



YEAR IN REVIEW 2019



YEAR IN REVIEW: 2019

2019 has been a year for us to celebrate across the Asia Society's global network. The year brought a new center in Melbourne, Australia, a 40th anniversary for Asia Society Texas, and the first full year of operations for Asia Society Japan.

It was a year in which we celebrated trailblazing women in a phenomenal edition of our Asia Game Changer Awards and welcomed a remarkable new group of Asia 21 Young Leaders; when we celebrated spectacular art and culture in our galleries in New York, Hong Kong, and Houston; and a year in which the Asia Society Policy Institute celebrated a range of impactful work and a jump to #42 in the index of U.S.-based think tanks.

At year's end, we also marked a great leap in terms of our reach and impact. If you watched a video of an Asia Society program this year, you had a lot of company: more than 12 million views on the Asia Society YouTube channel alone. Millions more joined us via Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, or listened to our podcasts, in addition to those who participated, in person, at programs across our global network.

Of course there is much happening across Asia that is cause for anything but celebration, including a growing and potentially dangerous rift between the United States and China, continued bad news in the areas of climate and sustainability, and profound unrest and tensions in so many areas across the continent. We believe our work is more important than ever. We are hopeful that our programs, exhibitions, and various forms of dialogue continue to bring greater understanding and awareness to bear on society's greatest challenges.

As we reflect on the past year we are extremely grateful to our friends and members. We are humbled and excited by the unparalleled generosity of our supporters. With your help, we reached the \$100 million mark in our Capital Campaign, raised over \$4.3 million in our Annual Fund and exceeded our fundraising goal for the Asia Game Changer Awards Dinner. It is this transformational philanthropy that allows us to sustain and fortify our work.

There is much to look forward to in 2020. For now, we take a moment to reflect on the year gone by, and to express our gratitude to our friends and supporters.



ASIA SOCIETY POLICY INSTITUTE

The Asia Society Policy Institute (ASPI) continued to climb the global think-tank rankings (to #42 among nearly 2,000 U.S. think tanks; top 2% worldwide), and to deliver global impact – in particular, working to prevent the U.S. and China from marching toward what ASPI President Kevin Rudd calls “an avoidable war.”

In 2019, ASPI developed nine policy action roadmaps including:

- Promoting a constructive, realistic narrative for the U.S.-China relationship—including trade war challenges—and building trust by catalyzing collaboration on issues of mutual interest across bilateral, regional, and global spheres.
- Creating recommendations for China to ensure beneficial and sustainable outcomes for Belt and Road Initiative projects. Our report, *Navigating the Belt & Road*, had a significant policy impact in Beijing and regional capitals.
- Strengthening Trade and Investment Across the Asia Pacific with two studies focused on developing collaborative approaches with third countries to address concerns about China’s state-led economic model; and forwarding ways the Asia-Pacific can lead on reform of the international trade system.
- In *What To Expect From A Nuclear North Korea*, we looked beyond recent Trump-Kim Summits to examine behavior and challenges to be anticipated from a North Korea that is winning a greater degree of international tolerance for its *de facto* status as a nuclear weapons state.
- Piloting an impactful exchange and training program for emerging women leaders in business and trade with a delegation from South Korea, which will expand in coming years to ASEAN, Japan, and beyond.

ASPI provided insight to senior policymakers in over 30 countries with briefings, analyses, and pathways forward on myriad challenges.

The ASPI leadership of Kevin Rudd, Wendy Cutler, Danny Russel, along with other members of the team, were seen, heard, and read by millions of people via interviews in major media outlets around the world, as well as speaking and convening roles at more than 100 events worldwide. These appearances covered a range of topics in which ASPI holds expertise, from China, Japan, and the Koreas, to India and Pakistan, to trade and security challenges, to climate change, and beyond.



ARTS & CULTURE

2019 brought groundbreaking exhibitions to our New York, Houston, and Hong Kong galleries (more on those shows in our *Global Network* section) along with inspiring performances and cultural programs across our network.

