

Asia Leadership Fellow Program

2016 PROGRAM REPORT

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

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

Published by

International House of Japan and Japan Foundation

Copyright © 2017

International House of Japan

5-11-16 Roppongi, Minato-ku,

Tokyo 106-0032, Japan

Telephone: +81-3-3470-3211

Fax: +81-3-3470-3170

Email: alfp_info@i-house.or.jp

URL: alfpnetwork.net/en/

Contents

ALFP 2016 Fellows ----- 4

ALFP 2016 Schedule ----- 7

ALFP 2016 Program Overview ----- 9

ALFP 2016 Fellows

Fujioka Emiko (Japan)

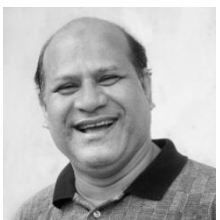
Secretary General, Fukushima Beacon for Global Citizens Network



Ms. Fujioka is the secretary general and co-founder of the Fukushima Beacon for Global Citizens Network (Fukuden), a Fukushima-based nonprofit organization. Fukuden's main mission is to share lessons from Fukushima after the nuclear accident with the world from a citizen viewpoint. She moved to Fukushima from Tokyo in 2012 as a member of the disaster response task force of the Japan NGO Center for International Cooperation (JANIC) and started Fukuden after JANIC closed its operations in Fukushima in 2014. She is also a board member of Shapla Neer=Citizens' Committee in Japan for Overseas Support, an NGO working for underprivileged people in South Asia. From 2005 to 2009, she served at the Shapla Neer Bangladesh Office as a country representative. She translated *The Other Side of Silence: Voices from the Partition of India* by Urvashi Butalia (ALFP 2000 Fellow) into Japanese during her stay in India from 1998 to 2001. The book was published in Japan in 2002.

Amran Hossain (Bangladesh)

Faculty Member, Department of Political Science, University of Dhaka



Dr. Amran earned his Ph.D. in Politics at the University of Sheffield, U.K., and M.Phil in Public Administration at the University of Bergen, Norway. He was awarded an International Visitor Leadership Program Fellowship in 2002 by the U.S. Department of State, worked as an EU research fellow in Portugal in 2011, and has presented papers at various international conferences and seminars on topics from Bangladesh's community-based rehabilitation and democratization process to Islamic extremism. He is the author of ten academic books on politics, power and corruption in Bangladesh, international law and politics, social science research design and ethical concerns in academic research as well as a Bangladesh compendium: pre- and post-historic events of the liberation war. He has also published a number of articles, and his research interests include religious extremism, the party system, human rights and democratic norms and values. He is concerned about the increasing activities of religious radicals all over the world, and explores Asia's future through his research on Bangladesh, especially from the perspective of democracy, peace and violence.

Lee Taeho (Korea)

Chair, Policy Committee, People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy (PSPD)



Mr. Lee is a civic activist in South Korea. He joined People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy (PSPD) in 1995, one of the most influential watchdog NGOs in South Korea, and served as secretary general in 2011–2016, leading PSPD's major activities from economic justice and civil and political rights to peace and disarmament. He has organized various campaigns and projects concerning anti-corruption, political reform, freedom of expression, social welfare reform, anti-FTA, anti-war, peaceful resolution of armed conflicts and democratic control of security power. He graduated from Seoul National University in 1991 with a bachelor's degree in Western History, and was appointed as a visiting fellow at the Weatherhead East Asian Institute of Columbia University in 2008–2009, and an Executive Committee member of the Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA) in 2010–2016. He is strongly interested in Japan's peace movement, including recent youth activism and other civil movements relating to human security after the Fukushima disaster.

Phan Ngoc Diem Han (Vietnam)

Chief Executive Officer, Rainbow Media & Entertainment



Ms. Han gained extensive experience in marketing through her career with various companies such as Phuong Nam Cultural Corporation, and has published over 100 articles on social and business issues in national newspapers, business magazines, and sports and cultural newspapers. She started a media company in Ho Chi Minh City in 2014, and recently, as a successful author cum screenwriter, she creates TV programs and historical documentaries and writes essays for dailies widely circulated in Ho Chi Minh City. Her exceptional creativity and entrepreneurship are also exhibited in her documentary films, into which she incorporates her original perspective and therefore adds fresh dimensions to the traditional view of historical events in the country. Her works include a screenplay titled *Tra gia* (Payment, VTV3, 2014) and a TV series titled *Doi Mat Cua Trai Tim* (Eyes of Heart, Today TV, 2014), which won the Best TV's Drama 2014 Award.

Kumar Sundaram (India)

Senior Researcher, Coalition for Nuclear Disarmament and Peace



Mr. Kumar is a senior researcher with India's Coalition for Nuclear Disarmament and Peace (CNDP) and a leading activist. Particularly after Fukushima, he has been actively collaborating with the Japanese and international civil society for a nuclear-free world and founded DiaNuke.org, which has become a popular website for nuclear-related resources and dialogue. He believes that civil society networks serve a crucial role in nuclear-related issues, where sharing a common vision across borders becomes particularly challenging due to the differences in national policies. Mr. Kumar has a keen interest in democracy as an enabler of peace and justice, and has been working actively toward creating solidarity across Asia. He has also created popular and collaborative web-platforms and apps such as IndiaResists.com and AsiaProgressive.com that focus on people's movements and human rights.

