Celebrating 30 Years of
Asia Society Hong Kong Center

THANKSGIVING
VIRTUAL GALA

TUESDAY, 17 NOVEMBER, 2020

Virtual Gala: 7-8:30 p.m. HKT
Virtual Off-The-Record VIP Discussion: 8:30-9:15 p.m. HKT
EVENING PROGRAM

RUNDOWN

WELCOME REMARKS
Ronnie C. Chan and S. Alice Mong

30th ANNIVERSARY FILM

HONOREES VIDEO: FOUNDERS

REMARKS
Josette Sheeran

HONOREES VIDEO: VISIONARIES

PIPA AND SHENG MUSIC PERFORMANCE
Wu Man and Wu Wei

FIRESIDE CHAT: THE PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE OF U.S.-CHINA RELATIONS
He Yafei and J. Stapleton Roy, moderated by Ronnie C. Chan

OCARINA MUSIC PERFORMANCE
Jimmy Wong

HONOREES VIDEO: STATESMEN

ASHK 2020 HIGHLIGHTS FILM

HONOREES VIDEO: BUILDERS

CLOSING REMARKS
Ronnie C. Chan and S. Alice Mong

PRIVATE RECEPTION / AFTER-PARTY
Dear Friends and Supporters,

When Asia Society Hong Kong Center was founded in 1990, I was among the first group of members. I fully subscribed to its mission of improving understanding across the Pacific. I saw it as continued education for myself rather than an organization to which I can contribute. 30 years later, the latter is best judged by others, but the journey has certainly been a most rewarding one for me. Learning about the countries and diverse cultures of Asia has greatly enriched me. My initial knowledge of India, for example, was learned through the Asia Society.

The Hong Kong Center was founded at a time, when our city was in considerable turmoil with trouble coming from the North. U.S.-China relationship was tested. In subsequent years, we have done our part to serve as a bridge to the two sides of the Pacific. In the process, we also contributed to keeping Hong Kong as a vibrant global city for rich intellectual discussions on policy, business, arts and culture.

While Hong Kong's return to her motherland in 1997 has been overall a success, of late there are difficulties. U.S.-China relations run the risk of returning to the state it was pre-China visit of U.S. President Richard Nixon. As such, Asia Society's work today is more needed than ever.

Nevertheless, looking back, most if not all would agree that Asia Society and its Hong Kong Center have accomplished much towards our mission, as enunciated by our founder John D. Rockefeller III in 1956. Since opening our beautiful campus at the Former Explosives Magazine site in the Admiralty district of Hong Kong in 2012, our work has reached new heights. From about 60 programs per year previously, we have grown our annual programming to over 200. Our new home has welcomed over 500,000 visitors. In the past 10 months alone and with the help of technology, we have reached over 300,000 viewers around the world. We were among the first organizations to do high-level online programs on COVID-19. The first one took place on February 14, and we have executed two dozen so far.

As the first Asia-based Center of the global Asia Society network, we have witnessed the establishment of five others in the region. The last three – India, Korea and Japan – as well as the first one in Europe, in Switzerland, can all trace their roots in part to Hong Kong. We continue to work closely with each of them, as we do also with all the centers in the U.S. We are, indeed, proud of our past.

I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge our global President Josette Sheeran for her leadership over the past seven years, and welcome our incoming President Kevin Rudd who will become the 8th President of Asia Society come January.

We will not be where we are today without the many honorees recognized at this celebration of the 30th anniversary of Asia Society Hong Kong. I have personally known and worked with each of them, and can attest to their vision and hard work on behalf of the Center. I am grateful that they were my partners in doing good. Dr. Jack Tang, Amb. Burton Levin and Sir Q.W. Lee are no longer with us, but I know that they would be proud of what we have been able to accomplish.

My gratitude also goes to all the former directors and deputy directors as well as all our dedicated staff over the past three decades. I thank each and every one of them.

Finally, I want to acknowledge our many supporters who share our mission and have contributed to our success. I look to them – and many more to come – as our valued collaborators, as we embark on our next 30 years.

Cordially,

Ronnie C. Chan
Chairman, Asia Society-Hong Kong Center
Chairman Emeritus, Asia Society
Dear Friends of Asia Society Hong Kong Center,

On October 24, 2020, we marked our 30th anniversary. We had always planned on celebrating this milestone, but with all of the uncertainties of COVID-19, we decided to follow the examples of the other Asia Society Centers in moving this year’s gala online. Our annual dinner has typically taken place in November and December, around the time of the American Thanksgiving holiday, hence this year’s Thanksgiving theme. After all, we have much to be thankful for.

