



# Asia Society

## ASIA 21 YOUNG LEADERS

2016 Asia 21 Young Leaders Summit  
December 8-10, 2016 Seoul, Korea

### BUILDING A RESILIENT FUTURE: LEVERAGING THE ASIA 21 NETWORK



Attendees at the 2016 Asia 21 Young Leaders Summit, Seoul, Republic of Korea (December 9, 2016)

“Today, Asia 21 embodies John D. Rockefeller 3<sup>rd</sup>'s legacy by connecting the brightest minds in Asia and the United States – bridge builders in their own right – to confront the most vexing challenges facing the region today.”

- *Josette Sheeran*  
*President & CEO*  
*Asia Society*

The **2016 Asia 21 Young Leaders Summit** in Seoul, Korea welcomed over 80 young leaders from 30 different countries across the Asia-Pacific. Young Leaders from a wide variety of sectors including politics, business, arts, media, academia and civil society were in attendance. The goal of the Summit is to allow young leaders to build relationships, engage in interdisciplinary dialogue and cultural exchange, as well as develop cooperative responses for addressing shared challenges.

The theme of the 2016 summit was **Building a Resilient Future; Leveraging the Asia 21 Network**. The three-day Summit began with a forum for the members of the 2016 class to introduce them to the network, and each other, as well as delve deeper into the **Asia 21 Action Lab**, a year-long public service project. In the days that followed, all members of the Asia 21 network partook in formal and informal sessions on subjects including leadership, global affairs and social change. They participated in workshops and breakout sessions aimed at developing solutions to critical issues facing the region, and issues they are tackling in their own work.

## SUMMIT HIGHLIGHTS:

In addition to the illustrious **Asia 21 Class of 2016** (bios below) along with dozens of alumni from previous years, the Summit drew several special guests: 2016 Asia Game Changer, pioneering Nepali eye surgeon, **Dr. Ruit Sanduk**; DBS Chief Innovation Officer **Neal Cross**; Asia Society Policy Institute Vice President **Wendy Cutler**; Google's Director of Public Policy and Government Relations for the Asia Pacific **Barbara Navarro**; Korea's Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs **H.E. Lim Sung-nam**, LOTTE Chairman **Dong-Bin Shin**; and Commander, U.S. Marine Forces, Korea **Major General Robert Hedelund**. Dr. Ruit called the summit “utterly inspiring”; Google’s Navarro pronounced herself “amazed” by the Asia 21 group; and General Hedelund said it was “as impressive a group of young leaders as I’ve had the privilege of being with.”

### Innovation Masterclass – Engine of Innovation

**Neal Cross**, Managing Director & Chief Innovation Officer, DBS Bank

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*“Innovation is about making people passionate about doing things differently, working towards a higher purpose, and making the impossible, possible.” – Neal Cross, DBS Bank*

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Neal Cross

### Plenary Session – Women in a Man’s World: The Art of Negotiation

**Wendy Cutler**, Vice President and Managing Director, Asia Society Policy Institute & **Mitsuru Claire Chino**, Executive Officer/ General Counsel, Itochu Corporation (Asia 21 Class of 2006)



Left to Right: Mitsuru Claire Chino, Wendy Cutler

### Luncheon Keynote Conversation

**Dr. Ruit Sanduk**, Founder, Himalayan Cataract Project in conversation with **Shalini Mahtani**, Founder, The Zubin Foundation (Asia 21 Class of 2007)

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*“I faced a lot of obstacles. People who said, ‘it’s too complicated; too expensive; not a procedure we should do.’ Let me tell you: when this happens, you need to organize yourself. You need to work even harder. You need to make your systems as bulletproof as possible. And then you move forward.” - Dr. Ruit Sanduk, Himalayan Cataract Project*

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Left to Right: Shalini Mahtani, Dr. Ruit Sanduk

### Korea Briefing with Major General Robert Hedelund, Commander, U.S. Marine Forces Korea

Followed by discussion moderated by **John Delury**, Associate Professor of Chinese Studies, Yonsei University Graduate School of International Studies (Asia 21 Class of 2010)



Left to Right: Major General Robert Hedelund, John Delury

## ASIA 21 ACTION LAB:

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



Left to Right: Sanjeev Sherchan, Tom Nagorski, Kristin Kagetsu, Avinesh Bhar

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.

