



ASIAN UNIVERSITY
FOR WOMEN

Support Foundation

Annual Report

2016



OUR CAMPUS

Asian University for Women’s 140+ acre design emerges from the unique topography of the site, local climatic conditions, and the region’s cultural heritage. Moshe Safdie and Associates, an internationally esteemed architecture firm based in Boston, Massachusetts, whose Principal was previously on the faculty of the Harvard University Graduate School of Design, designed these aesthetically inspired, functionally superb, and ecologically and environmentally sound facilities.



EDITOR: Kiko Wemmer

Dear friends,

It is an honour to present Asian University for Women Support Foundation’s 2016 Annual Report. The year under review has been eventful, and I am immensely proud of our students, staff, and stakeholders for their sustained commitment to our institution and mission. With a record-breaking 605 students currently enrolled, Asian University for Women (AUW) is bigger and better than ever.

AUW was envisioned as a place where knowledge would transform lives for the better. The progress made in this regard cannot be doubted and we now have to build on our achievements, strengthen our mission, and continue to push boundaries. Moving forward, we seek to forge new, innovative partnerships with other academic institutions. These partnerships will build on existing collaborations with governments and businesses, and together they will be decisive as AUW extends its global footprint over the coming years. Our burgeoning international network is a testament to our growing influence and reputation for excellence. As AUW continues to grow and develop, we will continue providing an ambitious, dynamic and exciting environment for all our students and staff.

“Coming to AUW was my first time being far from home. Thankfully my roommate, Sonem, helped me a lot. We have become like sisters even though she is a Bhutanese Buddhist and I am a Pakistani Muslim. When we are together we forget about our stresses and just have fun. We teach each other about our religions and our cultural traditions, and we respect each other deeply.”

SIDRAH, CLASS OF 2020

There are undoubtedly some great challenges ahead, but we believe that with your continued support we can achieve our goals. It is my hope that in just a few years’ time, I will be standing before you expounding on AUW as a leading international university positioned at the very top, making a real difference and putting education to work for the benefit of all.

Sincerely,

PROFESSOR NIRMALA RAO
Vice Chancellor-Designate from 1 February 2017



Originally from India, **Professor Rao** (left) is a distinguished political scientist who has served as Pro Director of SOAS at the University of London. She is an expert on urban governance and has published widely in the field of comparative politics and public policy. She has extensive experience in public service and has served as an advisor to a range of bodies including the UK Audit Commission, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM), and the Government of India. As Vice Chancellor, Professor Rao will be supported by Mrs. **Cherie Blair** (right) who has served as Chancellor of AUW since 2011.

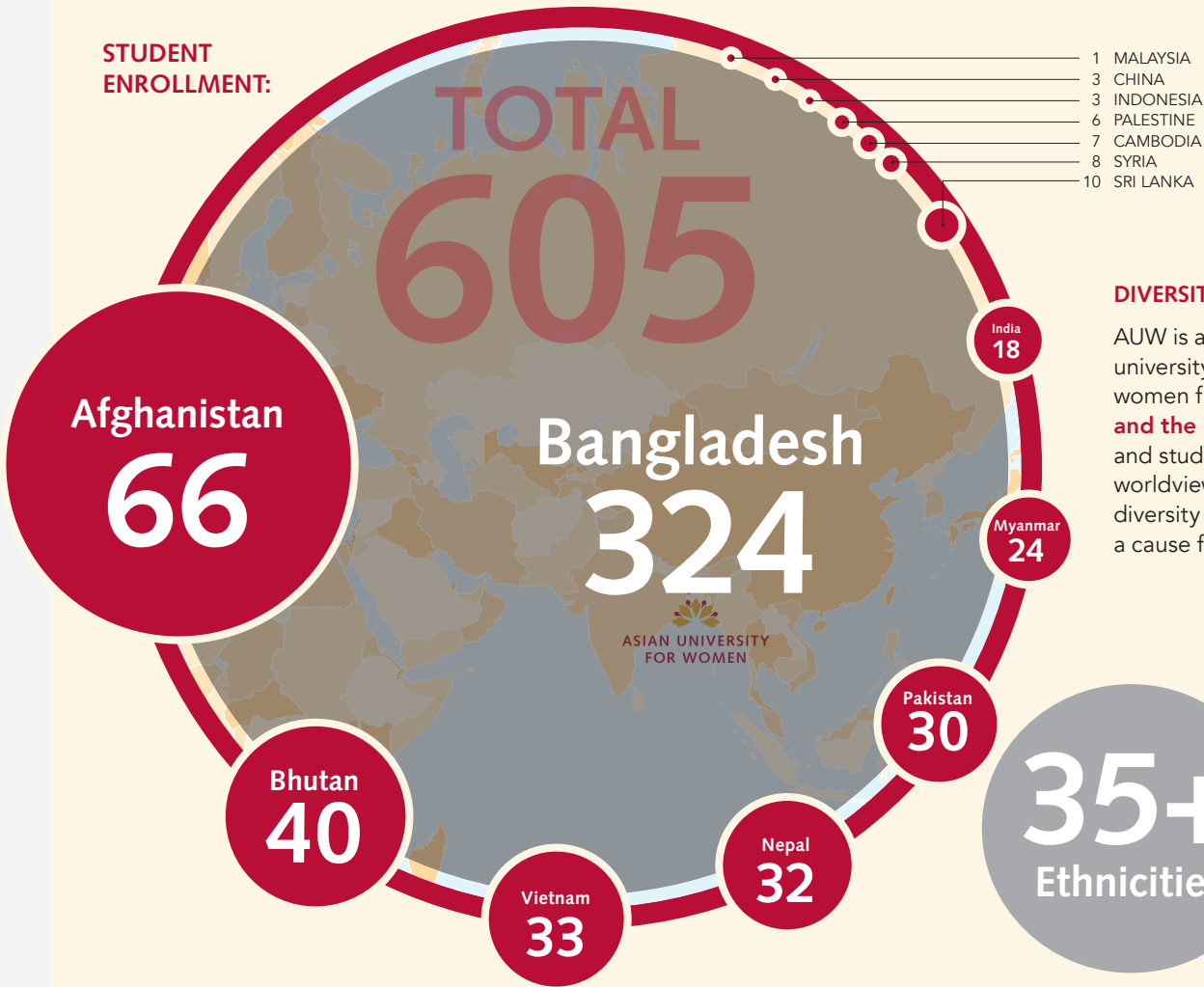


OUR MISSION

ASIAN UNIVERSITY FOR WOMEN seeks to graduate women who will be skilled and innovative professionals, service-oriented leaders in the businesses and communities in which they work and live, and promoters of intercultural understanding and sustainable human and economic development in Asia and throughout the world.

