has resulted in innovative applications of mobile, cloud-based technology to address public health challenges in mass gatherings, disasters and humanitarian crises. He directs or co-teaches several courses in the US, at Cornell, Harvard and the University of Colorado. Satchit serves on Cornell University’s Internationalization Council. He was also a Spotlight Health Scholar at the 2016 Aspen Ideas Festival.

## Managing Disasters



**Satchit Balsari**  
India  
Class of 2010

# Building Resilient Cities



**Arnel Paciano  
Casanova**  
Philippines  
Class of 2008

“Asia 21 is unique because this is the only organization which deliberately brings together all emerging leaders in the region, particularly from the Asia-Pacific and the U.S. It builds a community of people, not just a one-time summit. It builds relationships that can last a lifetime among all of these leaders. As we move up in our careers and assume positions of authority and influence in our societies and in our countries, we bring that wealth of information and network that we also derive from engaging with each other.”

**Arnel Paciano Casanova** served as Senior Advisor, Office of the Vice President of the Republic of the Philippines. In this role Arnel advises the Vice President who is also the Chairperson of Housing and Urban Development, on crafting strategies and effective execution of national affordable housing projects and sustainable urban development plans. Previously he served as the President and CEO at Bases Conversion and Development Authority, where he worked on some of the biggest public infrastructure and real estate property development projects in the Philippines. Arnel also worked as a peace negotiator and was one of the youngest recipients of the Philippine Legion of Honor Medal for his work in drafting the General Peace Agreement between the government and the rebels for the rebels’ disarmament and reintegration. He was also involved in the initial stages of negotiations with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF). He pursues his passion in social entrepreneurship in the Philippines and Asia as one of the founders of AvantChange, a social enterprise established at the Harvard Kennedy School. As a good governance advocate, he is also a member of the core group of the “Kaya Natin!” Movement, a citizen’s movement in the Philippines advocating ethical and effective leadership.

“I engage with others in the Asia 21 Network at a macro and detailed level simultaneously. Effective leaders understand higher-order principles that organize both outcomes and in the processes and means used to achieve them. They convene people around a shared, inspiring vision that operates as the glue to motivate united, cohesive action.”

**Emily Chew** is Global Head of Environmental, Social and Governance Research and Integration with Manulife Asset Management. In this role, she is responsible for overseeing the firm’s ESG research and ESG investment agenda, and works with portfolio managers to engage with companies on ESG issues. Most recently, Emily was Head of ESG Research for Asia-Pacific at MSCI Inc., where she led a team of ESG research analysts, commencing her role in Beijing and later continuing in Hong Kong. MSCI ESG Research is the leading independent research house used by global institutional investors to integrate ESG factors into investment. Her team had oversight into research quality and issue identification for around 1,200 stocks, and under her leadership produced original research on the relevance of ESG to Asian and emerging markets, with a particular emphasis on China. In her work with MSCI, she engaged with some of the world’s leading institutional investors regarding their ESG investment integration strategies, and utilization of ESG research in product development. Emily was previously a funds management and capital markets lawyer with Baker & McKenzie in Melbourne, Australia, and worked on human rights law and advocacy projects in East Timor, Indonesia, and Australia, including leading a year-long national women’s rights project supporting the UN periodic review of Australia. She serves on the UN Principles for Responsible Investment Listed Equities Outreach Sub-Committee, and as an executive committee member of the Oxford Women’s Leadership Community and Young China Watchers (Hong Kong). Emily holds an MBA from the University of Oxford and law and arts degrees from Melbourne University.

## Redirecting Capital for Positive, Long Term Impact



**Emily Chew**  
Australia  
Class of 2015

# Breaking the Glass Ceiling



**Claire Mitsuru Chino**  
Japan  
Class of 2006

“When you think that your expected task is too daunting (as in my case!), your friends become ever-more important. They are the ones that can provide you with sound advice and otherwise ‘put you straight.’ I am especially grateful to have such a wonderful platform called Asia 21, a diverse group of extremely talented friends that I feel I can call on any time. Thank you Asia Society, and in particular Asia 21, and please continue to be my guiding light.”

**Claire Mitsuru Chino** is the youngest and the first female executive director to serve on the board of a Japanese trading company. She was appointed Executive Officer and General Manager, Legal Division, of Itochu Corporation in 2013. Claire was born in the Netherlands and spent her formative years in England, Japan, and the U.S. She was admitted to the California bar in 1991. She worked for an international law firm in its Newport Beach (California), Hong Kong, Tokyo, and San Francisco offices, specializing in cross-border transactions. She became a partner in the firm in 1999. The World Economic Forum selected her as one of its “100 Global Leaders for Tomorrow” in 2003 and as a “Young Global Leader” in 2005. In her spare time, she lectures at Keio University Law School and Hitotsubashi Business School. She is an Advisory Council member of Cornell Law School and a member of the President’s Counsel of Cornell Women of Cornell University. Claire is also co-chair of the Corporate Counsel Sub-Committee of the American Chamber of Commerce in Japan. She is active in promoting women’s interests in corporate Japan.

“Asia 21’s annual ‘meeting of minds’ conference goes beyond plenary sessions and hallway talk, becoming a year-round springboard for collaboration across borders and perspectives, with Young Leaders forging solutions to the challenges Asia--and, implicitly, the world--is facing today, for the future of tomorrow.”

**Scot Frank** is a Product Manager at Google developing new products for emerging markets. Previously, he was Co-Founder and CEO of One Earth Designs, a company that brings clean energy solutions to people around the world. He has developed an award-winning solar cooker for Himalayan communities with the goal to alleviate their daily problems of fuel scarcity and indoor air pollution. He holds three patents, two on energy technology and one for a novel breast cancer diagnostic tool. His background includes founding three start-ups, working in IBM’s India Research Laboratory, leading MIT Development Lab’s China program, and advising renewable energy projects for the Clinton Global Initiative and Richard Branson’s Carbon War Room. Scot has been named a Forbes 30 under 30 Entrepreneur, Unreasonable Fellow, Cordes Fellow, and Make a Difference Venture Fellow. Scot holds a bachelor degree in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science from MIT.

## Entrepreneurship - To Save the Planet



**Scot Frank**  
United States  
Class of 2013

# Conserving the Most Fragile Ecosystems



**Rajeev K. Goyal**  
United States  
Class of 2015

“Anyone has the potential to be a leader, it’s a part of life that is basically inevitable. Different people have to contribute at a higher level at different times depending on the circumstances. I don’t see myself as a leader, but rather as someone who wants to be part of something that can only be achieved through a larger group contribution.”

