



# Asia Women Leaders International Summit 2026

Bangkok, Thailand

*Women's Empowerment and Asia's Social Ecosystem Development  
Co-Creating a Peaceful, Inclusive and Sustainable Asia  
through Women's Leadership and Citizen Diplomacy*

## Agenda

Date: 16–17 September 2026  
Excursion - 18 September 2026 (Optional)

Venue: Conference Room 1,  
United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC),  
Bangkok, Thailand

Organizer: Asia Women Leaders Forum (AWLF), Japan

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This agenda is subject to change. Last updated: September 14, 2026

## **Event Overview**

The AWLF International Summit 2026 is a regional initiative dedicated to advancing women's empowerment and next-generation leadership across Asia.

The Summit brings together leaders from government, business, academia, and civil society to strengthen cross-border dialogue, inclusive collaboration, and sustainable regional development.

## **Background and Rationale**

Despite rapid economic growth, Asia continues to face persistent gaps in gender equality, leadership representation, sustainability, and wellbeing.

Women remain underrepresented in decision-making across sectors, even as women-led initiatives are driving meaningful social and economic change.

The Summit seeks to build on this progress by promoting structured regional cooperation and practical, action-oriented outcomes.

The AWLF Summit held in 2024 was conducted with the official endorsement of the Embassy of Japan in Thailand, demonstrating the international significance and credibility of this initiative.

The 2026 Summit has received the official endorsement of the Embassy of Japan in Thailand.

## **Objectives**

- Establish a structured regional platform for dialogue on women's leadership in Asia.
- Advance policy and institutional approaches that promote gender equality and inclusive governance.
- Strengthen cross-border collaboration through citizen diplomacy and knowledge exchange.
- Promote sustainable and wellbeing-centered leadership models across sectors.

## **Event Framework**

Estimated Participants:

Approximately 300 leaders

Working Language:

English (Japanese Interpretation Provided)

Format:

- High-level plenary sessions
- Thematic panel discussions
- Leadership dialogue and award session

This Summit contributes to the advancement of the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly: SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 13 (Climate Action), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

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## Day 1: Wednesday, 16 September 2026

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**7:20 a.m.**

### **Shuttle Bus Departure (Optional)**

Location: Entrance, Anantara Siam Bangkok Hotel

**8:00 a.m. – 8:50 a.m.**

### **Registration**

Location: Reception Area, United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC)

**9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.**

## **Opening Remarks and Keynote Address: The Power of Peace through Women's Empowerment**

### **From Asia to the World – Building a Sustainable Co-Creation Society**

#### **Purpose**

To present the Summit's overarching vision for advancing peace, sustainability, and inclusive global development through women's leadership and empowerment, while fostering a culture of co-creation across sectors, generations, and borders.

#### **Key Questions**

- Why is women's empowerment essential for achieving lasting peace and sustainable development?

- How can Asia contribute global leadership through inclusion, collaboration, and co-creation?
- What role can women leaders play in shaping a more resilient, equitable, and peaceful future?
- How can partnerships across government, business, academia, and civil society accelerate positive change?

## **Expected Outcomes**

- A shared strategic vision for the Summit.
- Alignment around women as architects and drivers of peace.
- Greater commitment to cross-sector and cross-border collaboration.
- Inspiration for concrete actions that advance women's leadership and empowerment.

## **Session Positioning**

This opening session serves as the foundation of the Summit, embodying AWLF's core theme of "Peace through Women's Empowerment."

It also provides an opportunity to share AWLF's 2030 Vision of "1,000 Asian Leaders × 100,000 Women Leaders × 2 Billion People Empowered."

The session aims to foster a shared sense of purpose among participants and establish a common framework for collaboration toward a more peaceful, inclusive, and sustainable future across Asia and beyond.