In the midst of a global pandemic, the rising political tension between the U.S. and China, and the re-examination of Hong Kong’s One Country Two Systems, one might ask what there is to celebrate. Our organization was established at a time of uncertainty and tension between East and West in the aftermath of what happened in China in 1989. It was founded to serve as a bridge, and connect Hong Kong to the world as a global city.

For the gala, I have had the opportunity to speak with all of our honorees and their family members, and the theme of strengthening connections and building understanding were universal. In time of crisis, institutions are more important than ever. As we look ahead during these turbulent times, I am humbled by the work we do. We are looking back to look forward. The 13 honorees, 3 of them recognized posthumously, who we celebrate at this year’s gala embody that spirit of connectivity, and have been our champions during our first 30 years. It is fitting that we give thanks to them for their unflinching support and pioneering vision.

During this year of isolation, we have had time to pause and reflect. We may not be able to connect as easily in person as before, though we can still connect with each other virtually, and continue to learn. At Asia Society Hong Kong Center, we continue to deliver a diversity of programs. Our 2019 programs reached almost 15,000 people, while in 2020, we have reached over 300,000 viewers in the past 10 months alone! Our viewership has never been higher, and we now reach a more global audience. For this year’s gala, we are welcoming viewers and supporters from around the world. We are thankful for that global support, especially from our Asia Society global network, Josette’s leadership, and welcome Kevin Rudd as Asia Society’s 8th president. I would like to express my gratitude to our Board, and staff and interns, whose dedication is helping us put on our first ever virtual gala, and the local businesses that are partnering with us in Hong Kong. My heartfelt thanks to all of our sponsors and donors who have made this year’s virtual gala one of our most successful.

The global and local community needs us more than ever before. One of our board members said it best: “We are here to build bridges, not walls.” Our double-decker bridge – the Yasumoto Bridge and Fruitbat Bridge – remind me of how beautiful and functional bridges can be. Here’s to the next 30 years of bridge-building!

With gratitude,

S. Alice Mong
Executive Director,
Asia Society Hong Kong Center
Robert Bromley Oxnam is a China scholar and President Emeritus of the Asia Society New York. He was President of Asia Society for over a decade, 1981–1992, which grew rapidly under his direction to encompass corporate, contemporary, and cultural programs concerning over 30 Asian countries, with a New York headquarters and offices in Washington D.C., Los Angeles, Houston, and Hong Kong.

Prior to his presidency, he served as the Society’s Vice President and Washington D.C. Center Director (1979–81) and as China Council Director (1975–81). Since the 1990s, Mr. Oxnam has often acted as a lecturer for prominent Americans seeking in-depth knowledge of China, including Bill Gates, Warren Buffett and former President George H.W. Bush and Mrs. Barbara Bush. He has been Senior Advisor to the Atlanta-based Society of International Business Fellows and often accompanied their business leaders to various parts of Asia. For a short time, Mr. Oxnam was also Special Correspondent for the MacNeil/Lehrer NewsHour hosting an acclaimed nine-part special on China.

Dr. Jack Tang Chi-chien was a prominent business leader, educator, philanthropist and one of the founders of Asia Society Hong Kong Center in 1990.

Dr. Tang graduated from MIT in 1949 with a bachelor’s degree in chemical engineering and later earned his MBA at Harvard University. He returned to Hong Kong in 1955 and later became Chairman of South Sea Textile after his father’s passing in 1971 and was also Chairman Emeritus of Tristate Holdings Limited. In addition to serving as the first Chinese chairman of the Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce, Dr. Tang was also chairman of the MIT Club of Hong Kong, a Founding Member of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University Council, and an ardent supporter numerous education initiatives in the US and China.
The Hon Sir Quo-Wei Lee, GBM, JP may be best known for his career at Hang Seng Bank Limited which spanned over 50 years and culminated in the position of Executive Chairman. However, he also made important contributions to Hong Kong society through his many public service appointments - in the financial services industry, with charitable organisations and especially in education.

Amongst his many achievements in this field, Sir Quo-Wei chaired the Board of Education and the Education Commission spearheading the implementation of nine years of free education in Hong Kong. He was a Founding Member of the Council for The Chinese University of Hong Kong, he established the Li Po Chun World College of Hong Kong and was also involved in the establishment of the City University of Hong Kong, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University and the Hang Seng School of Commerce (now Hang Seng Management College). Sir Quo-Wei was one of the founders of Asia Society Hong Kong Center in 1990 and served as its inaugural Chairman. Following the Center’s establishment in Hong Kong, he recruited retired U.S. diplomat, Ambassador Burton Levin, to be the Executive Director of Asia Society Hong Kong. Together, they helped to expand Asia Society’s original mission of educating Americans about Asia to include educating Asians about America, and promoting mutual understanding and strengthening partnerships among peoples, leaders and institutions of Asia.

