

World Economic Forum Announces Young Global Leaders for 2012

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- The Forum has honoured [192 young leaders](#) from 59 countries for their outstanding leadership, professional accomplishments and commitment to society
- Young Global Leaders are selected from a variety of sectors such as business, government, academia, media, non-profit organizations and arts and culture, and from all regions of the world
- Young Global Leaders engage in task forces that address specific challenges of public interest with the objective of shaping a better future

Geneva, Switzerland, 6 March 2012 – The World Economic Forum has announced its Young Global Leaders (YGLs) for 2012.

The honour, bestowed each year by the Forum, recognizes up to 200 outstanding young leaders from around the world for their professional accomplishments, commitment to society and potential to contribute to shaping the future of the world. Past YGLs include Maria Bartiromo, Anchor, Closing Bell, and Anchor and Managing Editor, Wall Street Journal Report, CNBC, USA; David Cameron, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom; Esther Duflo, Professor of Economics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA; Larry Page, Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Google, USA; Zhang Xin, Chief Executive Officer, SOHO China, People's Republic of China.

For 2012, the Forum has selected [192 YGLs](#) from 59 countries and all sectors of society (including business, civil society, social entrepreneurs, politics and government, arts and culture, and opinion and media). The new class originates from East Asia (38), South Asia (19), Europe (46), Middle East and North Africa (15), sub-Saharan Africa (18), North America (37) and Latin America (19).

“ In the last few years, the world has seen the biggest recession in almost a century and we now face daunting global challenges, ” said Klaus Schwab, Founder and Executive Chairman of the World Economic Forum.

“ Recovery and innovation will require new, unique ideas and an environment where the best minds, ideas and leadership can thrive. The most important determinant of this will be how we use human talent. Within the World Economic Forum community, the Young Global Leaders represent the voice for the future and the hopes of the next generation. I am particularly proud of this year ’ s honourees, who I believe will address the challenges we face in a meaningful way through fresh thinking and true multistakeholder engagement. ”

Drawn from a pool of several thousand candidates, the 2012 YGLs were chosen by a selection committee, chaired by H.M. Queen Rania Al Abdullah of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and they comprise respected international leaders from business, government and media.

The 2012 YGLs reflect different types of leadership in different parts of the world and society. They include: Gina Badenoch, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Ojos que Sienten A.C. (from Mexico); Eli Beer, Founder and President, United Hatzalah of Israel (from Israel); Cesar Conde, President, Univision Networks (from the United States); Brendan Cox, Director of Advocacy and Policy, Save the Children (from the United Kingdom); Kate Ellis, Minister for Employment Participation and Childcare and Minister for the Status of Women (from Australia); David Hertz, Founder and Managing Director, Gastromotiva (from Brazil); Dirk Nowitzki, Basketball Player, Dirk Nowitzki Stiftung (from Germany); Jasandra Nyker, Chief Executive Officer, BioTherm Energy (from South Africa); Chhavi Rajawat, Sarpanch of Soda, Municipal Government of Soda

(from India); Nisreen Shahin, Executive Director, Rawabi Foundation (from the Palestinian Territories); Wang Shuo, Managing Editor, Caixin Media (from the People's Republic of China); and Tim Wu, Professor of Law, Columbia Law School (from Canada/United States).

“ It is an honour to be recognized as a Young Global Leader, at a personal level, but more importantly, in terms of what it means for Africa. It is exciting to see the extent to which a new generation of young people from this continent is making global impact and has global influence. We are truly a new force, ” said Sisonke Msimang from South Africa, Executive Director, Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa (OSISA).

Another recently selected YGL from the United Kingdom, Niall Dunne, Chief Sustainability Officer, BT, said: “ The next era of human evolution will be defined by the problem-solving power of networks. All around us, we see people getting organized and committing themselves with heart, body and mind to work at the scale of the problems we all face. The YGL Community is one such network. Becoming part of it is humbling yet thrilling as it is networks like this, and our innate ability to get organized and innovate, that will create the systemic change necessary to sustain and empower every man, woman and child on the planet. ”

A third honouree, Hana Kim, Reverend, Myungsung Presbyterian Church, Republic of Korea, explains his reaction to becoming a YGL as follows: “ As a faith community leader, I find my calling in improving the quality of life – health, education and nutrition – of those who are most victimized by poverty. My academic and ecclesiastical backgrounds provide a firm conviction that faith communities can help make the world a better place. Along with fellow YGLs, my hope is that we will help the world search for revolutionary ways to eliminate poverty. ”

The 2012 honourees will become part of the broader Forum of Young Global Leaders community that currently comprises 713 outstanding individuals. The YGLs convene at an Annual Summit, which will be held this year in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, on 14-18 April. YGLs are actively engaged in the community, are integrated into events organized by the World Economic Forum, and organize events of their own, as well as launch and lead their own innovative initiatives and task forces. These activities enable YGLs to learn from and with each other; build knowledge and engender a better understanding of global challenges and trends, risks and opportunities; and further enhance their unique role as leaders within their own organizations, the World Economic Forum and the broader global community.

“ The YGL experience is life changing. It joins this wildly impressive group of young leaders, with extraordinary minds and talents, who embrace the spirit of a global family and create this contagious motivation to make the world a better place, ” said Daniel Shapiro (YGL 2008) Founder and Director, Harvard International Negotiation Program, Harvard Law School, USA. “ The YGL programme gives us – the next generation of leaders – a critical forum within which to collaborate on global solutions to pressing global problems, ranging from poverty alleviation to human security. And it ’ s not just about talk. The YGL Community has delivered concrete results. It ’ s an honour to be a part of this community. ”

“ One of the unique aspects of the YGL Community is that it is the first generation of leaders who are truly global citizens; they have all lived, studied and worked in different countries throughout their careers, ” said David Aikman, Head of The Forum of Young Global Leaders. “ They see themselves as being fundamentally interconnected and have the cross-cultural leadership skills to be successful in a globalized world. Thanks to the incredible diversity of the group, they are able to collaborate across complex systems and build informal coalitions to facilitate action on the biggest challenges facing the world today. This entrepreneurial approach to public good is the best way to move the world forward. We look forward to integrating the 2012 YGLs into our discussions and initiatives. ”

Notes to Editors

More information about the Forum of Young Global Leaders at <http://www.younggloballeaders.org/>

[List of YGLs honoured in 2012](#)

[List of the YGL community](#)

Visit our YGL YouTube channel at <http://www.youtube.com/yglvoices>

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