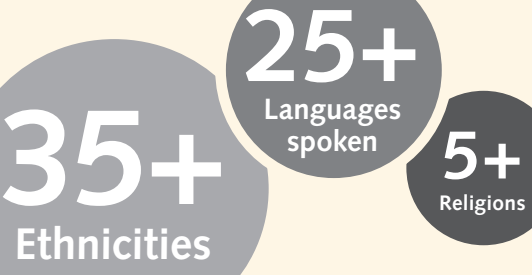


STUDENT ENROLLMENT:



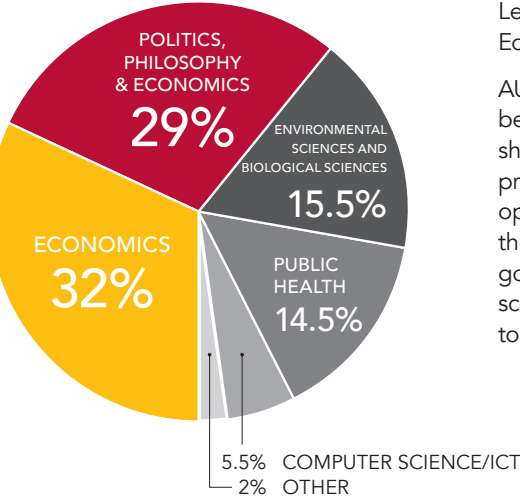
DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

AUW is an independent, international university that educates and empowers women from **15 countries across Asia and the Middle East**. Our students live and study together, expanding their worldviews and embracing cross-cultural diversity as a regional strength — not a cause for division or strife.



ACADEMICS

AUW’s liberal arts and sciences curriculum develops students’ creativity of thought and vision, critical thinking skills, and communication abilities. It is designed around a Common Core General Education Program comprising offerings in Ethical Reasoning, Social Analysis, Literature, Civilization Studies, Arts, Mathematics, Natural Sciences, and Writing Seminars. These courses link relevant regional challenges to students’ personal experiences and a global context, encouraging problem-solving that utilizes multiple perspectives. After completion of the Common Core, students choose from among four Majors and optional Minors.



AUW exists to overcome barriers which prevent women from earning an excellent university education and realizing their full potential. To enable this journey, AUW offers two preparatory programs: *Pathways for Promise*, an intensive English language and Mathematics training program where students gain the academic competencies to pursue a university education; and *Access Academy*, a foundation year of courses focused on English communication skills, critical thinking, problem-solving and strategies for life-long learning. In *Access Academy*, students take courses in Language and Composition, Reading across Disciplines, World Civilizations, Geography, Computer Literacy, Calculus, Leadership Seminars and Physical Education.

AUW’s mission rests on the unshakable belief that a lack of financial resources should not exclude women of great promise and courage from educational opportunities. Therefore AUW relies on the generosity of individuals, corporations, governments and foundations to support scholarships which allow AUW students to receive a world-class education.

As a result of scholarships and specially designed preparatory programs, AUW has successfully recruited promising young leaders from all backgrounds, including garments factories, refugee communities, daughters of microfinance borrowers, and diverse communities across conflicted areas such as Afghanistan and Myanmar.

DR. ROSIE BATESON
Dean of Faculty and Academic Affairs



As Dean of Faculty and Academic Affairs, Dr. Rosie Bateson (above) oversees the development of all academic programming and faculty professional development. Prior to joining AUW, Dr. Rosie Bateson spent over two decades in senior management positions at higher education institutions in Hungary, Indonesia, and Scotland.

FACULTY RESEARCH

Although AUW is a teaching and learning focused institution, our faculty continue to actively engage in research and publication. Here is a report on recent publications by faculty.

BOOKS
Amin, Sara N., Ganepola, Varuni, and Dissanayake, L. (Eds). *Changing Nature of Forced Migration: Vulnerabilities and Responsibilities in South and Southeast Asia*. Dhaka: The University Press Limited, 2016.

Protracted conflicts, unequal burden sharing, climate change, globalization, and shifting policies regarding immigration, asylum, work and development are changing the nature of forced displacements and blurring the line between forced migration and economic migration. This book looks at migration dynamics of South and Southeast Asia examining these shifts to contribute to a more interdisciplinary and comprehensive picture of migration for both research and policy-making. The authors highlight research about migration patterns of groups that are often invisible in the study of migration—women, IDPs, environmental refugees and migrants, South-South migrants, and those that stay behind.

Salton, Herman T. *Dangerous Diplomacy*. Oxford University Press. (Forthcoming).
Professor Salton’s forthcoming book reassesses the role of the United Nations Secretariat during the Rwandan genocide. With the help of new archival materials and interviews, it situates the Rwanda operation within the context of bureaucratic and political friction existing at Headquarters in the early 1990s. The book looks at the multifarious ways in which this confrontation impacted the Rwanda mission, including through a lack of coordination on issues as diverse as reconnaissance, political analysis, intelligence, and crisis management. Yet *Dangerous Diplomacy* goes beyond these institutional pathologies and identifies the conceptual origins of the Rwanda failure in the gray area that separates peacebuilding and peacekeeping. The difficulty of distinguishing these two key UN functions, coupled with the creative tension between Secretary-General and member-states, explains why six decades after the birth of the UN, it has still not been possible to demarcate the roles of several UN departments.

Cone, Tiffany. *Charismatic Power: A study of Islamic leadership practices in China* (provisional title). Palgrave MacMillan, USA. (Forthcoming, March 2017).

ARTICLES AND CHAPTERS
Amin, Sara Nuzhat, & Ganepola, Varuni, et. al. (2015) “Beyond Classroom Knowledge and Experience: How Can Fieldwork Enrich Students’ Learning and Perception on Gender?” In Vasilikie Demos & Marcia Texler Segal (Eds.) *At the Center: Feminism, Social Science and Knowledge* (Advances in Gender Research, Volume 20). Emerald Group Publishing Limited, pp.199–222.

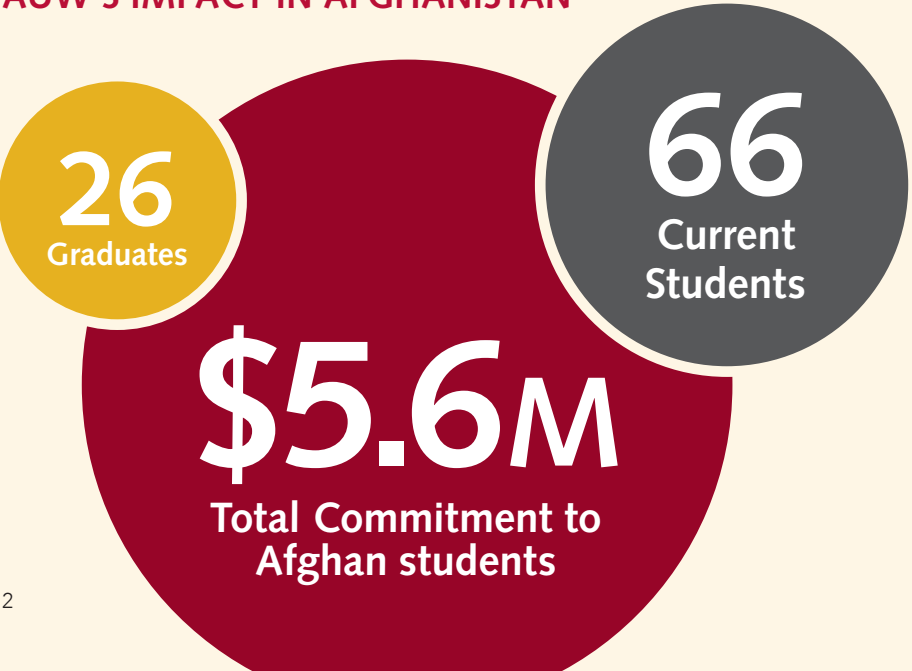
Bhuiyan, Mohammed Moniruzzaman and Muhammad Zakaria. “Determinants of Male Involvement in Women’s Reproductive health: A Multilevel Study in Bangladesh.” *Malaysian Journal of Public Health Medicine*, vol. 16(3), 2016, pp. 211–218.

