



PROGRAM BROCHURE

# Philanthropy in the Global Age

A unique gathering of global philanthropic change-makers and thought-leaders to explore the catalytic power of philanthropy to help address a range of 21st century transnational challenges

December 4 to 5, 2015 Grand Hyatt Hotel, Hong Kong

# Philanthropy in the Global Age

# HONG KONG - DECEMBER 4 TO 5, 2015

This will be the inaugural convening of The Global Friends, a consortium of global philanthropists leading values-driven social innovation.

It will also set the context for the official launch of the H2O Prizes which will support the transition to a low-carbon economy by promoting game-changing innovation in the corporate, social enterprise, and non-profit sectors.

### **The Program**

Against the backdrop of an ever more connected and interdependent world, where the prioritization of rapid economic development has led to an increasingly fragile environment, and continued emphasis on cut-throat competition too often trumps collaboration, the symposium, Philanthropy in the Global Age, will explore options to help transform these dynamics in ways that support human-centered development and robust sustainability. Scientists, and our own observations, tell us that time is of the essence. We are squarely in the "Anthropocene" – the age in which humans are the most important drivers of change on/of the planet. We can visibly see that alongside the beauty and wonder of human innovation, the unintended negative consequences are beginning to overwhelm the ability of the earth to stay in balance. So what can be done?

Creativity, optimism and the ability to cooperate in the face of deep adversity are three vitally important attributes of the human race. They are, arguably, also hallmarks of the emerging global philanthropic ecosystem. Currently, there is no shortage of 'gloom and doom' prognoses for the planet and its ability to continue to sustain human life – or, at least, life as we have come to expect it. Faced with diminishing options on our current path, people across the globe are applying creative energy to identifying and forging new paths, seeking options and opportunities not only to ensure survival, but to model new ways for us to understand and interact with our world, our neighbors and ourselves. Systems are not static. People continue to innovate, invent, create, and apply their best intuition to finding ways to create a more sustainable and equitable world. Good ideas and good intentions, however, are not enough. How do we harness the best "philanthropic impulses", leverage them to release the most creative ideas and most compassionate visions, and effectively apply resources to (re)shape a more balanced and liveable world?

This year has shepherded in the Sustainable Development Goals, specific goals and targets to markedly improve social, economic and environmental development by 2030. There will also be the 21st session of the UN climate change conference (COP 21), a framework through which governments

#### **CONVENORS**



Ivan Tse
President, TSE Foundation,
Hong Kong



Clare Shine
Vice President & Chief Program
Officer, Salzburg Global
Seminar, Austria

agree on limitations to keep global warming below 2C and seek to avert the worst effects of climate change. Even as governments negotiate grand deals, people across borders and professions are finding ways to not only support government agendas for change, but are actively identifying ways they – individually and collectively – can hurry transformation. This symposium will convene some of those very people, philanthropists, practitioners and leading thinkers, to explore what mechanisms and systems might best support renewal.

# **Key Themes and Questions**

The symposium will explore three distinct but interrelated themes. The three themes are:

- The power of global philanthropy in action;
- Shaping our transnational world in a global age; and,
- Striking a global balance US and China modeling collaborative competition.

The symposium will begin with an exploration of the unique power of philanthropy to transcend borders and boundaries to support and stimulate change. The resources available through philanthropy, while increasing, remain relatively limited. But the ability of philanthropy to aggregate and apply private capital - as well as skills, innovation, and non-financial resources – to the public good is significant, and still not fully realized. The philanthropic impulse can help to release greater ingenuity, collaboration, resources, motivation, and more.

As the field of global philanthropy continues to evolve and develop, in what ways can even more be done to release greater flows of resources, ideas and a push for global values-based systems changes that support more just and balanced outcomes as part of transformative processes? How can systems that seem to thrive on a moray of "more is more" be fundamentally changed based on concepts of smart growth and more equitable outcomes?

This exploration will lead to the second major theme and consideration of shaping a new global commons. Globalization, as described by Joseph Stiglitz, has many "discontents", and with good reason. Simultaneously, however, the drive and ingenuity that has brought globalization to this point can be applied to retaining and extending the most important benefits that come from an interconnected world, while ameliorating the deepest sins of unchecked unsustainable "growth".

The symposium will consider, how in this global age, the international community can ensure that universal values, international norms, and rule of law drive and shape our common global space. How do we stimulate

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a freer flow of ideas, capital and people in ways that do not increase insecurity, whether perceived or real? How do we harness and apply collective intelligence and knowledge to our shared – although differently experienced – global challenges? How do we support, encourage and enhance systemic social, economic, and environmental transformation, bringing the most important innovations more rapidly to scale?

The third segment of the symposium will consider possible models of collaboration between two of the most significant global powers – China and the USA – to help forge a path toward vibrant sustainability. They are both striking, albeit distinct, examples of rapid growth and innovation, and are increasingly making bold pledges to reduce climate change. China has an incredibly long and rich history and is re-emerging as a key leader in the 21st Century. The USA has a much shorter history, but has had an unparalleled role in shaping current international systems and will continue to be one of the most important points in a multipolar world. The leadership of these two nations will set the course for coming generations.

