

The 2nd Asia Cosmopolitan Awards (2014)

Profiles and Basis for Selection of The Award Laureates



Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia

Grand Prize/ Manmohan Singh



Name: Manmohan Singh

Affiliation: Former Prime Minister, the Republic of India

Nationality: Indian

[Profile]

Manmohan Singh was born on September 26, 1932, in a village in the Punjab Province of undivided India. His book, *India's Export Trends and Prospects for Self-Sustained Growth* [Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1964] was an early critique of India's inward-oriented trade policy. Dr. Singh completed his matriculation examinations from the Punjab University in 1948. Dr. Singh followed this with a D. Phil in Economics from Nuffield College at Oxford University in 1962. Dr. Singh was a Secretary General of the South Commission in Geneva between 1987 and 1990, Chief Economic Advisor in the Ministry of Finance in 1972. He also spent five years between 1991 and 1996 as India's Finance Minister. Among the many awards and honours conferred upon Dr. Singh in his public career, the most prominent is India's second highest civilian honour, the Padma Vibhushan (1987). He was also been honoured by a number of other associations including the Japanese Nihon Keizai Shimbun. He was member of India's Upper House of Parliament (the Rajya Sabha) since 1991. Manmohan Singh served as Prime Minister for two terms from 2004 to 2014.

[Basis for Selection]

The winner of this year's Grand Prize of the Asia Cosmopolitan Awards sets the tone for our awards. As we would like to select a person who truly symbolizes being an "Asia Cosmopolitan" irrespective of his/her field or expertise, our unanimous choice is H.E. Dr Manmohan Singh.

Dr. Manmohan Singh has previously held many influential posts in India, including the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (1982-1995) and the Finance Minister (1991-1995).

Dr. Manmohan Singh embodies the values character and personal achievements celebrated by the Asia Cosmopolitan Awards. Having made substantial and significant contributions to the development of a peaceful and stable Asian community, to the narrowing of the development gaps in the region as well as to the establishment of sustainable social growth towards cultural and economic integration, he was responsible for starting India's conversion from an over-burdened socialist state to one that is based more on capitalist principles of openness, free trade and less governmental control. This move resulted in decreased regulation and inefficiencies and expanded tax base, enhanced job creation and increased foreign investment. India has, in the past, followed a heavy-handed government approach to regulating and controlling the economy for the purpose of redistributing some of the resources of the state via services like education, infrastructure and employment in general. However, this approach has subsequently produced a massive, bloated bureaucracy that controlled some sectors of the economy and protected other sectors from foreign competition. After decades of stagnation and inefficiency, in 1991, India put into place a crucial reform package which restructured the entire government/economy, leading to a broad-based privatization process, reduction of bureaucratic red tape and promotion of entrepreneurship. These then set India on a path of sustained economic growth and true integration into the global economy for the first time.

Dr. Singh has been the big force behind India's successful economic transformation. He continued the same successful economic reforms into his second term, largely focusing on reducing the government fiscal deficit, providing debt relief to poor farmers and advancing pro-industry economic and tax policies.

Dr. Singh is one of the most brilliant leaders in the world and is well regarded for his quiet, down-to-earth personality, traits that are quite rare among politicians. As leader of India, the largest democracies, Dr. Manmohan Singh oversaw the most multi-ethnic, multi-linguistic, multi-religious nation on earth, a model for the entire global community. We are very much inspired by his character, which is an embodiment of cosmopolitan Asia.

India is the second most populous country on the planet with 1.3 billion citizens; having been in charge of 20 percent of humanity is therefore a very important achievement in its own right.

We are therefore very proud and privileged to present H.E. Dr. Manmohan Singh with the Grand Prize of the 2nd Asia Cosmopolitan Awards.

Economic and Social Science Prize/ Peter Drysdale



Name: Peter David Drysdale
Affiliation: Emeritus Professor of Economics and
Visiting Fellow, Crawford School of
Economics and Government,
Australian
National University
Nationality: Australian

[Profile]

Peter David Drysdale is Emeritus Professor of Economics and Visiting Fellow in the Crawford School of Economics and Government in the College of Asia and the Pacific at the Australian National University. His main areas of interest are international trade and economic policy and diplomacy; the East Asian economy; Australia's economic relations with Asia and the Pacific and direct investment.

He attended the University of New England where he completed a BA (hons) majoring in economics and taught for two years. In 1967 he received his PhD at the Australian National University and in 1978 he went to Yale as Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence.

He is the author of many books and papers and his work has had considerable policy influence in Australia, East Asia and the Pacific.

[Basis for Selection]

Peter D. Drysdale has been awarded the Economic and Social Science Prize for his commitment to the region, having helped improve our understanding of and insight into economics and contributed to the advancement of social science and humanities in Asia. For one, his role as a pioneer of Japanese economic studies in the West and his work as the Founder and Executive Director of the Australia-Japan Research Centre (AJRC) was recognized by the Japanese government in 2001 when he received the *Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon*, which represents the third highest of eight classes associated with this award.

