



WOMEN LEADERS OF NEW ASIA



Women
Leadership
Initiative

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New Report Highlights Progress and Hurdles to Women's Leadership in Asia Asia Society hosts delegates at "2012 Women Leaders of New Asia Summit"

April 19, 2012 – Shanghai – At the opening session of the Asia Society's *Women Leaders of New Asia* Summit, the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy and the Asia Society, today released "Rising to the Top: A Report on Women's Leadership in Asia", a new study that highlights the current socio-economic landscape for women in China and the region. The report discusses gender gap issues and presents policy recommendations for governments and corporations to ease gender inequality from birth to leadership.

The report shows that rapid growth in China, India and other powerful Asian economies has narrowed gender inequality on health and survival, educational attainment, economic opportunity and political empowerment. However, deeply rooted traditions change slowly and there are visible social problems facing women due to heavily male-dominated governments, and a "leaking pipeline" of women leaving their professions mid-career in the public and private sectors.

Talented and ambitious women are a crucial part of the driving force behind Asia's growth and competitiveness and so a broad campaign is necessary to educate and push for a change in perception. Three shifts need to happen: 1) societies must perceive girls to be as valuable as boys; 2) societies must view women as having similar abilities and potential to lead as men; and 3) societies must be more open to gender roles where women lead outside the home and men do more in the home. These shifts will give women a louder voice at home, at work, and within society. Overcoming social and cultural norms is difficult, but change can happen when regional giants China and India take the lead.

Dr. Astrid Tuminez, Vice Dean (Research) at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (National University of Singapore), states: "One of the greatest challenges today is how to leverage human development to benefit women's leadership. Even in countries where women have advanced in health and education, social norms continue to impede them from rising to positions of greater authority and visibility. We need a broad public campaign to educate men, women, and youth to push for a change in how girls and women are perceived and valued. Governments will need to step in with affirmative action programs, mass media campaigns, and more laws to reduce domestic violence and give women more equal rights and treatment in marriage, the home and the work place. In our report, we have recommended some policies to help change social norms. If these are not implemented, the full potential of Asia's human capital will never be realized."

This year the Asia Society is hosting the third *Women Leaders of New Asia* summit in Shanghai and Zhenjiang, China. The three-day summit will bring a diverse group of women from China

and Asia together to find practical solutions to problems by promoting connectivity, communication, collaboration, and catalyzing action across all sectors. Delegates will discuss the current challenges women face in the rapidly changing environment, share case studies and develop actionable items to address regional issues. Delegates will experience first-hand the influence of second-tier “middle-weight” cities that are particularly present in China and India, and that will contribute the largest share of global GDP growth over the next 15 years.

“This summit is organized to provide a network of women leaders in the region and guide them to make changes politically, economically, and socially,” said Vishakha N. Desai, President of Asia Society. “Our goal is to identify and examine the nature of women’s leadership, build a community of women leaders to effect change, and determine how to mentor future leaders. We see an increasing number of women entering the work force; however it doesn’t necessarily mean there has been a change in the structure of gender inequality. These future female leaders seek guidance on how to balance their multiple roles.”

Asia Society’s 2012 Women Leaders of New Asia Summit will host over 120 delegates from the Asia Pacific region with leading women from private and public corporations, government sectors, civil society, universities, and more. Through group discussions, sharing of best practices, and developing specific action items, they will help prepare the next generation of women leaders to navigate the path to successful global leadership.

The Summit is Co-Organized by The Chinese People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, in collaboration with the Zhenjiang Municipal People’s Government and the Zhenjiang People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries. Special supporting organizations include the Zhenjiang Women’s Federation and the Foreign Affairs Office of the Zhenjiang Municipal People’s Government. Special thanks to the Jiangsu Provincial Women’s Federation, the Shanghai Women’s Federation and the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy. The Lead Sponsor is Bank of America Merrill Lynch. Funding for the report was generously provided by The Rockefeller Foundation. Supporters include Ingersoll Rand, Sony Corporation of America, and the Blanchette Hooker Rockefeller Foundation. The Knowledge Partner is Spencer Stuart. Contributors include Jiangsu Huayang Pipe & Fittings Co., Ltd., Jiangsu Shengmei Industrial Technology Group Co., Ltd., Jiangsu Yihe Co., Ltd., and the Jiangsu Shengbang Furniture Manufacturing Co., Ltd.. The Media Partner is finance.ifeng.com and the Public Relations Partner is Ogilvy Public Relations Worldwide.

Press Conference Speakers

Vishakha N. Desai, President of Asia Society

Zhang Guoyun, Deputy Director General, Foreign Affairs Office of Zhenjiang Municipal People's Government

Report Program Speakers

Vishakha N. Desai, President, Asia Society

Astrid Tuminez, Vice-Dean (Research), Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore

Jiao Yang, Party Secretary-General, Shanghai Municipal Women's Federation

High Level Participants

Henedina Abad, Member, House of Representatives, Congress of the Philippines

Donya Aziz, Member, National Assembly of Pakistan

Shukria Barakzai, Member of Parliament, Kabul Province, House of Representatives, Afghanistan

Julie Bishop, Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs, Australia

Catherine Cai, Managing Director, Co-Head of China Coverage, Bank of America Merrill Lynch

Vishakha N. Desai, President, Asia Society

Claire Huang, Head of International Marketing and Corporate Affairs Bank of America Merrill Lynch

Attiya Inayatullah, Member of Parliament & Chairperson, Foreign Relations Committee, Pakistan Muslim League, Parliament of Pakistan