Asia Society Museum's New York exhibitions examined art through a political lens, from a mural-sized painting by M.F. Husain created for a public rally for Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's Congress Party, to a show of works by artist Xiaoze Xie exploring the history of banned books in China. Similarly, a small but exquisite show took Ma Junliang's *Complete Map of the World* as a starting point to consider interactions between China and Europe during the eighteenth century.

A number of projects built on our leadership role in the presentation and curation of South Asian and Indian art, seeded by the 2018 exhibition *The Progressive Revolution: Modern Art for a New India*. These included the biannual Arts and Museum Summit in New Delhi, bringing together leading arts professionals to share insights into current collection practices and philosophies at arts institutions.

Cultural programming included a two-day durational performance art piece by Indonesian artist Melati Suryodarmo, a series of programs exploring the Asian American experience, and the return of the Lahore Literary Festival to New York and the Jaipur Literature Festival to New York and Houston – all of which featured internationally acclaimed authors and thinkers in a range of provocative panels and debates.

We also announced plans for our inaugural Asia Society Triennial in New York, in spring/summer 2020. This unprecedented initiative will bring together some forty artists with scientists, historians, policy analysts, and thought leaders from around the world. The centerpiece of the Triennial will be a multi-venue exhibition titled *We Do Not Dream Alone*, on view to the public from June 5-August 9, 2020.

Installation view of *M.F. Husain: Art and the Nation* at Asia Society Museum in New York.





CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Playwright David Henry Hwang and Tony Award-winning theater director Bartlett Sher participate in a discussion moderated by Karen Shimakawa, NYU Tisch Associate Professor of Performance Studies; Mahal Kita from Bubble_T performs during the Asia in America: Next Generation celebration (Ellen Wallop); Indonesian performance artist Melati Suryodarmo premieres a new commissioned work, the durational performance piece 'IF WE WERE XYZ' (Ellen Wallop); Percussionist Susie Ibarra and the DreamTime Ensemble perform "Fragility: A Game of Polyrythms" on Governors Island. Commissioned by Asia Society as part of the Creative Common Ground Initiative (Ellen Wallop).

EDUCATION & LEADERSHIP

Our Center for Global Education's (CGE) thought leadership paved the way in 2019 for the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) to define "global competence" in a way that essentially mirrors our framework. As part of the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), OECD used that framework to launch the first-ever worldwide assessment of global competence among youth in OECD countries, with initial results coming this year and full results due in 2020. Meanwhile, in partnership with Arizona State University, the CGE created 10 online courses on teaching for global competence. There have been more than a thousand course enrollments of educators in 86 countries, the vast majority of whom plan to use what they learned in their teaching. Our online teacher training modules have now been viewed by nearly 30,000 educators, with 4,500 enrollments to date.



Asia Society Trustee Ido Leffler at the Global Cities Education summit in Melbourne, Australia

Meanwhile, our National Chinese Language Conference continued to thrive as the largest annual professional development meeting of Chinese language teachers in the world outside China, drawing more than 1,300 to this year's conference in San Diego, and thousands more through a new online platform. At a moment when communications between the U.S. and China are so fraught with tension, our Chinese Language Programs Network of 100 exemplary Chinese language programs engages over a third of all Chinese language teachers teaching in the United States today, and through them, 40% of all Chinese language learners in U.S. schools. As Asia Society Vice President Tony Jackson put it, "It's a labor of love. When we engage students to the extent they want to take leadership and make the world a better place — that's what makes our work meaningful."

The 12th National Chinese Language Conference in San Diego



CENTER ON U.S.-CHINA RELATIONS

With the U.S. and China at a difficult crossroads, our Center on U.S.-China Relations, led by Arthur Ross Director Orville Schell, was particularly active in 2019. Its special Task Force on U.S.-China Policy, comprised of 17 of America's top China experts, issued a report, *Course Correction: Toward an Effective and Sustainable China Policy*, advocating for a U.S. policy of "smart competition" in dealing with Chinese policies in five critical areas: Trade and Economics; Security; Global Governance; Human Rights; and China's Overseas Influence Activities.