## Speakers

| Name                                    | Title - Expertise                                                                                                                  | Country    |
|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Ms. Ai Sasaki                           | Founder and Chairperson,<br>Asia Women Leaders Forum (AWLF)                                                                        | Japan      |
| Mr. Masato Otaka                        | Ambassador of Japan to the Kingdom of<br>Thailand                                                                                  | Japan      |
| Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Ph.D.       | Executive Secretary,<br>United Nations ESCAP                                                                                       | -          |
| H.E. Mr. Abhisit Vejjajiva              | Former Prime Minister of Thailand                                                                                                  | Thailand   |
| Governor Chadchart Sittipunt            | Governor of Bangkok                                                                                                                | Thailand   |
| H.E. Mr. Shinzou Abe<br>(Video Message) | Former Prime Minister of Japan                                                                                                     | Japan      |
| Ms. Akie Abe                            | Chair, Foundation for Social<br>Contribution<br>Former First Lady of Japan<br>Honorary Advisor, Asia Women<br>Leaders Forum (AWLF) | Japan      |
| Ms. Kathy Matsui                        | General Partner,<br>MPower Partners Fund L.P.                                                                                      | USA/ Japan |
| Ranjana Kumari, Ph.D.                   | Director, Centre for Social Research<br>(CSR)                                                                                      | India      |
| Mr. Minoru Kiuchi<br>(Video Message)    | Member of the House of<br>Representatives<br>Minister of State for Special Missions                                                | Japan      |

**9:50 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.**

## Group Photo

**10:00 a.m. – 10:10 a.m.**

## Special Presentation

10:00 – 10:10 Special Presentation

Keynote Address: ASIA Common Market

Main Speaker: Mr. Sumio Takeichi (Japan)

## Speaker

| Name               | Title - Expertise                                                                                                                                                                            | Country |
|--------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Mr. Sumio Takeichi | Honorary Advisor,<br>Asia Women Leaders Forum (AWLF)<br>Former Director, International Finance<br>Corporation (IFC), World Bank Group<br>Former Executive Officer, Mitsubishi<br>Corporation | Japan   |

10:10 a.m. – 11:40 a.m.

## Panel Discussion 1: Public Policy Advancing Gender Equality and Institutional Frameworks in Asia

10:10 – 10:30 Keynote Address

Main Speaker: Ranjana Kumari, Ph.D. (India)

10:30 – 11:00 Panel Discussion

11:00 – 11:10 Q&A Session

11:10 – 11:30 Group Discussion & Key Message Sharing (4-person groups)

*Each group identifies one key message to share on the online platform.*

11:30 – 11:35 Asian Parliamentarians Declaration 2026

## Purpose

To examine policy and governance mechanisms that institutionalize gender equality.

## Key Questions

- How can women's participation in decision-making be structurally ensured?
- What legal and policy models can be scaled across Asia?

## Expected Outcomes

- Policy recommendations
- Transferable governance best practices

## Speakers

| Name                                                    | Title - Expertise                                                                                | Country         |
|---------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Ranjana Kumari, Ph.D.<br>(Keynote Speaker & Moderator ) | Director, Centre for Social Research<br>(CSR)                                                    | India           |
| Hon. Patsarin Ramwong<br>(Video Message)                | Member of the House of<br>Representatives,<br>Thailand                                           | Thailand        |
| Ms. Peangpanor Boonklum                                 | Advisor to the Leader of the Opposition<br>in the House of Representatives                       | Thailand        |
| Ethel Agnes Pascua-Valenzuela, Ph.D.                    | Director for Global Partnership<br>Engagement, Passage to ASEAN (P2A)<br>Chair, ASEAN AI Council | The Philippines |
| Mr. Kinga Tshering                                      | Former Member of Parliament,<br>Founder of Institute of Happiness                                | Bhutan          |

## Declaration

### Launch of the Asian Women Parliamentarians Alliance (AWPA)

Official declaration of the Asian Women Parliamentarians Alliance, promoting regional cooperation and advancing women's political leadership across Asia, with a shared aspiration of achieving 35% women's representation in national parliaments by 2030 and 50% by 2050.

### Expected Outcome:

Adoption of the AWPA Declaration and launch of a regional platform for ongoing dialogue and collaboration among women parliamentarians across Asia.