Recent decades have witnessed an incredible shift in China's fortunes and, related, its influence and role in the global community. Some analysts warn of the danger of conflict as the ascendant China and, relatively speaking, waning USA continue to renegotiate their relationship. Considerable tensions remain and distrust often colors relations between them. While not ignoring global power relations that have sway, and without being naïvely optimistic, the symposium will combine hardheaded analysis of the individual and joint roles of these two countries and seek to identify mechanisms to allow a more collaborative model of relations between them to grow and deepen, especially in moving to a lowcarbon economy. What more can be done to share and stimulate greater innovations in carbon-reducing technologies and practices? What might ensure that the next "re-set" between China and the USA sees an embrace of shared responsibility to build mutual respect, discarding misperceptions and misconceptions and moving from conflict-driven competition to creatively-rewarding collaboration? What role might philanthropy play in supporting those scenarios?

The symposium does not purport to present solutions, but seeks to open up consideration of new possibilities and diverse strategies for change. Participants will explore new frontiers in transformation, especially through freer flows of ideas, resources, creative energy and collaborative action.

# **Speakers and Format**

Guy Raz\*, veteran host and correspondent with NPR (National Public Radio) and current host of NPR's TED Radio Hour, will interview select global thought-leaders and influencers on each of the three key themes. Anyone

#### **MODERATOR**



**Guy Raz** Host and Correspondent, NPR, USA

FURTHER SPEAKERS WILL BE LISTED ON THE EVENT WEBPAGE:
SalzburgGlobal.org/go/globalfriends

\*Mr. Raz is participating in the Global Friends-Salzburg Global Seminar program in his individual capacity, not on behalf of NPR or TED. The interviews he conducts in advance will be used to create podcasts and will be shared with the Global Friends and Salzburg Global Seminar communities. familiar with his work will understand that we are fortunate to have his skill and mastery to help shape and guide our discussions.

Speakers will be interviewed by Guy Raz and their inputs woven into thematic podcasts which will be sent to participants in advance as thought-provoking preparation. He will then engage the speakers in conversation, weaving in voices of the participants as well to create an interactive discussion in Hong Kong.

# **Participants**

Global Friends and Salzburg Global Seminar are inviting approximately 40 leading philanthropists and global thinkers. In general, the participants gathering together are a community of philanthropists that share visions for a better, healthier and more just world. They believe in the power of compassionately and strategically directed resources to help achieve that vision. And, collectively, this community of "Global Friends" can influence policies and international systems to align with philanthropic values — values that require resources be directed for the good of the global human community.

# **Outcomes and Follow-up**

December's symposium launches the next phase of Salzburg Global's longstanding program on philanthropic innovation. It is also the context for TSE Foundation's launch of Global Friends, a new initiative exploring pragmatic, holistic models of global social transformation. Together our aim is to provide an opportunity to consider global philanthropy's unique ability to lead cross-sector transnational collaboration on a range of 21st Century challenges at this pivotal moment for the international community.

The symposium discussions will lead into a more narrowly focused discussion on December 5 about the transition to a low carbon economy. Many of the participants will remain to take up questions about China's role at the leading edge of developing green energy solutions. The meeting will showcase recent clean energy innovations and consider what can be learned from the Chinese model and consider how to speed the uptake of new approaches and practices.

December 5 will also mark the formal launch of the H2O Prizes. Awarded annually from 2016 by The Global Friends (a consortium of donors representing the vanguard of global philanthropy), the H2O Prizes will recognize and promote game-changing innovation in the corporate, social enterprise, and non-profit sectors.

PARTICIPATION IN THIS EVENT IS BY INVITATION ONLY

FOR MORE *info*. PLEASE VISIT: SalzburgGlobal.org/go/globalfriends

PLEASE CONTACT:

**Nancy Smith** 

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## About TSE Foundation and Global Friends

TSE Foundation is a Hong Kong philanthropic organization working to extend human horizons and to expand the bounds of human promise. The December symposium will be the context for the Foundation's launch of Global Friends, a social enterprise committed to ensuring that individuals, communities, and governance organizations have the tools to successfully navigate today's modern world.

FOR MORE *info*. PLEASE VISIT: tse-foundation.org/cms/our-story/

# About Salzburg Global Seminar

Salzburg Global Seminar designs, facilitates and hosts international strategic convening to drive progress based on Imagination, Sustainability and Justice. Salzburg Global's program strategy is driven by our mission - to challenge present and future leaders to solve issues of global concern. We work with partners to help individuals, organizations and governments tackle systems challenges critical for future generations and accelerate the translation of knowledge into action. Salzburg Global programs connect practitioners, thinkers and emerging leaders across national, cultural and professional boundaries to 're-imagine the possible'. Given the complexity of cross-border, interdependent problems raised by globalization, these personal connections and commitment to innovation are vital for regions and sectors in transition. Salzburg Global provides a neutral platform where participants can analyze blockages, identify shared goals, test and refine ideas, and create new networks and strategies for long-term results.

FOR MORE *info*. PLEASE VISIT: SalzburgGlobal.org