



## **Women Leaders in Asia: Building on Progress, Confronting Challenges**

April 12-14, 2013 – New Delhi, India

### **AGENDA**

#### **Friday, April 12, 2013**

5:15 pm Departure for Indian International Centre

6:30 - 8:00pm Public Program  
Venue: India International Centre, #40, Max Mueller Marg, Lodhi Estate,  
New Delhi

#### **A New Women's Revolution in the Making?**

While the Asia Pacific region has made great strides in narrowing the gender gap in recent 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? What explains the dichotomy between societal demands to redress discriminatory cultural practices versus the political will to address legal challenges and initiate structural reforms? In a rapidly changing Asia, what opportunities are available for women as they endeavor to lead economically, politically, and socially? How do we ensure that policy is actually put into action?

#### Moderator:

**Vishakha N. Desai**

President Emerita, Asia Society

Special Advisor for Global Affairs, Columbia University

#### Speakers:

**Margaret Alva**

Governor of Rajasthan

**Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury**

State Minister

Ministry of Women and

Children Affairs, Bangladesh

**Penny Low**  
Member of Parliament  
Parliament of Singapore

**Melanne S. Verveer**  
Executive Director  
Georgetown Institute for  
Women, Peace and Security  
(GIWPS)

8:15 pm Depart India International Center for off-site dinner  
Hosted by **Kiran Nadar**, Chairperson, Kiran Nadar Museum of Art

8:45 pm Opening Dinner  
Venue: Kiran Nadar Residence

**Saturday, April 13, 2013**

7:30am Breakfast  
Venue: Machan, Lobby Level

8:30am Welcome Remarks  
Venue: Longchamp, Rooftop Level

**Vishakha N. Desai**

President Emerita, Asia Society  
Special Advisor for Global Affairs, Columbia University

8:45 - 10:15am Session 1  
Venue: Longchamp, Rooftop Level

**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 the 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.

Moderator:

**Astrid S. Tuminez**

Regional Director  
Legal and Corporate Affairs  
Microsoft Southeast Asia

Discussion Leaders:

**Caren Grown**  
Senior Gender Advisor  
Bureau of Policy, Planning  
and Learning  
USAID

**Gautam Kumra**  
Director  
McKinsey & Company

**Lakshmi Puri**  
Acting Head, UN Women  
Assistant Secretary-General, United Nations

10:15 - 11:15am Keynote Conversation  
Venue: Longchamp, Rooftop Level

**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?

**Indira Jaising**  
Director, Lawyers Collective Women's Rights Initiative  
Former Solicitor General of India

11:15am -12:45pm Session 2  
Venue: Longchamp, Rooftop Level

**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.

Moderator:

**Rhodora Palomar-Fresnedi**

Executive Director  
Unilab Foundation

Discussion Leaders:

**Spenta C. Kandawalla**

Director  
Captain Chemical  
Industries (PVT) Ltd.

**Sonal Shah**

Senior Fellow  
Case Foundation

**Li Xin**

Managing Editor  
Caixin - China Economics & Finance

12:45 - 1:45pm

Lunch  
Venue: Villa Medici, Rooftop Level

1:45 - 2:30pm

Spotlight Conversation

**The Changing Media Landscape**

Venue: Longchamp, Rooftop Level

**Ankhi Das**

Head of Public Policy  
Facebook India

**Monnita Komolvadhin**

News Editor  
Thai Public Broadcasting Service

2:30 - 4:00pm

Session 3  
Venue: Longchamp, Rooftop Level

**Thinking Ahead with Next Generation Women Leaders**

Today, across the Asia-Pacific region, 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 the region.

- 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.

Moderator:

**Kalpana Raina**

Managing Partner  
252 Solutions, LLC

Discussion Leaders:

**Jade Taihee Chung**

Executive Managing  
Director of HR  
General Electric, Korea.

**Sheila Marcelo**

Founder & CEO  
Care.com

**Shinto Nugroho**

Head of Public Policy  
and Government  
Relations  
Google Indonesia

4:00 - 4:30pm      Tea Break & Group Photo

4:30 - 5:15pm      Spotlight Conversation  
Venue: Longchamp, Rooftop Level

**Women Leaders in Philanthropy**

**Kiran Nadar**

Chairperson  
Kiran Nadar Museum of Art

5:45 pm              Departure for off-site reception

6:30 - 7:30pm      Reception  
Venue: Residence of the U.S. Ambassador to India

Hosted by **Ambassador Nancy J. Powell**, United States Ambassador to India, U.S. Embassy in New Delhi

7:45 pm Shuttle Bus back to the Hotel

8:00 pm Dinner  
Venue: Longchamp, Rooftop Level

## **Sunday, April 14, 2013**

7:30am Breakfast  
Venue: Machan, Lobby Level

8:30 - 10:00am Session 4  
Venue: Longchamp, Rooftop Level

### **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.

#### Moderator:

**Anja Manuel**  
Partner  
RiceHadleyGates, LLC

#### Discussion Leaders:

**Attiya Inayatullah**  
Member of Parliament  
National Assembly of  
Pakistan

**Nilar Oo**  
Deputy Country Representative,  
Myanmar  
Centre for Humanitarian  
Dialogue

**Mu Sochua**  
Member of Parliament  
National Assembly of Cambodia

10:00 - 11:30am Session 5  
Venue: Longchamp & Villa Medici, Rooftop Level

### **Women Leaders Roundtable**

Conducted world café-style, participants build on our conversations to identify 2-3 practical steps to overcome barriers to:

- Women leaders' political participation
- Women leaders' economic empowerment



- Fostering next generation women leaders

Table Discussion Leaders

**Sabeen Mahmud**

Founder & Director  
PeaceNiche

**Wenchi Yu**

Senior Advisor  
Secretary's Office of Global  
Women's Issues  
U.S. Department of State

**Shinto Nugroho**

Head of Public Policy and Government  
Relations  
Google Indonesia

11:30am - 12:15pm    Session 6  
Venue: Longchamp, Rooftop Level

**Summation of the World Café discussion**

Table discussion leaders 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  
Venue: Villa Medici, Rooftop Level

1:15 - 2:00pm    Session 7  
Venue: Longchamp, Rooftop Level

**Forging Strategic Partnerships**

To execute the action agenda, it will be critical to join hands with key organizations from across the region. Participants identify potential partners, discuss modalities for partnership, and draft a plan of action to secure long-term collaboration.

2:00 - 3:00pm    Session 8  
Venue: Longchamp, Rooftop Level

**Developing an 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*.

3:00pm    Closing Remarks