Cone, Tiffany. “Sounding the Soul: Mysticism and Music on Film.” *The Asia Pacific Journal of Anthropology (TAPJA)*, Issue 18/2, 2017.

Alam N, Chowdhury ME, Kuanda S, Alam A, Sia D, Seppe M, Sawadogo J, Fournier P. “Role of transportation to access maternal care services for women in rural Burkina Faso and Bangladesh: a mixed method study.” *Int J Gynecol Obstet*, 2016.

Sumon KA, Rico A, Horst MT, Van den Brink P, Haque MM, **Rashid H.** *Risk assessment of pesticides used in rice-prawn concurrent systems in Bangladesh*. Science of the Total Environment, 2016, pp. 568: 498–506.

COUNTRY SPOTLIGHT
AUW’S IMPACT IN AFGHANISTAN



AFGHAN STUDENT INTERNSHIP EXAMPLES:
BRAC-Afghanistan
Government of Afghanistan
Human Rights Commission, Afghanistan
Korean Export Import Bank, South Korea
Li & Fung, Bangladesh
Ministry of Counter Narcotics, Government of Afghanistan
WBB Trust, Bangladesh

POST-AUW PLACEMENT EXAMPLES:
Afghanistan Human Rights and Democracy Organization (AHRDO)
American University of Afghanistan
Ministry of Counter Narcotics, Government of Afghanistan
Ministry of Information & Communication Technology, Government of Afghanistan
Open Society Afghanistan
Stanford University
The Office of the First Lady of Afghanistan

► **Mursal Hamraz, Class of 2014** | Afghanistan | **Major:** Economics
Despite growing up in a Taliban-ruled area of Kabul, Mursal was surrounded by strong women who valued education. The youngest of nine children, she remembers her sister lying to Taliban authorities about teaching girls in their home. As a teenager, Mursal witnessed her mother — a woman who was forced to stop school after 9th grade to get married — pursue a tertiary degree. Mursal has never forgotten her roots.

As an AUW student, Mursal volunteered at JAAGO Foundation and co-founded Center for Leadership Assistance and Promotion (CLAP) to support Chittagong’s slum children and transgender communities. She was also selected to be a World Pulse Voices of Our Future correspondent in 2010, and an AUW representative at the U.S.-Afghan Women’s Council meeting in 2011.

After graduation, Mursal worked in the Government of Afghanistan’s Ministry of Counter Narcotics, where she previously interned. She evaluated the efficacy of women’s vocational training and treatment at drug addiction rehabilitation centers. She also created a media campaign to promote awareness about sexual harassment in the workplace. Now Mursal works in the Office of the First Lady of Afghanistan — a dream job which allows her to generate positive change for Afghan women.



In July 2016, Afghan students and alumnae met with First Lady of Afghanistan Rula Ghani at the Presidential Palace of Afghanistan. From left, **Hosai Barakzay** (Class of 2018), **Fatima Sabri** (Class of 2014), **Marvah Shakib** (Class of 2014), First Lady **Rula Ghani**, **Fatima Hashimi** (Class of 2016), and **Mursal Hamraz** (Class of 2014).

GARMENTS WORKERS & ROHINGYA WOMEN ENTER AUW THROUGH NEW PATHWAYS FOR PROMISE PROGRAM

To further deepen AUW’s reach into communities that remain underserved, this year AUW launched *Pathways for Promise*. This program offers an additional year of English and Math preparation ahead of the usual Access Academy year. As a result, AUW is able to create an unprecedented channel for educating women from several of the most neglected and oppressed groups of women.

Creating Opportunities for Female Garments Workers. Bangladesh has nearly four million women who work in this export sector. AUW reasoned that any group that large must have some extraordinary talent. In collaboration with a select group of factory owners, AUW offered admissions tests on the shop floors of factories. Participating factory owners offered a huge incentive: workers accepted for admission would continue to receive their monthly wages throughout all five years of study at AUW. Still, nobody knew if any of the workers would try. Over a thousand did, and now, more than 30 former garments workers are enrolled in *Pathways*. **IKEA Foundation**, one of AUW’s most generous and long-standing partners, provided all the financial support to make this program possible.

Educating Rohingya Women. Rohingya ethnic minorities have long been persecuted, both as unrecognized citizens in Myanmar and unwanted immigrants in Bangladesh. In collaboration with Rohingya community leaders, 50 women from Rohingya communities in Bangladesh and Myanmar have enrolled in *Pathways*. Upon graduation from AUW, they will quite possibly represent the largest single cohort of Rohingya women educated to such a high level. **Open Society Foundations** created by **George Soros** was one of AUW’s earliest supporters, and they have extended their support for the education of Rohingya women.

THANK YOU, SPONSORS:

Pathways for Promise engages all levels of the garments industry supply chain: factories continue to pay wages to women who leave the shop floor to study at AUW, foundations representing the top players within the industry provide scholarship funds, and retailers host students as interns exploring managerial opportunities. AUW is pleased to be partnering with a number of garments factories in Bangladesh. Current students enrolled in *Pathways* have come to AUW after working for **Mohammadi Group, Youngone, Ananta Group, Pou Chen Group, Simba Fashions, Knit Concern**, and **Sunman Group**. AUW is also grateful to **IKEA Foundation** and **Open Society Foundations** for their early support and belief in the transformative power of *Pathways for Promise*.



“Within Youngone’s broad commitment to supporting socioeconomic development of the countries in which we operate, promoting gender equality is one of the key focus areas for me. I look forward to witnessing the development and success of the female employees whom we are proudly supporting to participate in AUW’s *Pathways for Promise* program.”

RAE EUN SUNG
Executive Vice President of Youngone Corporation



“I was thrilled to be the first factory to partner with AUW’s *Pathways for Promise* program. This innovative initiative is a beacon of hope that lights the way for all women in Bangladesh to believe that they too can pursue higher education and fulfill their potential. Mohammadi Group is thrilled to witness our former employees succeeding at AUW, and we look forward to seeing more enroll in the coming years.”