A retired diplomat with extensive experience in Asian affairs, Ambassador Levin was recruited by ASHK’s founding chairman, the late Sir Q.W. Lee, as the center’s first executive director in 1990. Together they helped expand Asia Society’s original mission of educating Americans about Asia to include educating Asians about America, and to promote mutual understanding and strengthening partnerships among peoples, leaders and institutions of Asia.

Mr. Levin entered the Foreign Service in July 1954, and he trained as a Chinese language and area officer. He served in Taiwan, Indonesia, Thailand (where he was Deputy of Mission), and as Consul General in Hong Kong from 1981 to 1986. From May 1987 to September 1990 he served as U.S. Ambassador to Burma. Ambassador Levin’s Washington assignments included three years (1974-1977) as head of the office of Taiwan Affairs. In 1973 he spent a year at the Hoover Institution at Stanford University as a visiting fellow. In 1987 Ambassador Levin completed a semester as a visiting scholar at Harvard University. He retired from the Foreign Service in October, 1990 to head the newly opened Hong Kong Office of the Asia Society. At the invitation of Carleton College, Ambassador Levin taught a course there in the spring of 1994 on U.S. Policy Toward Asia Following WWII. After Ambassador Levin left ASHK in 1995, he continued to teach at Carleton until his death in 2016. He graduated from Brooklyn College with a B.A. in History in 1952, and earned his Master’s degree in International Affairs from Columbia University in 1952.
After a 34-year Foreign Service career, Nicholas Platt served for 12 years at the helm of the Asia Society before becoming President Emeritus in 2004. Trained in Chinese at the State Department Language School, he began his career in Asia as a China Analyst at the U.S. Consulate General in Hong Kong from 1964-68. He served in Canada and Japan, and as U.S. Ambassador to Zambia (1982-1984), the Philippines (1987-91) and Pakistan (1991-92). Educated at Harvard College and The Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) at Johns Hopkins University, he is a member of the New York Council on Foreign Relations and Chair of the U.S.-China Education Trust Advisory Board. Sheila, Ambassador Platt’s wife for more than 60 years, died in 2018. Their three grown sons: Adam, a writer; Oliver, an actor and Nicholas Jr., a financial publishing executive; have accumulated nine grandchildren. His memoir China Boys was published in 2010.

Tung Chee Hwa is the Vice Chairman of the Twelfth National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference, People’s Republic of China. He is the Founding Chairman of the China-United States Exchange Foundation and Our Hong Kong Foundation. Prior to these appointments, Mr. Tung served as First Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (“HKSAR”), People’s Republic of China from July 1997 to March 2005. Born in 1937 in Shanghai, Mr. Tung spent his childhood in Hong Kong. He had his education in the United Kingdom, graduating at University of Liverpool with BSc in 1960. After that he lived and worked nine years in the United States with General Electric and in the family business respectively. In 1969, Mr. Tung returned Hong Kong to help run the family business. He had a successful and distinguished career in business while at the same time served in various public sector and advisory positions in Hong Kong. In 1997, he took on the position as the first Chief Executive of HKSAR.
Dr Mochtar Riady, founder and Chairman of Lippo Group of companies, is one of Southeast Asia’s best known and most respected business titans.

Between 1960 and 1971, he turned the deficits of several Indonesian banks into surpluses. He established the Panin Bank, making it Indonesia’s largest private bank. PT Bank Lippo Tbk was another of his miracle turn-arounds. In the financial crisis of 1997, when dozens of other banks went under, Lippo not only survived but flourished.

Dr Riady set up the Pelita Harapan School and Pelita Harapan University in Indonesia and has served as Chairman or Member of the Board of Trustees at the University of Indonesia, Xiamen University in China, the Fulbright College of Arts & Sciences of the University of Arkansas, and the University of Southern California, where Dr Riady became the first foreigner to serve as a trustee. Dr Riady has been conferred with an Honorary Doctor of Laws by the Golden Gate University, San Francisco, and has been appointed Honorary Professor by Southeast University, Nanjing, and Fujian Normal University respectively, and Visiting Professor by Xiamen University.