**11:35 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

## **Lunch Break & Networking**

(Location: Foyer, Conference Room 1)

**1:00 p.m. – 2:35 p.m.**

## **Panel Discussion 2: Wellbeing Women's Wellbeing as a Foundation for Inclusive Leadership and Sustainable Societies**

1:00 – 1:30 Keynote Address

Main Speaker: John Demartini, Ph.D. (U.S.A.)

1:30 – 2:00 Panel Discussion

2:00 – 2:10 Q&A Session

2:10 – 2:30 Group Discussion & Key Message Sharing (4-person groups)

*Each group identifies one key message to share on the online platform.*

2:30 – 2:35 Asia Wellbeing Declaration 2026: John Demartini, Ph.D. (U.S.A.)

### **Purpose**

To position women's wellbeing as a strategic foundation for inclusive leadership, human potential, social resilience, and sustainable development. This session will explore how investing in women's wellbeing strengthens leadership capacity, organizational effectiveness, and societal progress across generations.

### **Key Questions**

- How does women's wellbeing influence leadership effectiveness, innovation, and productivity?

- How can wellbeing be integrated into public policy, education systems, and organizational culture?
- How can governments, businesses, educational institutions, and civil society create ecosystems that support women's wellbeing?
- What role does wellbeing play in building resilient communities, peace, and social cohesion?

## Expected Outcomes

- A wellbeing-centered leadership framework
- Policy and organizational recommendations for advancing women's wellbeing
- Cross-sector collaboration models among government, business, academia, and civil society
- Practical strategies for integrating wellbeing into leadership development and institutional practices

## Speakers

| Name                                       | Title - Expertise                                                                                               | Country  |
|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| John Demartini, Ph.D.<br>(Keynote Speaker) | Human Behavior Specialist, Educator,<br>Author, International Speaker                                           | America  |
| Patra Shovityakool, Ph.D.                  | Founder and CEO, TRAPA Inc.<br>Former Member, National Digital<br>Economy and Society Commission of<br>Thailand | Thailand |
| Ms. Nguyen Thi Minh Dang                   | Founder & Vice President, Global Viet<br>Women<br>Entrepreneur, Truc Lam Zen Practitioner                       | Vietnam  |
| Ms. Yoko Shinoda (Yuile)<br>(Moderator)    | Executive Officer, AWLF<br>Certified Trainer, American Board of<br>NLP<br>Interpreter & Translator              | Japan    |

**2:35 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.**

## Coffee Break

(Location: Foyer, Conference Room 1)

**3:15 p.m. – 4:50 p.m.**

## Panel Discussion 3: Economy

### New Economic Growth through Human Circulation

### Diverse Talent and Leadership Shaping Asia's Future

3:15 – 3:35 Keynote Address

Main Speaker: Ms. Kobkarn Wattanavrangkul (Thailand)

3:35 – 4:05 Panel Discussion

4:05 – 4:25 Q&A Session

4:25 – 4:45 Group Discussion & Key Message Sharing (4-person groups)

*Each group identifies one key message to share on the online platform.*

4:45 – 4:50 Asia Economic Declaration 2026: Ms. Kobkarn Wattanavrangkul (Thailand)

### Purpose

To explore how the circulation of people, knowledge, skills, and leadership can contribute to sustainable economic growth and regional prosperity across Asia.

This session will examine how governments, businesses, financial institutions, and educational institutions can foster inclusive leadership, develop diverse talent, and create economic ecosystems that support innovation, resilience, and sustainable development.

### Key Questions

- How does diverse leadership create value for businesses and society?
- What approaches are most effective in developing and advancing women and diverse talent into leadership positions?
- In the era of ESG, DE&I, and human capital management, what role should organizations play in fostering inclusive growth?
- How can businesses, governments, and educational institutions collaborate to develop the next generation of leaders?