Orville Schell, Zha Jianying & Nicholas Kristof – on the 30th Anniversary of the Tiananmen Square protests.

The Center produced strong programming as well. Highlights: a terrific Oxford-style debate in partnership with the *Financial Times* on a key question of the moment - is "a great decoupling" really underway between the United States and China? The Center's online publication *ChinaFile* explored questions of history and memory surrounding the 30th anniversary of the Tiananmen Square Protests, events in Hong Kong, and other facets of the U.S.-China relationship. Meanwhile, the Center's Young Green Tech initiative held a global competition in Guangzhou, focused on identifying and supporting young environmental entrepreneurs. Winners from Spain, Germany, China, and San Francisco gathered in New York to participate in activities held during UN Climate Week.

UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY: THE WORLD COMES TO ASIA SOCIETY

Each September, global leaders descend on Asia Society New York during the UN General Assembly meetings for a series of well-attended, news making discussions that attract full houses to our building, as well as millions of views on YouTube and other social media. This year Asia Society hosted the Prime Ministers of Thailand and Pakistan; Foreign Ministers of India, Iran and the Philippines; the National Security Adviser of Afghanistan; the U.S. Special Representative for Iran; and the First Lady of Japan.



Imran Khan (right) in discussion with Asia Society President and CEO Josette Sheeran.

SIGNATURE EVENTS



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: The Asia Game Changers of 2019 included Pakistan cricket champion Sana Mir; Indian police detective Chhaya Sharma, with Indra Nooyi, Chairman and former CEO of PepsiCo; Curator Sheikha Hoor Al Qasimi with Asia Society Trustees Charles Rockefeller and Agnes Hsu-Tang; Faiza Saeed, Presiding Partner of Cravath, Swaine & Moore; Ctrip CEO Jane Jie Sun, flanked by Asia Society Policy Institute President Kevin Rudd and Asia Society Trustee Zhang Xin; Kung Fu Nuns of the Drukpa Lineage (Ellen Wallop).

Remarkable Women, Changing the Game

The sixth annual Asia Game Changer Awards recognized an extraordinary group of women, smashers of the proverbial “glass ceiling” from the worlds of politics, business, sports, and culture from across Asia.

The 2019 Game Changers: Pakistan’s pioneering cricket champion Sana Mir, whose achievements on the field have been matched by extraordinary work on behalf of girls and young women across South Asia; Sheikha Hoor Al Qasimi, the first woman to head the United Arab Emirates’ Sharjah Biennial, and who transformed it into a world-class art exhibition; Police detective Chhaya Sharma, honored for changing the nature of policing in India after solving a particularly horrific and high-profile rape case in Delhi; CEO of the Chinese online travel giant Ctrip the “Expedia of China” Jane Jie Sun, who has made a point of promoting gender parity at her company; Faiza Saeed, the first woman and first Asian American to lead the prestigious law firm of Cravath, Swaine & Moore; and Yuriko Koike, Tokyo’s first female governor, who said of the award and the honorees: “It just goes to show, us women, when we put our minds to something, we just go for it and get it done.” Lastly there were the Kung Fu Nuns of the Drukpa Lineage, who have devoted their lives to helping others: advocating for girls, protecting the environment, and serving as first responders during disasters, in particular following the 2015 Nepal earthquake. Said their leader: “We believe in awakening the power every woman has in them....May more women and girls around the world realize that power is ours and it’s not something given by others. It is ours to own.”

Spreading the Game Changer Brand

Our Game Changer brand continued to spread across our global network. Held in tandem with Art Basel Hong Kong, our special Asia Arts Game Changer Awards were both an inspiring celebration of artists and a fundraising success for Asia Society Global and Asia Society Hong Kong. This year, Asia Society honored the artistic achievements and pioneering visions of Christine Ay Tjoe, Fang Lijun, Imran Qureshi, and Natee Utarit.

