

Women in Asia: Building on Progress, Confronting Challenges

Asia Society's Women Leaders of New Asia Summit

April 12-14, 2013

New Delhi, India

Preliminary Agenda

(As of March 4, 2013)

Friday, April 12, 2013

9:00am - 5:00pm Delegates Registration

5:00 - 6:00pm Media Registration

6:30 - 8:00pm Public Program

A New Women's Revolution in the Making?

While the Asia Pacific region has made great strides in narrowing the gender gaps over the last decades, significant disparities remain within individual countries and across the region. Why in this day and age, are women still subjected to unimaginable violence, systemic discrimination, and barriers that stymie their potential and progress? How can we summon governments to demonstrate the political will and societies to express the social will to right these wrongs? In the rapidly changing Asia, what kinds of opportunities are available for women as they endeavor to get ahead economically, politically, and socially? How do we ensure that policy is actually put into action?

8:00pm Reception

8:30pm Opening Dinner

9:30pm Cultural performance

Saturday, April 13, 2013

7:30am	Breakfast
8:30am	Welcoming Remarks
8:45 - 10:15am	Session 1

Promoting Gender Equality and Empowering Women: The post-MDG Agenda

Promoting gender equality and empowering women is one of the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). While some of the goals have already been met ahead of 2015 target date, according to the latest MDG Report of 2012, the goal of gender equality remains unfulfilled and women continue to face discrimination with regard to access to education, economic opportunities, and political participation.

- With the realization that overall MDG goals are going to fall short, what should the post-MDG agenda look like?
- Which countries have been most successful in advancing women's political and economic participation, and closing the gap between commitment and practice, and how were they able to do it?
- What are the lessons for the laggards?
- What are the roles and responsibilities of men and boys in promoting and ensuring gender equality?

Reflection & Action: The last 15 minutes of the session is dedicated to recapping the key discussion points and developing actionable ideas for moving the issues forward.

10:15 - 11:15am	Keynote Conversation
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Violence against Women: India as a Case Study

Last December's brutal rape case in New Delhi and the subsequent death of the victim bespeaks the systemic discrimination and gender-based violence that women continue to endure across India and many parts of Asia. While it may be unimaginable, especially against the backdrop of Asia's rising prosperity and rapid change, the prevailing cultural norms and behavioral practices are still prejudiced against women in much of the region.

- What are the underlying causes for gender-based violence and its far-reaching implications for Asia's future?
- What explains the reluctance to enact laws and policies that safeguard women's rights and ensure their successful implementation?

- Which Asian countries are at the forefront of gender mainstreaming, how are they doing it, and what lessons can be learned from their experience?

11:15am -12:45pm

Session 2

Expanding Economic Opportunities for Women: A Prerequisite for Smart Economics

Accepted as a key driver of economic growth, governments and the private-sector are now increasingly looking at ways to make economic opportunities more accessible to women. Nevertheless, women continue to be poorer than men, face barriers in the workplace, earn less than men for the same work, and encounter difficulties in accessing credit and markets.

- What are the most critical persisting challenges that must be tackled before substantial improvement on women's economic participation will be achieved? What part must each of us, from policy makers to corporate leaders, therefore play in order to address these barriers?
- Where have we seen significant progress and what can we learn from these case studies?
- What practical steps can unlock the economic potential of women, with a focus on those who are self-employed or employed by the informal sectors?

Reflection & Action: The last 15 minutes of the session is dedicated to recapping the key discussion points and developing actionable ideas for moving the issues forward.

12:45 - 1:45pm

Lunch

1:45 – 2:30pm

Spotlight Conversation

The Changing Media Landscape

2:30 - 4:00pm

Session 3

Thinking Ahead with Next Generation Women Leaders

Today, across Asia, women are entering the workforce in ever-larger numbers and stepping into leadership positions at institutions across the public and private sectors. This rapidly changing demographic trend will have a profound bearing for the future of Asia.

- What do the next generation of women leaders perceive as the most pressing challenges confronting their generation?
- What are their priorities and how are they similar or different from the preceding generations' priorities?

- Which women leaders inspire them and what lessons can they learn from the experiences of those leaders?

Reflection & Action: The last 15 minutes of the session is dedicated to recapping the key discussion points and developing actionable steps.

4:00 - 4:30pm	Tea Break
4:30 - 5:15pm	Spotlight Conversation Women Leaders in Philanthropy
5:15pm	Group Photo
6:00pm	Departure for off-site dinner
6:30 - 7:30pm	Reception Hosted by Ambassador Nancy J. Powell , United States Ambassador to India, U.S. Embassy in New Delhi
8:00 - 9:30pm	Dinner
9:30pm	Shuttle Bus back to the Hotel

Sunday, April 14, 2013

7:30am Breakfast

8:30 - 10:00am Session 4

Increasing Women's Political Participation: Turning Policies into Practice

Participants discuss best practices and successful interventions from the Asia-Pacific region that have made the difference for women's political participation.

- What progressive laws have led to the rapid increase in the number of women in parliaments and at different levels of governments?
- How has social media changed the way women organize, galvanize, and take political action?
- What other mechanisms can strengthen participation of women in the decision-making processes?

Reflection & Action: The last 15 minutes of the session is dedicated to recapping the key discussion points and developing actionable steps.

10:00 - 11:30am Session 5

Women Leaders Roundtable

Building on conversations over the last day, and conducted world café style, participants identify 2-3 practical steps to overcome barriers to

- Women's political participation
- Women's economic empowerment
- Fostering next generation women leaders

11:30am - 12:15pm Session 6

Summation of the World Café discussion

Representative from each of the world café tables begins by summarizing the morning conversations at their tables, sharing salient points, and soliciting further input for a realistic action agenda.

12:15 - 1:15pm Lunch

1:15 -2:15pm

Session 7

Developing Action Agenda

Building on the roundtable conversation and discussions over the day and half, this session is devoted to developing a forward-looking action plan for each of the topic areas as well as the *Women Leaders of New Asia Initiative*. The key takeaways and action plan will be highlighted at the next day's press conference.

2:15 - 3:00pm

Session 8

Forging Strategic Partnerships

To execute the action agenda, it would be critical to join hands with few key organizations that are at the forefront of bridging the gender gaps. Participants identify potential partners, discuss modalities for partnership, and draft plan of action to secure long-term collaboration.

3:00pm

Closing Remarks

Monday, April 15, 2013

11:00am - 1:00pm

Press Conference (TBD)