RUBANA HUQ
Managing Director of Mohammadi Group and AUW Trustee

“*Pathways for Promise* is integral to realizing AUW’s mission to empower women through education and therefore change the course of their lives. The IKEA Foundation is thrilled to have supported the pilot phase of this programme, enabling more than 15 women to leave their garment factory jobs and work toward university degrees. The *Pathways for Promise* model echoes the IKEA Foundation’s commitment to continually seek the most innovative programmes to help women who might not otherwise have opportunities to thrive. It is empowering these talented women to contribute to the sustainable human and economic development of Asia.”

PER HEGGENES
CEO of IKEA Foundation



“Growing up in the Chittagong Hill Tracts was challenging. I helped my mother cook, milk the family cow, and collect water from the river before school every day. After I completed household chores, I walked two and a half hours to school. In the evenings, I studied by candlelight because my family had no electricity. It was exhausting, but I was determined to complete all of my schoolwork.

Though life was not easy, I have happy memories of my school days in the Hill Tracts. A joyful time for everyone was when all the hill tribes gathered for a New Year festival called Beihai. We would eat special food, sing traditional songs and perform tribal dances. At the *Pathways for Promise* Talent Show hosted by AUW in October 2016, I performed one of these dances for my schoolmates. I danced with a bottle on my head, which is a symbol of luck. It is a sign of bad luck if the bottle falls and breaks, but when I danced in front of my classmates at AUW, the bottle on my head didn’t fall! In fact, I knew it wouldn’t fall, because I know I am so lucky to be in the *Pathways for Promise* program, and I believe I am going to have a very good five years here!”

MRASHANGCHING MARMA
Pathways student (back row, third from right)



“At my previous school, there were 70 students in my only class and my English teacher didn’t use any English in the classroom. Eventually I had to leave school altogether to work. Getting a job in a garments factory was a big relief for my family and me, because my father is a farmer and it was difficult for him to make ends meet. Still, I had no idea where this garments job was going to take me or if I would be working there for the rest of my life. Fortunately, I was invited to take an admissions test for the AUW *Pathways for Promise* program and I passed! When I started at AUW, I felt quite nervous because I thought my English was not good enough, but I soon made friends and my teachers have been very friendly and supportive. I feel much more confident now and I must say that the opportunity to come to AUW has been the greatest gift of my entire life.”

CHUMA CHAKMA
Pathways student



▼ Rimu Byadya, Class of 2014

Bangladesh
Major: Public Health Studies

Rimu comes from a Hindu village one hour away from Chittagong. She grew up in a one-bedroom home shared with four other family members. Her mother is a housewife with eight years of education; her father is a poultry famer. Rimu remembers neighbors who would hassle her parents for investing in her education: “Why do you send your daughters to school? Educating girls is no use!” Not to be discouraged, Rimu left home at age 15 to pursue a better education than what her village could provide. She discovered AUW at an internet café, although somebody had to help her because she did not know how to use computers at the time.

Now Rimu is an international change maker. Prior to graduation, she studied at Lund University in Sweden on an exchange program. After graduation, she was recruited into the BRAC Young Professionals Program, where she came out at the top of her class. Through BRAC, she has worked with Ebola survivors in Liberia and Sierra Leone. She has also directly engaged with Bangladeshi populations to improve maternal, neonatal and child care in rural areas. Now Rimu is a Senior Sector Specialist for the Health, Nutrition and Population Program at BRAC. In Rimu’s words: **“AUW prepares women to be leaders in their country, and I always wanted to be one to bring positive changes in people’s lives through my education and work.”**



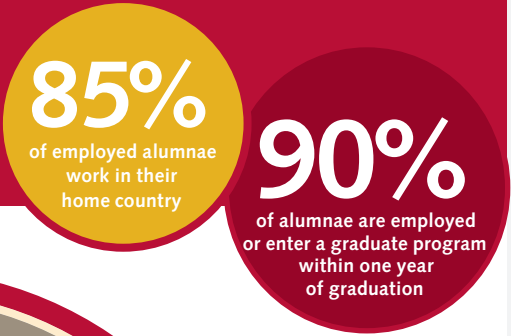
OUR IMPACT

Let us be clear: AUW is a university rooted in knowledge for service, not an ivory tower isolated from the imperatives of change. AUW is not a place where women go to retreat from the realities of the world or the needs of their community. It is not a place of escape; it is a place of study, contemplation, and deliberate engagement.

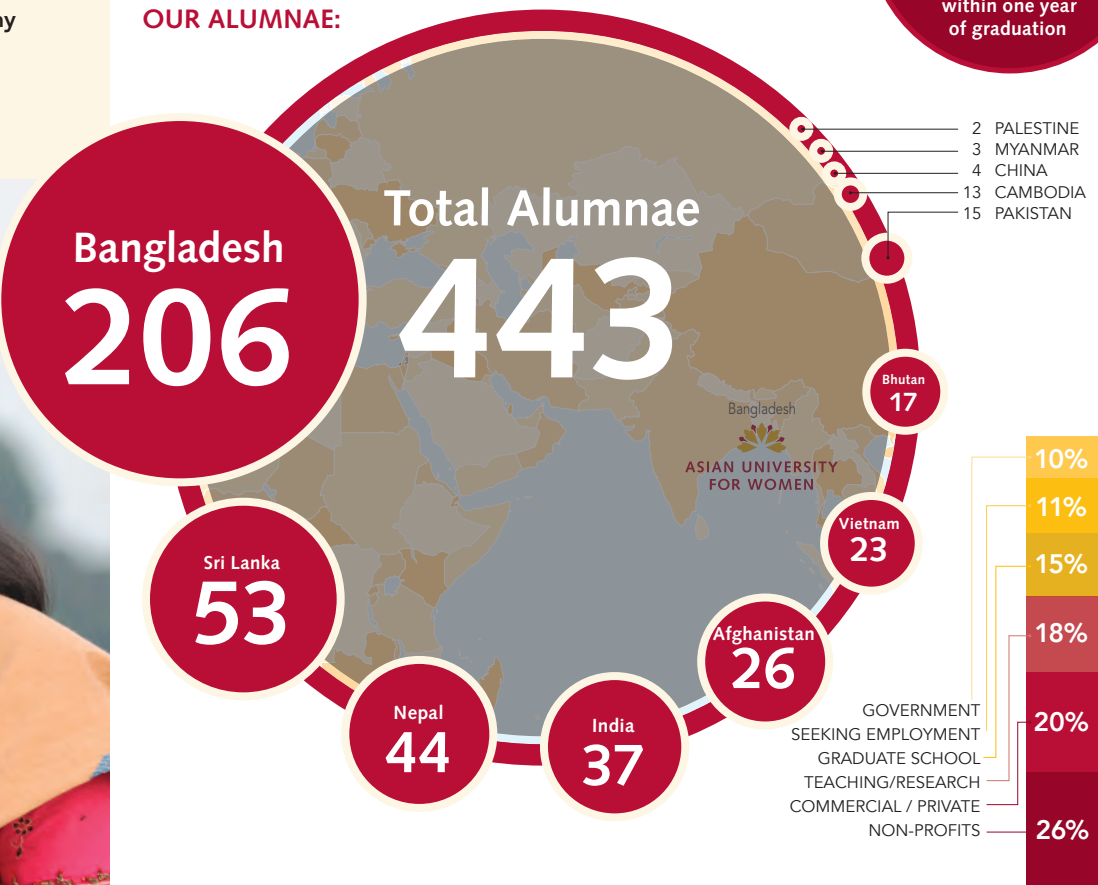
Our students and graduates welcome the challenge of promoting cross-cultural tolerance in places where ethnic strife stunts economic development and political progress. Our students and graduates actively seek opportunities to revitalize their community through improved education, healthcare, and environmental conservation. Our students are taught from their very first day on campus that they are expected to be ethical, innovative leaders, and that such leaders do not turn away from struggle, sacrifice, or human suffering.

