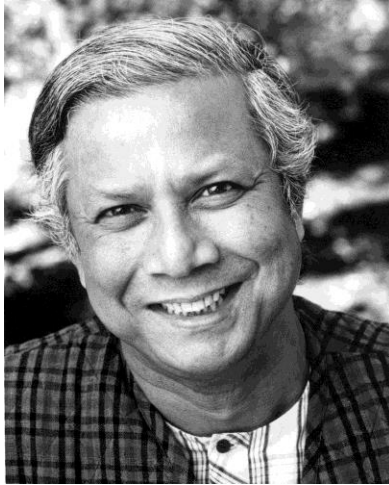


Professor Muhammad Yunus



Nobel Laureate Professor Muhammad Yunus is the father of microcredit, the father of social business, the founder of Grameen Bank, and of more than 50 other companies in Bangladesh. For his constant innovation and enterprise, the Fortune Magazine named Professor Yunus in March 2012 as “one of 12 greatest entrepreneurs of our time.”

Professor Yunus was born in Bangladesh in 1940. In 1965, he received Fulbright Scholarship to study economics at Vanderbilt University, U.S.A., and did his Ph.D. in economics in 1969.

Professor Yunus returned to Bangladesh in 1972 and joined the Department of Economics, University of Chittagong, as its chairman. In 1976, Professor Yunus started to experiment with providing collateral free loans to the poor. The project was called Grameen Bank Project and later, in 1983, became a full-fledged bank for providing loans to the poor, mostly women, in rural Bangladesh. Today Grameen Bank has over 8.4 million borrowers, 97% of whom are women and disburses over one and a half billion US dollars each year.

In 2006, Professor Yunus and Grameen Bank were jointly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

Professor Muhammad Yunus is the recipient of more than 50 honorary degrees from universities across 20 countries. He has received 112 awards from 26 countries including state honours from 10 countries.

He is one of seven individuals to have received the Nobel Peace Prize, the United States Presidential Medal of Freedom and the United States Congressional Gold Medal. Other notable awards include the Ramon Magsaysay Award (1984), World Food Prize (1994), International Simon Bolivar Prize (1996), Sydney Peace Prize (1998), The Prince of Asturias Award for Concord (1998) and Seoul Peace Prize (2006).

The concept of social business, which he introduced into the economic framework, is defined as a non-dividend company dedicated to solving social problems, such as healthcare, education, sanitation, water pollution, unemployment, environmental degradation, etc. His microcredit idea has spread to almost all the countries of the world, including the industrialized countries of the West.

United Nations Secretary General, Ban Ki Moon, invited Professor Yunus to serve as an MDG Advocate. He sits on the Board of United Nations Foundation, Schwab Foundation, Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, Grameen Credit Agricole Microcredit Foundation and Chirac Foundation. He is one of the founding members of The Elders. Professor Yunus serves as Nobel Laureate in Residence at the Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (National University of Malaysia).

Professor Yunus was chosen by Wharton School of Business as one of 'The 25 Most Influential Business Persons of the Past 25 Years'. AsiaWeek (Hong Kong) selected him as one of “Twenty Great Asians 1975 – 1995.” Ananda Bazaar Patrika (India) selected Professor Yunus as one of “Ten Great Bengalis of the Century (1900 – 1999).”

In 2006, Time magazine listed Professor Yunus under "60 years of Asian Heroes" as one of the top 12 business leaders. In 2008, in an open online poll, Yunus was voted the 2nd topmost intellectual person in the world on the list of Top 100 Public Intellectuals by Prospect Magazine (UK) and Foreign Policy (United States). In 2010, The New Statesman (UK) listed him as one of "The World's 50 Most Influential Figures".

Professor Yunus has appeared on The Oprah Winfrey Show, The Daily Show with Jon Stewart, Colbert Report, Real Time with Bill Maher, Hardtalk on BBC and The Simpsons. He has appeared on the cover of Time Magazine and Newsweek.

In June 2012, Professor Yunus was named Chancellor of Glasgow Caledonian University.

On Google+, Professor Yunus is one of the most followed person worldwide, with over 2 million followers.

Dr. Alexandre Kalache



Alexandre Kalache launched the WHO Active Ageing Policy Framework and the worldwide movement on Age-Friendly Cities among many other enduring initiatives during his tenure directing the Global Ageing Programme at WHO Headquarters (1995-2008). Prior to his appointment at WHO he held academic and teaching positions at the Universities of Oxford and London. At the latter, he created the Unit on Epidemiology in 1984 and conceived and coordinated Europe's first ever Masters Degree course in Health Promotion (1990).

