

LAUREATES AND LEADERS



**LAUREATES
& LEADERS**
FOR CHILDREN
SUMMIT 2016

An Initiative of



SATYARTHI

KAILASH SATYARTHI CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION

Mr Pranab Mukherjee

The Honourable President of India



Mr Pranab Mukherjee assumed office as the 13th President of India on July 25, 2012, crowning a political career of over five decades of exemplary service to the nation in the Government as well as the Parliament.

President Mukherjee is a man of unparalleled experience in governance with the rare distinction of having served at different times as Foreign, Defence, Commerce and Finance Minister. He was elected to the Upper House of the Parliament (Rajya Sabha) five times from 1969 and twice to the Lower House of the Parliament (Lok Sabha) from 2004. He was a member of the Congress Working Committee, the highest policy making body of the Party, for a period of 23 years.

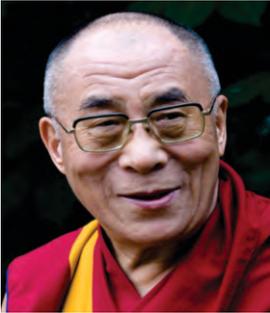
During the period 2004-2012, Mr Mukherjee was instrumental in spearheading critical decisions of the Government on a range of issues such as Administrative Reform, the Right to Information, Right to Employment, Food Security, Energy Security, Information Technology and Telecommunication, setting up of Unique Identification Authority of India, Metro Rail, etc. through Chairmanship of over 95 Groups of Ministers constituted for the purpose. Mr Mukherjee acquired a Master's degree in History and Political Science as well as a degree in Law from the University of Kolkata. He then embarked on his professional life as a college teacher and journalist.

Mr Mukherjee has extensive diplomatic experience and has served on the Board of Governors of the IMF, World Bank, Asian Development Bank and African Development Bank. He has led the Indian delegations to the Commonwealth Finance Ministers' Conferences in 1982, 1983 and 1984; the United Nations General Assembly in 1994, 1995, 2005 and 2006, the Conference of Commonwealth Heads of Government at Auckland in 1995, the Non-Aligned Foreign Minister's Conference at Cartagena in 1995 and the Conference to mark the 40th anniversary of the Afro-Asian Conference in Bandung in 1995.

A prolific reader, Mr Mukherjee has authored several books on the Indian Economy and on Nation Building. The many awards and honours conferred on him include India's second highest civilian award, Padma Vibhushan in 2008, the Best Parliamentarian Award in 1997 and Best Administrator in India Award in 2011. He was rated one of the best five Finance Ministers of the world in 1984 according to a survey conducted by "Euro Money" Journal published from New York and was declared 'Finance Minister of the year' for Asia in 2010 by "Emerging Markets", the journal of record for the World Bank and the IMF.

Mr Mukherjee enjoys reading, gardening and music in his spare time. Simple in his tastes, Shri Mukherjee is a dedicated patron of the arts and culture.

His Holiness the Dalai Lama Nobel Peace Prize (1989)



His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso, is a simple Buddhist monk and a spiritual leader. At the young age of two years he was recognized as the reincarnation of the 13th Dalai Lama, Thubten Gyatso. At the age of 16 he initiated reforms to rectify administrative flaws and to improve the welfare of common people.

His Holiness is a man of peace and was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his non-violent struggle for the liberation of his homeland. He has consistently advocated policies of non-violence, even in the face of extreme aggression. He also became the first Nobel Laureate to be recognized for his concern for global environmental problems.

His Holiness has travelled to more than 67 countries spanning 6 continents. He has received over 150 awards including Templeton prize award, honorary doctorates, prizes, etc., in recognition of his message of peace, non-violence, inter-religious understanding, universal responsibility and compassion. He has also authored or co-authored more than 110 books. He has held various dialogues with heads of different religions and participated in many events promoting inter-religious harmony and understanding.

His Holiness has three main commitments in life.

Firstly, on the level of a human being, His Holiness' first commitment is the promotion of human values such as compassion, forgiveness, tolerance, contentment and self-discipline. All human beings are the same. We all want happiness and do not want suffering. Even people who do not believe in religion recognize the importance of these human values in making their life happier. His Holiness refers to these human values as secular ethics. He remains committed to talk about the importance of these human values and share them with everyone he meets.

Secondly, on the level of a religious practitioner, His Holiness' second commitment is the promotion of religious harmony and understanding among the world's major religious traditions. Despite philosophical differences, all major world religions have the same potential to create good human beings. It is therefore important for all religious traditions to respect one another and recognize the value of each other's respective traditions. As far as one truth, one religion is concerned, this is relevant on an individual level. However, for the community at large, several truths, several religions are necessary.

Thirdly, His Holiness carries the name of the 'Dalai Lama' and is committed to work to preserve Buddhist culture, a culture of peace and non-violence.

He travels around the world preaching the message of Buddha and Gandhi-peace, tolerance and compassion. He is highly revered and respected by international community as apostle of peace and non-violence. His message of promotion of human value and religious harmony has gained international following and acclamation.

Her Serene Highness Princess Charlène of Monaco



Her Serene Highness Princess Charlène of Monaco is committed to empowering children to lead fulfilling lives, helping to transform lives through sports and saving lives by putting an end to drowning. HSH Charlene Lynette Wittstock was born to Michael and Lynette Wittstock on 25th January 1978 in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. She has two younger brothers and at the age of 12, moved with her family to South Africa.

Her Serene Highness developed a passion for swimming at a very early age. In 1996, at just 18 years of age, she won the South African Championship and in 1999, she took three gold medals and one silver at the All Africa Games. In 2000, she represented South Africa at the Olympic Games in Sydney; her team finished fifth in the 4x100m medley relay. That same year, she took gold at the "Marenostrom" International Swimming meeting in Monaco (200m backstroke). It was at this event that she first met Prince Albert II of Monaco who was presiding over the International Competition. In 2002, Princess Charlène won three gold medals at the FINA Swimming World Cup (50m, 100m crawl and 4x100m relay) and took Silver at the Commonwealth Games in Manchester (4x100m medley relay).

On 1st July 2011, Ms Wittstock married H.S.H. Prince Albert II in the Throne Room of the Palace of Monaco during a civil ceremony, to become Princess of Monaco which is comparable with the status of "First Lady". The religious ceremony followed the next day in the Honor Court of the Palace. She now bears the title "HSH Princess Charlène of Monaco" along with all the historical titles such as Duchess of Valentinois and Duchess of Mazarin, to name just a few. On 10th December 2014, their Serene Highnesses were delighted to announce the birth of the Princely twins, Crown Prince Jacques Honoré Rainier and Princess Gabriella Thérèse Marie, born at The Princess Grace Hospital in Monaco.