Earlier in the year, the third annual Asia Arts Game Changer Awards India were held in New Delhi. Honorees included Asia Arts Future awardees Vibha Galhotra and Yang Yongliang and Asia Arts Vanguard honoree Gulammohammed Sheikh. Akbar Padamsee, who was also appointed an Asia Arts Vanguard honoree, was celebrated at a separate ceremony in Mumbai.

Meanwhile, Asia Society Northern California debuted the Asia Game Changer West Awards, honoring Game Changers with a Bay Area focus on technology and innovation. Honorees for this “West” iteration were: Dr. Samuel So, Director of Stanford’s Asian Liver Center and a worldwide leader in combating Hepatitis B; Marita Cheng, founder of Robogals, a champion for women and girls in STEM, and CEO of Aubot; the Afghan Girls Robotics Team and Roya Mahboob, Afghanistan’s first female tech CEO and founder of the team; and the “father of fiberoptics”, Narinder Kapany (who was represented by daughter Kiki Capany).

And in Southern California, we honored “Game Changers” from the entertainment world. The U.S.-Asia Entertainment Summit (formerly the U.S.-China Film Summit) expanded its focus from U.S.-China film collaboration to encompass trends and forces transforming entertainment more broadly and across Asia. An evening gala honored Game Changers Bob Weis, President of Walt Disney Imagineering; The Rain (Jung Ji-Hoon), Actor and K-Pop Singer-Songwriter; Wang Leehom, Singer-Songwriter, Producer, Actor, Film Director; and Wei Zhang, President of Alibaba Pictures.

TOP TO BOTTOM: 2019 Asia Arts Game Changers: Imran Qureshi, Natee Utarit, Christine Ay Tjoe and Fang Lijun; At the Asia Arts Game Changers awards in India: Bunty Chand, Radhika Chopra, Vibha Galhotra, Gulammohammed Sheikh, Yang Yongliang, Pheroza Godrej and Boon Hui Tan; Game Changer West awardee Roya Mahboob is interviewed ahead of the award ceremonies. (Vivian Sachs/Asia Society); Diana Lin, Wang Leehorn, Tzi Ma, Wei Zhang, Janet Yang and Bob Weis at the U.S.-Asia Entertainment Summit and Game Changer Awards Dinner (Ryan Miller/Capture Imaging).





Asia Society Texas: 2016 Asia Game Changer Asif Mandvi (right) with Melanie Lawson of ABC 13.



Asia Society Texas: 2018 Game Changer and Asia Society Trustee Indra Nooyi (right) with Laura Arnold, co-chair of Arnold Ventures.

Asia 21 Young Leaders Summit in California

Nearly 100 members of Asia Society’s prestigious Asia 21 Young Leaders network gathered in the San Francisco Bay Area for a three-day summit held under the heading, “Technology in the Service of Humanity”. The Class of 2019—40 men and women from 30 countries and territories across the Asia Pacific—including tech entrepreneurs, human rights advocates, journalists, venture capitalists, artists, and business leaders from a truly diverse range of backgrounds. Joining the new class were 55 alumni dating to 2006, the year Asia 21 was born, along with special guests James Higa, a member of the original team at Apple; UC Berkeley Dean of Engineering Tsu-Jae King Liu; Asia Society Northern California Honorary Chairman Jack Wadsworth and Chairman Ken Wilcox; and Asia Society trustees Fritz Demopoulos, Susan S. Hakkarainen, and Omar Ishrak. Ishrak and Demopoulos have made generous gifts in support of Asia 21, which recognizes remarkable men and women aged 40 or younger at the time of induction. Of this network, which now consists of close to 1,000 members across 40 countries, one alum said, after the California summit: “There is nothing like it anywhere. Asia 21 really is changing the world.”



New members of Asia 21 at the 2019 Summit in California.