Ton Nu Thi Ninh, President of Founding Committee, Tri Viet University Project and Former Vietnamese Ambassador to the European Union

Astrid Tuminez, Vice-Dean (Research), Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore

Farah A. Pandith, Special Representative to Muslim Communities, United States Department of State

Erna Witoelar, Former UN Special Ambassador, Millennium Development Goal in Asia & the Pacific/United Nations Development Programme

About the Asia Society

Asia Society is the leading global and pan-Asian organization working to strengthen relationships and promote understanding among the people, leaders, and institutions of the United States and Asia. We seek to increase knowledge and enhance dialogue, encourage creative expression, and generate new ideas across the fields of arts and culture, policy and business, and education. Founded in 1956, Asia Society is a nonpartisan, nonprofit educational institution with offices in Hong Kong, Houston, Los Angeles, Manila, Melbourne, Mumbai, New York, San Francisco, Seoul, Shanghai, and Washington, DC. For more information, please visit <http://asiasociety.org/>.

About the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy

The Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy is an autonomous, professional graduate school of the National University of Singapore. Its mission is to help educate and train the next generation of Asian policymakers and leaders, with the objective of raising the standards of governance throughout the region, improving the lives of its people and, in so doing, contribute to the transformation of Asia. For more details on the LKY School, please visit www.lkyspp.nus.edu.sg.

For more information, please contact:

Asia Society

Jonathan Feng

Email: gliintern@asiasociety.org

Tel: 13901741377

Ogilvy Public Relations

Victoria Coleman

Tel: +86 21 2405 1624

Email: Victoria.coleman@ogilvy.com



2012 Summit Agenda

April 19 – 21, 2012

▪ Shanghai and Zhenjiang, Jiangsu Province, People's Republic of China ▪

Day 1: Thursday, April 19, 2012

JW Marriott Hotel Shanghai

9:00am - 5:00pm Registration

2:00 - 4:00pm Press Conference for The Asia Society's 2012 Women Leaders of New Asia Summit and the release of *Rising to the Top? A Report on Women's Leadership in Asia*

The official Summit press conference and release of *Rising to the Top? A Report on Women's Leadership in Asia* research carried out jointly by the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy and the Asia Society.

5:00pm Delegates depart JW Marriott Hotel Shanghai for transport to the Hongqiao railway station to catch the bullet train to Zhenjiang

8:00PM Arrive in Zhenjiang

8:15 PM Delegates check-in at the hotel

8:30 - 9:30pm Informal buffet dinner at hotel

Day 2: Friday, April 20, 2012

Sheraton Zhenjiang Hotel

**7:30am Breakfast
Venue: Restaurant, 1st floor**

**9:00 - 9:30am Welcoming Remarks
Venue: Ballroom 3, 3rd Floor**

**9:30 - 10:45am Plenary Session 1
*The Change-makers/Visionaries: Women Changing the Paradigm in a Rapidly Modernizing Asia***
A representative panel of women thought leaders, business executives, and civil society pioneers discuss the major challenges facing women in the Asia-Pacific today. They will highlight the role of women leaders in the rapid modernization of Asia today from economic, social, and cultural perspectives and will share best practices and case studies as applicable.

10:45am - 12:00pm	Breakout Sessions Concurrent sessions will explore women's leadership in addressing key challenges and outlining best practices for dealing with them in a rapidly modernizing environment. <i>1. Engaging Women at the Bottom of the Pyramid</i> <i>2. Women at the Heart of Rapid Economic Growth: As Leaders, As Consumers</i>
12:00 - 1:00pm	Lunch
1:00 - 2:00pm	Plenary Session 2: A Conversation Jiangsu Province/Zhenjiang Municipality Women Leaders
2:00 - 3:15pm	Plenary Session 3 <i>Unlocking the Potential of Women Leaders: The Role of Government</i>
3:15 - 3:45pm	Art Insight
3:45 - 5:00pm	Breakout Sessions Concurrent sessions will explore women's leadership in addressing key challenges and outlining best practices for dealing with them in a rapidly modernizing environment. <i>1. Balancing Multiple Roles as a Key to Women's Leadership</i> <i>2. Women's Place in the New Center of Gravity for Global Growth: Beyond the Metropolitan Areas</i>
5:00 - 5:30pm	Group Photo
5:45- 6:00PM	Departure from Hotel to Biyuyuan Hotel
6:00 - 8:00pm	Reception, Cultural Performance, and Dinner
8:00 - 9:00pm	Night walk along Xijin Ancient Street
9:00pm	Shuttle Bus back to Hotel

Day 3: Saturday, April 21, 2012

Sheraton Zhenjiang Hotel

7:30am	Breakfast
8:30 - 9:00am	Transformative Moment
9:00 - 10:15am	Plenary Session 4 <i>Women, Tradition, and the Pull of Asia's Rapid Modernization</i>
10:15 - 10:45am	Art Insight
10:45 - 12:00pm	Plenary Session 5 <i>Meaningful Mentorship & Traditional Talent Development in Asia: Creating Women's Pathways to Global Leadership</i>

12:00 -1:00pm

Concluding Session: Catalyzing Ideas, Taking Action, Affecting Change

Building on the discussions over the last two days and in an effort to address the results of the Asia Society/LKYSPP report on the state of women leaders in the region, this session focuses on strategies to transform ideas into impactful actionable agenda over the next year and steps to successfully implement them.

1:00 - 2:00pm

Lunch

2:15pm

Departures begin