

Asia Leadership Fellow Program

2015 PROGRAM REPORT

Seeking Our Commons in Asia: How Can We Create Visions for the Future?

International House of Japan
Japan Foundation

Seeking Our Commons in Asia: How Can We Create Visions for the Future?

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Arulanantham Sarveswaran (Sri Lanka)

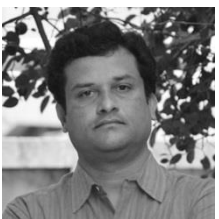
Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Law, University of Colombo



Mr. Sarveswaran has an M. Phil in Labour Law from the University of Colombo and an M.A. in International Peace Studies from University for Peace (UPEACE), a United Nations mandated University in Costa Rica. Previously serving as a senior consultant to the Law Review Project of the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka, he teaches labor law and environmental law and serves as the Coordinator and Senior Lecturer for postgraduate programs in Conflict and Peace Studies. He is a resource person in human rights, environmental rights, workers' rights, and peace-building, working with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka, and the National Peace Council. He often visits Jaffna and other places in the northern and eastern parts of Sri Lanka, where Tamil and Muslim minority communities live and internally displaced people during the civil war have come back, to conduct programs in environmental conservation, human rights, reconciliation, and peace-building. He also writes in newspapers and participates in television programs on current affairs in the country.

Jaideep Hardikar (India)

Special Correspondent, *The Telegraph*, India / Core group member, People's Archive of Rural India (PARI)



Mr. Hardikar currently reports on a wide range of issues in central India for Kolkata-based the *Telegraph*. He has for over a decade reported from India's heartland on issues ranging from massive human displacement to agrarian distress; from the emergence of dubious water markets to people's struggles over forest rights; from politics to central India's armed conflicts and from global farm subsidies to market volatilities. Remaining, by choice, outside of the major cities, he looks at processes rather than events. Among his focus areas in reporting is rural India, one of the most complex areas on the planet: its many conflicts and crises, community-driven solutions, people's governance models, astonishing stories of change and hope. His first book, *A Village Awaits Doomsday* (2013), tells the stories of millions pauperized by so-called development. In addition, he is a core-group member and volunteer for the People's Archive of Rural India (PARI), a new online archive and journal that seeks to document Indian villages. He also teaches International Communications at Nagpur University. He is part of the world cinema movement and honorary president of a film society in his home town, Nagpur.

Saranarat Kanjanavanit (Thailand)

Chairperson, Green World Foundation



Dr. Kanjanavanit is Chairperson of the Green World Foundation (GWF), a nonprofit environmental NGO based in Bangkok. She is an ecologist and a writer, with a passion for creating meaningful connections between Nature and human beings. She initiated the Environmental Detectives education program 18 years ago, which empowers children and local citizens with tools to “read” the local environment through observation of biodiversity, and to take creative action based on knowledge. The work extended from stream headwaters to the sea and from natural habitats to urban settings. Her recent focus with the Foundation is on promoting urban resilience and a livable city that is generous to both human beings and other species in co-existence. This includes pioneering an agenda for a bicycle-friendly Bangkok, equipped with crowd-sourcing tools that support citizen action. Current personal interests are bio-mimicry learning and design, and the art of inter-species communication.

Karen Lai Yu Lee (Malaysia)

Programme Manager, Penang Women’s Development Corporation



Ms. Lai is the Programme Manager for Women’s Empowerment and Leadership at the Penang Women’s Development Corporation, the first state government agency of its kind in the country, set up in 2011 with the aim of mainstreaming gender equality and promoting social justice in Penang, Malaysia. Prior to that, she practiced law, developing a broad range of experience in litigation and conveyancing. Ms. Lai has been active within the Malaysian and regional women’s human rights movement for almost a decade, which includes advocating on sexual assault laws and procedures, holding watching briefs for victims and their families in sexual assault trials, and pro bono representation for social and political activists caught in urgent arrest situations. Ms. Lai is a resource person affiliated with the International Women’s Rights Action Watch Asia-Pacific (IWRAP Asia-Pacific), for which she has served as a rapporteur, and a trainer on the content and application of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). Ms. Lai is also a jazz vocalist and has performed at various public events in her spare time.

Nomura Mai (Japan)

Global Strategic Partnerships Manager, Central European University Business School, Hungary



Ms. Nomura has experience in purpose-oriented projects for over forty countries. After working at the Asia Foundation Japan office, the Japan Society of Boston, and the Edwin O. Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies and in mutual funds for institutional investors globally, she served in partnership projects in the area of international cooperation, corporate social responsibility, and communications in accordance with millennium development goals at Sony and Ericsson. With the purpose of enhancing social mission dialogue among multi-stakeholders, she founded a social salon, Knot Work Café. She also served as a curator at IMPACT Foundation Japan. Currently, Ms. Nomura works as manager for global strategic partnerships at Central European University Business School in Hungary. She is also a lecturer at the Nihon University Graduate School of Social and Cultural Studies and a researcher at the Graduate School of System Design Management at Keio University.