The 2019 Osborn Elliott Prize...and a Special Guest

A team from the Associated Press was awarded the 2019 Osborn Elliott Prize for Excellence in Journalism on Asia, in the annual ceremony at Asia Society New York. The AP produced a series of reports on Xinjiang, and their team joined a program moderated by *New York Times* correspondent Edward Wong. Special guest Maria Ressa, co-founder of the Filipino online publication *Rappler*, gave powerful opening remarks on the need to champion strong journalism, in Asia and around the world.



Maria Ressa

Diversity and Marketing Summit

Asia Society held the 11th Annual Diversity Leadership Forum, hosted this year at Bloomberg LP, where results and key findings from Asia Society's Asian Corporate Survey were revealed. We are now more than a decade into Asia Society's Global Talent Initiatives program, comprising work and research that leverages Asia Society's ability to convene global voices and leaders in the corporate, civic, and government sectors.



A panel on human capital and harnessing innovation: Akash Shah, BNY Melon; Angela Koch, Synchrony; Raj Kohli, Colgate-Palmolive; Shery Ahn, Bloomberg L.P.; Leland T. Jourdan, Chevron (Shara Azran).

BY THE NUMBERS

More people engaged with Asia Society online in 2019 than ever before. Our website, AsiaSociety.org, welcomed **3.6 million users**, a 19 percent increase over 2018. On YouTube our videos were viewed **12.3 million times** — a 77 percent jump over the 2018 numbers.

SOME HIGHLIGHTS:

405K views Kevin Rudd inconversation with India's Minister of External Affairs Subrahmanyam Jaishankar

359K views "Untangling the U.S.-China Narrative: Technology, Trade, and Tensions" in Northern California

339K views Josette Sheeran in conversation with Iranian Minister of Foreign Affairs Mohammad Javad Zarif

Over the course of 2019, our YouTube subscriber base more than **doubled to 140K**, and we are adding approximately 5,000 new subscribers every month. Our other social media platforms also enjoyed successful growth. Overall in 2019, Asia Society's posts — from our global Twitter and Facebook accounts alone — were delivered to feeds **more than 5 million times**. We also officially re-launched the Asia In-Depth podcast, drawn from Asia Society global programs and thought leaders, adding to our family of institution podcasts among them Asia Inside Out from the Asia Society Policy Institute.

THE GLOBAL NETWORK

MILESTONES & GALAS

In Australia, Hawker Ball Celebrates New Melbourne Location

Asia Society Australia ushered in a new era with the opening of a new location in Melbourne. Victorian Premier the Hon. Daniel Andrews MP, along with over 400 special guests, attended a black-tie gala event at the National Gallery of Victoria, marking the formal opening. Bloomberg anchor Haidi Stroud-Watts hosted the event. Attendees spanned the breadth of the Australian community, representing business, higher education, government, art and culture, media, sports, and youth dialogues. Guests included diplomatic representatives from China, Indonesia, Japan, Sri Lanka, India, Malaysia, United States and New Zealand, as well as Australia's incoming Ambassador to the United Nations the Hon. Mitch Fifield, Victorian opposition leader the Hon. Michael O'Brien MP, and members of Commonwealth and State Parliament.

In Texas, Two Special Celebrations

Asia Society Texas celebrated its 40th year in Houston at its annual "Tiger Ball," paying homage to the memory of Founding Member and former First Lady Barbara Bush. The Tiger Ball also honored Phoebe and Bobby Tudor. Princess Zahra Aga Khan was honored with the annual Roy M. Huffington Award for her commitment to advancing healthcare and education around the world.

At Los Angeles Gala, Asian American Star Power

Asia Society Southern California honored an extraordinary set of individuals and groups at its annual gala, in Los Angeles. Honorees included NCAA champion gymnast Katelyn Ohashi, Olympic ice-dancing medalists Maia and Alex Shibutani, artist and restaurateur Michael Chow, investor and urban visionary Goodwin Gaw, the Los Angeles Dodgers (represented by President and Chief Executive Officer Stan Kasten), and Christie's (represented by Marc Porter, chairman of Christie's America.) Katherine Ho sang a Chinese-language rendition of Coldplay's "Yellow" from the blockbuster hit *Crazy Rich Asians*.