He has given very generously to support teaching and research. Notably, the Mochtar Riady Institute for Nanotechnology (MRIN), a centre for cancer research set up in Indonesia in 2006. Together with the Pelita Harapan University and Siloam Hospital founded by Dr Riady, the MRIN has made a unique contribution to training and research and has brought great benefit to medical and science students in Indonesia.

Robert Miller, Co-Founder of Duty Free Shoppers, and Chantal Miller are long-time supporters of the arts in Hong Kong. In 2004, the Millers made a major US$3 million gift to the Asia Society Hong Kong Center, which supported both the restoration of the Miller Theater – formerly a military magazine for storing ammunition – and the staging of its first series of programs to take place in this revitalized space in 2012. In May 2014, Mr. Miller made the largest single donation by an individual to an arts and cultural institution in Hong Kong in the form of HK$100 million to promote and celebrate Hong Kong’s emerging talent in the arts. In recognition of this donation, the Gallery was renamed the Chantal Miller Gallery. Additionally, Mr. and Mrs. Miller’s company, The Mari-Cha Group, made possible the Mari-Cha Lion exhibition in 2017 for Asia Society Hong Kong Center heritage site’s fifth anniversary.
Mr. Wadsworth is a Trustee of the California College of the Arts; a Director of American Friends of M+; a Director of the Ullens Center for Contemporary Art; a Director of Lever; a member of the Booth School Business Council; a Director of Asia Art Archive; an Advisor to Mission Bay Capital. Mr. Wadsworth is also an Emeritus Trustee of Williams College, the Asia Society and the Guggenheim Museum. Mr. Wadsworth began his investment banking career with The First Boston Corporation in 1963. Mr. Wadsworth earned a B.A. from Williams College in 1961, and an MBA from the Booth School of Business in 1963. Mr. Wadsworth is married, has three children and eight grandchildren.

Jack Wadsworth is Honorary Chairman of Morgan Stanley Asia and Advisory Director of Morgan Stanley globally. He is also Chairman and Co-Founder of Ceyuan Ventures, a China based early stage technology venture fund. Mr. Wadsworth joined Morgan Stanley as a Managing Director in 1978. In 1987, he moved to Japan as President of Morgan Stanley Japan. In 1991, Mr. Wadsworth moved to Hong Kong as Chairman of Morgan Stanley Asia. In 2001, he retired from Morgan Stanley and moved from Hong Kong to San Francisco.

Chien Lee is Chairman of Bei Shan Tang Foundation and a Governor of Lee Hysan Foundation. He is a Non-Executive Director of Hysan Development Company Limited and also an Independent Non-Executive Director of Swire Pacific Limited. He is currently Vice-Chairman of the Council of the Chinese University of Hong Kong, Chairman of the Board of CUHK Medical Centre, Supervisor of St. Paul's Co-educational College and its Primary School, Trustee of Phillips Academy, Andover, Director of Stanford Health Care and also a Trustee Emeritus of Stanford University.
Mary Lee Turner lives in New York, NY and Paris, France. Prior to this relocation, she lived in Hong Kong for almost fifteen years and led the Asia Society Hong Kong Center as Director from August 1998 until 2006. In Paris, she is an active member of The American Library in Paris and served as Chairman of the Board of Trustees for four years during which time, she led a major renovation project for the nearly 100 year-old institution. She graduated from Vanderbilt University and worked for IBM for 25 years, retiring as IBM Corporate Vice President of Communications. She moved to Hong Kong in 1993 and served as a Strategy Consultant for IBM Greater China. She is married to retired Shearman & Sterling partner, Edward Turner and has one daughter who lives in Shanghai with her husband and three children.

Founded in 1884, The Hong Kong Jockey Club is a world-class racing club that acts continuously for the betterment of our society. The Club has a unique integrated business model, comprising racing and racecourse entertainment, a membership club, responsible sports wagering and lottery, and charities and community contribution. Through this model, the Club generates economic and social value for the community and supports the Government in combatting illegal gambling. The Club is Hong Kong’s largest single taxpayer and one of the city’s major employers. Its Charities Trust is also one of the world’s top ten charity donors.

Working with the Government, non-governmental organisations and community partners, the Club’s Charities Trust proactively seeks out the root causes of social issues, bringing multiple and cross-sectoral parties together to address them through innovative approaches. While continuing to fund a wide range of projects, the Trust is placing special emphasis on four areas of strategic focus – “Youth”, the “Elderly”, “Sports”, and “Arts, Culture and Heritage”.