**Rajeev K. Goyal** is the Co-founder of the award-winning Koshi Tappu Kanchenjunga Biodiversity Education Livelihood Terra-Studio (KTK-BELT). Founded in 2013, KTK-BELT aims to mitigate ecosystem fragmentation in the eastern Himalayas by designing a contiguous educational land trust stretching from Koshi Tappu, Nepal’s largest aquatic bird sanctuary, to Mt. Kanchenjunga, the 3rd tallest peak in the world. The trust will conserve and teach about Himalayan biodiversity, while creating ecologically-sensitive livelihood opportunities. Rajeev is a former Peace Corps volunteer and United Nations Volunteer (UNV), and from 2008 to 2011 was the national director of Push for Peace Corps, a legislative campaign aimed at doubling the size of the Peace Corps. The campaign’s proposal for a US\$60 million increase in funding – the largest since 1961 – was successfully passed in Congress, and facilitated the addition five countries and over 1,000 volunteer positions to the Peace Corps globally. Rajeev belongs to several non-profit boards, including the Phul Maya Foundation and the Living Earth Institute (LEI), and serves as an advisor to the Karuna Foundation. He is the author of a memoir, *The Springs of Namje: A Ten-Year Journey from the Villages of Nepal to the Halls of Congress*, which received the 2013 Paul Cowan Non-Fiction Award. He is the recipient of the Eric Dean Bender Prize for Public Service in recognition of his co-authorship of a report on caste discrimination and conflict in Nepal. Rajeev received a law degree from New York University in 2006, and recently earned a Master’s of Professional Studies in International Agriculture and Rural Development from Cornell University.

“As an active participant in domestic and international politics, I have been accustomed to various leadership gatherings of colleagues within my field of interest. However, the Asia 21 experience is unique in that it brings together leaders from cross-disciplinary interests and professions, fostering a dialogue that went beyond my traditional circle and introducing new ideas about social change and global responsibility. The diversity and quality of participants offered a rewarding opportunity for learning and reflection, opening new connections in personal, intellectual, and professional growth.”

**Bi-khim Hsiao** is a Taiwanese politician and member of the Legislative Yuan, serving her fourth term. Previously she was also Director of International Affairs for the Democratic Progressive Party, Advisor in the Office of the President of Taiwan, Secretary General of the Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats, and Vice President on the Bureau of Liberal International. In addition to her legislative responsibilities, she serves on the board of the Taiwan Foundation for Democracy. In Taiwan politics, she is known to be an advocate of Taiwan’s international participation, gender equality, gay rights, animal protection, and immigrant rights. She currently represents the constituency of Hualien County, where agriculture, transportation, rural development, tourism, and environmental conservation are issues of prominence. She has a BA degree from Oberlin College and MA in political science from Columbia University in New York.

## Building a “Foundation for Democracy”



**Bi-Khim Hsiao**  
Taiwan  
Class of 2006

# Solving Complex Challenges



**Tania Hyde**  
Australia  
Class of 2013

“Asia 21 is a meeting of minds and hearts - it brings together emerging leaders from across Asia who have a shared passion for solving some of the most pressing issues of our time.”

**Tania Hyde** is COO of Taylor Street Advisory, a consultancy specializing in strategy, communications, and advocacy primarily in transport, tourism, infrastructure, and urban renewal. TSA also runs the Western Sydney Leadership Dialogue, an initiative designed to promote the public policy requirements of Western Sydney. Before moving into consulting, Tania was an officer in the Royal Australian Air Force, where she held both logistics and maintenance management and public affairs roles. Tania is a graduate of the Australian Defence Force Academy and has first class honors in electrical engineering and a Masters of Management with Distinction from the University of New South Wales.



“Asia 21 has been a wonderful learning experience for me. I have been intrigued by the collective ideas, insights, and accomplishments found within this group. Personally, Asia 21 has provided me a platform to interact with and learn from smart young leaders who are committed to addressing pressing issues in our communities. Essentially, this is a group of ‘doers’ who are always ready to work together to leverage each other’s strengths towards finding innovative solutions.”

**Rabi Karmacharya** is the Executive Director of the Open Learning Exchange Nepal (OLEN), a non-profit that he founded in 2007 with the aim of improving access to and quality of education in rural parts of the country by employing technological innovations. Rabi previously worked in Silicon Valley as a design engineer before deciding to return to Nepal in 2000 to help build its nascent democracy. He started a software company, HimalayanTechies, to tap into the growing outsourcing market and to help reduce the massive brain-drain of the young, skilled workforce. After establishing the company and leading it for seven years, he pursued other interests to build human resources in the country through education before initiating OLEN.

## Transforming Education through Technology



**Rabi Karmacharya**  
Nepal  
Class of 2011

# Using High Tech to Maximize Human Potential



**Lisa Katayama**  
Japan/USA  
Class of 2015

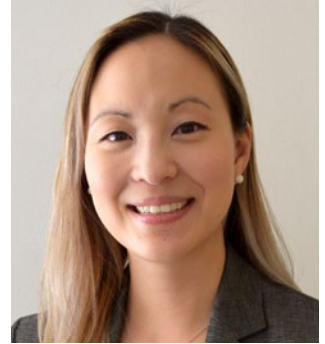
“Asia 21 is a gathering of some of the most compelling, modest, and accomplished individuals in the world. As someone who lives in the United States, this network feels essential for me to stay connected to Asia—to stay aligned with my roots and develop a deeper relationship with other communities and cultures in the region. I really look forward to attending future summits, ‘growing up’ with my Asia 21 peers, and continuing to discover and learn new things through this amazing network.”

**Lisa Katayama** is the Founding Program Manager of the MIT Media Lab’s Director’s Fellows, a program that builds collaborations between the technologies of the MIT Media Lab with social activists, designers, artists, and other creative impact-driven communities all over the world. She is the founder and president of a nonprofit called The Tofu Project, which empowers social activists and entrepreneurs in Japan with leadership, design, and storytelling tools. Previously, Lisa was a technology and culture journalist producing work for outlets such as *Wired*, *Boing*, *Popular Science*, *The New York Times Magazine*, and PRI’s “Studio360.” Her book, *Urawaza: Secret Everyday Tips and Tricks from Japan*, won the STEP Design Award in 2009, and her blog, *TokyoMango.com*, was the runner-up for The Weblog Awards’ Best Asian Blog that same year. In 2012, Lisa co-produced and co-directed a web documentary series about a community of surfers who survived the tsunami in Japan titled “We Are All Radioactive.” In her spare time, Lisa enjoys climbing and playing with dogs. Lisa volunteers at an AIDS hospice in San Francisco and as a court-appointed special advocate for foster youth.

“Although my professional career has never formally been in the realm of international human rights, advocating on behalf of North Korean human rights is a lifelong commitment of mine. When I was 24, I discovered that both sides of my family were originally from North Korea, which forever changed my life. I firmly believe that it is a duty, for all humans, to stop the atrocities being committed by the North Korean regime. However, I feel a particular responsibility to lead a cause that has largely remained voiceless and has far too few champions.”

**Sylvia Kim** is a lawyer and human rights advocate. She is the co-founder of HanVoice, a policy advisor for the European Alliance for Human Rights, and a fellow at the Transitional Justice Working Group. Sylvia’s work focuses on advocacy for international accountability for North Korea’s human rights abuses. She resides in Southern California, where she is a regional director for Asian Americans Advancing Justice — the largest legal services and civil rights organization for Asian Americans in the United States. She is actively involved in statewide policy initiatives as a steering committee member of the Racial and Ethnic Mental Health Disparities Coalition and as an advisory committee member of California’s Office of Health Equity. She is also a regular contributor to the *Huffington Post*. Sylvia received her Juris Doctor from Osgoode Hall Law School and completed her Master of Studies at the University of Oxford in International Human Rights Law, where her research focused on applying the Responsibility to Protect doctrine to North Korea.