85% of employed AUW alumnae work in their home country. They have the skills to get a job anywhere in the world, but they elect to stay where they are needed most — in their own communities.

Our students and graduates have courage, empathy, and a sense of outrage at injustice. They come to AUW to nurture these traits and use them for the common good.



OUR ALUMNAE:



“It is a great opportunity to welcome students from the new markets where L’OREAL is developing its activities. This is why L’OREAL is partnering with AUW as part of its extended search of talents and is supporting young women with excellent academic records from diverse countries in Asia. L’OREAL is offering scholarships and internship opportunities in China, India, Vietnam and France. Thanks to AUW’s extended curriculum, we are confident that we could soon welcome on board graduates from AUW.”

JÉRÔME TIXIER
Executive Vice President Human Resources and Advisor to the Chairman at L’Oréal

GRADUATE SCHOOL PLACEMENT EXAMPLES

AUSTRALIA Holmes Institute La Trobe University Macquarie University RMIT University University of Queensland University of Technology Sydney University of Western Sydney	HUNGARY Central European University	SRI LANKA Royal Institute of Colombo University of Colombo University of Peradeniya Vidura College
BANGLADESH American International University of Bangladesh Bangladesh Agricultural University Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) BRAC University Chittagong University East Delta University North South University State University of Bangladesh University of Dhaka	INDIA Ashoka University Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management Mahatma Gandhi University Manonmaniam Sundaranar University South Asian University St. Xavier’s College TERI University	SWEDEN Lund University Umea University
BELGIUM Vrije Universiteit Brussels	INDONESIA Seameo Reconn University of Indonesia	UNITED KINGDOM London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine Oxford University School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London University of Bradford University of Durham University of East Anglia University of Nottingham-Malaysia University of Surrey
BHUTAN College of Natural Resources	IRELAND Trinity College	UNITED STATES Brandeis University Columbia University Florida International University George Mason University Illinois State University New York University School for International Training Southern Illinois University Stanford University University of Colorado-Anschutz University of Massachusetts-Lowell University of Utah Wright State University
CANADA University of Guelph	ITALY University of Trento	
COSTA RICA University for Peace	JAPAN United Nations University	
FINLAND University of Tampere	MALAYSIA Universiti Kebangsaan	
GERMANY Goethe Universität - Frankfurt am Main Ruhr University University of Duisburg-Essen University of Hamburg	NEPAL Merryland College Biratnagar Nepal Engineering College Center	
	NETHERLANDS Wageningen University	
	PAKISTAN Al Shifa Trust Eye Hospital (Quaid.e.azam University)	
	RUSSIA Ural Federal University	
	SOUTH KOREA Ewha Womans University Yonsei University	



“At AUW, you have studied and lived together with students from 15 countries. You have celebrated festivals and sacred occasions of virtually every creed. You have learned the dance and music and language and customs of your classmates from home and faraway places. You have debated ideas, right or wrong, and found threads that bound all of us together.

Sadly many places around the world are witnessing a rise in intolerance and disrespect for views and practices of others. As AUW graduates, therefore, you have a particular obligation to be beacons of equality and tolerance, and to help safeguard the values that make human existence meaningful.”
— Dr. Dipu Moni, Chair of AUW Board of Trustees, Commencement 2016

INTERNSHIPS

Internships allow students to network and build their professional portfolios, while earning credit toward graduation and exploring ways to follow their passions in the working world. Here are just a few of the organizations that provided opportunities to AUW students and graduates for internships during summer 2016:

- Abbott (India and Vietnam)
- AIA Insurance (Hong Kong)
- KEXIM Bank (South Korea)
- Li & Fung (Hong Kong)
- L’Oréal (France and India)
- Tory Burch (Hong Kong)
- Unilever (Bangladesh)
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (Bangladesh)
- UNIQLO (Bangladesh, Japan, and Thailand)
- VF Corporation (Hong Kong)



From left, Sharmin Jahan (Class of 2017), Sonia Akter (Class of 2016), Moury Rahman (Class of 2017), Yang Zhong Cuo (Class of 2017), and Sanjida Afrin (Class of 2017) interned at AIA Hong Kong during summer 2016. We would like to thank AIA Hong Kong’s CEO, Mark Tucker, for generously supporting our students as they gained valuable work experience.

OUR SUPPORTERS

COUNCIL OF PATRONS

Our Council of Patrons actively promote and advocate for AUW and its students on a global scale. **Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina** is the Chief Patron under the Charter of the University. Our other Patrons include First Lady of Japan Akie Abe; UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova; Former Chief Secretary of Hong Kong, Anson Chan; and Denmark’s Former Minister of the Environment, Lone Dybkjaer. This year we are honored to introduce our new Patron: **Her Royal Highness the Grand-Duchess Maria Teresa of Luxembourg**.

The Grand-Duchess of Luxembourg has long been committed to fostering efforts that empower young girls and women through education, improve their living conditions and work against juvenile prostitution. In addition to her support of AUW, Her Royal Highness has been a UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador since 1997 where she is involved with UNESCO’s *Breaking the Poverty Cycle of Women: Empowering Adolescent Girls to Become Agents of Social Transformation*, an initiative that helps adolescent girls in Bangladesh, Nepal, India and Pakistan.



Students who held internships in Hong Kong met with AUW Patron and Former Chief Secretary of Hong Kong, **Anson Chan**, in August 2016.



“The Asian University For Women is one of the universities that contribute to the empowerment of women by educating them to obtain positions of leadership in the Asian region. This enables them to take on roles in society they could never have imagined before.”

HRH THE GRAND-DUCHESS MARIA TERESA OF LUXEMBOURG

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AUW AWARD TO UNIQLO FOUNDER MR. TADASHI YANAI
for Outstanding Contribution to the Advancement of Women’s Education & Empowerment

Artist, Entrepreneur, Builder, Business Leader. In just three decades you have taken your father’s shop in Ube to a global brand that is everywhere in Japan and, increasingly, around the world in London, New York, Paris, Moscow and Shanghai. At the heart of your success has been not only an uncanny and unique understanding of business management, but also a sense of art and light as both the spaces that house Uniqlo stores and the products themselves so clearly convey. When most retailers in the world were languishing in the face of general economic malaise, you led Uniqlo to accelerate all the charts in an unprecedented way to bring Uniqlo ever closer to your goal of making it the largest retailer in the world by 2050.