### Expected Outcomes

- Sharing of best practices and successful models for leadership development across Asia

- Exchange of practical insights on developing and advancing women and diverse talent into leadership roles
- Enhanced understanding of the relationship between ESG, DE&I, human capital management, and sustainable economic growth
- Strengthened collaboration among governments, businesses, financial institutions, educational institutions, and civil society
- A shared understanding of the importance of inclusive leadership and human capital development in shaping Asia's future
- Identification of key recommendations and strategic directions that may contribute to the development of the AWLF Joint Declaration on Women's Leadership and Economic Empowerment 2026

## Speakers

| Name                                             | Title - Expertise                                                                               | Country  |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Ms. Kobkarn Wattanavrangkul<br>(Keynote Speaker) | Chairperson of the Board,<br>KASIKORNBANK<br>Chairperson, Toshiba Thailand Co., Ltd.            | Thailand |
| Chizu Sekine, Ph.D.                              | Former CEO, Sumika Technical<br>Information Service, Inc.<br>Director, Asia Women Leaders Forum | Japan    |
| Ms. Patama Chantaruck                            | Country Managing Director,<br>Accenture Thailand                                                | Thailand |
| Mr. Vijay Emmanuel<br>(Moderator)                | Founder & CEO<br>Cinnamon Group                                                                 | India    |
| Mr. Thang (Cong) Huynh, EMBA                     | Chairman & CEO, InnoLab Asia                                                                    | Vietnam  |

**4:50 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

## Group Photo

**5:20 p.m. / 5:40 p.m.**

## Shuttle Bus Departure

(From the Main Entrance of ESCAP to Anantara Siam Bangkok Hotel)

**7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.**

**Gala Dinner (*by Invitation Only*)**

(Ballroom, 1st Floor, Anantara Siam Bangkok Hotel)

Dress Code: Formal or National Traditional Attire

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## Day2: Thursday, 17 September 2026

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**7:40 a.m.**

### **Shuttle Bus Departure (Optional)**

Location: Entrance, Anantara Siam Bangkok Hotel

**9:00 a.m. – 10:35 a.m.**

### **Panel Discussion 4: Education Ensuring Quality Education and Access for All Design for Life: Cultivating Life Skills and Next-Generation Leadership**

09:00 – 09:20 Keynote Address

Main Speaker: Ms. Kiran Bir Sethi (India)

09:20 – 10:00 Panel Discussion

10:00 – 10:10 Q&A Session

10:10 – 10:30 Group Discussion & Key Message Sharing (4-person groups)

*Each group identifies one key message to share on the online platform.*

10:30 – 10:35 Asia Education Declaration 2026: Ethel Agnes Pascua-Valenzuela,  
Ph.D. (Philippine)

### **Purpose**

To explore how quality education and equitable access to learning can empower individuals, strengthen communities, and prepare the next generation of leaders for a rapidly changing world.

This session will examine how education can cultivate life skills, creativity, resilience, leadership, and lifelong learning while reducing gender, social, and regional disparities across Asia.

## **Key Questions**

- How can we ensure access to quality education for all, regardless of gender, geography, or socioeconomic background?
- How can education cultivate life skills, creativity, resilience, and leadership for the future?
- How can education contribute to reducing gender, social, and regional inequalities?
- How can governments, educational institutions, businesses, and civil society collaborate to prepare the next generation of leaders?

## **Expected Outcomes**

- Sharing of best practices and innovative approaches for improving educational quality and access across Asia
- A shared understanding of the importance of life skills, leadership, and lifelong learning in education
- Identification of inclusive and scalable education models that can be adapted across diverse communities
- Strengthened collaboration among governments, educational institutions, businesses, and civil society
- A shared commitment to advancing equitable and inclusive education across Asia
- Identification of key recommendations and strategic directions that may contribute to the development of the **AWLF Asia Education Declaration 2026**