Mary Lee Turner

The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust

Riding high together
Recognized as the world’s premier pipa virtuoso, Wu Man is a soloist, educator and composer who gives her lute-like instrument—which has a history of more than 2,000 years in China—a new role in both traditional and contemporary music. She has premiered hundreds of new works for the pipa, while spearheading multimedia projects to both preserve and create global awareness of China’s ancient musical traditions. Projects she has initiated have resulted in the pipa finding a place in new solo and quartet works, concertos, opera, chamber, electronic, and jazz music as well as in theater productions, film, dance, and collaborations with visual artists. She has performed in recital and with major orchestras around the world, is a frequent collaborator with ensembles such as the Kronos Quartet and Shanghai Quartets and is a founding member of the Silkroad Ensemble. She has appeared in more than 40 recordings throughout her career, including the Silkroad Ensemble’s Grammy Award-winning recording Sing Me Home, featuring her composition “Green (Vincent’s Tune).” She is also a featured artist in the 2015 documentary The Music of Strangers: Yo-Yo Ma and the Silk Road Ensemble.

Born in Hangzhou, China, Wu Man studied at the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing, where she became the first recipient of a master’s degree in pipa. She subsequently received first prize in the First National Music Performance Competition, among other awards, and participated in many premieres of works by Chinese composers. She moved to the U.S. in 1990 and was awarded the Bunting Fellowship at Harvard University in 1998. She was the first Chinese traditional musician to receive the United States Artist Fellowship (2008) and the first artist from China to perform at the White House. In 2013, she was named Musical America’s Instrumentalist of the Year. She is now a distinguished professor at the Zhejiang and the Xi’an Conservatories in China.

Sheng virtuoso Wu Wei has developed the ancient instrument into an innovative force in contemporary music. As a soloist, he has performed with such leading orchestras and ensembles as the Berlin and Los Angeles Philharmonic, New York Philharmonic, BBC Symphony Orchestra, Royal Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra, Tokyo Symphony Orchestra, Ensemble intercontemporain, and Ensemble Modem. He has also performed with renowned conductors, such as Kent Nagano, Gustavo Dudamel, Myung-Whun Chung, Jaap van Zweden, Ilan Volkov, Susanna Mälkki, Matthias Pintscher, Markus Stenz, Marin Alsop and Jakub Hrusa, etc. He has given world premieres of more than 400 works, including 20 concertos for sheng and orchestra, by composers such as John Cage, Unsuk Chin, Jukka Tiensuu, Toshio Hosokawa, Enjott Schneider, Bernd Richard Deutsch, Guss Janssen, and Ruo Huang.

Mr. Wu is also a prolific composer for the sheng, having received several commissions including those from Fondation Royaumont and the Cittella Ranieri Foundation. He studied at the Shanghai Conservatory of Music and at the Hans Eisler Academy Berlin. Since 2013, he was Professor at Shanghai Music Conservatory. He is a winner of the German music competition Musica Viva and was also the recipient of the German Global Roots prize, German Record Critics Award, and the Edinburgh International Festival’s Herald Angels prize (2011). He was named the best soloist at the Chinese Music Awards (2017). Mr. Wu has recorded CDs and DVDs for Deutsche Grammophon, Sony, Harmonia Mundi, and Wergo. His recording Unsuk Chin: 3 Concertos (Deutsche Grammophon) garnered the International Classical Music Award and German Record Critics Award, and the International Classical Music Award and BBC Music Magazine Award in 2015. With “his extraordinary virtuosity” (the Guardian), his performance was one of the highlights of BBC Proms in 2014.
WONG Yu Hoi Jimmy is a passionate ocarina player aged eleven. He has enjoyed learning ocarina for two years and has won the bronze prize of the Third “Star of Ocarina” National Competition in China. Jimmy is now the member of the Hong Kong Children’s Ocarina Band and has performed in various concerts including the Osaka Ocarina Concert and the Hong Kong & Irish Youth Concert in Dublin in 2019.

“Horse Racing” was composed by a famous Erhu performer Huang Hai Huai in 1959. It was originally an Erhu solo piece depicting the “Horse Racing Festival” of the Inner Mongolia. It is now performed by Jimmy Wong with an ocarina.

STANLEY WONG

Mr. Wong began his career in graphic design and advertising industry by working as Chief Executive and Creative Director for international advertising agencies. He became a film director for television commercials 20 years later. Throughout his career, Mr. Wong received over 600 local, Asian and international awards for his art, design, photography and advertising works. Many of his works have been exhibited in local and overseas galleries and museums in more than 150 shows. In May 2012, he was named the Artist of the Year 2011 in Visual Arts at the Hong Kong Arts Development Awards, and received the Hong Kong Contemporary Art Awards 2012 from Hong Kong Museum of Art. In 2020, he was named as DFA World’s Outstanding Chinese Designing 2020 by Hong Kong Design Center. Mr. Wong gained international recognition with his “red, white and blue” series that promotes the “positive spirit of Hong Kong,” which he presented at the 51st Venice Biennale in 2005 representing Hong Kong.