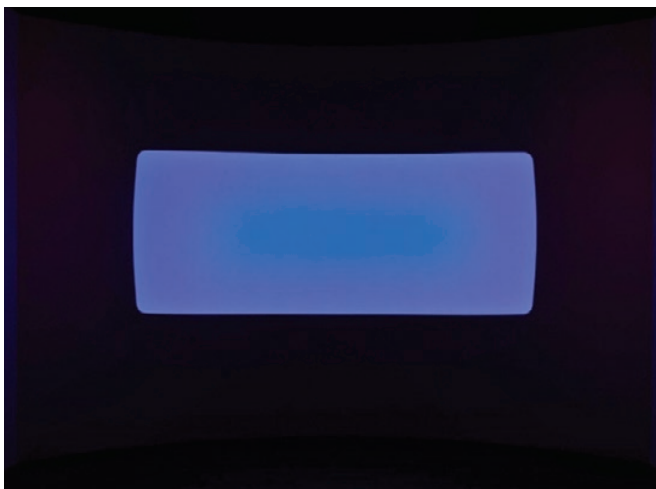
CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Premier of Victoria, the Hon. Daniel Andrews MP, officially opens Asia Society Melbourne at the Hawker Ball; guests at the Asia Society Texas Tiger Ball, celebrate our 40 years in Houston; L-FRESH The Lion at the Hawker Ball.

OPPOSITE PAGE FROM LEFT: The Roy M. Huffington Award was given to Princess Zahra Aga Khan (center), pictured with Asia Society Texas President Bonna Kol, Board Member Nancy C. Allen, program moderator David W. Leebron, and Board Vice Chair Y. Ping Sun; Guests at the Hawker Ball, held at the National Gallery of Victoria, celebrate the opening of Asia Society Melbourne.

HONG KONG

At Asia Society Hong Kong, the spring season brought two presentations featuring masters of light: *A Story of Light: Hon Chi-fun* and *Yukaloo* by James Turrell. *A Story of Light* reintroduced the pioneering Hong Kong modern artist Hon Chi-fun (1922–2019) through a selection of paintings, prints and photographs. *Yukaloo* marked the first institutional show in Hong Kong of famed artist James Turrell (b. 1943), bringing a transcendental wide glass piece to the Chantal Miller Gallery and new levels of audience engagement on social media.

In response to Hong Kong's devastating loss of trees caused by the tropical cyclone Typhoon Mangkhut in September 2018, Asia Society Hong Kong organized the exhibition *To See the Forest and the Trees*, exploring the significance of trees within our environment, culture, and the urgency of preserving a planet in dire geological decline. A well-received solo exhibition of Hong Kong artist Irene Chou, an inventive artist at the forefront of Hong Kong's New Ink Art Movement, was the third installment in the "20th Century Chinese Female Artist Series."



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Installation view of *A Story of Light: Hon Chi-fun*; Soprano Stefanie Quintin sings the title role in 'Mila,' a chamber opera commissioned by Asia Society Hong Kong and performed there, in New York, and in San Francisco (Ellen Wallop); installation view of *Yukaloo* by James Turrell at Asia Society Hong Kong, the artist's first at a Hong Kong institution.

HOUSTON

Asia Society Texas presented a series of firsts with *Super Sarap*, its first food-focused exhibition, and *Site Lines: Artists Working in Texas*, its first presentation showcasing Texas-based Asian artists. *New Cartographies* presented contemporary artists incorporating cartography into their art exploring urbanization, economic migration, environmental change and refugee movements.