## Advocating for North Korean Human Rights



**Sylvia Kim**  
Canada/Korea  
Class of 2016

# Building Revolutionary Technology to Improve Lives



**Nanxi Liu**  
United States/China  
Class of 2016

“Leaders are those who effectively mobilize people around them to get things done. They understand that creating sustainable impact takes the hard work, talent, and collaboration of many people. I strive to bring together brilliant and dedicated people to build new technology for better lives.”

**Nanxi Liu** is the Co-Founder and CEO of Enplug, the leading open software for digital displays in stadiums, hotels, stores, banks, restaurants, and offices. Enplug’s mini device is used by Fortune 500 companies and small businesses to transform their static TVs and monitors into web-driven, interactive displays. In college, Nanxi founded and served as CEO of Nanoly Bioscience, which develops polymers that enable vaccines to survive without refrigeration. It won the World Biomaterials Congress’s Top Research and Airbus’s Top Materials and Manufacturing Award. Nanxi is on the Board of Advisors for Covington Capital Management (\$2 billion AUM) and Chairwoman of Tiger Scholarship Foundation, which gives merit-based scholarships to students with financial need. She was cited in the Forbes 30 Under 30 and Fortune’s Top 10 Most Promising Women Entrepreneurs. Nanxi was also one of seven recipients of the Mobilize.org National Leadership Award. She studied at UC Berkeley.

“We live in a fast changing interconnected world. Challenges are multi-disciplinary and complex in nature. Solving them requires inter-disciplinary collaborations and mindfulness. The strength of Asia 21 is in its capacity to bring together young leaders from diverse sectors and to engage them in frank dialogue and knowledge sharing, thereby capturing vast experience and wisdom. I have greatly benefited from my association with Asia 21. The Summit provided a space for reflection and learning, and I continue to cherish many of the friendships that I forged during my fellowship year.”

**Penny Low** is the Founder of Social Innovation Park. Ltd. She is a pioneer and entrepreneur who has experience in a number of fields including wealth management, innovation, social enterprises and global movements. During her 14 years as a veteran Singapore Member of Parliament, she developed the award-winning first eco-town in the tropics, which has been designated to become the largest township in Singapore. She chaired and was a member of many Government Parliamentary Committees and advocated policy changes in the field of entrepreneurship, social innovation, finances and government budget frameworks. Her career and experience span across the private, public, academic and media sectors. Penny founded the Social Innovation Park (SIP) to build a more inclusive, sustainable and better world, through collaborative innovation and partnership with the public and private sectors. Penny is a sought after speaker on the global stage and sits on the board of multiple organizations. She is an avid explorer who travelled through more than 90 countries and has been honored by the World Economic Forum, Yale University, Nanyang Technological University, Aspen Institute, among others.

## Inspiring a New Generation of Leaders



**Penny Low**  
Singapore  
Class of 2007

# Transforming Economic Policies for a Better Future



**Aaron Maniam**  
Singapore  
Class of 2006

“Even for the most energetic, life can easily settle into a routine, driven by the steady but unremarkable hum of predictability. For me, Asia 21’s greatest value is how it shatters this complacent stability. It is a family, network and community of remarkable people; each year, I find myself simultaneously inspired and drained by the incredible things the other Young Leaders do. They give me hope and stamina to persevere with my own work, and I have come to count on each year’s Summit as a regular ‘shot in the arm’.”

**Aaron Maniam** is Director (Industry) at Singapore’s Ministry of Trade and Industry, where he coordinates economic policies for the manufacturing, services and tourism sectors, as well as oversees long-term economic transformation. He joined the Singapore Foreign Service in 2004, before being posted to the Strategic Policy Office (SPO) at the Public Service Division in 2008. He was appointed as the first Head of the Singapore Government’s newly-formed Centre for Strategic Futures (CSF) in January 2010. In July 2011, Aaron became Director of the Institute of Public Sector Leadership at the Civil Service College (CSC). Aaron is the recipient of numerous awards including the Singapore Youth Award, the highest national honor for young people who exemplify excellence in their professional lives and community work and was named an “Outstanding Young Singaporean” by the Orchid Jayceettes of Singapore. He holds degrees from both Oxford and Yale.

“Asia 21 is important because talking is important. This initiative allows discussion. It allows dialogue. In the case of Afghanistan and Pakistan, it allows visits to each other’s countries. The Young Leaders basically become messengers for the two nations’ fears and aspirations and so forth. This allows communities and countries to bridge gaps. These things have an impact over a longer-term period.”

In 2001, after the Taliban government was removed from power in Afghanistan, **Saad Mohseni** knew what he had to do — move back to his homeland and start rebuilding. Mohseni left Australia for Kabul and, together with his siblings, launched Afghanistan’s first private radio station, Arman FM. That first venture spawned MOBY Group, now Afghanistan’s largest private media company, best known for groundbreaking brands such as Tolo TV, Tolonews, Lemar TV, and Farsi1. Mohseni is Afghanistan’s first true media mogul, and as such he makes history on a regular basis. Mohseni’s Tolonews organized and aired the country’s first live televised presidential debate, a decidedly modern-looking affair that The Wall Street Journal said showed “an increasingly sophisticated approach to political campaigning.” When Mohseni returned to Afghanistan, he found an utterly barren media landscape — the Taliban had banned television — and today that landscape is as rich and varied as any in the region. “I always liked the media, because you can really influence people, particularly younger people,” Mohseni has said. “One of the reasons Afghanistan has not exploded is that the media give people an outlet.” Saad was also a recipient of Asia Society’s 2014 Asia Game Changer Award.

## Bringing News and Entertainment to a Barren Landscape



**Saad Mohseni**  
Afghanistan  
Class of 2006

# Promoting Sustainable Development to Benefit All



**Natharoun Ngo**  
Cambodia  
Class of 2013

“If you hope that Asia will follow a sustainable development path, then Asia 21 will provide you the outreach and resources you need to achieve just that. By bonding with emerging leaders from across Asia, and creating bridges, Asia 21 disrupts your perspectives and leverages value-based leadership to inspire and fuel you to achieve your goals.”

**Natharoun Ngo** is Country Director of the Center for Khmer Studies (CKS). Prior to that, he was head of programmes for the UNDP in Cambodia (United Nations Development Programme), supporting a wide range of projects in areas such as Trade and Private sector development, agriculture, and climate change. He also managed business and market analysis, as well as “impact investments” project in Southeast Asia. He worked for Ernst and Young Consulting and Capgemini in Europe and the US, supporting several organizations to improve their business efficiency. He holds a MBA from Paris XII University (1999) and a MPA from Harvard University (2015).



“Asia 21 is a unique concept. It takes leaders from across Asia who are in their 20s and 30s who are trying to make a difference—whether it’s to their community, country, or region—and brings them together at a time in their careers where they can learn from one another but more importantly to places where they can network. One of the biggest problems in Asia is that we don’t speak to each other—and when the young leaders get together they have a chance to have open and frank discussions which are very much needed for progress for the region.”

**Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy** is a journalist, filmmaker and activist. She is the recipient of two Academy Awards and six Emmy Awards for her work as a documentary filmmaker. In 2012 she was named one of Time’s 100 Most Influential People in the World. Her films include “A Girl in the River; The Price of Forgiveness,” “Saving Face,” “Transgenders: Pakistan’s Open Secret,” and “Pakistan’s Taliban Generation,” which aired on PBS, Channel 4, CBC, SBS and Arte, and was the recipient of the Alfred I Dupont Award as well as The Association for International Broadcasting award. Sharmeen has made over a dozen multi-award winning films in over ten countries around the world and is the first non-American to be awarded the Livingston Award for best international reporting. Sharmeen was also the recipient of Asia Society’s 2014 Asia Game Changer Award. Sharmeen was born and raised in Karachi, Pakistan and received a bachelor’s degree from Smith College and two master’s degrees from Stanford University.

## Giving a Voice to the Voiceless



**Sharmeen  
Obaid-Chinoy**  
Pakistan  
Class of 2011

# Fighting Energy Poverty with Solar Engineering



**Catlin Powers**  
United States  
Class of 2016

“For the past 10 years, I’ve been working with families facing energy poverty to co-design solutions that perform better for every-day needs. The result has been a number of potentially game-changing solar energy innovations. In the Himalayas, we built our entire delivery infrastructure from scratch. I’m looking forward to combining forces with other Asia 21 Young Leaders to leverage our individual endeavors to drive our collective impact.”

**Catlin Powers** is the Co-founder and CEO of One Earth Designs, recognized for its innovative solar energy technologies and high-performance SolSource Solar Stoves. She is the recipient of the Marry White Peterson Prize for Innovation, the Camilla Chandler Frost Prize, and the St. Andrews Prize for the Environment. Her solar energy research has been recognized by the U.S. National Science Foundation, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the American Institute of Chemical Engineers. Catlin teaches the Sustainable Business and Technology course at Harvard University and serves as the program leader for Rural Health & Renewable Energy at Harvard’s Center for Health and the Global Environment. She received her doctorate from Harvard University.

“Asia 21 is made up of individuals that want to generate real value from the network; it’s not about talking, it’s about doing. It helps me to access a wide range of young Asian leaders, from the arts, business, politics, and beyond. Though we are drawn from different backgrounds, we share the same fundamental values. Both collectively and as individuals, Asia 21 helps put us in the best position from which to tackle the societal issues we face today.”

**Phloeun Prim** is the first Director of Cambodian Living Arts (CLA). A visionary cultural entrepreneur, Phloeun has spearheaded Cambodian Living Arts’ transformation from a grassroots project reviving traditional arts to the leading cultural agency in Cambodia. Phloeun has led the organization as it extended its reach from local to international programming and evolved its role from straightforward transmission of traditions to stimulating expression and innovation. Born during the genocide, Phloeun is proud to have returned to Cambodia and be part of the movement using the arts for healing, social transformation, and economic development.

## Leading a Revival of the Arts



**Phloeun Prim**  
Cambodia  
Class of 2010

# Bringing the Internet to Millions



**Deepak Ravindran**  
India  
Class of 2013

“I had a wonderful time at Asia 21 which helped me in connecting with the amazing family all around Asia. This has not only helped me in business, but also made me feel that I have someone in my network to reach out where ever I go. Thank you, once again, for this wonderful opportunity and I strongly recommend this to all my friends to join.”

**Deepak Ravindran** is the Founder and CEO of Lookup, a free and secure messaging app that connects shoppers with local businesses. A serial entrepreneur, Deepak has founded three mobile messaging companies in a decade: Innoz, Quest and Lookup. Deepak has received numerous awards, including being named one of the outstanding innovators under 35 for 2011 by the MIT Technology Review. Deepak has lectured at several universities including Stanford, IIT Bombay, IIM Ahmedabad, Semester at Sea and international conferences including WIRED Conference, Rolex Leadership Forum, TED and the Red Herring Global 100 forum. His work has appeared in Forbes, WIRED, The Sydney Morning Herald, CNN, Bloomberg UTV and several other magazines, newspapers and blogs. Most recently, National Geographic Magazine profiled him inside India’s Future Leaders in their show ‘Onward’ - a project to explore the world and share its untold stories. Recently, Business Insider described Deepak as the “Mark Zuckerberg of India”.

“There is a Burmese proverb; if a big tree is strong, it can host 10,000 birds. But sometimes I don’t think that we should rely only on one tree or one big person to save the world. Just as I believe that many trees create a forest, I believe that together we are stronger. I believe in collective success. To me, Asia 21 provides a platform for connection and knowledge sharing to create many trees to have a stronger forest to face challenges. I cherish my connection to Asia 21 as well as to all the fellows.”

**Yin Myo Su** is the Managing Director of the Inle Princess Group and the Founder of Inthar Heritage House and the Inle Heritage Foundation. With over two decades of experience in the hospitality industry, she has become a strong advocate for sustainable and responsible development practices that bring both social and economic benefits to local communities and insures the preservation of the creative cultural heritage of Inle Lake and Shan State. As an environmental advocate, Yin has taken a leading role in reintroducing the Burmese Cat back to Myanmar and houses a private lake-side aquarium to draw attention to the unique and at-risk marine life at Inthar Heritage House. Yin Myo Su is also a Chairperson of The Inle Heritage Hospitality Vocational Training Center which equips aspiring hospitality workers from Shan State develop the necessary technical and human service skills to fully participate in the emerging tourism and trade industry in Myanmar. Yin Myo Su is an active public speaker and recipient of several local and international awards in recognition of her work in hospitality, heritage preservation, women’s empowerment and leadership.

## Preserving Cultural and Natural Wealth



**Yin Myo Su**  
Myanmar  
Class of 2013

# Using Creativity to Transform the Way People Think



**Lia Sunarjo**  
Indonesia  
Class of 2006

“The world has evolved rapidly in this digital era. It has become more hyper dimensional and almost borderless. The challenges have also become more complex. The words collaboration, co-creation and inclusion are words we hear every day. It is the actions we need to do to create change and a better world. In Asia 21, those words are fundamental to how we function as a network. It is what we have been championing for the past 10 years. Asia 21 has introduced me not only a network of great people, but also equipped us with the right mindset and attitude to lead change in this new world of ours. An inclusive world that serves progress for all.”

**Lia Sunarjo** is the Executive Director of Marketing Services with Leo Burnett Indonesia. She started her career in Public Relations in 1993 in the hotel industry, before entering the advertising industry in 1996 at FCB Indonesia, where she oversaw the Indonesian tourism promotion board account. In 2000, Lia set up, launched, and managed the marketing services arm of EURO RSCG Indonesia, EURO RSCG 4D with 12 offices nationwide, which serviced Nestlé’s national sampling and merchandizing for all its brands. Other brands under her care were Reckitt Benckiser INTEL, Panasonic, Volvo, Bank Mandiri, Starburst, Telkom, etc. In 2005, she became General Manager of YOUNG&RU-BICAM Indonesia handling blue chip clients such as DANONE, LG, LOTTE, Ford, etc. In 2010, Lia was appointed as Executive Director of Marketing Services overseeing the Retail, PR and Activation division of Leo Burnett Indonesia. Lia sits on the advisory board of the YCAB Foundation and was named Best PR Executive 1999 by *Bali Post* and Best 10 Female Executive 2006 by *Dewi Magazine*.