“Renowned local contemporary artist Stanley Wong, also known as anothermountainman又一山人, created a unique logo for Asia Society Hong Kong Center’s 30th anniversary. The specially created logo integrates both Chinese and Western elements, representative of East and West embraced in Hong Kong. The two “3”s combined into one embody an auspicious Chinese idea, which represents the spirit of continuity.
Asia Society Hong Kong comes together for a revered American tradition to celebrate togetherness. Join us for a dialogue as we welcome high-ranking U.S. and Chinese diplomats for an engaging conversation on the past, present and future of the Sino-American relationship under the new U.S. administration.

Mr. He Yafei was born in Ningbo, Zhejiang Province in March 1955, graduated from Beijing Foreign Studies University, and later studied at Geneva Institute of International Relations. He currently serves as the Secretary General of International Mountain Tourism Alliance, and Distinguished Professor of Yenching Academy of Peking University.

Mr. He Yafei served as Counsellor of the Chinese Permanent Mission to the United Nations, Deputy Director General of the Arms Control Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Minister Counsellor and Minister of the Embassy of China in the United States, Director General of the America and Pacific Department, Assistant Minister and Vice Minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Representative and Ambassador of the Permanent Mission of China to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other International Organizations in Switzerland, and Vice Minister of the Overseas Chinese Affairs Office of the State Council.

Mr. He Yafei has rich experiences in diplomatic practices, and in-depth research and studies on the global governance and China’s foreign policy, on which he has published several books. In his latest book, China and Global Governance (March 2019), he clarifies China’s role in the global governance, and summarizes the concepts and practices of China’s efforts in improving global governance system and innovating the model of global governance mechanism.
Mr. Ronnie C. Chan is the Chair of Hang Lung Group Limited and its subsidiary Hang Lung Properties Limited, both publicly listed in Hong Kong. The Group expanded into mainland China in 1992, developing, owning and managing world-class commercial complexes in key tier one and tier two cities. He founded and chairs the China Heritage Fund, is a co-founding Director of The Forbidden City Cultural Heritage Conservation Foundation in Beijing, and is former Vice President and former Advisor of the China Development Research Foundation in Beijing.

Mr. Chan is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Chair Emeritus of the Asia Society and Chairman of its Hong Kong Center, and Co-Founder and Chairman of the Centre for Asian Philanthropy and Society. He serves or has served on the governing or advisory bodies of several think tanks and universities, which include: Peterson Institute for International Economics, World Economic Forum, East-West Center, Pacific Council on International Policy, Eisenhower Fellowships, The Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation, University of Southern California, Indian School of Business, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Yale University, Tsinghua University, and Fudan University.

Ambassador J. Stapleton (Stape) Roy is a Distinguished Scholar and Founding Director Emeritus of the Kissinger Institute on China and the United States at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, DC.

Stape Roy was born in China and spent much of his youth there during the upheavals of World War II and the communist revolution, where he watched the battle for Shanghai from the roof of the Shanghai American School. He joined the US Foreign Service immediately after graduating from Princeton in 1956, retiring 45 years later with the rank of Career Ambassador, the highest in the service. In 1978 he participated in the secret negotiations that led to the establishment of US-PRC diplomatic relations.

During a career focused on East Asia and the Soviet Union, Stape’s ambassadorial assignments included Singapore, China, and Indonesia. His final post with the State Department was as Assistant Secretary for Intelligence and Research. On retirement he joined Kissinger Associates, Inc., a strategic consulting firm, before joining the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in September 2008 to head the newly created Kissinger Institute. In 2001 he received Princeton University’s Woodrow Wilson Award for Distinguished Public Service.
Remarks by past and present Asia Society Co-Chairs

01
Remarks by past and present Asia Society Co-Chairs

02
The Future of Asia Dialogue

CHAN HENG CHEE

Ambassador Chan Heng Chee is Ambassador-at-Large with the Singapore Foreign Ministry. She chairs the Lee Kuan Yew Centre for Innovative Cities in the Singapore University of Technology and Design. She was appointed a Member of the Presidential Council for Minority Rights in 2012 and continues to serve in that position. Ambassador Chan is Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the SEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute (SEAS), the premier multidisciplinary research institute on Southeast Asia in the region, and the Deputy Chairman of the Social Science Research Council (SSRC) in Singapore. She is a Member of the Advisory Council on the Ethical use of Artificial Intelligence (“AI”) and Data, Ministry of Communications and Information. Ambassador Chan is Trustee of the National University of Singapore and a Member of the Yale-NUS Governing Board.