Her Serene Highness has a passion for children and, throughout her swimming career she gave swimming lessons to underprivileged children. In 2012, she established The Princess Charlene Foundation which aims to save lives by putting an end to drowning and seeks to raise public awareness about the dangers of water and teach children both water safety techniques and how to swim. Growing up in Africa gave the Princess a very real sense of some of the problems affecting children in the developing world. Since 2010, she has been associated with the "Nelson Mandela Foundation". In May 2011, she was appointed Global Ambassador for the Special Olympics, the world's largest sports organization for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. In the same year, she was appointed as a co-patron of the "Giving Organisation Trust", a group of South African charities which deal with issues ranging from AIDS among underprivileged children to environmental management. In June 2012, she became Patron of AS Rugby Monaco and continues to play an active role in promoting the sport with World Rugby.

The Princess has always been closely affiliated with The International Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) Movement. In July 2016, she accepted to become the Patron of the "South African Red Cross Society", on the occasion of its 68th anniversary and, in September 2016, as the IFRC's Global Ambassador for First Aid, She launched World First Aid Day in Geneva.

In her free time, the Princess enjoys music, horticulture and a number of recreational sports including swimming, surfing, paddle boarding and golf.

His Royal Highness Prince Ali Bin Al Hussein, The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

Director of the National Crisis Management Centre, Jordan and former candidate for FIFA President



His Royal Highness Prince Ali Bin Al-Hussein of Jordan (born on 23 December 1975) is the son of the late His Majesty King Hussein and Her Majesty Queen Alia of Jordan.

Prince Ali began his primary education in Amman and continued his studies in the UK and the US, before graduating from Salisbury School in Connecticut in 1993, where he excelled in sports, particularly wrestling.

He then joined the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst, where he was awarded the Brunei Medal for Excellence, and was commissioned as an officer in 1994. Before continuing his studies in the US, Prince Ali served in the Jordanian Special Forces as a pathfinder, earning his military free-fall parachute wings.

In 1999, Prince Ali, who holds the rank of Major General in the Jordanian Armed Forces, was asked to serve as the commander of His Majesty's Special Security in the Royal Guards and served in that capacity until January 28, 2008, when His Majesty King Abdullah entrusted him with establishing and directing a National Centre for Security and Crisis Management.

Prince Ali is also the President of the Jordan Football Association and the West Asian Football Federation, as well as chairman of the Royal Film Commission in Jordan.

On the basis of his record of service and his commitment to unite and energize Asian football, Prince Ali was elected FIFA Vice President for Asia in 2011. He was also a member of the FIFA Executive Committee. After being on the FIFA Executive Committee and seeing the need for real change in the organization, Prince Ali decided to run for the post of President of FIFA to fight corruption in the sport. In 2012, Prince Ali founded the Asian Football Development Project, a non-profit youth commission based in Amman, whose objective is to provide effective, need-based assistance to all Asian, national and regional football associations and affiliates in a fair and transparent manner.

On September 7, 2004, the prince married HRH Princess Rym, daughter of veteran UN and Algerian diplomat Lakhdar Brahimi. They have a daughter, Princess Jalila, born on September 16, 2005, and a son, Prince Abdullah, born on March 19, 2007.

Prince Ali holds the Al-Nahda decoration of the first degree as well as a number of foreign decorations, including a British Knighthood, the French Légion d'honneur, and the Order of the Rising Sun of Japan. His Royal Highness also often serves as Regent.

Her Royal Highness Princess Laurentien of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

Founder and Member of the Board, Missing Chapter Foundation



Princess Laurentien works to promote issues focusing on the development of individuals and their impact on society. In particular, she is active in the fields of sustainability and literacy.

Sustainability and Children's Participation: Princess Laurentien has been active in the field of sustainability and wildlife preservation for more than a decade. She is the President of Fauna & Flora International, Fellow at the European Climate Foundation, Special Advisor of Rewilding Europe, a former Senior Advisor of WWF, and Founder & Member of the Board of the Missing Chapter Foundation (MCF).

MCF has been active since 2010 and originates from the notion that decisions are more durable and gain value if they take into account the sharp insights, logical questions and surprising solutions from children and teenagers. For this reason, it is MCF's mission to bring together children and decision-makers to engage in dialogue and discuss themes related to sustainability, among others. MCF has two lines of programmes: the Kids Council and WaterSavers.

Literacy: In 2004, Princess Laurentien founded the Reading & Writing Foundation, which works both in the Netherlands and internationally to prevent illiteracy among children and to reduce it among adults. The foundation raises awareness of the issue, supports initiatives in this field, and actively combats illiteracy through the Language for Life programme.

As part of her international work, the Princess is Special Envoy for UNESCO on Literacy and Development, and in 2011 European Commissioner for Education Androulla Vassiliou appointed her as Chair of the EU High Level Group of experts on Literacy, which presented its findings in 2012. As of 1st January 2014, the Reading & Writing Foundation will also be active at the EU level.

Furthermore, Princess Laurentien is President of the European Cultural Foundation and Honorary President or Patron of a number of other organisations in the field of language, such as the Dutch Association of Public Libraries.

Children's books: Princess Laurentien is also the creator and writer of the Mr Finney series of children's books. Mr Finney and the World Turned Upside-down (2009) has been translated into English as well as Bulgarian, Catalan, Chinese, Papiamento, Portuguese, Thai, Vietnamese and Spanish. Two more Mr Finney books have been published in Dutch in 2011 and 2013. These books are parables that encourage children and adults to engage in a conversation on nature and the way we interact.

Her Excellency Lorena Castillo de Varela

First Lady of the Republic of Panama & UNAIDS Special Ambassador for AIDS in Latin America



Her Highness Lorena Castillo de Varela is a journalist and wife of Juan Carlos Varela, the president of the Republic of Panama, and has assumed the role of first lady of the country from July 1, 2014.

She worked as a journalist for 17 years and won the National Journalism Prize awarded by the Forum of Journalists in 2002 for her report on Handicapped Children in Cuba as part of her extensive experience in social development issues. In the same year she was awarded the Presenter of the Year with the Victoria Award from the Universidad Santa Maria La Antigua. She served as the host of several TV programs including "El Abuelo de mi Abuela".