“The uniqueness of what Asia 21 brings is the collection of high-potential, really capable leaders from across the world into one location, into one movement that thinks and is really deliberate about the future of the Asia-Pacific. The uniqueness lies in the collection of these people, the ‘curation’ of the type of people that really comes together and joins the Asia 21 movement. From people in the arts like filmmakers, music people and poetry to businessmen, social entrepreneurs, doing leadership, doing different things around the world, the ‘curation’ process is what sets Asia 21 apart in terms of what they do for the future of Asia-Pacific as a whole.”

**Martin Tan** is the Executive Director of the Institute of Societal Leadership (ISL) at Singapore Management University. He is the Co-Founder and former Executive Director of Halogen Foundation Singapore, an Institute of Public Character, committed to youth leadership development in Singapore and the region which Martin founded in 2003. As a leadership development practitioner and motivational speaker, Martin has conducted programs for youth, NGO and corporate leaders in Afghanistan, Australia, Bhutan, Hong Kong, India, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore and the USA. He is a Master Facilitator for The Leadership Challenge and The Student Leadership and certified facilitator of the Birkman Method. Martin is the author of “Youth Sector Organization: Starters Kit” and in 2013, Martin was conferred the Singapore Youth Award, Singapore’s highest accolade for youth.

## Inspiring a New Generation of Leaders



**Martin Tan**  
Singapore  
Class of 2011

# Changing the Business Paradigm



**Sandiaga Uno**  
Indonesia  
Class of 2008

“Asia 21 has been part of my life for the last eight years. It’s really important in terms of building the connections between the young leaders in the region—and the Asia-Pacific is basically now the engine of growth in the world. Asia 21 is a very, very solid network of Asian young leaders from different areas.”

**Sandiaga Uno** is the first Asia 21 alumnus to join the Asia Society Board of Trustees. He is the founding partner of Saratoga Investama Sedaya, an investment firm he co-founded with Edwin Soeryadjaya in 1998. Saratoga focuses its investments in natural resources, infrastructure, and consumer products and services in Indonesia and Southeast Asia. Sandiaga currently holds key positions among others at PT. Adaro Energy Tbk, one of the largest integrated coal companies in Indonesia. He also co-founded a boutique investment firm, PT Recapital Advisors. Sandiaga is a member of the National Economic Committee (KEN). From 2004 to 2010, He led the Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises and Cooperatives division of the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KADIN). He is also a former Chairman of the Indonesian Young Entrepreneurs Association (HIPMI) from 2005-2008. He was awarded the Indonesian Entrepreneur of the Year by Enterprise Asia in 2008. Sandiaga was appointed as the torch bearer at the 2012 London Olympics for his works as community catalyst. He is one of the founders of Indonesian Social Entrepreneur Association (AKSI) and has been actively involved in several social foundations and movements, including Indonesia Forum Foundation, INOTEK Foundation, MRUF Foundation, Indonesia Setara, and ‘Berlari untuk Berbagi’. He was the Team Manager for Indonesia Women National basketball team for 2005 South-east Asia Games in Manila, Philippines. He currently serves as the chairman of Indonesian Swimming Federation (PRSI).



“I was blown away at the quality of people in the Asia 21 network – from senior government officials, civil society leaders, academics and business leaders from all over Asia. Currently the network has around 800 leaders and there are strong local chapters – in Indonesia, Philippines, China, India, Pakistan – to name a few. I’ve been to a lot of conferences, leadership fora and the like, and have never walked away so energized and excited to be part of a network. The people are absolutely remarkable.”

**Ewa Wojkowska** is the Co-Founder and Chief Operating Officer of Kopernik (kopernik.info) - an award winning organisation that tackles the distribution challenges of getting life-changing technologies to people living in the 'last-mile'. Since 2010, Kopernik has been distributing technologies – such as solar lighting, fuel efficient cookstoves, water filters and agricultural tools in 23 countries. Before Kopernik, Ewa spent a decade working for the United Nations and the World Bank in several Asian and African countries. In 2011 she was recognized as one of Advance’s 50 emerging women leaders, in 2012 she was named Rutgers University Social Entrepreneur of the Year and in 2013 she was selected as an Asia Society Asia21 Young Leader as well as an Ashoka Fellow. Ewa grew up in Australia and studied Asian Studies and Politics and Public Policy. She currently lives in Indonesia where Kopernik’s main office is located.

## Bringing Life-Changing Technologies to the “Last Mile”



**Ewa Wojkowska**  
Australia  
Class of 2013

## Promoting Financial Interconnectivity



**Eric Wong**  
United States  
Class of 2012

**“Asia 21 has by far been one of the greatest blessings of my 30s.”**

**Eric Wong** is an accomplished investor and musician. He is an investment professional at Blue Ridge Capital, where he is responsible for seeking investments on behalf of the global investment fund. Prior to this, Eric advised multinationals on mergers and acquisitions in China with Morgan Stanley. He has authored Harvard Business School case studies on emerging markets investing. Outside of investments, Eric has advised the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts and Junior Achievement China on strategic projects. He currently serves as a Founding Board Member of Bard College Conservatory of Music. As a cellist, Eric has served as Principal Cellist of the Beijing International Chamber Orchestra and also had opportunities to perform in Carnegie Hall and Avery Fisher Hall.

“Asia 21 has very much been like a family to me since I first joined its Summits and was subsequently made a fellow for the Class of 2010. I have many fond memories of the team and friends made along the journey, with the leadership of Asia Society. We share a commonality as Global Citizens through this network of like-minded individuals with a mission to make the world a better place to live in and inspire our faith in humanity.”

**Ruth Yeoh** is Executive Director of YTL Singapore Pte Ltd and Director of YTL-SV Carbon Sdn Bhd, YTL's in-house carbon credit and clean development mechanism (CDM) consultancy. She currently leads the sustainability division of YTL Group where she reports on and consolidates her organization's sustainability activities. Ruth pioneered the highly successful “Climate Change Week,” YTL's flagship educational campaign designed to raise awareness on the importance of climate change in Malaysia. She was recognized at the Global CSR Summit and Awards 2011 with a “Silver Award in CSR Leadership” for her dedication to sustainable development and named as one of eight personalities in Malaysia's Top 30 Green Catalysts 2014. In addition, she represents Singapore as one of the Global Goodwill Ambassadors for Dignity for Children Foundation. In the same year, Forbes identified her as one of 12 to watch in their list of Asia's Power Businesswomen and one of the “Heroes of Philanthropy”. Ruth graduated with a degree from the University of Nottingham UK and an MSc from Cass Business School in the City of London, UK.