Dinah Roma (Philippines)

Poet / Professor, Department of Literature, De La Salle University, Manila



Professor Roma teaches literature and creative writing at De La Salle University, Manila. She has also been active as a poet. Her works explore the liminal spaces between place and language, where possibilities of journeys are manifold. They draw inspiration from the rich traditions of Asia to chart the traveler's passage across landscapes and terrains, peoples and cultures, through time and memory. This aspect of her creative work also is a crucial part of her scholarly work on literature and travel theory for which she has been awarded grants and fellowships from various institutions. She is the author of three books of poetry: *A Feast of Origins* (2004), which won the 2004 Philippine National Book Award for Poetry in English and two other major awards; *Geographies of Light* (2011), whose core collection won third prize in the Carlos Palanca Award for Poetry in English in 2007; and her most recent collection *Naming the Ruins* (2014), launched in Sydney, Singapore, and Manila.

Harry Surjadi (Indonesia)

Executive Director, Society of Indonesian Science Journalists



Mr. Surjadi began his journalism career at *Trubus*, an agriculture magazine. He then worked for the *Kompas Daily* for nearly 10 years. In 2000, Mr. Surjadi helped to develop Astaga.com, an Internet news portal. He founded and became the first Executive Director of the Society of Indonesian Environmental Journalists in 2006 and the Society of Indonesian Science Journalists in 2014. He was a former Knight International Journalism Fellow of the International Center for Journalists, at which he helped to launch weekly sections and programs dedicated to the environment at regional newspapers and radio stations. And in 2011–2012, he launched a mobile environmental news service for rural Indonesians with little access to information. He was granted the Communication for Social Change Award from the University of Queensland, Australia. He has worked as a freelance reporter and media trainer in Indonesia and elsewhere in the region. A graduate of Bogor Agricultural University in West Java, Indonesia, he received a master's degree in January 2010 from the University of Indonesia Faculty of Social and Political Sciences.

Yin Shuxi (China)

Professor, Hefei University of Technology



Dr. Yin is Professor and also Director of the Center for Inter-Faith Dialogue at Hefei University in China, where he teaches and does research as well as consulting independently in cooperation with other scholars and practitioners. He received his bachelor's degree from Peking University, master's degree from Harvard University, and Ph.D. from the University of Tubingen. After growing up in a rapidly changing China and studying and working on three continents, he is fully aware of the importance of spirituality. After living in the West for years, he feels the need to reflect on Asia's spiritual heritage as well as having a commitment to inter-faith dialogue. He holds that spirituality can play a great role in promoting Asian unity. Dr. Yin has helped his university organize a summer training program on religion and rule of law, the first of its kind in China, taught by faculty from more than 10 countries, whose graduates have become pioneering advocates of religious freedom in China. His major academic interests are religion and society in a broad sense, and he has published widely on this topic.

*Affiliation and titles are those at the time of participation in the program.

ALFP 2015 Schedule

- Sep 7 Orientation/Welcoming Reception
- Sep 8 Introduction Session
- Sep 9 Country Reports 1: Arulanantham Sarveswaran and Dinah Roma
Country Reports 2: Harry Surjadi and Saranarat Kanjanavanit
Country Reports 3: Karen Lai Yu Lee and Jaideep Hardikar
- Sep 10 Country Reports 4: Yin Shuxi and Nomura Mai
Seminar on memory, war and art by Ishiuchi Miyako (Photographer) and Wakamatsu Eisuke (Literary Critic)
- Sep 11 Seminar on commons and “share hub” by Horiuchi Masahiro (Professor, Tama Art University) and visit to SHARE Okusawa
- Sep 13–14 Retreat Session in Hakone
- Sep 15 Core Seminar on South Asia “Structural Transformation in Globalizing South Asia: An Agenda for Sustainable, Inclusive and Peaceful Development” by Tanabe Akio (Professor, Kyoto University)
Visit to Miki Tatz’s indigo dyeing studio
- Sep 16 Core Seminar on Southeast Asia “The End of ‘Developmentalism’ and Problems of Terrorism” by Suzuki Yuji (Deputy Director General, National Federation of UNESCO Associations in Japan)
Core Seminar on Northeast Asia “Chinese Politics and Japan-China Relations” by Takahara Akio (Professor, University of Tokyo)
- Sep 18 Film screening of *The Animal Communicator* and workshop by Saranarat Kanjanavanit
- Sep 22–25 Field Trip to Tokushima and Okayama
- Sep 28 Seminar on the Japanese garden and aesthetics by Uchiyama Sadafumi (Garden Curator, Portland Japanese Garden)
- Sep 29 Seminar “Space Applications for Innovation” by Kohtake Naohiko (Associate Professor, Keio University)
- Oct 1 Film screening of *Nero’s Guests* and workshop by Jaideep Hardikar
- Oct 2 Visit to the headquarters of the Japan NGO Center for International Cooperation (JANIC) and CSO Network Japan, and briefing on NPOs and NGOs in Japan by Ohashi Masaaki (Chairperson, JANIC) and Kuroda Kaori (Executive Director, CSO Network Japan)

