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Leadership For Development

Magsaysay Award Foundation; To Train Future Change Leader

Magsaysay Award Foundation (Equivalent to Nobel Prize in Asia) has announced that it will launch the Magsaysay Institute of Transformative Leadership (MITC) a training center for youth leaders and Civic Organizations in Asia on 12 August 2013. The Foundation training will be different and will promoted Asian brand of leadership and try to define why the Asian way of leadership works better. (ELR-GMA)

Women Leadership

Reporting on Gender Equality in East Asia

This summer Thomson Reuters Foundation conducted a course on “Reporting on gender equality in East Asia” hosted by Vietnam Television, national and international journalists from Myanmar, Thailand and Cambodia came together for the ‘Reporting Women issue’, and explored how to better highlight issues affecting women and girls. While many societies have made progress towards advancing gender equality - through a series of landmark agreements such as the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) – much remains to be done, media can fill this gap. (Thomson Reuters Foundation)

Women’s Rights in Afghanistan: Uneven and Fragile Gains

The Taliban had stepped up attacks in Kabul this year. And yet, for two days, the gymnasium at the American University of Afghanistan was packed with around 300

participants, coaches and judges. As expected, security was tight and many female debaters had reservations about being photographed or filmed while speaking. An impression of debating as aggressive, confrontational and inappropriate for young women in a society where male elders dominate public discourse. All this melted away during the actual debates, where they delivered passionate and compelling speeches on controversial issues such as whether Afghan university graduates should be required to work in their country for two years upon graduation, willingness to participate in electoral debates should be a pre-requisite for politicians contesting national elections, and whether most international development aid contracts should be awarded to Afghan organizations. Many of them openly stated that if their male counterparts could succeed in this activity, they should be able to as well; even if for some, it meant adhering to a strict dress code to deflect opposition to their participation. Others explained that building confidence and critical-thinking skills was an important part of their own long-term plans to “make Afghanistan a beautiful country again.”

USAID has recently announced plans to commit \$200 million and to persuade other donors to contribute the same amount for a five-year program focusing on the education and training of women aged 18-30 in Afghanistan. Called “Promote”. (Devex)

Women's Leadership Conference for Asian Women Leaders

Last month, 20 women from as far as Mongolia, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Egypt, Morocco, and India attended a two-day conference on women’s leadership at Arcadia University’s School of Continuing Studies in King of Prussia. The July 21-22 conference was co-hosted with the Women’s Leadership Institute of the University of Kansas (USA), an academic exchange sponsored by a grant from the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Current and former executives at Citizens Bank of Pennsylvania, Knowledge Flow, and PennSERVE shared leadership experiences on what it takes to be a leader, and on the unique dynamics associated with being a leader as a female. After hearing from the panelists, many of the Middle Eastern women extended the sessions with informal one-on-one and small group discussions with the panelists. (Arcadia University)

Future Leaders

Indian Future Leaders; A Book on Young Parliamentarians

As reported in earlier “iLead” Shashi Tharoor, a former UN official and current Minister for Social Development in India has published a book “INDIA – The Future is Now” has views from dozen young parliamentarians from various political parties to reflect on their thinking related to issues facing India. “Where do young political leader in India fit into uncertain future” some young parliamentarians have voiced concern about corruption. One remarked that the credibility of the political class in India is at it’s lowest, another of the view that “Dynamics of political will be determined in future by

development and government". (The Hindu)

Future Leader Meet

At the Women in the World Foundation's Next Generation Leadership Academy, this week brought fifty young women from across the globe including Bhutan, India, Iraq and New Zealand at Barnard College, USA. They were recent college graduates already plunged into issue ranging from sexual-violence prevention to maternal mortality and education for youth at risk, they are the next generation to carry the torch of women equality empowerment forward. A professional work shop on the power of storytelling through video and digital media and a panel discussion on "Ten Things I Wish'd Known at 20". Had speakers from Vanity Fair, NewsWeek and others. (The Newsweek)

Rapid Population Growth has Security Issues; Don't Slash US Family Planning Funds

WASHINGTON, DC — The House Appropriations Committee last month voted to whack \$8 billion from the 2014 State and Foreign Operations Appropriations budget — or nearly \$1 out of every \$5 spent in 2013. Among the programs sustaining huge cuts: international family planning. "This year, we have to make a lot of tough budget choices in the face of uncertainty around the world," Appropriations Chairman Hal Rogers (R-Ky.) said in an official statement. "This legislation targets funding to programs that are proven to advance US interests [and] to preserve security both on our soil and off." But here's the deal: Family planning is as much about security issues as it is about sex, and Rogers and other House members ought to know that. A lack of access to birth control leads to rapid population growth. And rapid population growth often leads to the types of problems that can cause political instability, such as food insecurity, water scarcity, lack of arable land and environmental degradation. Ofcourse, population growth isn't the only cause of instability. But it is an important one. And it's one that we can tackle, if we just have the will. (GlobalPost)

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Message for Leaders

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