Exhibitions at Asia Society Texas were complemented by dynamic and engaging cultural programming. More than 150 programs covering 48 countries— from the first Eid Family Day drawing 1,100 visitors, to the first Japanese Sports Day, to the annual AsiaFest and Night Market events— served as a passport for local residents to experience the world afar and in their own diverse neighborhoods. A series on Muslim Americans was launched and included performances of Ping Chong + Co's *Beyond Sacred*, spotlighting stories of five young Muslim Americans growing up in post-9/11 NYC, as well as a discussion with Muslim American doctors from across the United States who have made substantial philanthropic investments in their communities.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Visitors to the exhibition *Sight Lines: Artists Working in Texas*; two performances of *Beyond Sacred: Voices of Muslim Identity*, in partnership with Ping Chong + Company, highlight personal experiences growing up as Muslim Americans in a post-9/11 society; visitors take in the *Super Sarap* exhibition; a panel of Muslim doctors and community builders was part of a new series that aims to elevate stories of Muslim Americans and their contributions to society.

INDIA

Asia Society India played host to dozens of programs across disciplines – from discussions with Nobel laureates Abhijit Banerjee and Kailash Satyarth to newly-minted Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das; to Yo-Yo Ma, performing with Carnatic vocalist T.M. Krishna. Meanwhile, the “Future of Asia” series brought Ambassador Nirupama Rao, former Foreign Secretary of India and former Ambassador to the U.S. and China; Arun Kumar, Chairman and CEO, KPMG India; Taimur Baig, Managing Director and Chief Economist, DBS Bank; and Arijit Ghosh, South Asia Managing Editor, Bloomberg.



Yo-Yo Ma (right) performing with Carnatic vocalist T.M. Krishna.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Asia Society Northern California’s busy year featured much more than the aforementioned “Game Changers West” and Asia 21 Summit. The Center also welcomed new Board members from Silicon Valley, helping to bring innovative topics and speakers to its programming. Its conference, “The Future of U.S.-China: Collaboration and Competition”, brought diverse perspectives to the hottest topic of 2019, while a new initiative exploring AI and other technologies will further enhance its offerings on that topic in the coming year. ASNC also hosted a series of Executive Roundtables on key Asian business subjects, and as well as programs connecting the San Francisco Bay Area community with a wide network of global leaders and thinkers.



At Sundance: Asia Society’s Janet Yang, writers/directors Lulu Wang, Justin Chon and Richie Mehta, along with producer Anita Gou.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Beyond its galas and the media summit, Asia Society Southern California organized current affairs programs on a range of topics that included unique perspectives on developments in the U.S.-China relationship – including Asia Society Trustee Nicolas Berggruen and ASPI Vice Presidents Danny Russel and Wendy Cutler, and book talks with Weijian Shan and Parag Khanna. The center also developed a partnership with McKinsey Global Institute to support the launch of their report, Asia’s Future is Now, with a number of in-person discussions and webinars coming in 2020.

SWITZERLAND

In 2019, Asia Society Switzerland increased its membership by almost one half, and significantly increased program attendance and ticket revenue over the year. Among highlights were a half-day conference organized with Credit Suisse assessing the current state and future of China’s Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), and a seminar held in partnership with the University of Applied Sciences

in Zurich on “How to Understand Contemporary China,” made up of six half-day sessions, led by some of the world’s leading experts.

AUSTRALIA

With the establishment of its presence in Melbourne, Asia Society Australia significantly expanded its staff, programming, audiences and impact. In 2019, its *Disruptive Asia* series—long-form essays on how Asia’s rise is impacting Australia’s foreign policy, economy, and society—turned its focus to China. With offices in both Sydney and Melbourne - Australia’s first and second largest cities and the nation’s business and cultural capitals, Asia Society Australia is well positioned as the leading national center for engagement with Asia moving forward.

JAPAN

Asia Society Japan marked its first year of full operations in 2019, organizing 30 programs including three signature symposiums, as well as art excursions/joint trips run in conjunction with Asia Society Hong Kong, and a special “Innovation Caravan” for Asia Society Trustees. In 2020, the Center looks forward to hosting the 15th annual Asia 21 Young Leaders Summit in Tokyo.