Criselda Yabes (Philippines)

Writer / Journalist (Independent)



Ms. Yabes is the author of eight books, for the most part dealing with the military and armed conflict in Mindanao. Her latest, *Peace Warriors: On the Trail with Filipino Soldiers*, won the National Book Award for Creative Non-Fiction in 2012. She has also published fiction works that have won literary awards. She has been a journalist for foreign news organizations for the past thirty years, having covered politics and other major events in her country and elsewhere. One of her distinguished work as a journalist is her reportage on defense and military issues, including a territorial dispute in the South China Sea. She travels to as many coastal villages as possible to see the situation up close. Currently, she is in Palawan where she is trying to get information on maritime security as well as ecotourism for another book project. She is interested in how Asia can reduce the increasing tension within the region through dialogue, stop the arms race with preventive diplomacy, and establish common rules for the development and preservation of marine resources.

Ayang Utriza Yakin (Indonesia)

Lecturer, UIN Jakarta / Vice-Chairman, Central Board of Nahdlatul Ulama for Mosque Affairs



Dr. Yakin has a B.A. in Islamic Law from the State Islamic University, Jakarta, studied Islamic law at the University of al-Azhar, Cairo, and completed an M.A. and Ph.D. in History and Philology at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Paris. He was a visiting research fellow at the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies of the University of Oxford, and a visiting fellow at the Islamic Legal Studies Program of Harvard Law School. He emphasizes the importance of interfaith dialogue advocated by religious pluralism and universal human rights rooted in Islamic teachings, while claiming the necessity of intellectual exchange to share thought processes. He is also the Saiful Mujani Research Fellow at the Centre for the Study of Islam and Society (PPIM) of State Islamic University (UIN Jakarta) and vice-chairman of the Mosque Management Institute of the Central Board of Nahdlatul Ulama (LTM-PBNU), the largest Islamic mass organization. He also works for cultural and historical aspects of Java as a vice-chairman of the Cultural Heritage Expert Team of the Province of Banten and the Expert Team of the History of Jakarta.

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

ALFP 2016 Schedule

Sep 5	Orientation/Welcoming Reception
Sep 6	Introduction Session Country Report 1: Amran Hossain
Sep 7	Country Reports 2: Ayang Utriza Yakin and Kumar Sundaram Country Reports 3: Lee Taeho and Criselda Yabes
Sep 8	Country Reports 4: Phan Ngoc Diem Han and Fujioka Emiko
Sep 9	Seminar “Five Years After: Nuclear Energy Policy Issues in the Post-Fukushima Nuclear Accident Era” by Suzuki Tatsujiro (Professor, Research Center for Nuclear Weapons Abolition, Nagasaki University)
Sep 11–12	Retreat Session in Zushi
Sep 13	Core Seminar on Northeast Asia by Soeya Yoshihide (Professor, Keio University)
Sep 14	Seminar “Womonomics: Diversity Impact on the Economy” by Kathy Matsui (Vice Chair, Goldman Sachs Japan, Ltd.)
Sep 15	Visit to the National Defense Academy of Japan
Sep 16	Core Seminar on South Asia “Structural Transformation in Globalizing India and Asia: An Agenda for Sustainable, Inclusive and Peaceful Development” by Tanabe Akio (Professor, University of Tokyo)
Sep 20	Core Seminar on Southeast Asia “The Values of Southeast Asia: Between Modernity and Tradition” by Kato Hisanori (Professor, Chuo University)
Sep 21	Seminar “Memory & Amnesia” by Ambeth R. Ocampo (Associate Professor, Ateneo de Manila University / ALFP 2014 Fellow)
Sep 23	Workshop by Fujioka Emiko
Sep 26–30	Field Trip to Okinawa
Oct 1	Seminar on interfaith dialogue by Matsuyama Daiko (Deputy Priest, Taizo-in Zen Buddhist Temple)
Oct 4	Visit to NHK
Oct 6	Visit to Asahi Shimbun
Oct 7	Workshop by Phan Ngoc Diem Han
Oct 8–16	Individual Activities Period

- Oct 15 Discussion with Fellows of the Nitobe Leadership Program and Mike Mansfield Fellowship Program
- Oct 17 Seminar “Instability, Crisis in Politics, and New Social Movements: New Social Movements after the Fukushima Incident in Japan” by Oguma Eiji (Professor, Keio University)
- Oct 27 Public Seminar
- Oct 28 Evaluation Session

2016 Program Overview

Discussion-Paper Presentations

A weekend retreat was organized at the beginning of the program in Zushi, 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:

- Imata Katsuji (Board of Directors, Japan NPO Center)
- Kim Kyungmook (Professor, Faculty of Letters, Arts and Sciences, Waseda University)
- Mizuno Takaaki (Professor, Kanda University of International Studies)
- Takahara Akio (Professor, Graduate School of Law and Politics, University of Tokyo)

Core Seminars

Three core seminars were conducted on Northeast, Southeast, and South Asia, respectively, in the second and third 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 Northeast Asia by Soeya Yoshihide (Professor, Keio University) on September 13. In this seminar, Professor Soeya shared his views on the politics and security cooperation of Northeast Asia and particularly touched upon China’s unilateralism and the issues surrounding North Korea and how Northeast Asian countries can/should work together to change the overall picture of the region.