On November 16, 2015, H.E. was appointed as Special Advocate for AIDS in Latin America by The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS), the main advocate for accelerated, comprehensive and coordinated global action on the HIV/AIDS epidemic. She is committed to strengthen the integration of strategies to promote a human rights based approach, dignity and non-discrimination to end the AIDS epidemic by 2030.

She also chairs the National Council for Comprehensive Early Childhood Care and the National Commission for the Prevention and Control of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (CONAVIH).

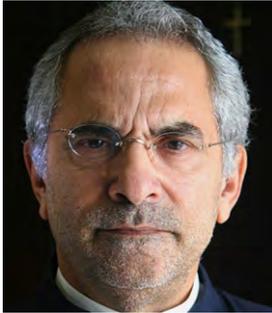
She devotes her life to strengthen social solidarity and the integral development of families. As First Lady, H.E. Castillo de Varela, is committed to developing programs to benefit the most vulnerable sectors of the population and work in the service of all Panamanians.

H.E. promoted the elimination of early, forced and child marriage to ensure that all girls are empowered to make informed decisions about their sexual and reproductive health, on the commemoration of International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women in a round table held by the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) of the Organization of American States (OAS) and is focused on introducing legislative policies that ensure girls have equal economic opportunities, comprehensive services for HIV, sexual and reproductive health, including prevention, screening and treatment for cervical cancer.

As a result of her constant efforts, Panama passed Law 30 amending and repealing provisions of the Family Code, with which it prohibits under-18 marriages. This resulted in changes in the Standard Articles of the Code of Family and Children.

His Excellency José Ramos-Horta

President of Timor-Leste (2007-2012) - Nobel Peace Prize (1996)



Nobel Peace Laureate 1996, HE President José Ramos-Horta is currently the Chair, High Level Independent Panel on UN Peace Operations, to review UN peace and security mechanisms and Co-Chair of the Independent Commission on Multilateralism (UN Reform). The recipient of numerous prestigious awards, such as Order of Timor-Leste in 2012, the Order of Dom Boaventura in 2006 and Orders from Portugal, Brazil, Cuba, Cape Verde, he served as the President of Timor Leste from 2007- 12.

HE President José Ramos-Horta is a Member of the Council of State, an Advisory Body to the President of the Republic of Timor-Leste. He served as the country's Prime Minister and the Minister of Defence in 2006-07. He was also the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation from 2002-06, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Information in the first Government proclaimed in December 1975 following Timor-Leste's Unilateral Declaration of Independence, and Representative, Spokesperson, for the Resistance from 1975 to 1999.

HE President José Ramos-Horta has also served as a peacemaker at the United Nations in various capacities. He was the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General and Head of the UN Integrated Peace Building Mission in Guinea-Bissau (West Africa) from 2013-14, Vice-President at the Asian Peace and Reconciliation Council (APRC) from 2012 and the Cabinet Minister at the United Nations Transition Administration for East Timor (UNTAET) from 2000 to 2002.

Besides serving as a peacemaker, he has also contributed to the vast body of knowledge through his books. His notable publications include 'FUNU: The Unfinished Saga of East Timor' (1987), 'Timor-Leste: Amanha em Dili' (1994), 'The Lost World of Timor-Leste' (2010) written with Patricia Vickers-Rich, and 'A Matter of Principle: Humanitarian Arguments for War in Iraq' (2005) written with Christopher Hitchens and others. He has also written extensively on international affairs for the International Herald Tribune, the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, the Huffington Post, The Daily Beast/Newsweek, amongst others.

The International Labour Organization which won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1969

represented by His Excellency Gilbert F. Houngbo - Deputy Director-General for Field Operations and Partnerships, ILO & Prime Minister of Togo (2008 to 2012)

On its 50th anniversary in 1969, the ILO was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for its work in promoting its founding purpose: securing global social justice to ensure universal and lasting peace.

Established in 1919 in the wake of the First World War and the first specialized agency of the United Nations in 1946, today the ILO has 187 member States. Its mandate is to promote decent work for all women, men and youth of working age through rights at work, decent employment opportunities, social protection and social dialogue. In the only UN agency with tripartite governance, governments and workers' and employers' organizations have equal voice in shaping international labour standards, ILO policies, programmes and development cooperation. Led by its newly re-elected Director General Guy Ryder, its Secretariat has headquarters in Geneva and field offices, experts and projects in more than 100 countries.

The 1944 ILO Declaration of Philadelphia established that labour is not a commodity, that poverty anywhere constitutes a threat to prosperity everywhere and that freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining are universal human rights at work. The 1998 ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work added to the core obligations of member States, the universal realisation of the rights to freedom from child labour, forced labour and discrimination in the world of work. The 2008 Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization expresses the ILO's contemporary mandate. Today, its centenary Future of Work Initiative is examining the implications of the fourth industrial revolution.

The first Convention on minimum age for work was adopted in 1919. Today, the Minimum Age Convention (No. 138, 1973) and the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention (No. 182, 1999) are among the most widely ratified, providing the global normative framework for the struggle against child labour. The International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour, created in 1992, has been the ILO's largest development cooperation programme, supporting the constituents, benefiting millions of children in more than 110 countries and, since 1997, collaborating with the Global March against Child Labour. To further accelerate progress made in many countries by tackling root causes, IPEC+, combining the ILO child labour and forced labour programmes, focuses on the rural and informal economies, supply chains and situations of crisis and fragility. IPEC+ provides the ILO's contribution to SDG Alliance 8.7, which seeks to galvanise global efforts to eradicate all forms of child labour by 2025 and forced labour, modern slavery and human trafficking by 2030.



Gilbert F. Houngbo is, since March 2013, Deputy Director-General of the ILO, leading the Organization's field operations in more than 100 countries and its bilateral and multilateral partnerships.

Former Prime Minister of Togo (2008-2012), Mr Houngbo led the government towards substantial improvements in the achievement of Togo's MDG targets, and in the rule of law and civil liberties. He held the position of Assistant Secretary General, preceded by a number of senior executive posts at the United Nations Development Programme (1996-2008). As UNDP Regional Director for Africa, he led UNDP poverty alleviation programmes in Sub-Saharan Africa with offices in 45 countries and annual delivery exceeding USD 1 billion.

Her Excellency Julia Gillard

Prime Minister of Australia (2010-2013)



HE Julia Gillard was sworn in as the 27th Prime Minister of Australia on 24 June 2010 and served in that office until June 2013.