For the past forty years Dr. Kalache has combined his medical, epidemiological and gerontological training with research, advocacy and activism on global ageing issues. His persistence on global ageing policy has greatly contributed to a major shift in paradigm: both in terms of positivity toward longevity itself and a strengthened focus on the life-course approach to ageing and health.

His expertise and advice is routinely sought from all corners of the world by national, state and municipal governments, universities, think tanks, civil society and private bodies as well as governmental agencies and the media. He serves on Boards from the World Economic Forum and the World Demographic and Ageing Forum to major pharmaceutical and financial companies and private foundations and continues to add to an accumulation of over two hundred published articles, scientific papers and books. Although he has offices in several countries (USA, Spain, UK, Australia), a significant focus is his newly-created (2012) International Longevity Centre (ILC Brazil) in his home town of Rio de Janeiro.

Dr. Kiran Bedi



Kiran Bedi, has been India's first and highest (woman) ranking officer who joined the Indian Police Service in 1972. Her expertise includes more than 35 years of creative and reformatory policing and prison management.

She worked with the United Nations in New York as the Police Advisor to the Secretary General, in the Department of Peace Keeping Operations. She represented India in International forums on crime prevention, drug abuse, police and prison reforms and women's issues.

She holds a Law, Masters, Doctorate degree. She is also a Nehru Fellow (post doctoral) -- Been a National and an Asian Tennis champion. She has addressed audiences at the American, British, European, Indian Universities, Corporate and Civil Society groups.

She is a recipient of the prestigious Ramon Magsaysay Award (also called the Asian Nobel Prize), and several other national and international decorations, Dr. Bedi has a biography, I Dare, anchors radio and television shows and is a columnist with leading newspapers and magazines.

She is the founder of two NGOs, Navjyoti and India Vision Foundation, which reach out to thousands of under-served children, women and men in the areas of education, vocational skills, environment, counseling, and health care to the urban and rural poor, including prisoners and policemen's children. Currently her NGOs are running Community College, registered with Indira Gandhi National Open University, to provide vocational and soft skills to Indian youth.

Kiran Bedi has been voted as India's most admired (THE WEEK 2002), most trusted woman in India. (Readers Digest, March 2010), MSN Most Admired Indian Female Icon 2011: Most Trusted woman by Navbharat Times 2012.

A nonfiction feature film on Dr Bedi's life entitled Yes, Madam Sir has been produced by an Australian film maker, Megan Doneman. The film was adjudged the "Best Documentary" at Santa Barbara International Film Festival. It has been receiving standing ovation in most of its screenings around the world. May visit www.kiranbedifilms.com

She has been in the vanguard of a nationwide India Against Corruption Movement: Police and Prison Reforms.

Kiran is an author of several books, namely It's Always Possible, What Went Wrong, As I See, Broom and Groom and Uprising 2011.

For more information may visit her website www.kiranbedi.com or tweet @thekiranbedi

Ms. Chetna Gala Sinha



Chetna Gala Sinha is an Indian social entrepreneur. She is empowering women in drought prone areas of rural India by teaching entrepreneurial skills and providing them training on how to manage access to land and other means of production.

She was a leader of the Jayprakash Narayan student activist movement at the end of the 1970s, which fought for the democratic and basic human rights of the rural and marginalized communities of India.

She also founded the Mann Deshi Mahila Bank, a micro finance bank which lends to women in rural areas. One of the distinctive qualities of her bank is that it does not confine itself to making loans but also puts into place the infrastructures needed to develop entrepreneurial success and assets among women.

Through her work with the Bank, she has promoted a holistic approach to helping her clients – one that combines economic activity with the educational tools and health care necessary to lead a productive life.

Furthermore, she has founded a second organization, the Mann Sub-district Organization for Societal Progress to carry out campaigns in other areas. To support the further development of female empowerment, the organization has set up training camps on effective government. Additionally, she has organized meetings with village governing bodies to discuss property rights for women. She has succeeded in changing government policy and law regarding property rights for women.

Ms. Chetna Gala Sinha has been honored with the 2005 Jankidevi Bajaj Puraskar award for rural entrepreneurship, and has a lifetime membership with Ashoka Innovators for the Public. She aims to support one million women entrepreneurs by 2020.

Dr. John Beard



John Beard, MBBS PhD, is Director of the Department of Ageing and Life Course at the World Health Organization in Geneva. He is responsible for increasing global awareness of ageing as a driving force in shaping 21st century public health; building a sound evidence base on ageing related issues; and developing relevant policy, standards, interventions and tools. This involves working with all levels of government, non-government organizations, civil society and academia in the 194 WHO member states, and with senior members of many international organizations.