PHILIPPINES

Asia Society Philippines made strides in its aim to connect and engage with younger stakeholders, in addition to organizing a roster of lectures, films, seminars, and conferences. Efforts to engage the Asia 21 Young Leaders Network included programs with young innovators and disruptors. Among these initiatives was a “Future Forward” series on “The Future of Data” and the “One Step Ahead” conference on the topic “Rethinking the Future of Work to Promote Inclusive Growth in Asia Pacific.”

KOREA

Now in its 12th year, Asia Society Korea launched a “Leo Gala” this year, which enjoyed support from a number of embassies in keeping with its strong network that now includes 97 ambassadors as honorary members. A luncheon series with a range of speakers fosters open debate and civil discourse on current issues and social responsibilities in Korean society. Those sessions combined with monthly cooking classes with embassies, rounded out corporate and business activities for the local community.

NEW TRUSTEES



Asia Society's Global Board of Trustees met in Hong Kong in the spring. Front row (left to right): Kevin Rudd, Ronnie C. Chan, Lulu C. Wang, John L. Thornton, Chan Heng Chee, Stephen Riady, Betsy Z. Cohen; 2nd Row: W. Bradford Hu, Duncan Clark, Adrian T. Keller, Kenneth Wilcox, Asheet Mehta, Prince Turki Al-Faisal, Richard Drobnick, Chen Guoqing, Josette Sheeran; 3rd Row: Jack Wadsworth, George Hicks, Fritz Demopoulos, Mohit Assomull, J. Frank Brown, Nicolas Aguzin, Fernando Zobel de Ayala, Thierry Porté, Susan Hakkarainen, and Omar Ishrak.

Asia Society welcomed six new Trustees in 2019: Frederick "Fritz" Demopoulos, a Hong Kong-based entrepreneur; Ram Krishnan, Global Chief Commercial Officer of PepsiCo and Chief Executive Officer of Greater China; Jean Liu, president of Didi Chuxing, the world's largest on-demand transportation network company based in China; Stephen Riady, Executive Chairman of OUE Limited, one of the leading, publicly-listed, diversified real estate companies in Singapore; Harit Talwar, global head of Goldman Sachs' digital consumer financial services business; and Ernie Thrasher, a global leader in the energy industry.

IN MEMORIAM



I.M. Pei and family at our 2016 Asia Game Changers Awards.

I.M. Pei died in New York in May, age 102. A giant in architecture, friend of the Asia Society, and 2016 Asia Game Changer. On that occasion, the then-99-year-old Pei accepted his award in person. “I usually have a lot to say, but tonight...I’m grateful. I’m thankful. And I want to thank you all for coming.”



Mimi Poser at an Asia Society luncheon event in 2017, pictured with Daniel Moss, Bloomberg News. Maria Baranova-Suzuki.

Mimi Poser, a longtime supporter of Asia Society through Friends of Asian Art, was former director of philanthropy at the New York Studio School of Drawing, Painting and Sculpture, a former volunteer at the Guggenheim, and an active supporter of CEC ARTSLINK. She and her husband, Joseph, were avid race car drivers and enjoyed fishing. In 2004, they hosted an Asia on My Mind benefit dinner on behalf of Asia Society with special guests Bernard Kalb and Mike Wallace.

Lisina Hoch died at her home in Irvington, NY, in February. She was 89. In the 1950s she and Frank Hoch traveled to Bhutan, sparking a fascination with the country that would span decades. Hoch served as a member of our board from 1981 to 1984 and later became an honorary life trustee. Lisina and Frank Hoch championed many Asia Society activities, providing generous support for our Park Avenue building renovation and gallery expansion, as well as several exhibitions held over the years.



Lisina Hoch at the opening of the exhibition *Princes and Painters in Mughal Delhi, 1707-1857*

Former Global Trustee and longtime Asia Society friend **Anthony (Tony) J. Walton**



passed away in January. Tony was a great advocate for Asia Society at Standard Chartered throughout the years, and served with strong conviction on the Asia Society’s corporate business.

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