

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ASIA SOCIETY HONG KONG CENTER**ANNOUNCES THE APPOINTMENT OF TWO NEW TRUSTEES**

(Hong Kong, March 22, 2019) Asia Society Hong Kong Center (ASHK) is pleased to announce the appointment of two new Trustees: **Ms. Ronna Chao**, Chief Executive Officer, Novel Investment Partners Limited and Chief Executive Officer, Bai Xian Asia Institute; **Ms. Jean Ho**, chair two family charitable foundations. The appointments of Ms. Ronna Chao and Ms. Jean Ho were commenced on March 12, 2019.

“We are delighted to appoint Ms. Ronna Chao and Ms. Jean Ho as our trustees, given their strong skills and experiences as leaders in the business, non-profit, and education sectors. We are confident they will provide ASHK with valuable professional expertise to promote the sustainable development of the Center,” Mr. Ronnie C. Chan, Chairman of Asia Society Hong Kong Center said.

Ms. S. Alice Mong, Executive Director of ASHK, said, “We are pleased to welcome Ms. Ronna Chao and Ms. Jean Ho as new trustees on the ASHK Board. We believe they will provide important insights and perspectives for us to achieve our next phase of growth in offering a broad variety of cultural and education programs to the community in Hong Kong.”

After this appointment, there are nine members on the board of trustees of Asia Society Hong Kong Center, including Chairman Mr. Ronnie C. Chan and trustees Ms. Ronna Chao, Ms. Anita Yuen Mei Fung, Ms. Jean Ho, Mr. Hans Michael Jebsen, Mr. Ming-Wai Lau, Mr. Eric X. Li, Mr. Vernon Francis Moore and Mr. John E. Strickland.

New trustee biographies**Ms. Ronna Chao, Chief Executive Officer, Novel Investment Partners Limited; Chief Executive Officer, Bai Xian Asia Institute**

Ms. Ronna Chao is CEO of Novel Investment Partners Limited, Chairman of Novetex Textiles Limited, and a Director of Novelpark Investments Limited. Her responsibilities in these various capacities cover investment and portfolio management, property redevelopment, and textile manufacturing.

Prior to joining the Novel Group, she began her career in New York first as a Mergers & Acquisitions financial analyst at Goldman Sachs, and then as an associate in the Licensing Department of the lifestyle and apparel company Tommy Hilfiger Corporation.

Ms. Chao is also CEO of Bai Xian Asia Institute (BXAI). BXAI was founded by the Chao family’s Bai Xian Education Foundation (BXEF) which has earmarked US\$100 million for the “Asian Future Leaders Scholarship Program” (AFLSP). The AFLSP is managed by BXAI and offers up to 105 scholarships each year for Asian students to study abroad at one of 16 leading universities in Northeast Asia. In 2016, BXAI was one of the award recipients of “The Peak Power List 2016 – Philanthropy”.

Ms. Chao also serves as Supervisor and Board Trustee at the International Christian School of Hong Kong, Board Director of Mother’s Choice, Standing Vice Chairman of The Hong Kong Association of Zhejiang Entrepreneurs, and Counsellor of Our Hong Kong Foundation. In addition, she was a Court

Member of the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology from 2010 to 2016. Ms. Chao has been a member of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) Zhejiang Provincial Committee since 2013.

Ms. Chao has a Bachelor's Degree in International Relations from Brown University, and earned her M.B.A. from Stanford University. She also spent a year as an undergraduate at Keio University.

Ms. Jean Ho

Jean Ho chairs two family charitable foundations which she founded in 2011. One was founded in her late mother's name and focuses on improving quality of life for elders with early dementia. The second foundation in her own name focuses on empowering the lives of underprivileged children through the arts. Ms. Ho is passionate about the arts and believes art is a powerful medium which can change lives.

Ms. Ho started her career in the business sector, but over the past 20 years, she has dedicated her time and support towards the arts community. She chaired the Friends of the Hong Kong University Museum for 9 years and has been actively involved in the Asian Cultural Council for 10 years. Ms. Ho was the program development director at the Asia Society Hong Kong Center for almost three years.

About Asia Society Hong Kong Center

Asia Society Hong Kong Center is a locally funded, independent non-government organization which was established in 1990 by a group of Hong Kong community leaders. It is affiliated with Asia Society in New York which was founded in 1956 by John D. Rockefeller III to promote mutual understanding and to strengthen partnerships between Asia and the US in a global context.

Asia Society Hong Kong Center is dedicated to providing educational platforms that present balanced perspectives and promote critical understanding of topics that are relevant to Hong Kong, Asia and the region's role in the world. Across the fields of arts and culture, education, business and policy, it seeks to provide insights, generate ideas and promote collaboration to address present challenges and create a shared future. Its home in Admiralty at the former Explosives Magazine of the old Victoria Barracks, made possible under Private Treaty Grant from the government, was the result of careful conservation, restoration and adaptive re-use which transformed the heritage site into a cultural, artistic and intellectual hub in 2012 to offer a broad variety of cultural and education programs to the community.

Media Enquiry

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