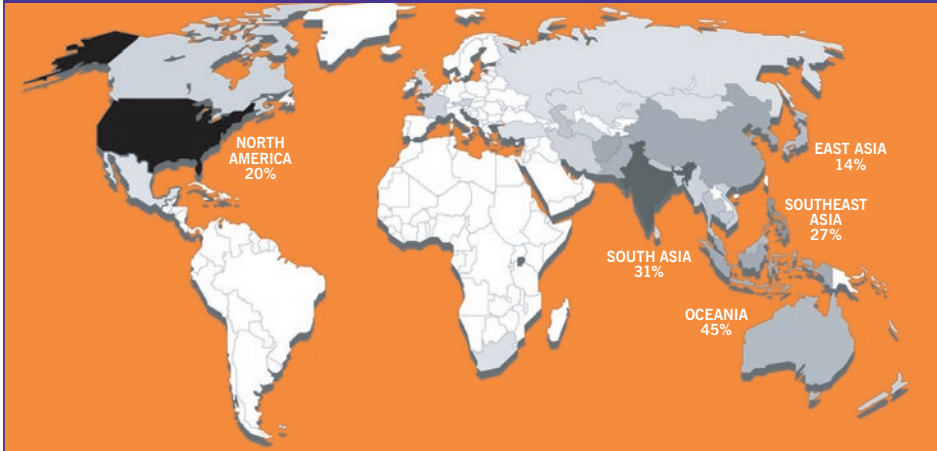
## Leading Efforts Towards Sustainability



**Ruth Yeoh**  
Malaysia  
Class of 2010

# Where They Come From

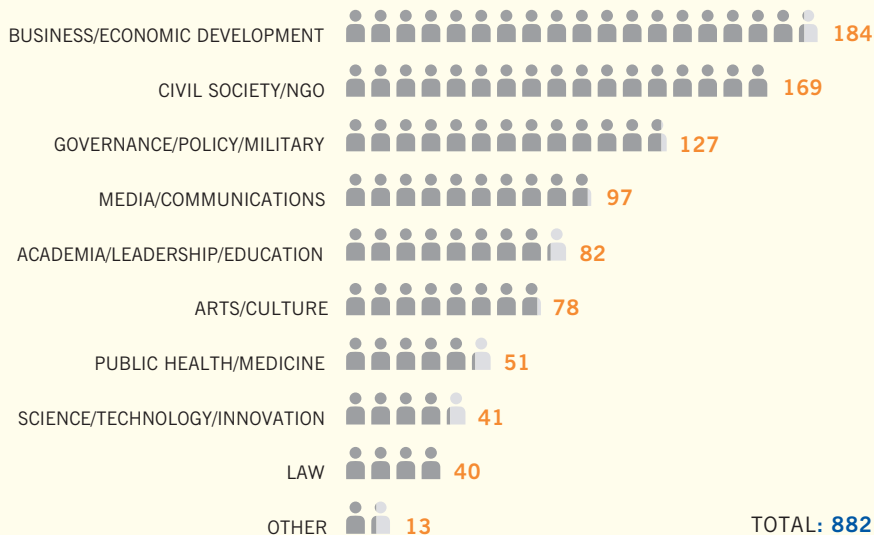
## NATIONAL DISTRIBUTION



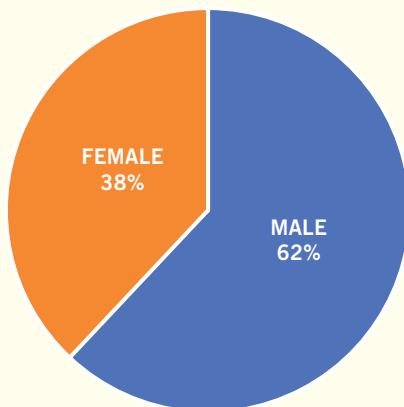
## DISTRIBUTION BY NATIONALITY | TOTAL: 40 COUNTRIES

AUSTRIA	FRANCE	KAZAKHSTAN	KOREA, NORTH	LAOS
1	1	1	1	1
LEBANON	MEXICO	RUSSIA	SOUTH AFRICA	TURKEY
1	1	1	1	1
UAE	EAST TIMOR	TURKMENISTAN	BHUTAN	MONGOLIA
1	2	2	7	7
HONG KONG	UNITED KINGDOM	VIETNAM	CANADA	MYANMAR
8	9	10	11	11
SRI LANKA	IRAN	TAIWAN	NEW ZEALAND	CAMBODIA
11	12	12	13	17
BANGLADESH	THAILAND	NEPAL	KOREA, SOUTH	JAPAN
20	21	22	25	29
MALAYSIA	AUSTRALIA	PAKISTAN	SINGAPORE	INDONESIA
29	32	40	40	45
CHINA	AFGHANISTAN	PHILIPPINES	INDIA	UNITED STATES
46	49	67	114	162

## SECTOR DISTRIBUTION



## GENDER DISTRIBUTION



# What They Have Done

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Asia 21 has spawned several regional hubs, each with its own cohort of young leaders taking on joint public service projects. Most significant are the **India-Pakistan 21** and the **Afghanistan 21** Young Leaders Initiatives.

These groups are quietly pushing forward on problems that have vexed politicians for a long time; India-Pakistan cooperation, for example, and inclusive and responsive governance in Afghanistan. In both cases, the narrative is changing—and the Asia 21 young leaders are on the forefront of changing it.

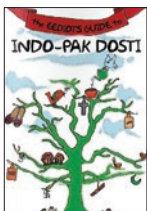
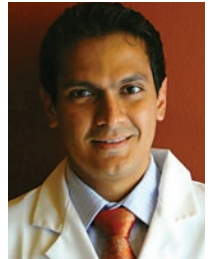
# India-Pakistan 21

**The India-Pakistan 21 Young Leaders Initiative** is nurturing a community of next generation leaders in **India** and **Pakistan** committed to working together on cross-border projects addressing the most fundamental issues facing the region. Each cohort of roughly a dozen young leaders – artists, journalists, parliamentarians, policy advisors, doctors, lawyers and entrepreneurs - convenes at a special forum in India or Pakistan, bringing half the cohort from one side of the border to the other. These meetings provide a unique opportunity to delve deeper into common challenges that ail both nations and to address them with creative solutions.



Writing for The New York Times India Ink blog on October 8, 2013, Satchit Balsari described his experience in 2013 meeting his peers, some of whom visited Pakistan for the first time through the initiative. The group agreed more knowledge and personal connections would help to forge common ground over “the commonness” of their challenges, struggles, shared history and culture.

**“Our diverse team was in unanimous agreement that the common Pakistani and the common Indian would gain much from learning about the other... They might even like each other — if only they were allowed to meet.”**



The India-Pakistan 21 group has completed a set of PSA-style videos to be shown across India and Pakistan, which promote cultural engagement, exchange programs and a sea change in how the two countries view each other and the cost of this ongoing conflict. The inaugural class produced *The Eediot's Guide to Indo-Pak Dosti*, a graphic booklet aimed at school-age children looking to counter the narrative of animosity between the two neighbors. They have also authored multiple opinion pieces on topics pertinent to India-Pakistan relations.