Philosopher. You have highlighted a path to change that happens naturally as a function of business logic and success and thereby have avoided the hard resistance that change often suffers. You have stated that “the more globalized we become, it is inevitable that more top managers will be women. Next year or the year after that about half of the people will be non-Japanese, and three years down the road, two-thirds of our employees will be non-Japanese...” You have coined the motto Global is Local, Local is Global within Uniqlo as a way of emphasizing how we must indeed connect our local advantages to parlay those into the larger world.

You have also powerfully advocated for economic empowerment and success as a basic step in creating a just future for poor people. You have stated, “Unless each one of those labourers and all the people in Bangladesh can stand on their own feet, they will have no future.”

Philanthropist. Your economic philosophy has not precluded you from sharing your wealth and generosity with people in need. The Tohoku earthquake prompted you to give ¥1 billion to aid the victims of that terrible natural disaster; you have created a \$10 million fund for children. The Asian University for Women is grateful for your support to help educate women from around Asia who would not have otherwise had such an opportunity.

In acknowledgement of your vision of a more global and just world, your impressive efforts to achieve your goals through business and philanthropy, and your contribution to the Asian University for Women, we do hereby confer upon you the 2015 AUW Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Advancement of Women’s Education & Empowerment.

ANDY MATSUI LAUNCHES NEW ENDOWMENT AT AUW

In January 2016, Andy Matsui announced a \$1 million gift to AUW in honor of his daughter Kathy, so that deserving women will be able to access the liberal arts and sciences education which AUW offers.

Like many AUW students, Andy Matsui grew up in a rural village. He was not encouraged to pursue a university education. Instead, he was expected to remain on the family farm to care for his parents and siblings. Again like many AUW students, however, Andy also fought to defy cultural conventions and succeed on his own terms. He sailed from Japan to America with \$28 in 1961, and eventually became the founder, owner and president of Matsui Nursery, America’s largest orchid nursery. Having never attended college himself, Andy now donates millions to The Matsui Foundation so children of immigrants may earn a university education.



In May 2016, **Kathy Matsui** met with AUW Chief Patron, **Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina**, at the Embassy of Bangladesh in Tokyo. Kathy apprised the Prime Minister of widespread and growing support of AUW. From left, **Bangladesh Foreign Minister A. H. Md. Ali**, **Sheikh Rehana**, **Prime Minister Hasina**, **Kathy Matsui**, and **Bangladesh Ambassador to Japan Rabab Fatima**.

Andy’s courage, self-reliance and generosity have been a blueprint for his four children, who all graduated from Harvard and became leaders in business and medicine. His daughter Kathy Matsui is Vice Chairman at Goldman Sachs Japan and AUW Co-Founder. In January 2016, Andy announced a \$1 million gift to AUW in honor of Kathy, so that more deserving

women will be able to access the world-class liberal arts and sciences education which AUW offers.

To honor Andy’s wishes, AUW Support Foundation has pledged to match Andy’s gift with an additional \$5 million to establish the Matsui Family Endowment. Andy’s gift has already stimulated accordant financial support from Bloomberg L.P., Mr. Eiichiro Kuwana and Mrs. Yumi Kuwana. This endowment will serve as an enduring testament to Andy’s courage, empathy, and commitment to justice, which are the exact qualities that define AUW students and alumnae. Like Andy, these brave women represent what Kathy has called “the pebbles thrown into the pond, eventually having positive ripple effects on the rest of their communities for generations to come.” By ensuring enduring support for future AUW students, Andy has shown through his powerful example that just one courageous and hardworking individual can take charge of his or her fate and ultimately transform the lives of thousands of people, their families, and their communities for years to come.

From left, **Mrs. Yasuko Matsui** and **Mr. Andy Matsui** with daughters **Kathy Matsui**, AUW Co-Founder, and **Teresa Matsui** in California.



OUR EVENTS

AUW supporters live all around the world, joining each other in cities such as Tokyo, New York, Hong Kong, and London to hold events related to the causes of women’s education and international development. Below is a collection of highlights from various AUW events in 2016.

2016

- MarchTokyo: 7th Annual Japan Support Group Event
- MaySeoul: 7th Asian Leadership Conference
- Hong Kong: Asia Society Panel with Professor Sheena Iyengar of Columbia Business School and AUWSF Board Members
- Chittagong: Fourth Commencement
- JuneHong Kong: HK Support Group Boomba 51 Event
- SeptemberNew York: Lunch Event with First Lady of Japan Akie Abe
- OctoberLondon: House of Lords dinner hosted by Lord Raj Loomba
- Boston: Special event to confer a Doctorate of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*, upon Professor Henry Rosovsky

LONDON, ENGLAND

AUW friend and supporter **Lord Raj Loomba** hosted a special event at the House of Lords in London, entitled “Inspire, Empower, Educate: Lessons from the Asian University for Women.” The event brought together some of AUW’s most eminent supporters and other prominent individuals. The event featured speeches by AUW Chancellor **Cherie Blair**; long-time AUW supporter **Lord Mark Malloch Brown**; Dr. **Meredith Woo**, Director of the International Higher Education Support Program at Open Society Foundations; and three AUW graduates, **Mowmita Basak** from Bangladesh (Class of 2013), **Priyanka Shrestha** from Nepal (Class of 2015), and **Savitri Kumari** from Jharkhand State in India (Class of 2015). Savitri shared, “I cannot imagine pursuing higher education if I had not received a scholarship to AUW. I owe so much to all the unknown faces who have supported me throughout my education. Now I feel obligated to pay this generosity back to other children like me, who might not have the necessary resources to pursue an education.” Savitri is now pursuing an M.Sc. in Environmental Change and Management at Oxford University. Priyanka is earning her graduate degree in Infectious Disease Control at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. After serving as the inaugural Coordinator for Pathways for Promise, Mowmita is now pursuing an M.A. in Public Policy at Oxford University.

“AUW students are recruited for their courage, empathy, intelligence, and perseverance. They are stimulated to think out of the box, to use their creativity, and to have trust in themselves. They are also taught to deal with diversity. Anybody who wants to make a difference in our world today has to have these skills and the ability to see diversity as a strength. It is this vision that makes me proud and honored to be part of AUW.”

KATHLEEN FERRIER

independent Expert Review Group (iERG) on Information and Accountability on Women’s, Children’s and Adolescent’s Health; former member of the Dutch House of Representatives



From left, **Joel Lin**; **Alice Lin**, founding board member of AUWSF (HK) Ltd. and AUW Support Group in Singapore; and **Lord Raj Loomba**.