Previously, she was Singapore’s Ambassador to the United States and Singapore’s Permanent Representative to the United Nations with concurrent accreditation as High Commissioner to Canada and Ambassador to Mexico.

Ambassador Chan has received a number of awards including from the Government of Singapore The Public Administration Medal (Gold); The Meritorious Service Medal and The Distinguished Service Order; Honorary Degrees of Doctor of Letters from the University of Newcastle, Australia; the University of Buckingham (United Kingdom); and an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws from the University of Warwick (United Kingdom).

When Ambassador Chan left Washington at the end of her appointment, she received the Inaugural Asia Society Outstanding Diplomatic Achievement Award, the Inaugural Foreign Policy Outstanding Diplomatic Achievement Award 2012 and the United States Navy Distinguished Public Service Award.
JOHN L. THORNTON

John L. Thornton is Executive Chairman of Barrick Gold Corporation. He is Global Co-Chair of the Asia Society. In addition, he is a Professor, Director of the Global Leadership Program, and a Member of the Advisory Board of the Tsinghua University School of Economics and Management and the Global Advisory Board of the Tsinghua School of Public Management in Beijing. He was Chairman of the Advisory Board of the Tsinghua University School of Economics and Management from 2010 to 2013. Mr. Thornton retired in 2003 as President and a member of the board of the Goldman Sachs Group.

Mr. Thornton is a director of the Ford Motor Company. He is also the Non-Executive Chairman of PineBridge Investments, a global asset manager. He is also a member of the board of SparkCognition, a leading industrial artificial intelligence company. He is also Chairman Emeritus of the Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C. He is a trustee, advisory board member, or member of the China Investment Corporation (CIC), Confucius Institute Headquarters (Hanban), Council on Foreign Relations, King Abdullah University of Science and Technology McKinsey Advisory Council, Schwarzman Scholars, and the African Leadership Academy. He is also Vice Chairman of the Morehouse College Board of Trustees.

In 2007, Institutional Investor magazine named Mr. Thornton one of 40 individuals who have had the greatest influence in shaping global financial markets over the previous forty years. In 2008, he was awarded the Friendship Award of the People’s Republic of China, the highest honor accorded to a non-Chinese citizen. The Chinese government also named him as one of fifteen “foreign experts” who have made the most significant contribution to China’s development over the past three decades.

HENRIETTA FORE

Henrietta H. Fore, Executive Director of UNICEF, has worked to champion economic development, education, and health, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief for the most vulnerable in the international and developing world in a public service, private sector and non-profit leadership career that spans more than four decades.

Ms. Fore served as the Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), and Director of United States Foreign Assistance, holding the equivalent rank as Deputy Secretary of State. Ms. Fore served as Under Secretary of State for Management and as the 37th Director of the United States Mint.

Prior to her appointment with UNICEF, Ms. Fore was Chairman and CEO of Holsman International, a manufacturing and investment company. She also served on the boards of six public corporations and numerous organizations. From 2011 through 2017, Ms. Fore was Global Co-Chair of Asia Society along with Ronnie Chan.
ISKANDER AKYLBAYEV

Iskander Akylbayev is Executive Director of the Kazakhstan Council on International Relations. Iskander has more than 10 years of experience working in the sphere of foreign policy, government relations and mass media. Previously he worked as advisor to the CEO on foreign policy issues at the Qazaqstan TV Channel and senior fellow at the Kazakhstan Institute for Strategic Studies (KazISS) under the President of Kazakhstan. Iskander also served as a senior fellow at the Institute of Diplomacy at the Academy of Public Administration under the President of Kazakhstan. He focuses on Kazakhstan’s foreign policy, security and geopolitics of Eurasia. He is an Asia 21 Young Leader at the Asia Society, Atlantic Council Millennium Fellow, Pacific Forum Fellow, Rumsfeld Fellow, Gorshkov Fund Fellow.

In 2020 Iskander was selected as the only security fellow from Central Asia by Arms Control Negotiation Academy (ACONA) organized by Harvard University’s Davis Center, MGIMO, Wilson Center, Hofi Reyjavik Peace Centre, National Research University Higher School of Economics and Peace Research Institute Frankfurt. He was the first runner-up winner of the Hong Kong Cup All Japan University Students English Speech Contest 2013 and interned at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Iskander is Founder and CEO of XANDER platform for leadership and networking in Central Asia. He received the MEXT scholarship by the government of Japan and holds MA degree in international relations from the University of Tsukuba.