# Afghanistan 21

## The Afghanistan 21 Young Leaders Initiative

is a community of young Afghan leaders who educate each other and expand Afghan dialogue on leadership issues, organize youth leadership training workshops, and participate in media outreach activities designed to highlight outstanding next-generation leadership in Afghanistan. The group includes select young leaders aged 40 and under from across Afghanistan, including men and women from government, business, civil society, academic, religious and military communities.



In the lead-up to Afghanistan’s historic elections in 2014, **Afghanistan 21** planned mini-summits for other young leaders around the country, organized a town hall in Kabul to encourage people to vote, and prepared position papers for the presidential candidates outlining the concerns of Afghanistan’s youth. “The youth are the best reason for hope in my country,” said **Sulaiman Akbari**, Business Development Manager for Mercy Corps in Kabul, at a recent Asia 21 Summit. “We are working to be sure the next government hears from our young leaders.”

Asia 21 young leaders **Saad Mohseni** and **Lotfullah Najafizada** spearheaded **Afghanistan’s first-ever live Presidential Elections Debate** aired on national TV—a profoundly important development in a country still fighting to consolidate its strides toward stable democratic governance.



*The Wall Street Journal* said the event showed “an increasingly sophisticated approach to political campaigning” and quoted Lotfullah in its piece: “Lotfullah Najafizada, the head of Tolo News, described a meeting with 100 or more reporters and editors on Sunday, the day the campaigning officially began. ‘What’s happening in the next 60 days is not a typical campaign period—it’s something which is going to determine our future,’ Mr. Najafizada recalled telling his staff. ‘This is really a struggle for survival.’”



# Asia 21 Collaborative Impact

## Asia 21 Action Lab (2016)

From October 6-10, 2016 a group of ten Asia 21 Young Leaders gathered in Kathmandu, Nepal to pilot the idea of an Asia 21 Action Lab. The focus of the workshop was to help five organizations-founded and led by Asia 21 Leaders accelerate growth and scale impact. The five organizations were:

- Action Lab 1: Saathi Pads, Kristen Kagetsu (Class of 2015)
- Action Lab 2: Clinic 5, Dr. Mohsin Ali Mustafa (Class of 2015)
- Action Lab 3: KTK-BELT, Rajeev Goyal (Class of 2015)
- Action Lab 4: Asia 21 Impact Accelerator Fund, Emily Chew (Class of 2015)
- Action Lab 5: Kehi Garoun, Umanga Pandey (Class of 2015)

The **Asia 21 Action Lab** is a new collaborative project that seeks to collectively engage the current class of Asia 21 Young Leaders in public service work by partnering with an organization from within the Asia 21 network.

This year, our 2016 Class selected the organization **Saathi**, co-founded and run by **Kristen Kagetsu**, Asia 21 Class of 2015. Saathi is the first organization to make biodegradable sanitary pads from banana fiber in India; it promotes a cleaner earth, and access to pads for women in rural India, and employment for women in its women-run production facility. Going forward, the 2016 Class will actively engage with Saathi throughout their year-long fellowship to produce tangible outcomes and help scale the impact of their work.

The Asia 21 Action Lab provides US \$10,000 funding, generously supported by **Ek Disha Foundation**, a U.S.-based nonprofit founded by Asia 21 alumnus **Rick Pal**, Asia 21 Class of 2008 that funds, mentors, and supports high impact humanitarian projects.



## To Nepal With Love (2015)

Following the 2015 Nepal Earthquake which claimed the lives of almost 9,000 people and injured nearly 22,000, two Asia 21 Young Leaders, **Mun Ching Yap**, Head of AirAsia Foundation and **Rabi Karmacharya**, Executive Director of OLE Nepal, collaborated to aid relief efforts for the children of Nepal. With many children displaced and schools destroyed, Mun Ching Yap and the AirAsia Foundation helped to raise funds for Open Learning Exchange Nepal (OLE Nepal) which directly supported efforts to rebuild schools in the Gorkha district of Nepal. Additionally OLE provided children access to laptop based learning programs while schools remained under construction.



## India-Pakistan Peace Song (2015)

Asia 21 alumni, **Ali Aftab Saeed**, vocalist of the band Beygairat Brigade from Pakistan and **Aarti Shrivastava**, a national award-winning documentary filmmaker and Founder of Humanity Watchdog Foundation & Golden Lotus Films from India, collaborated on making a music video for Ali's song Inko Na Roke Koi. The song talks about how first-time travelers from Pakistan to India and vice

versa are actually struck by the commonalities between the two countries rather than the differences that tend to get more attention for all the wrong reasons. This song is a reflection of people like Ali and Aarti who feel helpless because of the bureaucratic red tape, the folly of their governments, the barbed wires and fences that keep them apart, and the eternal wait for a visa to travel across the border. The music video, shot in Mumbai, Delhi, Patiala, Amritsar, Attari, and Chandigarh, is about a young Pakistani girl, Zahra



who travels to India to surprise her best friend, Praneet on the day of her wedding. Zahra & Praneet had become best of friends during their college days in London. During her maiden trip to India, Zahra cannot help but feel very special and welcomed not only by Praneet's family, but by ordinary people she meets along the way. Here is the link to the video [AsiaSociety.org/video/India--and-Pakistan-Peace-Song](http://AsiaSociety.org/video/India--and-Pakistan-Peace-Song)

## India-Pakistan Peace Rickshaw (2015)

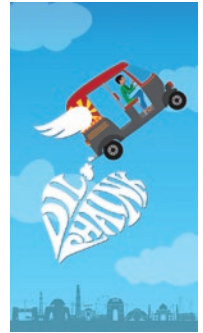
The idea behind the India Pakistan Peace Rickshaw campaign was to spread the message of peace, friendship, and harmony through a mode of transportation that is most widely used by ordinary people in the two neighboring countries. After lengthy discussions, the 2014 Asia 21 Class settled on the slogans that promoted peace over violence; highlighted the similarities rather than the differences; and encouraged cooperation over competition. These positive messages were conveyed to the general public as the rickshaws went about their business in Pakistan's megacity, Karachi.



The video of the peace rickshaw campaign can be viewed here [AsiaSociety.org/video/India-Pakistan-Peace-Rickshaw](http://AsiaSociety.org/video/India-Pakistan-Peace-Rickshaw).

## Dil Phaink (2015)

The game Dil Phaink was created by Asia 21 alumni as an ode to the late Sabeen Mahmud (member of the India-Pakistan Asia 21 Chapter) who was gunned down by enemies of the inclusive, tolerant society that Sabeen stood for. Deriving its name from Sabeen's last project (which was exhibited at the Southbank Centre in London after her death), Dil Phaink is an Urdu language metaphorical reference for someone who wears their heart on their sleeve. The game, a "visa free" virtual rickshaw ride across the landscapes of India and Pakistan, seeks to familiarize children of the two countries about the historical monuments in a fun and interactive manner. To complete the game, one has to successfully maneuver through an obstacle course of the famous landmarks from India and Pakistan. Among the landmarks from Pakistan include Mazar-eQuaid, Minar-e-Pakistan, Faisal Mosque, Habib Bank Plaza, Khyber Pass, Ziarat Residency, and Badshahi Mosque. On the Indian side, the Taj Mahal, Char Minar, the India Gate, Qutub Minar, Swaminarayan Temple, The Lotus Temple, and The Red Fort are represented. The game is available free of charge in both the Google Play and Apple Store.