- Oct 5 Seminar “‘Gender Equality’ in the Neoliberalist Reform under Globalization: What Have Japanese Women Lost and Gained?” by Ueno Chizuko (Professor Emeritus, University of Tokyo)
Seminar “What is *Washoku*?” by Elizabeth Andoh (Director, A Taste of Culture / Writer on comparative culture & cuisine)
- Oct 6 Visit to NHK World
- Oct 8 Visit to Asahi Shimbun and meeting with editorial writers
- Oct 9 Seminar “Nuclear Energy Policy Issues in the Post-Fukushima Era” by Suzuki Tatsujiro (Professor, Research Center for Nuclear Weapons Abolition, Nagasaki University)
- Oct 10–18 Individual Activities Period
- Oct 17 Discussion with Nitobe Kokusai Juku Participants and Fellows of the Mike Mansfield Fellowship Program and Brazil Science Without Borders
- Oct 19 Seminar “Islam and the World Today” by Kato Hiroshi (Professor, Hitotsubashi University)
- Oct 21 Visit to CSR Department of Sony Corporation
- Oct 22 Visit to CSO Peace Seed in Narita
- Oct 28 Public Seminar
- Oct 30 Evaluation Session

2015 Program Overview

Discussion-Paper Presentations

A weekend retreat was organized at the beginning of the program in Hakone, Kanagawa, where the Fellows shared their expertise, areas of interest and regional and global concerns with several intellectuals based in Japan and also engaged in dialogue under this year's ALFP theme "Seeking Our Commons in Asia: How Can We Create Visions for the Future?"



Commentators:

- Ashiwa Yoshiko (Professor, Graduate School of Social Sciences, Hitotsubashi University)
- Mizuno Takaaki (Professor, Kanda University of International Studies)
- Ogawa Reiko (Associate Professor, Faculty of Social and Cultural Studies, Kyushu University)
- Takahara Akio (Professor, Graduate School of Law and Politics, University of Tokyo)
- Tezuka Yoshiharu (Professor, Faculty of Global Media Studies, Komazawa University)

Core Seminars

Three core seminars were conducted on Northeast, Southeast, and South Asia, respectively, in the second week of the Program, for the Fellows to look at each region as well as the issues shared within and/or across the region from a broader perspective while sharing visions for the future of Asia.

- Core Seminar on South Asia “Structural Transformation in Globalizing South Asia: An Agenda for Sustainable, Inclusive and Peaceful Development” by Tanabe Akio (Professor, Kyoto University) on September 15



- Core Seminar on Southeast Asia “The End of ‘Developmentalism’ and Problems of Terrorism” by Suzuki Yuji (Deputy Director General, National Federation of UNESCO Associations in Japan) on September 16



- Core Seminar on Northeast Asia “Chinese Politics and Japan-China Relations” by Takahara Akio (Professor, University of Tokyo) on September 16



Seminars

In addition to core seminars, the Fellows met a number of Japan-based resource persons, including intellectuals and leading figures from academia, NGOs and NPOs, in the formal setting of seminars (listed below in chronological order).

- Seminar on memory, war and art by Ishiuchi Miyako (Photographer) and Wakamatsu Eisuke (Literary Critic)—moderated by Ashiwa Yoshiko (Professor, Hitotsubashi University) on September 10



- Seminar on commons and “share hub” by Horiuchi Masahiro (Professor, Tama Art University) and visit to SHARE Okusawa on September 11



- Seminar on the Japanese garden and aesthetics by Uchiyama Sadafumi (Garden Curator, Portland Japanese Garden) on September 28



- Seminar “Space Applications for Innovation” by Kohtake Naohiko (Associate Professor, Keio University) on September 29



- Seminar “‘Gender Equality’ in the Neoliberalist Reform under Globalization: What Have Japanese Women Lost and Gained?” by Ueno Chizuko (Professor Emeritus, University of Tokyo) on October 5