From left: **Ahmad Y. A. Alnafisi**, former member of the Kuwait Parliament and current member of the Kuwaiti Democratic Forum; AUW Chancellor **Cherie Blair**; **Mrs. Lulwa Al-Mulla**, Leader of AUW Support Group in Kuwait; and **Rebecca Ip**, AUWSF (HK) Ltd. Board Member.



We are grateful to **First Lady of Japan Akie Abe** (right) and Chair of AUW Board of Trustees **Dr. Dipu Moni** (left) for sharing their time and insight at the discussion event, “A Seat at the Table: How Women’s Education and Leadership Shapes Strong Communities,” sponsored by Abbott. Mrs. Abe spoke about her passion for women’s education and how important education has been in her own life. Mrs. Abe championed the need for more women leaders to better our world and society.



Katherine Pickus, Divisional Vice President of Global Citizenship & Policy at Abbott, with AUW alumnae (from left) **Saren Keang** from Cambodia (Class of 2014), **Anowara Begum** from Bangladesh (Class of 2014), and **Bich Tran** from Vietnam (Class of 2016) at a round table event with **First Lady of Japan Akie Abe** in New York City in September 2016. The event was hosted by Abbott.



In May 2016, AUWSF (HK) Ltd. held a dialogue about choice at the Asia Society in Hong Kong. Professor **Sheena Iyengar**, AUWSF Board Member and inaugural S.T. Lee Professor of Business at Columbia Business School, gave the keynote address. From left, **Craig Dana**, **Abbi DeLessio**, **Katharina Reimer**, Professor **Sheena Iyengar**, **Läle Kesebi**, **Lynne Anne Davis**, **Alice Lin**, and **Rebecca Ip**.



In October 2016, Marriott International continued its commitment to empowering women and celebrating their success by hosting its 3rd annual Asia Pacific Women in Leadership Conference in Hong Kong. This year, Marriott lauded 150 high-achieving women and their supporters, including from right, AUW Founder **Kamal Ahmad**, **Mursal Hamraz** from Afghanistan (Class of 2014), AUWSF (HK) Ltd. Board Co-Chair **Lynne Anne Davis**, and **Rimu Byadya** from Bangladesh (Class of 2014).

HENRY ROSOVSKY

In October 2016, AUW conferred upon Professor Henry Rosovsky a Doctorate of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*, for his unfaltering and earnest support of the University. AUW Co-Founders Kamal Ahmad and Jack Meyer led a heartwarming ceremony at the Harvard Faculty Club, which included Professor Rosovsky's colleagues, friends, and family. They convened to celebrate Professor Rosovsky's many contributions to AUW, Harvard University, and the lives of thousands of students and academics around the world.

Professor Derek C. Bok, who served as President of Harvard University from 1971 to 1991 spoke on the occasion, as did Jack Meyer, Co-Founder of AUW and former President of Harvard Management Company. Jack Meyer shared, **"It can be difficult to predict or measure how our work touches the lives of others. In the case of AUW, Professor Rosovsky should harbor no doubt that a thousand women, their families, and their communities are reaching to the future on a different trajectory thanks to his efforts to establish a world-class women's university for the most talented students of Asia and the Middle East."** President Bok noted Professor Rosovsky's uncanny ability to galvanize faculty, students, and colleagues, and how, unlike many leaders who are fueled by ambition, Professor Rosovsky is fueled by the power of optimism and a belief that there is always a way to foster a more just world.



Professor Rosovsky's wife, **Nitza**, gave a heartwarming recount of her first date with Professor Rosovsky. Not yet a professor, "Henry" encouraged Nitza to skip class and watch the play *Diary of Anne Frank* with him.

Saren Keang from Cambodia, Class of 2014, (right) and **Jampa Latso** from Tibet, Class of 2015, (left) shared their experiences and how their lives have changed as a result of Professor Rosovsky's work. Together with Jack Meyer, Kamal Ahmad, Kathleen Pike and Catherine Watters-Sasanuma, they presented a Doctorate of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*, to Professor **Rosovsky** (center).



President
Derek C. Bok



AUW Co-Founders from left, **Kamal Ahmad**, Professor **Henry Rosovsky**, and **Jack Meyer**.



AUW Trustees **Dr. Dipu Moni** (center left) and **Young Joon Kim** (center right) cut cake at AUW's 2016 Commencement ceremony.

AUW IN THE NEWS

Huq, Rubana. "My Heroes." *The Daily Star* 27 Jan. 2016.

"AUW offers free education to female RMG workers." *The Daily Star* 25 Jan. 2016.

"Dipu Moni elected AUW chairman." *Prothom Alo* 1 Mar. 2016.

Lazarus, Sarah. "Dresses to degrees: university opens its doors to Bangladesh garment workers." *The Guardian* 28 Mar. 2016.

"AUW shows true leadership with scholarships for garment workers." *Dhaka Tribune* 4 April 2016.

Burrows, Lauren. "Beyond the factory floor." *Atlas of the Future* 16 April 2016.

Bhalla, Nita. "Fashion's deadliest disaster prompts Bangladeshi workers to opt for university." *Thomson Reuters Foundation* 25 April 2016.

"AUW alumna helps change the game for women in Computer Science." *Dhaka Tribune* 28 April 2016.

"MetLife Foundation to Support Access Academy Program at Asian University for Women." *Business Wire* 10 May 2016.

"Investing in Bangladesh Girls' Education." *Nikkei Asian Review* 30 August 2016.

"The Worker's Revolution." *The Daily Star* 4 Nov. 2016.

Elmes, John. "Interview with Nirmala Rao." *Times Higher Education* 10 Nov. 2016.

"What are the benefits of a women-only institution? It supports women's leadership. It is a refuge, a thinktank, allowing students to hone their inherent leadership skills that are still not widely recognized in our many male-dominated societies. Students can freely discuss the obstacles and challenges facing women across the world and share ideas on how to redirect the course for women.... An all-women's university also gives parents of girls who would like to attend university the comfort and ease of knowing she will be at an institution with only women. These are genuine issues for many communities in South and Southeast Asia."

PROFESSOR NIRMALA RAO
Times Higher Education interview, 10 Nov. 2016

INTERVIEW WITH JACK MEYER

AUW Co-Founder Jack Meyer is one of AUW’s earliest and most committed supporters. He serves as Board Chairman Emeritus of AUW Support Foundation, and he and his family have personally given over \$12 million to the University. Recently, Jack sat down with AUWSF Director of Program Development Miranda Morrison to share his insights on AUW’s journey.

How did you and Co-Founder Kamal Ahmad come to the idea for Asian University for Women?

Kamal and I met at the Rockefeller Foundation in the 1980s. Rockefeller was doing a lot of great work in developing countries, but what we came to realize was that when you try to treat just one issue — such as providing clean drinking water for a single community — it can get overwhelmed by all the other problems on the list: poverty, disease, violence, sanitation and climate change. We needed something to treat these problems across the board — a silver bullet. For me, Kamal, and lots of people at Rockefeller, that silver bullet was women’s education. Years later, Kamal called me and said, “I’m going to do it.” He didn’t have to tell me what it was, because I knew. And I said, “Sign me up.”