As Prime Minister and in her previous role as Deputy Prime Minister, Ms Gillard was central to the successful management of Australia's economy, the 12th biggest economy in the world, during the Global Financial Crisis and as Australia positioned to seize the benefits of Asia's rise. Ms Gillard developed Australia's guiding policy paper, Australia in the Asian Century. Ms Gillard delivered nation-changing policies including reforming education in Australia at every level from early childhood to university education, creating an emissions trading scheme, improving the provision and sustainability of health care, aged care and dental care, commencing the nation's first ever national scheme to care for people with disabilities and restructuring the telecommunications sector as well as advancing a national broadband network. In foreign policy, Ms Gillard strengthened Australia's alliance with the United States, secured stronger architecture for the relationship with China, upgraded Australia's ties with India, and deepened ties with Japan, Indonesia and South Korea. Ms Gillard has represented Australia at the G20, including winning Australia's right to host the 2014 meeting, the East Asia Summit, APEC, NATO-ISAF and chaired CHOGM. Under Ms Gillard's leadership, Australia was elected to serve on the United Nations Security Council.

Ms Gillard is the first woman to ever serve as Australia's Prime Minister or Deputy Prime Minister. In October 2012, Ms Gillard received worldwide attention for her speech in Parliament on the treatment of women in professional and public life. Ms Gillard is a non-resident Distinguished Senior Fellow with the Center for Universal Education at the Brookings Institution in Washington. In February 2014, Ms Gillard was appointed chair of the Global Partnership for Education, a leading organization dedicated to expanding access and quality education worldwide. Ms Gillard also serves as Patron of Camfed, the Campaign for Female Education, which tackles poverty and inequality by supporting girls to go to school and succeed, and empowering young women to step up as leaders of change.

In February 2015, Ms Gillard was appointed Chancellor of Dūcere, an Australian-based online education provider offering courses in business and management. Ms Gillard also serves as an Honorary Professor at the University of Adelaide, and is Patron of the John Curtin Prime Ministerial Library in Perth, Western Australia. Ms Gillard is a member of the Board of Directors of Beyond Blue, which is committed to helping Australians understand and manage anxiety and depression. Ms Gillard is Patron of the Layne Beachley Aim For The Stars Foundation, which supports girls and women to invest in their future to fulfil their potential. Ms Gillard serves on the Board of Governors of the Committee for the Economic Development of Australia.

Ms Gillard's memoirs, *My Story*, were published by Random House in September 2014. The second edition of her book was published in July 2015.

Mdm. Leymah Gbowee

Nobel Peace Prize (2011)



2011 Nobel Peace Laureate Leymah Gbowee is a Liberian peace activist, trained social worker and women's rights advocate.

Mdm Leymah Gbowee is Founder and current President of the Gbowee Peace Foundation Africa. She also founded the Liberia Reconciliation Initiative and Co-Founder and former Executive Director of Women Peace and Security Network Africa (WIPSEN-A). She is also a founding member and former Liberia Coordinator of Women in Peace building Network/West Africa Network for Peace building (WIPNET/WANEP).

Mdm Leymah currently serves as a member of the High-Level Task Force for the International Conference on Population and Development. She is a Board Member of the Federation of Liberian Youth. Leymah's leadership of the Women of Liberia Mass Action for Peace – which brought together Christian and Muslim women in a nonviolent movement that played a pivotal role in ending Liberia's civil war in 2003 – is chronicled in her memoir, *Mighty Be Our Powers*, and in the documentary, *Pray the Devil Back to Hell*. In addition, Gbowee is the *Newsweek Daily Beast's* Africa columnist. She serves on the Board of Directors of the Gbowee Peace Foundation and the PeaceJam Foundation, and she is a member of the African Women Leaders Network for Reproductive Health and Family Planning. Leymah has been an Oxfam Global Ambassador since 2013. She is also a member of the International Honorary Committee of the Global Biosphere Institute and the Aurora Prize Selection Committee.

She holds a M.A. in Conflict Transformation from Eastern Mennonite University (Harrisonburg, VA), and a Doctor of Laws (LLD) honoris causa from Rhodes University in South Africa and University of Alberta in Canada. Leymah was honored as a flag-bearer for the opening ceremony of the 2012 Olympic Games in London. After receiving the Barnard College Medal of Distinction, she was named as a Distinguished Fellow in Social Justice and a Visiting Transnational Fellow at the Center for Research on Women, and Fellow in Residence at the Athena Center for Leadership Studies at Barnard College for the 2013/2014 academic year. Leymah was on August 20, 2016 awarded the Lifetime Africa Achievement Price (LAAP) for Peace in Africa by the Millennium Excellence Foundation.

She is currently a distinguished residence scholar at the Union Seminary in New York, a Member of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Advocacy Group and a proud mother of seven children.

Mdm Tawakkol Karman

Nobel Peace Prize (2011)



Mdm Tawakul Karman was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2011 in recognition of her work in non-violent struggle for the expression rights, safety of women and for women's rights to full participation in peace-building work in Yemen.

A leading human rights activist, journalist and politician, Mdm Tawakul Karman is the President of Women Journalists without Chains, which she co-founded. In her crusade for human rights and democracy, Mdm Karman has borne imprisonment on a number of occasions for her protests. Amongst Yemen's Youth movement, she is known as "Mother of the Revolution", "the Iron Woman", and recently, "The Lady of the Arab Spring."

Mdm Tawakul was born in 1979 in Taiz, Yemen's third largest city. She studied an undergraduate degree in Commerce from the University of Science and Technology in Sana'a before completing a graduate degree in Political Science from the University of Sana'a.

Her organisation "Women Journalists Without Chains," advocates promoting civil rights, particularly freedom of opinion and expression, and democratic rights. In 2007, she began organizing weekly protests in Yemen's capital, Sana'a, targeting systemic government repression and calling for inquiries into corruption and other forms of social and legal injustice. Her weekly protests continued until 2011, when she redirected protesters to support the Arab Spring. Yemen's revolution was then brought to New York, where she organised rallies at the UN headquarters.

With her belief in peaceful struggle and her leadership in the peaceful protest movement years before the Arab Spring, Mdm Tawakul Karman could achieve a political, social, cultural change in Yemen. She convinced the people of Yemen, who possess more than 70 million pieces of weapons to abandon using the arms and embrace peaceful revolutions, and be armed with roses instead. She challenged the conservative society of Yemen, by acting as the voice for women and demonstrating their power in a democracy. Her leadership has led to millions of women, men and youth to take to the streets to demand for their civil and human rights.