## ASIA 21 YOUNG LEADERS:

Each year a class of roughly 30 young leaders (under the age of 40) who have demonstrated commitment to values-based leadership and public service are selected to become members of the Asia 21 Network. Prospective candidates are proven leaders in their field with a strong track record of substantial leadership experience to complement their extraordinary desire to effect change. The competitive selection process involves a nomination and application stage through which hundreds of applications are narrowed down to 50 finalists. These finalists are then carefully reviewed by a selection committee to establish the members of the new class. Candidates for the new class must be under the age of 40, be a proven leader in their field, demonstrate a record of extraordinary achievement, leadership and commitment to public service.

Now in its 11<sup>th</sup> year, the Asia 21 Young Leaders Initiative has created a robust network of almost 900 young leaders across the Asia Pacific. The network's alumni are proven leaders representing a variety of professional backgrounds and serve as mentors and potential collaborators to the incoming class.



Members of the 2016 Asia 21 Class outside the War Memorial of Korea

Alumni include Philippines Senator **Paolo Benigno "Bam" Aquino IV**; Malaysia Minister for Youth and Sports **Khairy Jamaluddin**; Minister Counsellor, Embassy of Afghanistan in Ottawa, Canada **Mohammad Nader Yama**; Washington Post Contributing Columnist **Barkha Dutt**; Herald Corporation Chairman **Ryan Hong**; Moby Group Chairman **Saad Mohseni**; Newsweek Correspondent **Maziar Bahari**; Director **Nitin Das**; Documentary Filmmaker **Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy**; Saratoga Investment President **Sandiaga Uno**; YTL Singapore Executive Director **Ruth Yeoh** and Bank of America Merrill Lynch Head of Global Equities Distribution **Soofian Zuberi**; and hundreds more.

## MEMBERS OF THE 2016 CLASS:



**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.



**Maysam Ali** is Deputy Director of the Stevens Initiative at the Aspen Institute, an international program targeted at bringing young people together through virtual exchange to learn about the world and each other. In her role, Maysam spearheads strategy and partnership development in the U.S. and abroad. Prior to this, she served as the Aspen Institute's Deputy Director of Middle East Programs, leading Partners for a New Beginning (PNB), an economic development initiative promoting job creation in the Middle East and North Africa. In this role, she launched PNB chapters in Jordan, Egypt, Libya, Algeria, Tunisia, and Morocco, and forged partnerships with U.S.-based businesses and early-stage investors to support the region's entrepreneurship ecosystem. She holds a Master's Degree in International Economics and Middle East Studies from the Johns Hopkins' School of Advanced International Studies.



**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 an advisory committee member of California's Office of Health Equity. 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.



**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.



**Gede Robi Supriyanto**, also known as Robi Navicula, is an Indonesian rock musician, activist, writer, and farmer. Robi is the director of Akarumpot, a social-entrepreneurship initiative based in Bali. He is a certified permaculture designer who teaches organic farming in Indonesia, and throughout Southeast Asia. He also co-hosts an edutainment TV travel series titled ‘Viva Barista’, which explores coffee history, production, and culture in Indonesia, from bean to cup. Robi is the vocalist, guitarist, and founder of the rock band Navicula, combining activism and music as tools for social change. Formed in 1996 in Bali, they have released eight full-length studio albums and often collaborate with organizations such as Greenpeace, Rainforest Action Network, KPK, Walhi, and SPI. Navicula is an internationally award-winning band and have toured Canada, the United States, and Australia. Robi also performs acoustic solo shows, and has held concerts in Italy, India, Thailand, Vietnam, Myanmar, and across Indonesia.

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

*“Thank you for bringing together such an exceptional group and for putting together an once-in-a-lifetime summit. I was blown away by it - everything from the sessions to the people, activities, social outings, etc. - it was truly magical.”*

- Maysam Ali, Deputy Director, Stevens Initiative at Aspen Institute, Class of 2016

*“Thank you for the wonderful opportunity of being part of the Asia21 network and a warm congratulations for the great programming that you prepared that allowed me to meet such an amazing group of people. I mentioned...how inspired I was and how much hope it has given me in the midst of the uncertainty that we feel in our home country and the world.”*

- Anna Meloto-Wilk, Co-Founder & President, Human Heart Nature, Class of 2016

*“I am overwhelmed by the friends I made and how much I was able to learn at the Summit. The memories are a treasure for a lifetime”*

- Ankit Agarwal, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Helpusgreen, Class of 2016

The 2017 Asia 21 Young Leaders Summit is scheduled to take place in **Melbourne, Australia** at the end of this year. We are delighted to be working closely with the Government of Victoria and the **Asia Society Australia Centre** to bring the brilliance of Asia 21 to Australia for the first time!

### THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS:

#### 2016 ASIA 21 SUMMIT SPONSORS



#### ASIA 21 SUMMIT HOST COMMITTEE



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