His main areas of interest are international trade and economic policy and diplomacy; the East Asian economy; Australia's economic relations with Asia and the Pacific; and foreign direct investment into the region. His expertise encompasses work on the Japanese economy and economic policy as well as Chinese trade and transformation. His academic focus includes developments in Asia Pacific economic integration and relations between East Asia, Europe, India and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC). Peter Drysdale has published numerous works on the Asia Pacific economy, International economic relations, foreign investment, Japanese economy and economic policy. Among such works are: *The G-20 Summit at Five: Time for Strategic Leadership* (Ed. With Kemal Dervis, 2014), *Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation* (Ed. With Takashi Terada, 2007) *East Asian Trade and Financial Integration: New Issues* (Ed. With Kenichi Ishigaki, 2002); *Reform and Recovery in East Asia (2000)*; *Asia Pacific Regionalism: Readings in International Economic Relations (1994)*; and *The Economics of International Pluralism: Economic Policy in East and the Pacific (1998)* which helped lay the intellectual foundation for the establishment of the APEC. His works have had considerable policy influence in Australia, East Asia and the Pacific.

His personality also represents 'Asia Cosmopolitan' being humble, accessible, generous and engaging.

Economic and Social Science Prize/ Wang Gungwu



Name: Wang Gungwu
Affiliation: University Professor, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences of National University of Singapore,
Emeritus Professor of the Australian National University
Nationality: Australian

[Profile]

Wang Gungwu is University Professor, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, National University of Singapore (NUS); and Emeritus Professor of Australian National University. He is Chairman of the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore; Chairman of the East Asian Institute and the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy at NUS.

He is Foreign Honorary Member of the American Academy of Arts and Science and former President of the Australian Academy of the Humanities.

His recent books are *Renewal: The Chinese State and the New Global History* (2013); and *Another China Cycle: Committing to Reform* (2014).

He received his BA and MA from University of Malaya in Singapore, and PhD at SOAS, London. He held the History Chair at University of Malaya in Kuala Lumpur and was Professor of Far Eastern History at The Australian National University. From 1986 to 1995, he was Vice-Chancellor (President) of The University of Hong Kong

[Basis for Selection]

Wang Gungwu has been awarded the Economic and Social Science Prize for his academic achievements and educational activities focusing on Asia and recognizing the value of intercultural exchanges.

He is one of the most eminent scholars and historians in Asia today and is

renowned for his scholarship on the history of the Chinese diaspora in Southeast Asia, and the history and civilization of China and Southeast Asia.

A well-known scholar aside, Wang Gungwu has been an inspiring educator since he embarked on an academic career first at the University of Malaya and subsequently at the Australian National University before making his mark as vice chancellor of the University of Hong Kong (1986-1995), chairman of the Institute of East Asian Political Economy (1996-1997), and director of the East Asian Institute (EAI) of the National University of Singapore (1997-2007).

He played a crucial role in enhancing diplomatic ties and facilitating academic and inter-cultural exchanges, bringing about a deeper understanding of Asia and Asian society. He was a former Chairman of the Australia-China Council (1984-1986) and a former member of the Committee on Australia-Japan Relations (1982- 1984).

His work on the identity of the Chinese overseas is highly acclaimed. His contribution to the promotion of International academic exchanges in Asian studies is much appreciated. His academic achievements are outstanding and shine brilliantly in the academic world of historical studies on Asia. These accomplishments are a guidepost and an inspiration to coming generations. He has also contributed greatly to the field of Chinese history. In his illustrious academic career, he has held eminent appointments in universities and organizations around the world.

He is a world-class historian, and has made great contributions to the world in understanding East Asia.

Professor Wang Gungwu truly deserves the Economic and Social Science Prize of the 2nd Asia Cosmopolitan Awards.

Cultural Prize / Rithy Panh



Name: Rithy Panh

Nationality: Cambodian

[Profile]

Rithy Panh was born in 1964 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Survivor of the Khmer Rouge labor camps where he lost part of his family, he arrived in France in 1980. Graduated from IDHEC (Institute for the Advanced Cinematographic Studies), he decided to devote his work as a filmmaker to a duty of remembrance. *Site II*, his first documentary is about Khmer refugee camps on the border of Thailand and Cambodia. In 2002, *S 21, The Khmer Rouge Killing Machine*, presented out of competition at the Cannes Film Festival, deals with the duty to remember. Rithy Panh has also initiated the creation of Bophana Audiovisual Resource Center opened in 2006, which purpose is to enable the Cambodian people to consult the video, audio and photo archives collected on Cambodia from all around the world.

His recent documentary film - *L'Image Manquante* (The missing picture) won the Prize of Un Certain Regard at the 2013 Cannes Festival and nominated to the 2014 Academy Awards in Foreign Language Film category.

[Basis for Selection]

The Cultural Prize of the Asia Cosmopolitan Award aims to recognize personalities for their work in cultural fields such as literature, music, painting etc. That relate to the daily economic activities of people, which contribute to the realization of the vision and ideal for the East Asian Community. The Cultural Prize of the 2nd Asia Cosmopolitan Awards has been given to Rithy Panh, a distinguished Cambodian film maker.