He is chair of the World Economic Forum's Global Action Council on Ageing and a member of the Advisory Board of the World Demographic & Ageing Forum. John started his career as a clinician before holding a range of senior academic and public health roles in Australia and the United States. He has published widely in the international literature and remains actively involved in several large international research studies.

Dr. Lieve Fransen, Belgium



Since mid-November 2011, Dr. Lieve Fransen is the Director responsible for Europe 2020: Social Policies in Directorate-General Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion of the European Commission. Dr. Fransen has devoted herself to promoting social justice and the values of solidarity. During a distinguished career in international public health, Dr. Fransen has worked as Public Health Advisor to the Ministry of Health, Mozambique, Kenya, Rwanda and Cape Verde Islands; as Task Manager of a research programme on pregnant women and new-borns in Rwanda; and as Director of a research programme on sexual and reproductive health in Kenya and in the Tropical Institute in Antwerpen, Belgium. Dr. Fransen is Medical Doctor with a PhD on Social Policies.

Dr. Yves Joannette, Canada



Dr. Yves Joannette is a professor in the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Montreal and a member of the Ordre des orthophonistes et audiologistes du Québec. From 1997 to 2009, he was Director of the Centre de recherche de l'Institut universitaire de gériatrie de Montréal (CRIUGM). From 2009 until recently, he was President and Chief Executive Officer of the Fonds de la recherche en santé du Québec as well as Chair of the agency's Board of Directors.

Following his doctorate in neurosciences from the University of Montreal (1980), Dr. Joannette completed postdoctoral training in neuropsychology and behavioural neurosciences at the Timone University Hospital Centre in Marseilled at the École des hautes études en sciences sociales(1980–82). His principal research interests focus on the aging process and cognitive deficits in the elderly. Dr. Joannette contributed to knowledge advances in neurofunctional reorganization, which enables people to maintain their communication abilities while aging, the impact of right-hemispheric cerebral lesions on communication abilities, and the cognitive deficits of Alzheimer's disease. Since the beginning of his career, Dr. Joannette and his research team have contributed significantly to training the next generation of researchers and health professionals through their commitment to knowledge transfer and the introduction of clinical best practices.

Yves Joannette has been a researcher at CRIUGM since 1982. From 1992 to 1997, he was Director of the University of Montreal's School of Speech Therapy and Audiology and Associate Director of Clinical Research at CRIUGM. Since the beginning of his career, Yves Joannette has enjoyed a strong international reputation, with excellence being the hallmark of each of his directorships.

Yves Joannette received research funding from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research from 1982 to 1992 and has received numerous distinctions, including the André-Dupont Award from the Club de

recherches cliniques du Québec in 1990, and the Eve-Kassier Award in 1995 for his exceptional professional accomplishments. Yves Joanette is a fellow of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences. In 2007, he received an honorary doctorate from Université Lumière in Lyon, France.

Ms. Kasia Jurczak, Belgium



Kasia Jurczak works as a Policy Analyst in the Social Protection Unit of the European Commission's Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion. She is part of the team responsible for policy development in the areas of Health and Long-term care, as well as for follow-up to the European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations (2012).

Prior to joining the European Commission in August 2012, she worked at the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) in Vienna, where, as Programme Manager, she coordinated work on disability rights, focusing on independent living, participation, accessibility and disability mainstreaming. She also played an important role in the process of establishing the Agency as the UN CRPD Article 33 monitoring body at the EU level.

Kasia previously worked for Eurofound, a Dublin-based EU agency, as a Research Officer on working conditions and social dialogue and for EuroHealthNet, a network of public health agencies, coordinating projects on health inequalities, social exclusion and public health capacity building in Central and Eastern Europe. She also consulted for the UNDP and the OSCE in the areas of social development and democratisation.

Kasia studied Social Policy with Social Psychology at the London School of Economics and Political Science (BSc) in the UK and Comparative Social Policy at the Catholic University of Leuven (MA) in Belgium.

Kasia is a Polish national and in addition to her mother tongue, she speaks English, French and some German.

Mr. Tom Wright



Prior to joining Age UK, Tom Wright was CEO for nearly 7 years of VisitBritain, the National Tourist Board, promoting Britain around the world.

Previous experience includes the Saga Group, where he was Managing Director of Saga Holidays and a Group Board Director.

Before joining Saga he worked for Scottish and Newcastle plc developing Center Parcs in England and then in Europe. He has a marketing and commercial background having worked on such brands as KP, Anchor and Carlsberg.

