World Economic Forum Announces Young Global Leaders for 2012

6 March 2012

Maxwell Hall, Senior Media Manager, Tel.: +41 (0)79 329 3500 – maxwell.hall@weforum.org

- 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, 19 are from South 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 the South Asia region include **Fatima Bhutto**, Author and Poet, Pakistan; **Vandana Goyal**, Chief Executive Officer, Akanksha Foundation, India; **Rangina Hamidi**, Founder and President, Kandahar Treasure, Afghanistan; **Ashwin Naik**, Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Vaatsalya Corporate Office, India; **Chhavi Rajawat**, Sarpanch of Soda, Municipal Government of Soda, India; **Dhananjayan Sriskandarajah**, Director, The Royal Commonwealth Society (RCS), United Kingdom; and **Fasi Zaka**, Radio Host and Columnist, MTV Pakistan, Pakistan.

"I am delighted to be part of this multi-faceted, diverse family of young leaders that are the YGL community. The opportunity it presents for learning through fellowship and effecting action is a rare privilege and responsibility. I look forward to contributing to this exceptional forum and growing with it", said **Subhashini Chandran,** Group Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director, Woodbriar Group and Tea Estates India, India.

Another recently selected YGL, **Rajamanohar (Raja) Somasundaram**, Co-Founder and Managing Director, Hexolabs Interactive Tech, India, commented: “I’m thrilled and humbled to be named amongst the YGL. I strongly believe that it is an opportunity to connect with achievers and trailblazers who have shown exceptional accomplishment in their respective domains. I look forward to actively engage in the forum of young global leaders that encourages fresh thinking, multi-stakeholder engagement and multidisciplinary collaboration to develop innovative solutions that are truly global to tackle the challenges faced by this generation”.

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 network is an unparalleled platform for meeting younger people who are at the top of their game in every country around the world – whether in business, media, government, NGOs, or otherwise,” said **Kasim Kasuri** (YGL 2009), Chief Executive Officer, Beaconhouse School System, Pakistan. “Being an active YGL since 2009 has meant that I have stretched my vision to include new domains outside my immediate sphere of interest, which is education. At home, it has meant greater participation in local YGL projects such as the co-creation of the YGL Indo-Pak platform which has truly endless potential.”

“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