News Release

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# 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
- Of the selected young leaders, 38 are from East Asia
- 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 initiatives 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. Those from East Asia include **Nurul Izzah Anwar,** Member of the Malaysian Parliament and

Vice President of the Parti Keadilan Rakyat, Malaysia; **Kate Ellis**, Minister for Employment Participation and Childcare and Minister for the Status of Women of Australia; **Kim Hana**, Reverend, Myungsung Presbyterian Church, Republic of Korea; **Aldi Haryopratomo**, Co-Founder, Ruma, Indonesia; **Reese Fernandez**, President and Founding Partner, Rags2Riches, Philippines; **Akimitsu Sano**, Chief Executive Officer, Cookpad, Japan; and **Wang Shuo**, Managing Editor, Caixin Media, People's Republic of China.

“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,” said **Kim Hana**, Reverend, Myungsung Presbyterian Church, Republic of Korea. “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.”

Another recently selected YGL from Malaysia, **Sim Chee Keong**, City Councillor, Province Wellesley Municipal Council, commented: “I am honoured to be nominated as a 2012 Young Global Leader of the World Economic Forum. The world is now at a defining moment. On one hand, we are witnessing unprecedented technological progress, but on the other, humanity is faced with a never seen before risk of systemic collapse. The opportunity is now for citizens of the world to come together to rethink our future. What better place to do this than in a community of the brightest and most talented young leaders? The Forum of Young Global Leaders is an excellent platform for such engagement. I look forward to collaborating with the best young minds of our time to reshape the future together.”

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.

“There are few times in your life when you can make real connections, when the stage of life, who you are and what you do, lets new people join you in your personal and professional journey,” said **Calvin Chin** (YGL 2010), Chief Executive Officer, Transist, People’s Republic of China. “For me, the YGL experience has been just that. I've made deep and lasting friendships with people who share my abiding commitment to improve the world. And while, in part, this is about embracing the rightful responsibilities we inherently have as leaders, YGLs find joy, fulfilment and growth in this pursuit.”

“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
Follow us on Twitter at http://twitter.com/YGLvoices
Nominate a potential Young Global Leader through our website

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