## Speakers

| Name                                                                                   | Title - Expertise                                                                                                                       | Country                 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Ms. Kiran Bir Sethi<br>(Keynote Speaker)                                               | Founder, The Riverside School<br>Founder, Design for Change<br>Founder, Riverside Learning Center                                       | India                   |
| Ethel Agnes Pascua-Valenzuela,<br>Ph.D.<br>(Moderator & Declant,<br>Asian Declaration) | Director for Global Partnership Engagement,<br>Passage to ASEAN (P2A) Chair,<br>ASEAN AI Council                                        | Philippines             |
| Prof. Diana Bozhilova                                                                  | Senior Research Fellow,<br>Institute of Commonwealth Studies, University<br>of London<br>Chief Strategy Officer, Gita Mittal Foundation | United<br>Kingdom/India |
| Bai Hejira Nefertiti M.Limbona,<br>Ph.D.                                               | Chancellor Mindanao State University,<br>Maguindanao                                                                                    | Philippines             |

**10:35 a.m. – 11:35 a.m.**

## Youth Leadership Presentation / Distinguished Individual Leadership Presentation

## Speakers

| Name                                 | Title - Expertise                                                                       | Country  |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Ms. Cho Kyi Han                      | Program Manager, Youth Talk Forum<br>(YTF)                                              | Myanmar  |
| Ms. Thananyapak "Runn" Prasertthamma | Biochemistry Student & Youth Leader –<br>Human Health, Longevity & Youth<br>Empowerment | Thailand |
| Ms. Aly Ng                           | Programme Coordinator, SEAMEO<br>AWLF Regional Director,<br>Youth Leadership-Asia       | VietNam  |
| Ms. Jazz Sethi                       | Founder & Director,<br>The Diabesties Foundation                                        | India    |

|                     |                                                                                                       |       |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| Ms. Nanami Wakayama | Representative Director,<br>Our Farms Co., Ltd.                                                       | Japan |
| Chieko Kai, Ph.D.   | Specially Appointed Professor,<br>Teikyo University<br>Professor Emeritus,<br>The University of Tokyo | Japan |

**11:35 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

## **Lunch Break**

(Location: Foyer, Conference Room 1)

**1:00 p.m. – 2:35 p.m.**

## **Panel Discussion 5: Environment**

### **A Beautiful Earth for the Next 1,000 Years**

### **Women's Wisdom and Action for a Sustainable Asia**

1:00 – 1:30 Keynote Address

Main Speaker: Ms. Lek Chailert (Thailand)

1:30 – 2:00 Panel Discussion

2:00 – 2:10 Q&A Session

2:10– 2:30 Group Discussion & Key Message Sharing (4-person groups)

*Each group identifies one key message to share on the online platform.*

2:30 – 2:35 Asia Environmental Declaration 2026: Ms. Lek Chailert (Thailand)

## **Purpose**

To examine the current environmental challenges facing our planet through the perspectives of land, oceans, skies, and space, and to explore solutions for building a sustainable and resilient future.

This session will highlight the wisdom and leadership of women, advances in science and technology, and community-based approaches that contribute to environmental stewardship, intergenerational responsibility, and sustainable development.

## Key Questions

- What are the most pressing environmental challenges facing our land, oceans, skies, and shared planet today?
- What lessons can we learn from science, innovation, community-based practices, traditional knowledge, and international cooperation?
- What innovative solutions are needed to address climate change, biodiversity loss, and the transition toward a sustainable future?
- What roles should governments, businesses, educational institutions, civil society, and individuals play in creating a resilient and sustainable future for generations to come?

## Expected Outcomes

- A shared understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing our planet across land, oceans, skies, and space
- Sharing of best practices and innovative solutions in environmental protection, sustainability, science, technology, and community engagement
- Greater awareness of the role of women leaders in advancing environmental stewardship and sustainable development
- Strengthened collaboration among governments, businesses, educational institutions, and civil society
- A shared commitment to intergenerational responsibility and sustainable development
- Identification of key recommendations and strategic directions that may contribute to the development of the AWLF Asia Environmental Declaration 2026