After being awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2011, Mdm Karman has further strengthened her support to female journalists to rally against corruption and injustice. Fiercely committed to change, Mdm Karman spends the majority of her time in a tent in Change square, where she continues her peaceful protests for freedom.

Mr. Kailash Satyarthi

Nobel Peace Prize (2014)



For thirty-six years, Mr Kailash Satyarthi has struggled against the oppression of children and their rights everywhere. He is the only Indian-born, resident of the country, to receive the Nobel Peace Prize, which was jointly conferred upon him in 2014.

The Nobel Prize, Mr Satyarthi firmly believes, is not in recognition of his work but the cause.

The issue of child rights and child labour was not yet a part of the public discourse when Mr Satyarthi founded the Bachpan Bachao Andolan (BBA) in 1981. BBA has since rescued more than 85,000 children from conditions of exploitative labour and modern-day slavery, and successfully rehabilitated them into society.

As a global campaigner for child rights, his worldwide coalition Global March against Child Labour is the largest civil society network for the most exploited children. The march conducted in 1998, traversed 80,000 kms over 103 countries and culminated in the adoption of the ILO Convention 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour. The Convention was unanimously adopted the following year at ILO conference in Geneva.

Nobel Peace Laureate Kailash Satyarthi is the Founder of the Global Campaign for Education (GCE). GCE has been instrumental in galvanising support of the UN agencies, donor and recipient governments to universalise education. Mr Satyarthi also initiated the first global social labelling called Rugmark, now known as GoodWeave International, which was successful in reducing child labour in the South Asian carpet industry by 80% within 15 years.

With the support of partners and world leaders, Mr Satyarthi pressed for the addition of child labour, slavery and trafficking of children in the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Their collective efforts resulted in the inclusion of specific language in UN SDG Goal 8: Sub Goal 8.7.

To fulfil his vision of a world free of violence against children, Mr Satyarthi has established the Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation. The Foundation's mission is to help create and implement child-friendly policies through research, advocacy and campaigning to ensure the holistic development and empowerment of children.



The National Dialogue Quartet of Tunisia

Nobel Peace Prize (2015)

The Tunisian National Dialogue Quartet is the prestigious Nobel Peace Prize winning organisation, awarded in 2015 for its “decisive contribution to the building of a pluralistic democracy in Tunisia in the wake of the Jasmine Revolution of 2011”.

The National Dialogue Quartet was formed in 2013 when the democratisation process was in danger of collapsing as a result of political assassinations and widespread social unrest. It established an alternative, peaceful political process. It was thus instrumental in enabling Tunisia, in the space of a few years, to establish a constitutional system of government guaranteeing fundamental rights for the entire population, irrespective of gender, political conviction or religious belief. The Quartet paved the way for a peaceful dialogue between the citizens, the political parties and the authorities and helped to find consensus-based solutions to a wide range of challenges across political and other divides.

The Quartet comprises four key organisations in Tunisian civil society: the Tunisian General Labour Union (UGTT, Union Générale Tunisienne du Travail), the Tunisian Confederation of Industry, Trade and Handicrafts (UTICA, Union Tunisienne de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de l'Artisanat), the Tunisian Human Rights League (LTDH, La Ligue Tunisienne pour la Défense des Droits de l'Homme), and the Tunisian Order of Lawyers (Ordre National des Avocats de Tunisie). These organisations represent different sectors and values in Tunisian society: working life and welfare, principles of the rule of law and human rights.

Member of the National Dialogue Quartet of Tunisia

Mr. Hassine Abassi – General Union of Tunisian Workers (UGTT)



Born in 1949 in Sbukha, a small peasant village, Mr Hassine Abassi began his professional career as a teacher and then a high school principal. He started his trade union activity in 1973 as a member of the basic trade union of school supervisors, then a member of the regional union of school supervisors and principals in 1983. He went on to become a member of the General Union of school supervisors and principals. In 1997, he was elected as a member of the Regional Union of Kairouan to become its Secretary General in 2003.

In December 2006, Mr Abassi was elected as a member of the National Executive Bureau of the General Union of Tunisian Workers, (UGTT), in the national congress held in the city of Monastir. Later, he became the acting deputy Secretary General in charge of research and documentation. He held both positions until the following congress held in December 2011, where he was elected Secretary General of the UGTT. He is today a standing member of the Executive Bureau and the General Council of the International Trade Union Confederation as UGTT's Secretary-General and the President of the Arab Trade Unions Confederation.

Mr Abassi is known for his committed stances and his support to freedom-seekers and democracy-lovers since he was the Secretary General of the Regional Labour Union of Kairouan. He was the most prominent supporter of the Tunisian League for Human Rights, the Tunisian Bar Association and the Tunisian Judges Association as components of the Tunisian civil society, during the rule of the former regime because of the fierce battle for their independence and their fight for individual and public liberties.

He was also one of the most prominent supporters of the mining basin uprising in 2008. He was an outspoken leader within the UGTT and he had always insisted on attending the various rallies and demonstrations to support the protesters and to back them up during the different trials that had targeted them. He fiercely defended the independence of the UGTT's decision-making process.

He led with a great and outstanding competence the initiative launched by the Tunisian General Labour Union, UGTT, to help Tunisia get out of the crisis it had experienced following the elections of October 23, 2011. He was the main manager of the National Dialogue, which was composed of a Quartet that included alongside the Tunisian General Labour Union, UGTT, the Tunisian Union of Industry, Commerce and Handicrafts, UTICA, the Tunisian National Bar Association and the Tunisian League for Human Rights. This allowed Tunisia to achieve the main objectives of the transitional process such as the drafting and the adoption of the Constitution, the promulgation of the Elections Act and the establishment of the High Independence Instances of Elections which will pave the way to legislative and presidential elections which were, according to many observers, transparent and democratic. His intervention with the most important political parties was extremely decisive as he succeeded in getting their views close for the paramount interest of Tunisia.

Member of the National Dialogue Quartet of Tunisia

Mdm. Ouided Bouchamaoui

President of The Tunisian Confederation of Industry, Trade and Handicrafts (UTICA)



Born in Gabes in 1961, Mdm Ouided Bouchamaoui holds a Master Degree in International Business from Institut Supérieur de Gestion of Tunis and a DESS in International Trade Law from Faculty of Juridical and Political Sciences of Tunis 2.

Since May 2011, she is the President of UTICA, the Tunisian Confederation of Industry, Trade and Handicrafts, first woman elected to this position.