- Seminar “What Is *Washoku*?” by Elizabeth Andoh (Director, A Taste of Culture / Writer on comparative culture & cuisine) on October 5



- Seminar “Nuclear Energy Policy Issues in the Post-Fukushima Era” by Suzuki Tatsujiro (Professor, Research Center for Nuclear Weapons Abolition, Nagasaki University) on October 9



- Discussion with Nitobe Kokusai Juku Participants and Fellows of the Mike Mansfield Fellowship Program and Brazil Science Without Borders on October 17



- Seminar “Islam and the World Today” by Kato Hiroshi (Professor, Hitotsubashi University) on October 19



Other Visits & Sessions

- Visit to the indigo dyeing studio of Miki Tatz (artist) in Daikanyama, Tokyo, on September 15



- Visit to the headquarters of the Japan NGO Center for International Cooperation (JANIC) and CSO Network Japan on October 2

The Fellows met with Ohashi Masaaki (Chairperson, JANIC / ALFP 1999 Fellow) and Kuroda Kaori (Executive Director, CSO Network Japan / ALFP 2009 Fellow) and had a briefing on NPOs and NGOs in Japan



- Visit to NHK World on October 6
- The Fellows took a guided-tour of the facility, including studios, and also met with executive officers



- Visit to Asahi Shimbun on October 8
- The Fellows met with editorial writers and engaged in dialogue



- Visit to CSR Department of Sony Corporation on October 21



- Visit to CSO Peace Seed in Narita on October 22



Field Trip to Tokushima and Okayama (September 22–25)

The Fellows went as a group on a field trip organized around their suggestions and common interests. The sites visited as well as the topics covered on the trip were:

Kamiyama Town in Tokushima

- Seminar “Thinking about the Future of a Region from the Viewpoint of Creative Depopulation” by Ominami Shinya (Chairman, NPO Green Valley, Inc.) followed by a discussion on the challenges facing rural areas on September 22



- Seminar on the history of Shosanji Temple and *ohenro* (pilgrimage) by the chief priest at Shosanji Temple on September 22



- Visit to Engawa Office and Seminar “Thinking about Working Styles through the Kamiyama Satellite Office” by Sumita Tetsu (President, Kamiyama Jinryou Corp.) on September 23



- Seminar on the Kamiyama Artist in Residence (KAIR) program by Mori Masaki (Vice Chairman, NPO Green Valley, Inc.) on September 23



Kamikatsu Town in Tokushima

- Visit to Hibigaya Waste Station and briefing on the “Zero Waste” project by Wakita Masayuki (Director, Kamikatsu Ikkyu Corporation) on September 24



- Seminar on the “leaf business” of the elderly by Yokoishi Tomoji (President, Irodori Co., Ltd.) and meeting with the farmers engaged in the leaf business on September 24



Okayama Prefecture

- Visit to National Sanatorium Nagashima-Aiseien and seminar on the history of leprosy in Japan by Fujita Kunio (Director, Nagashima-Aiseien) on September 25



- Visit to the head office of Japan Blue Co., Ltd. and seminar on Japan Blue’s efforts in selling jeans from Kojima, Kurashiki, to the world by Manabe Hisao (President, Japan Blue Co., Ltd.) on September 25



Public Seminar (October 28)

At the end of the two-month program, a public seminar was held at the International House of Japan on October 28. At the seminar, the Fellows presented their thoughts on the current situation of their countries and the issues they have been working on, along with what they have learned from their exchanges and dialogues in Japan. The first session was moderated by Professor Takenaka Chiharu (Professor, Rikkyo University) and the second session was moderated by Professor Ashiwa Yoshiko (Professor, Hitotsubashi University), and each session was followed by a lively Q&A/discussion session with the audience.



The titles of the Fellows’ presentations delivered at the Public Seminar are as follows:

Session 1

- **Arulanantham Sarveswaran** (Sri Lanka)
“Role of Japan in Peacebuilding in Asia”
- **Saranarat Kanjanavanit** (Thailand)
“Connecting to Nature for Resilient Urban Society”

- **Yin Shuxi** (China)
“Spiritual Linkage in Asia”
- **Karen Lai Yu Lee** (Malaysia)
“Seeking Our Commons in Asia: How Can We Create Visions for the Future?”

Session 2

- **Dinah Roma** (Philippines)
“Narrating Our Cultural Commons”
- **Nomura Mai** (Japan)
“Seeking Our Commons in Asia: How Can We Create Visions for the Future?”
- **Harry Surjadi** (Indonesia)
“Japan and Indonesia—Connecting the Communities”
- **Jaideep Hardikar** (India)
“Big Problems, Small Ideas: Discovering the Many Working Worlds Within”