## Speakers

| Name                                             | Title - Expertise                                                                                                    | Country  |
|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Ms. Saengduean Lek Chailert<br>(Keynote Speaker) | Founder & Director, Elephant Nature Park; Founder, Save Elephant Foundation; Environmental & Animal Welfare Advocate | Thailand |
| Chieko Kai, Ph.D.                                | Specially Appointed Professor, Teikyo University<br>Professor Emeritus, The University of Tokyo                      | Japan    |
| Dr. Wandee Khunchornyakong Juljarern             | Chair, WK Group                                                                                                      | Thailand |
| Ms. Yoko Yuile<br>(Moderator)                    | Executive Officer, AWLF<br>Certified Trainer, American Board of NLP<br>Interpreter & Translator                      | Japan    |

**2:35 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.**

## **Coffee Break**

**3:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

## **Asia Women Leaders Awards 2026**

**Categories: Education / Environment / Economy / Public Policy / Wellbeing / Medical&Healthcare / Male Leader / Youth Leader / Legacy Leader**

**4:30 p.m. – 4:35 p.m.**

## **Song for Peace — A Message from the Youth**

(Care/Share/Respect)

**4:35 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.**

## **Closing Remark**

### **Speaker**

| <b>Name</b>   | <b>Title - Expertise</b>                        | <b>Country</b> |
|---------------|-------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Ms. Ai Sasaki | Chairperson,<br>Asia Women Leaders Forum (AWLF) | Japan          |

**4:45 p.m. – 4:50 p.m.**

## **2026–2030 Action Commitment** (Online survey)

**4:50 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

## **Group Photo**

**5:00 p.m.**

## **Official Closing**

**5:20 p.m.**

## **Shuttle Bus Departure**

(From the Main Entrance of ESCAP to Anantara Siam Bangkok Hotel)

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## **Expected Outcomes**

The Summit is expected to contribute to regional cooperation and leadership development across Asia and the Pacific through:

- Strengthened regional dialogue and cooperation on women's leadership, gender equality, and inclusive development.
  - Increased collaboration among policymakers, business leaders, educators, youth leaders, and civil society.
  - Promotion of women's leadership and youth leadership as key drivers of sustainable, peaceful, and inclusive societies.
  - Development of practical ideas, innovative solutions, and policy perspectives supporting education, wellbeing, economic empowerment, environmental sustainability, and social development.
  - Expansion of cross-border networks connecting women leaders and next-generation leaders across Asia.
- 

## **Final Outputs of the Summit**

The Summit is expected to produce the following outputs:

- AWLF Asia Declaration 2026
  - Policy Recommendations on Women's Leadership and Inclusive Development in Asia
  - AWLF International Summit 2026 Report
  - Establishment of the AWLF Asia Women Leaders Network
  - Launch of the AWLF Youth Leadership Program (2026–2030)
  - Promotion of Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships
-

## **AWLF 2030 Vision**

### **Women's Leadership as a Driver of Peace, Prosperity and Inclusive Growth in Asia**

### **300 Leaders in 2026 → 600 Leaders in 2028 → 1,000 Leaders → 100 Leaders each → 100,000 Women Leaders → Community/Institutional Impact**

The AWLF International Summit 2026 brings together approximately 300 leaders from government, business, academia, and civil society, laying the foundation for a growing movement of leadership and collaboration across Asia.

Building on this momentum, AWLF aims to convene approximately 600 leaders in 2028 and 1,000 Asian leaders at a landmark international summit at the United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC) in Bangkok in 2030.

Through this initiative, 1,000 leaders will mentor and empower 100 women leaders each, creating a network of 100,000 women leaders across Asia and contributing to the empowerment of 2 billion people throughout the region.

Together, we seek to build a more peaceful, inclusive, and sustainable future for Asia and the world.

With our heartfelt gratitude to

#### **Our Supporters**

Individual sponsors

Ms. Chika Akamine

Ms. Yumiko Yamamoto

Mr. Dilip Mansukhani  
Ms. Urmila Mansukhani  
Taj Mahal Group - Japan

*and other generous supporters who wished to remain anonymous*