## Fighting for Girls' Education (2014)

After meeting fellow Asia 21 Young Leader **Humaira Bachal** from Pakistan at the 2013 Asia 21 Summit in Zhenjiang, China, business leader **Rick Pal** from Houston, Texas was deeply inspired by her personal story of challenge and determination. He decided to join Humaira's fight for girls' access to education. He sponsored classroom furniture for Humaira's Dream Foundation Trust school in the slums of Muwach Goth in Karachi. It's hard to imagine that a business leader from Houston would have linked up with a girls' education crusader from Karachi anywhere other than at an Asia 21 Young Leaders Summit.



Two-time Academy Award winner and Asia 21 Young Leader **Sharmeen Obaid Chinoy**—who first brought Humaira into the Asia 21 family—also made a short film documenting **Humaira Bachal's** life, entitled *Humaira: The Dream Catcher*. The film was presented during **Madonna's** "Chime for Change" concert in 2014, helping to fundraise for the school.

## Delivering Insight and Impact in Bhutan (2013)

Six Young Leaders from the Asia 21 Class of 2013 visited Bhutan to lead a series of consulting workshops with Bhutanese public service groups: the Tarayana Foundation ([TarayanaFoundation.org](http://TarayanaFoundation.org)) and READ Bhutan ([ReadGlobal.org/Our-Work/Read-Bhutan](http://ReadGlobal.org/Our-Work/Read-Bhutan)). Outcomes included:

- A roadmap on how the Tarayana Foundation can design and implement an M&E system;
- A redraft of Tarayana's mission statement which was accepted without change by Tarayana's Secretary General;
- Well-received feedback on Tarayana's website design and potential for the use of social media platforms to amplify its online presence;
- READ Bhutan was introduced to Asia 21 Young Leader **Ewa Wojkowska's** organization, Kopernik, which plans to collaborate with them on technology projects which include a social enterprise to pilot the sale of hand cranked corn shellers for maize farmers.

“It was wonderful to have the Asia 21 Class of 2013 visit with us and show interest in the work we do at the grassroots. I am happy to note that they were all willing to give so freely of their time and expertise in helping us help those who need our support. I am glad that the Asia 21 Young Leaders are putting their expertise to good use through experiential learning, and sharing and effecting positive change.”

– Ms. Chime P. Wangdi, Secretary General, The Tarayana Foundation



## Responding To Disasters (2013)

Philippine members of Asia 21 joined forces to bring help to the victims of Typhoon Haiyan in various ways: medical teams deployed, fundraisers held, on-site volunteer work, and counseling for children:

- **Jo-ar Herrera**, commandant of the Philippines Civil-Military Operations School and member of the Asia 21 Class of 2007, managed the collection and distribution of relief organized by the Philippine Army.
- **Ching Jorge**, founder of Bato Balani Foundation, organized relief and fundraising efforts for the victims of Typhoon Haiyan.



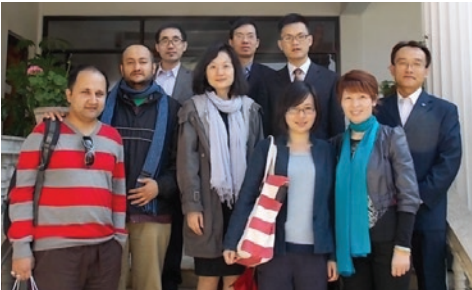
- **Myrish Antonio**, head of the Salonga Center, spearheaded relief efforts to Panay Island and Northern Cebu.
- **Anya Lim** and her friends set up a grassroots relief operation aimed at far-flung areas and mountain communities that had been beyond the reach of larger aid organizations.
- **Enrique Gonzales**, head of Family Vaccine (FVSC), conducted medical relief missions that provided vaccines to victims.
- **Mark Yu**, head of SeaOil, provided fuel support to ABS-CBN's (the largest news network in the Philippines) relief efforts.
- **Pat Gallardo Dwyer**, head of Shangri-La's Corporate Social Responsibility department, organized relief efforts to areas north of Cebu, which aid had not yet reached.
- **Mun Ching Yap** of Air Asia mobilized the company's entire network for the victims of Typhoon Haiyan, launching a region-wide campaign to raise funds for the Philippine Red Cross.
- **Rucha Chitnis** wrote a piece, *Weathering the Storm: Gender Dimensions of Haiyan & Climate Change*, to raise awareness of the gender dimensions of climate change and why civil society, philanthropy and aid relief groups must give special consideration to women and girls in their disaster responses.
- **Damcelle Torres** organized a benefit concert at Harvard University for the victims of Typhoon Haiyan.
- **Arief Koesoemawiria** provided 20-ft shipping containers to ship power resources (such as wind power, solar power, power storage, stand by diesel generator, and water treatment units) to emergency shelter management centers.





## Celebrating Cultural Treasures (2013)

Asia21ers **Phloeon Prim** and **Sophiline Cheam Shapiro** spearheaded **Seasons of Cambodia**, an international platform designed for showcasing Cambodian arts, culture, and humanities to audiences in New York City and around the world, featuring music, dance, visual art, ritual, film, puppetry, and academic forums.



## Building Understanding through Dialogue (2013)

Asia 21 young leaders **Umanga Pandey** and **Jinqian Liu**—who met at an Asia 21 Summit in Dhaka, Bangladesh—joined hands to organize an academic delegation from the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences (SASS) in China to Nepal discuss cross-border relationships, particularly on issues involving Tibet.



## Bringing Best Practices to Bhutan (2013)

Members of the 2012 Asia 21 class traveled as a group to **Bhutan** to introduce hi-tech infant warmers to the Health Secretary and to medical practitioners. The group also conducted a series of 3-day workshops on leadership for managers of Bhutanese civil society organizations.

## Giving Philippine Students an Out-of-This-World Experience (2010)

After connecting at an Asia 21 Summit, NASA engineer **Adam Gilmore** and Philippine civil servant **Arnel Casanova** dreamed up an exciting public service project: Adam and fellow NASA engineer and Asia 21 Young Leader **Sabrina Singh** would tour underprivileged schools in the Philippines, giving students a rare and exciting learning experience centered on the wonders of science. Over the course of two weeks, Adam and Sabrina toured schools in six cities. In Quezon City alone, over 200 children from different communities participated. Adam and Arnel were able to secure a USAID grant to support the project.

Thanks to their Asia 21 connection, a Philippine civil servant and two NASA engineers were able to link up to make a difference.





# Become a Friend of **Asia 21**

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We invite you to invest in the future of the Asia Pacific by investing in **Asia 21**. A decade ago, Asia Society began this important journey and we need your support to continue to build this community.

Join us as we elevate the next generation of inspiring young people devoted to creating a better, shared future for Asia and the world.

For information about how you can support the **Asia 21** community, please contact: [friendsofasia21@asiasociety.org](mailto:friendsofasia21@asiasociety.org)

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