BONNIE CHIU

Bonnie Chiu is an award-winning social entrepreneur, a gender equality advocate and a leading social impact and impact investing consultant. She is the Managing Director of The Social Investment Consultancy, a social impact strategy and research consultancy with offices in London, Hong Kong, Bangalore and Accra. Chiu is also Founder of Lensational, a non-profit social enterprise which equips marginalized women with photography training and digital storytelling in 23 countries across Asia and Africa.

Passionate about diversity and inclusion, she serves as a Senior Contributor on Forbes, founded the Diversity Forum for Inclusive Social Investment and coordinates the Women in SocialFinance Network. Chosen as a Forbes 30 Under 30 Social Entrepreneur in Europe, she has been invited to speak in 20 countries, including two TEDx talks. Born and raised in Hong Kong, Chiu has lived in six countries: Denmark, Singapore, United States, Germany, Pakistan, and the United Kingdom.
THE HONORABLE KEVIN RUDD

The Honorable Kevin Rudd is the incoming President and Chief Executive Officer of Asia Society, effective January 1st, 2021. He served as Australia’s 26th Prime Minister (2007-2010, 2013) and as Foreign Minister (2010-2012). He is also a leading international authority on China. He began his career as a China scholar, serving as an Australian diplomat in Beijing before entering Australian politics.

As Prime Minister, he led Australia’s response during the Global Financial Crisis, reviewed by the IMF as the most effective stimulus strategy of all member states. Mr. Rudd co-founded the G20 to drive the global response to the crisis. He was active in global foreign policy leadership, serving as a driving force in expanding the East Asia Summit to include the U.S. and Russia. Mr. Rudd legislated for a 20% mandatory renewable energy target for Australia. He was a member of the UN Secretary-General’s High Level Panel on Global Sustainability and is a co-author of the report Resilient People, Resilient Planet for the 2012 Rio+20 Conference. His government turned Australia into one of the top ten aid donors in the world – increasing their foreign aid budget to approximately $5 billion. He also appointed Australia’s first ever Ambassador for Women and Girls to support the critical role of women in development and reduce physical and sexual violence against women.

Mr. Rudd joined the Asia Society Policy Institute (ASPI) in New York as its inaugural President in January 2015. ASPI is a “think-do tank” dedicated to using second-track diplomacy to assist governments and businesses in resolving policy challenges within Asia, and between Asia and the West. He was appointed to the IMF Managing Director’s External Advisory Group in 2020. He is a Distinguished Fellow at Chatham House in London, a Distinguished Statesman with the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington DC, a Distinguished Fellow at the Paulson Institute in Chicago, and a member of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty Organization’s Group of Eminent Persons. He serves on the International Advisory Board of the Schwarzman Scholars program at Tsinghua University. Mr. Rudd is proficient in Mandarin Chinese.

C M Y L was formed by two young Hong Kong musicians, Kessay Chan and Ivy Hung, in 2019. Chan, a one-man a cappella artist and educator in Hong Kong, has participated in and won numerous local and overseas performing art related competitions. Some of the awards he has received are: Champion of Loopstation Category, at the a cappella Championships (Singapore) 2018 and 2019, and the Top Ten Youth Artist 2019 from HK Playground Association.

Hung is an up-and-coming music producer and a cappella artist from Hong Kong. She has appeared on the local music scene as a composer, arranger as well as music albums’ and concerts’ production assistant. Artists she has worked with include Joey Yung, Hins Cheung, Chet Lam, Jason Chan, etc.

In the past year, C M Y L has participated in different live performances, such as the “Wander in To Kwa Wan” hosted by the Community Record Company. In February 2020, the duo was invited by the Hong Kong Association of Northern California to San Francisco, US to perform and share their music.
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Asia Society Hong Kong Center was established entirely with local funding and is supported through membership dues, fundraising events, and contributions from individuals, corporations and foundations that work together to support and advance its mission.

Steeped in history, cultural significance and natural beauty, the 1.3 hectares site was originally built by the British Army in the mid-19th century for explosives and ammunition production and storage. Through careful conservation, restoration and adaptive re-use, this heritage site was successfully transformed into a cultural, artistic and intellectual hub in Hong Kong in 2012 and offers a broad variety of programs in the form of lectures, performances, film screenings and exhibitions to the community.

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