In 2013, under the auspices of the G8 Deauville Partnerships, she was awarded the “Best Business Woman of the Arab World” award. The same year, she founded “The Tunisian National Dialogue Quartet”, along with the Tunisian General Labour Union, the Tunisian Human Rights League, and the Tunisian Order of Lawyers.

The quartet initiated negotiations with all parties involved in a deep political crisis, resulting in a solution acceptable to all. It is for this initiative that she was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2015. Mdm Bouchamaoui has been named a “Business for Peace Honouree” in 2014.

In January 2015, the Tunisian President, Mr Beji Caid Essebsi made her the Grand Officer of the Order of the Republic, and His Majesty, King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden, decorated her with the Royal Order of the Polar Star in November 2015. She also received in December 2015, the “Legion d’Honneur” from the French President, Mr François Hollande.

Member of the Oslo Business for Peace Award Committee since January 2016, she is identified as one of the most influential businesswomen in Africa.

MdmNajetZammouri

Vice-President and Treasurer at the Tunisian Human Rights League (LTDH),
Nobel Peace Prize Laureate 2015



An advocate for freedom of expression since she was in high school in 1976, MdmZammouri has been revolting against totalitarianism and extremism.

She was a candidate of the Constitutional Assembly in 2011, wherein apart from defending democracy and civic state, she upheld the rights of women in leadership and their right to participate in public business. However, she was persecuted for the same. She was then re-elected in 2014 as a member of the Tunisian Human Rights League (LTDH). During this time, she initiated a club named 'Club 8 Mars' which aimed to increase the conscience of women about her rights by organising workshops and meetings on violence against women.

Furthermore, in February 2015, MdmZammouri established a non-profit feminist association, 'Felha pour la culture et la citoyenneté', which aims at information dissemination and action around sustainable human development, citizenship, human rights, gender equality and cultural diversity.

In March 2016, MdmZammouri organised a conference in partnership with the National Office of Women and Population (ONFP) and the United Nations Fund for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) about women victims of abuse in order to ensure sustainable and effective collaboration between the various partners working towards the issue of violence against women.

In October 2016, MdmZammouri was elected in the National Committee of the Tunisian Human Rights League, with the responsibility of the treasurer.

Mr. Angel Gurría

Secretary-General, Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)



As Secretary-General of the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) since 2006, Angel Gurría has firmly established the Organisation as a pillar of the global economic governance architecture including the G7, G20 and APEC, and a reference point in the design and implementation of better policies for better lives. He has broadened OECD's membership with the accession of Chile, Estonia, Israel, Latvia and Slovenia, and has made the Organisation more inclusive by strengthening its links with key emerging economies. Under his watch, the OECD is leading the effort to reform the international tax system and to improve governance frameworks in anti-corruption and other fields. He has also heralded a new growth narrative that promotes the well-being of people, including women, gender and youth, and has scaled up the OECD contribution to the global agenda, including the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Born on May 8th, 1950, in Tampico, Mexico, Mr. Gurría came to the OECD following a distinguished career in public service in his country, including positions as Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of Finance and Public Credit in the 1990s. For the first time in a generation, he steered Mexico's economy through a change of Administration without a recurrence of the financial crises that had previously dogged such changes. Mr Gurría holds a B.A. degree in Economics from UNAM (Mexico) and a M.A. degree in Economics from Leeds University (United Kingdom). He received Honorary Degrees from the Universidad de Valle de México, Rey Juan Carlos University, European University of Madrid, and the Universities of Leeds, Haifa and Bratislava.

A regular contributor to some of the world's leading newspapers and journals, Mr Gurría has received several awards and decorations from more than 30 countries, including the titles of Grand officier de la Légion d'honneur and Chevalier dans l'ordre du Mérite agricole, awarded by the French Government and most recently, he was distinguished by the President of Korea with the Gwangwha Medal for Diplomatic Service, and also received recognition to his longstanding contribution to the development of public administration in Mexico, the Medalla al Mérito Administrativo Internacional "Gustavo Martínez Cabañas", awarded by the Instituto Nacional de Administración Pública (INAP).

Mr Gurría has participated in various international not-for-profit bodies, including the Population Council and the Center for Global Development based in Washington. He chaired the International Task Force on Financing Water for All and continues to be deeply involved in water issues, being a member of the United Nations Secretary General Advisory Board for Water and sanitation (UNSGAB) and of the World Economic Forum's Global Agenda Council on Water Security. He is also a member of the International Advisory Board of Governors of the Centre for International Governance Innovation, based in Canada, the Advisory Board for the Global Green Growth Forum (3GF), co-hosted by Korea and Denmark, and the Advisory Board to the International Forum on genomics, Innovation and Economic Growth, and was recently appointed as a member of the Royal Academy of Economic and Financial Sciences of Spain.

Mdm Kerry Kennedy

President, Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights



Kerry Kennedy is the president of Robert F Kennedy Human Rights. For more than thirty years, Ms Kennedy has devoted herself to the pursuit of equal justice, the promotion and protection of basic rights, and the preservation of the rule of law. She has worked on a range of issues, including child rights, child labour, disappearances, indigenous land rights, judicial independence, ethnic violence, impunity, environment and freedom of expression. She has concentrated specifically on women's rights, exposing injustices and educating audiences about women's issues, particularly honour killings, sexual slavery, domestic violence, workplace discrimination, sexual assault, abuse of prisoners, and more. She has led hundreds of human rights delegations. At a time of diminished idealism and growing cynicism about public service, her life and lectures are testaments to the commitment to the basic values of human rights.

Under Ms Kennedy's leadership, Robert F Kennedy Human Rights partners with the bravest people on Earth to create lasting change. Robert F Kennedy Human Rights supports defenders in the field with advocacy, litigation, and training; brings human rights to students in the classroom with its innovative "Speak Truth to Power" curriculum and engages the financial community about sustainable investing and the intersection between business and human rights.

She is the author of *Speak Truth to Power: Human Rights Defenders Who Are Changing Our World*, which features interviews with human rights activists including Marian Wright Edelman, the Dalai Lama, Kailash Satyarthi and Archbishop Desmond Tutu, and New York Times Best Seller *Being Catholic Now*.

Ms. Kennedy served as Chair of the Amnesty International USA Leadership Council for over a decade. Nominated by President Bush and confirmed by the Senate, she serves on the Board of Directors of the United States Institute of Peace, Human Rights First, Health eVillages, and SDG USA. She is a patron of the Bloody Sunday Trust (Northern Ireland) and serves on the Editorial Board of Advisors of the Buffalo Human Rights Law Review. She is on the Advisory Committee for the association of American Indian Affairs; International Campaign for Tibet, the Global Youth Action Network, and several other organizations. She also serves on the Advisory Board of the Albert Schweitzer Institute. Ms Kennedy received high honours from President Lech Walesa of Poland for aiding the Solidarity movement.