- Core Seminar on South Asia “Structural Transformation in Globalizing India and Asia: An Agenda for Sustainable, Inclusive and Peaceful Development” by Tanabe Akio (Professor, University of Tokyo) on September 16



- Core Seminar on Southeast Asia “The Values of Southeast Asia: Between Modernity and Tradition” by Kato Hisanori (Professor, Chuo University) on September 20



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 “Five Years After: Nuclear Energy Policy Issues in the Post-Fukushima Nuclear Accident Era” by Suzuki Tatsujiro (Professor, Research Center for Nuclear Weapons Abolition, Nagasaki University) on September 9



- Seminar “Womonomics: Diversity Impact on the Economy” by Kathy Matsui (Vice Chair, Goldman Sachs Japan, Ltd.) on September 14



- Seminar “Memory & Amnesia” by Ambeth R. Ocampo (Associate Professor, Ateneo de Manila University / ALFP 2014 Fellow) on September 21



- Seminar on interfaith dialogue by Matsuyama Daiko (Deputy Priest, Taizo-in Zen Buddhist Temple) on October 1



- Seminar “Instability, Crisis in Politics, and New Social Movements: New Social Movements after the Fukushima Incident in Japan” by Oguma Eiji (Professor, Keio University) on October 17



Other Visits & Sessions

- Visit to the National Defense Academy of Japan on September 15
The Fellows met with the school president and officers at the academy.



- Visit to NHK on October 4

The Fellows met with a senior producer of NHK and also took a guided-tour of the facility, including studios.



- Visit to Asahi Shimbun on October 6

The Fellows met with journalists covering Asia and also took a guided-tour of the facility.



Field Trip to Okinawa (September 26–30)

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:

Seminars at Meio University

On September 27, the Fellows went to Meio University where they had the opportunity to engage in discussions with intellectuals based in Okinawa, as well as with students of Meio University. The following are the four seminars the Fellows attended:

- Seminar on Okinawan culture and values by Koki Ryoshu (Former Artistic Director, National Theater Okinawa)
- Seminar “The Henoko Issue: The Politics of the Controversial U.S. Military Base Relocation in Okinawa” by Takamine Tsukasa (Professor, Meio University)
- Seminar “The Birth of a University: The Background and Some Problems Concerning the Establishment of the University of the Ryukyus” by Yamazato Katsunori (President, Meio University)

- Seminar “Okinawa under the Early U.S. Occupation 1945–1953: Why Was Compulsory Elementary School English Language Education Discontinued?” by Yonaha Keiko (Professor, Meio University)



Preservation of the Nature and Culture of Okinawa

- Visit to the National Theater Okinawa and seminar on the inheritance of Okinawan traditional performing arts by Kakazu Michihiko (Artistic Director, National Theater Okinawa) on September 27



- Visit to the Okinawa Churaumi Aquarium and seminar on the role of the aquarium in coral reef conservation and public education by Nonaka Masanori (Manager of Fish Section, Okinawa Churaumi Aquarium) on September 28



Taketomi Island

- Tour around the island guided by Uesedo Tatsujin (Kihoin-shushukan) and seminar on the preservation of traditional culture on the island under social changes and tourism boom by Uesedo Atsushi (Director, Taketomi Community Center) on September 29



Public Seminar (October 27)

At the end of the two-month program, a public seminar was held at the International House of Japan on October 27. 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. Both the first and second sessions were moderated by Professor Mizuno Takaaki (Professor, Kanda University of International Studies), 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

- **Amran Hossain** (Bangladesh)
“Lessons from ALFP 2016: Secular Religious Practices and Common Visions in Asia”
- **Phan Ngoc Diem Han** (Vietnam)
“National Branding—Misleading Strategy & Its Consequences”
- **Fujioka Emiko** (Japan)
“In the Aftermath of Fukushima: Searching Diversities and True Harmony in Japanese Society”

Session 2

- **Criselda Yabes** (Philippines)
“Islands and Territories: How Do We Shape Sovereignty?”
- **Lee Taeho** (Korea)
“What I Learned from Fukushima: From National Security to People's Safety”
- **Kumar Sundaram** (India)
“Citizens' Protests in India and Japan: The Commons Are Rising to Expand Democracy”
- **Ayang Utriza Yakin** (Indonesia)
“Seeking Identity, Contesting Authority: Halal Food and Halal Certificate Issues in Contemporary Japan”