Rithy Panh's most important work, *The Missing Picture*, is a documentary film which depicts the tragedy caused by the massacre by the Khmer Rouge, with

an emphasis on the fundamental value of human dignity and its denial by the Khmer Rouge. The film exposes not only the fact of the genocide, the ideological deviation and enthusiasm, and International circumstances allowing them to take place, but also the falling process of Khmer Rouge and its enormous impact on Asia. Through the documentation of these facts, Rithy Panh accuses the past organized, long-term genocide in Asia, with a view to clearly represent the future of his and other Asian countries beyond such tragic experiences. The focus is on the poorest people. Each of them is depicted as an individual with a different personality whose ordinary every day work, Panh seems to believe, will bring a bright future in Asian countries. The nobility and innovative technique of the film and what might be called Asian wisdom working even in despair have shocked the International movie world.

With the formation of the ASEAN community in 2015 in view, various efforts are being made. In order to solve harder problems and confirm their solutions, it is getting all the more important to establish the ASEAN identity which should support and promote those efforts made by member countries from a higher point of view.

That is necessary in the process of finding solutions for the following fundamental questions the ASEAN countries should inevitably face: what is ASEAN? ; What does the East Asian Community mean? ; What is Asia? ; What is the purpose of economic growth?

Having won awards and established a reputation as a filmmaker in Europe and the USA, Rithy Panh plays a significant role through his work in encouraging the ASEAN countries to make final efforts in remembering the starting point at the crucial time before the final stage. He deserves the Cultural Prize of the 2nd Asia Cosmopolitan Awards which is meant to reward a person who has made a distinguished cultural contribution for the formation of the East Asian Community.

Cultural Prize / Tha Takarazuka Revue Company



Name: The Takarazuka Revue Company

Nationality: Japan

[Profile]

The Takarazuka Revue Company is a theatrical music company, consisting only of single female entertainers. Its first performance was during the year of 1914, in Takarazuka, Hyogo Prefecture, and the Company has been popular ever since. Today, over 1,300 shows are performed annually, being attended by approximately 2.5 million people. This year, 2014, the Company is proudly celebrating its 100th anniversary. The Takarazuka Revue Company is known worldwide as a theatrical company that continues to create and deliver a spectacular theatrical art stage, filled with dreams and romance, domestically as well as overseas.

[Basis for Selection]

The ASEAN Community, which is aimed to be established by 2015, consists of three pillars, namely: political, economic and cultural pillars.

This Community is meant to be a “community of caring, vibrant and open societies” where sharing and sense of common regional identity based on people-oriented thinking and respect for the region’s diversity prevail. In fostering a common identity and single community for the region, the cultural pillar plays a critical role in the formation of the ASEAN Economic Community and the ASEAN Community as a whole. Thus, the success of building a Cultural Community is extremely important.

The top priority of the Cultural Community should be placed on a greater role of education within ASEAN in helping form the ASEAN Community. And women’s social engagement that will draw vigorous support from society is an indispensable component in this development. It is in this regard that the Takarazuka Revue Company is being awarded the 2nd Asia Cosmopolitan

Prize for Culture. This all-female revue troupe has shown and proven the deep potentials that women are capable of pursuing as they played very convincingly numerous roles, including those meant for men. In so doing, they have inspired dreams and excitement for women.

This Company, born during an era when attention was just starting to be paid to women's social engagement, has continuously been referred to as the standard model in Japan.

As a specific requirement in the training of its members, all of them have to graduate from the Takarazuka School of Music where each one can develop her cultural standard as a woman and as a member of society under the motto of 'Pureness, Fairness and Grace.' This motto is considered to reflect the importance of education in general. This company started when the issue of women's social engagement was not yet familiar; and since then for the past 100 years, it has sustained its unique identity as an all-female revue troupe.

It is this kind of sublime activity that draws the pattern and model that will push for the realization of women's active commitment in society.

Looking at the Takarazuka Revue's repertoire or stage pieces, it is to be noted that the company has maintained its cultural diversity since its initial performance in 1914. Not only has it staged in-house productions but also European literature, Japanese traditional works and even cartoons, showing its great versatility. Various pieces in different genre like Shakespeare's "*Romeo and Juliet*," the American film "*Gone with the Wind*," Japanese Manga "*Roses in Versailles*" in great popularity, and Korean TV drama's "*Four God Story of the King*" have captured the hearts of fans.

(Yearly number of performance exceeds 1300 and the estimated number of audience is more than 2.5 million).

In its long history, the Takarazuka Revue has ventured to perform overseas as early as in 1938 and since then, it has performed in 25 cities in 18 countries and regions. In Asia, it held its first Southeast Asian tour in 1973 and successfully made its Chinese performance in 1999 and Korean performance in 2005.

Through such a string of activities, it has appealed to the world on the fascinating charm of women. Its core value can also be widely shared through its more active overseas presentations, including Asia, from now on, in order to help establish a sustainable and contiguous society in East Asia.