Ms Kennedy has served in numerous political campaigns, and she is a member of the Massachusetts and District of Columbia bars. She is a graduate of Brown University and Boston College Law School, and holds honorary degrees from five universities.

Ms Kennedy is the mother of three daughters, Cara, Mariah, and Michaela.

The Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) which won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1999

represented by Dr Unni Karunakara who was International President of MSF from 2010 to 2013

Founded in Paris, France in 1971 Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) is an international, independent, medical, humanitarian organisation delivering emergency aid to people who are affected by natural disasters, armed conflict, epidemics and exclusion from healthcare. MSF's work is based on humanitarian principles. MSF operates independently of any political, military, or religious agenda, observes neutrality, and provides impartial care delivered on the basis of need alone.

MSF medical teams often witness violence and neglect in the course of their work, largely in regions that receive scant international attention. At times, MSF may speak out publicly in an effort to bring a forgotten crisis to public attention, to alert the public to abuses occurring beyond the headlines, to criticise the inadequacies of the aid system, or to challenge the diversion of humanitarian aid for political interests.

MSF also leads research in the field of medicine, which has transformed clinical practise, and has improved the lives of patients worldwide. In 1999, MSF launched the Access Campaign which advocates for access to, and the development of life-saving and life prolonging medicines, diagnostic tests and vaccines for patients in MSF programmes and beyond.

Presently, MSF is a worldwide movement of 21 sections, 24 associations and various other offices which are bound together by MSF International, based in Geneva, Switzerland, which provides coordination, information and support to the entire MSF Movement. Many health professionals, logistical and administrative staff (most of who are hired locally) work on programmes in over 65 countries worldwide.



Dr Unni Karunakara has been a humanitarian worker and a public health professional for two decades with extensive experience in the delivery of health care to neglected populations affected by conflict, disasters and epidemics in Africa, Asia, and America. He was Medical Director of the medical humanitarian organisation Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)/Doctors Without Borders' Campaign for Access to Essential Medicines (2005-2007) and later its International President (2010-2013). Unni serves on the Board of Directors of Drugs for Neglected Diseases Initiative (DNDi) India and MSF Holland. In 2001, he helped found *found vivo*, an organisation that works toward overcoming and preventing traumatic stress and its consequences. Unni is currently a Senior Fellow of the Jackson Institute for Global Affairs at Yale University and a visiting Professor at Kasturba Medical College at Manipal University.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) which won the Nobel Peace Prize (1917, 1944, 1963)

represented by Dr Helen Durham, Director of International Law & Policy, ICRC

Established in 1863, the ICRC operates worldwide and responds to help people adversely affected by armed conflict and other situations of humanitarian concern, and promotes the laws that protect victims of war. It also responds to disasters in conflict zones, because the effects of a disaster are compounded in such situations. Its mandate stems essentially from the Geneva Conventions of 1949, and the Statutes of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, providing its humanitarian expertise and experience on the consent of host authorities.

Headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, it has delegations in over 60 countries and activities in more than 80 countries around the world with over 15,000 staff. The strength of the ICRC is its expertise in International law, its operational response capacity, its global workforce made up of 140 nationalities, and its close partnerships with national Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. It is its diverse staff that upholds the Movement's Fundamental Principles in its work, and delivers humanitarian assistance in a neutral and impartial manner, in the varied racial, ethnic, religious, political and cultural contexts in which the organisation works.

Globally, the ICRC undertakes a wide range of protection and assistance programmes whether it is in Syria or South Sudan, Philippines or Afghanistan, Yemen or Colombia. These include support to detainee populations, efforts to reconnect separated families, the delivery of health services, emergency response, water and sanitation programmes, economic security projects and the rehabilitation and reintegration of persons with disability.

Its main donors are governments, regional organisations, Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and, to a lesser degree, the private sector and members of the public. It is not an advocacy group, nor an NGO, UN or human rights group, but an independent and neutral body.

The ICRC was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1917, 1944 and in 1963 - the first two times as a tribute to its humanitarian activities during the two World Wars and the third time in recognition of the Movement's work and 100 years of humanitarian service, received jointly with International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. It makes the Red Cross unique as no recipient has been awarded the Peace Prize as often as this organisation. The very first time the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded, in 1901, the Norwegian Nobel Committee paid tribute to the founder of the Red Cross, Henry Dunant from Switzerland whose life was guided by a passionate devotion to the humanitarian cause.

Members of the ICRC first arrived in the Indian subcontinent at the Bombay (now Mumbai) port to visit camps of prisoners of war and civilian internees in India and Burma (present-day Myanmar) nearly 100 years ago, in 1917. ICRC was also active in India at the time of the Partition, in 1947-48, and the three Indo-Pakistan wars since then. The ICRC opened its Regional Delegation in New Delhi in 1982, and currently covers programmes in India, Nepal, Bhutan and the Maldives, whilst supporting other activities across the wider Asia region from its New Delhi office.



Dr Helen Durham is the Director of International Law and Policy with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Geneva. She holds a PhD in international law and is admitted as a Barrister and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Victoria. Dr Durham has 17 years of experience with ICRC and the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, with roles including Head of the ICRC Office in Sydney, legal adviser to the ICRC regional delegation in the Pacific and Director of International Law and Strategy at the Australian Red Cross. Dr Durham has completed a number of missions with ICRC in Myanmar, Aceh, Philippines, and the Pacific and has been involved in significant negotiations in New York, Geneva and Rome. Previously Dr Durham was Director of Research at the Asia Pacific Centre for Military Law; she is a Senior Fellow at Melbourne Law School and holds a strong list of publications on IHL related topics.

Mr. Jeffrey Sachs, Director

Center for Sustainable Development at the Earth Institute



Jeffrey D Sachs is a world-renowned professor of economics, leader in sustainable development, senior UN advisor, bestselling author, and syndicated columnist whose monthly newspaper columns appear in more than 100 countries. He is the co-recipient of the 2015 Blue Planet Prize, the leading global prize for environmental leadership. He has twice been named among Time Magazine's 100 most influential world leaders. He was called by the New York Times, "probably the most important economist in the world," and by Time Magazine "the world's best known economist." A recent survey by The Economist Magazine ranked Professor Sachs as among the world's three most influential living economists of the past decade.

Professor Sachs served as the Director of the Earth Institute from 2002 to 2016. He was appointed University Professor at Columbia University in 2016, and also serves as Quetelet Professor of Sustainable Development, and Professor of Health Policy and Management at Columbia University. He is Special Advisor to United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on the Sustainable Development Goals, and previously advised both UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan on the Millennium Development Goals. Sachs is Director of both the Center for Sustainable Development, and the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network under the auspices of UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

Sachs is co-founder and Chief Strategist of Millennium Promise Alliance, and is the Director of the Millennium Villages Project. Sachs is also one of the Secretary-General's SDG Advocates, and a Commissioner of the ITU/UNESCO Broadband Commission for Development. He has authored five books, including three New York Times bestsellers, in the past decade years.

Professor Sachs' work on ending poverty, overcoming macroeconomic instability, promoting economic growth, fighting hunger and disease, and promoting sustainable environmental practices, has taken him to more than 125 countries with more than 90 percent of the world's population. For more than thirty years he has advised dozens of heads of state and governments on economic strategy, in the Americas, Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. He was among the outside advisors to Pope John Paul II on the encyclical *Centesimus Annus* and in recent years has worked closely with the Pontifical Academy of Sciences and the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences on the issues of sustainable development.

Sachs is the recipient of many awards and honors, including the Blue Planet Prize, membership in the United States Institute of Medicine, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Harvard Society of Fellows, and the Fellows of the World Econometric Society. His conversation with Tyler Cowen won the Quartz Podcast Award for best business/economics podcast of 2015. He has received more than 20 honorary degrees, and many awards and honors around the world.

Prior to joining Columbia, Sachs spent over twenty years as a professor at Harvard University, most recently as the Galen L. Stone Professor of International Trade. A native of Detroit, Michigan, Sachs received his B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. degrees at Harvard.

Mr. Noriyuki Suzuki

General Secretary, ITUC Asia Pacific



Mr Noriyuki Suzuki was born in 1952 in Japan. He graduated with a Master in Arts from Graduate School, Faculty of Literature, Tokyo University with major in History of the German Social Democracy.

Mr Noriyuki has a distinct portfolio that spans more than 30 years in the Trade Industry. He is the current General Secretary of the International Trade Union Confederation – Asia Pacific (ITUC-AP) and the Deputy General Secretary of the ITUC since 2007.

The ITUC's primary mission is to promote and defend the workers' rights and interests, through international cooperation between trade unions, global campaigning and advocacy within the major global institutions.

The main area of activities of ITUC includes the following: trade union and human rights, economy, society and the workplace, equality and non-discrimination and international solidarity. ITUC also addresses the issues of forced labour and child labour.

The ITUC adheres to the principles of trade union democracy and independence. It is governed by four-yearly world congresses, a General Council and an Executive Bureau.

The ITUC has close relations with the Trade Union Advisory Committee to the OECD (TUAC) and the Global Union Federations. It works closely with the International Labour Organization and with several other UN Specialized Agencies.

The ITUC regional organizations are the Asia-Pacific Regional Organization (ITUC-AP), the African Regional Organization (ITUC-AF) and the American Regional Organization (TUCA). It cooperates with the European Trade Union Confederation, including the Pan-European Regional Council.

Prior to ITUC-AP Noriyuki Suzuki has worked with Japan's House of Representative till early 1980s. He served as the member of the central executive standing committee of the International Affairs Bureau, ZENSEN from 1989-1998. He also served as the secretary of TWARO (Asia and Pacific Regional Organization of the ITGLWF-International Textile, Garment and Leather Workers' Federation).

Mr Noriyuki also served as the Councilor of ZENSEN/UI ZENSEN in 1998 and Japanese Trade Union Confederation (JTUC) in 1999.

He progressed to head the International Confederation of Free Trade Union – Asia Pacific Regional Organization (ICFTU-APRO) and served as the Assistant General Secretary of the ICFTU before he was appointed to his current position following the organization's merger with the World Confederation of Labour (WCL).

Grameen Bank which won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006

represented by Mr. Ratan Kumar Nag, Acting Managing Director

Grameen Bank was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006 for their efforts to create economic and social development from below. It was established in 1983 by Professor Muhammad Yunus in Dhaka, Bangladesh to realise his vision of self-support for the very poorest people by means of small long term loans (micro credit) on easy terms.

Grameen Bank has reversed conventional banking practice by removing the need for collateral and created a banking system based on mutual trust, accountability, participation and creativity. The Bank works on the assumption that even the poorest of the poor can manage their own financial affairs and development given suitable conditions, and credit is a cost effective weapon to fight poverty and it serves as a catalyst in the overall development of socio-economic conditions of the poor who have been kept outside the banking orbit on the ground that they are poor and hence not bankable.

The bank has since been a source of inspiration for similar microcredit institutions in over one hundred countries. One of the bank's most notable success stories has been its so-called village phone program wherein women obtain loans to acquire phone systems built from simple handsets and solar chargers, which function as pay phones in rural areas.

As of December 2015, it has 8.81 million borrowers, 97 percent of whom are women. The program has enabled millions of Bangladeshis, almost all women, to buy everything from cows to cell phones in order to start and run their own businesses and overcome absolute poverty. With 2,568 branches, Grameen Bank provides services in 81,392 villages, covering more than 97 percent of the total villages in Bangladesh.

Grameen Bank's positive impact on its poor and formerly poor borrowers has been documented in many independent studies carried out by external agencies including the World Bank, the International Food Research Policy Institute (IFPRI) and the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS).



Mr. Ratan Kumar Nag, Acting Managing Director of Grameen Bank was appointed on the post on 29th October, 2015. He has been serving as an Executive Officer of the field (Zonal Manager) and has managed about 3-4 districts, 25000 members and 150 employees. He has also written a Training Manual on Internal and External Audits Published by CTS (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd, 6 Lorong Permata (Lobak), Seremban 70200, Malaysia. He is also a regular speaker and resource person at training institutes based on banking and microfinance like as Bangladesh Bank Training Institute (BBTA) and Centre for Development and Finance (CDF). He is a member of the Board of Director of Grameen Kalyan and a member of the Management Committee of Grameen Caledonian College of Nursing.





SATYARTHI

KAILASH SATYARTHI CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION

 @KSCFIndia

 /KSCFIndia

 /KSCFIndia

 info@satyarthi.org

 www.satyarthi.org