You met AUW’s inaugural class when they arrived on campus in 2008. What were your first impressions?

The first thing I noticed was these were exactly the sort of young women we had hoped to find: assertive, smart, not standing back, eager to change the world. It was impressive, and it was goosebump thrilling. They swamped me with questions — about the curriculum, living conditions, programs — I had assumed they would be pretty reserved around me, but I was dead wrong.

These women had figured out how valuable education is. When we opened admissions, in three weeks we received over 1,400 applications. We whittled this down based on the English essay, placement tests, and the interviews. We wanted to have a class of about 100, so we decided, “We can send out 140 acceptances and we can always send more if we need to.” Out of those, 132 wrote they would be coming. Of that group, 128 arrived on campus — making our yield higher than Harvard’s.

There’s a selection bias inherent in AUW that works to our advantage. If you’re a young woman in, say, Nepal, and you’ve never been outside your village, you have

to convince your parents to let you go to Chittagong, Bangladesh to study. If you can do that, you’ve got a lot of gumption.

AUW is in its eighth year of operations and has graduated over 440 alumnae. How do AUW graduates stand out?

One, it’s very clear that they’re passionate about change. Number two, they are extremely articulate. Number three, you get the sense that nothing is going to stand in their way. You don’t typically get that from people who have just graduated from college — it usually takes twenty years before people gain that self-confidence. AUW graduates have the direction and the determination to carry it out.

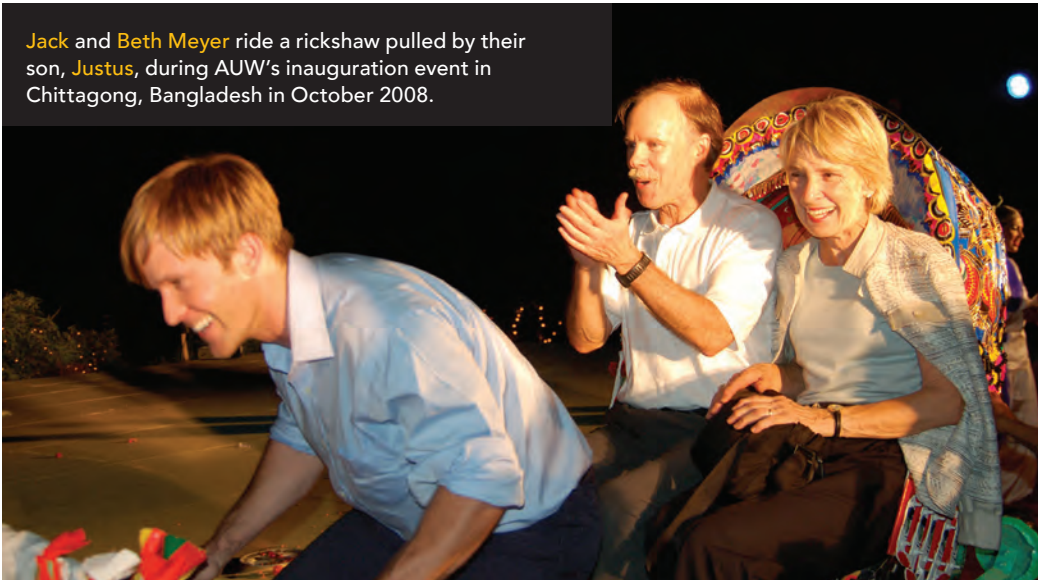
We were very concerned about ensuring that students would work in their home countries after graduating. Another worry was that students would marry and drop out of school, which has not happened. Our retention is over 90%, and the majority of graduates are back working in their home countries. We don’t have anyone who’s Prime Minister yet, but it’s just a matter of time.

Right now, transnational issues such as climate change and security are increasingly threatening the livelihoods and quality of life of billions of people. How does women’s higher education fit in, both in terms of our collective priorities as well as the potential for impact?

When I read the newspaper, there are all these problems on the front page. I say, “AUW, AUW, AUW” — they’re all spot-on the kind of problems that AUW can solve. Yes, people think about terrorism a lot, and about climate change more than they used to. But there’s no doubt in my mind that if you spend four to five years living and studying with people from fifteen countries with different belief systems and values, you understand tolerance. You understand how to frame issues for a rational debate rather than just relying on beliefs. If anything, AUW is even more relevant.

You are AUW’s largest individual donor. Why do you find AUW to be a powerful investment?

AUW continues to be the best philanthropic idea that I’ve come across. The University is thriving because it’s such a good idea. What’s appealing is the power of the model and the leverage effect. AUW is not only about giving a great education to this single person; we expect this person to go back to her village, town, or country and make a big difference. Right now we’re at 605 students — 1500 would be better on many counts, along with our own campus. It would probably be exponential in terms of how the networks work. You see the expression that women’s education in the developing world is the best use of a philanthropic dollar. That’s how I feel about it.



Jack and Beth Meyer ride a rickshaw pulled by their son, Justus, during AUW’s inauguration event in Chittagong, Bangladesh in October 2008.



AUW Trustees and AUW Support Foundation Board Members convened in Dhaka, Bangladesh in February 2016 to plan for the upcoming year. Top from left, Kapil Jain, Catherine Watters-Sasanuma, Meenakshi Gopinath, Humayun Kabir, Osman Farruk, Salahuddin Kasem Khan, Young Joon Kim; bottom from left, Marina Mahathir, Dipu Moni, Sheikhha Abdulla al-Misnad, Rubana Huq, and Kamal Ahmad.

OUR SUPPORTERS

Asian University for Women receives support from a range of individuals and organizations. Foundations and corporations — such as Abbott, IKEA Foundation, MetLife Foundation, Open Society Foundations, and UNIQLO — provide scholarships and host internships. Other organizations, such as Grameen Bank and BRAC Afghanistan, help identify promising students from underserved areas. Individuals support AUW by providing their time, skills, insights, and resources.



LIFETIME GIVING SOCIETIES

The individuals and organizations listed below have contributed to AUW with commitment and generosity over the years. We would like to recognize their impact by acknowledging our gratitude for their level of cumulative giving, as of 30 June 2016, shown in the societies below.

VISION SOCIETY

Cumulative Support of \$10 million or more

Jack and Beth Meyer
Stichting IKEA Foundation

WISDOM SOCIETY

Cumulative Support of \$8 million to \$9,999,999

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

RESILIENCE SOCIETY

Cumulative Support of \$4 million to \$7,999,999

Anonymous
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United States Department of State and other Government Agencies

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Abbott/Abbott Fund
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Cumulative Support of \$500,000 - \$999,999

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IN-KIND

The Government of Bangladesh
Dorsey & Whitney
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Google.org
Mayer Brown
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP
Sotheby's

ANNUAL GIVING SOCIETIES 2015 — 2016

We gratefully acknowledge support from the following individuals, corporations, foundations, and governments from the past year. The following Giving Societies are based on contributions in the 2016 fiscal year and exclude pledges. For cumulative giving, please see the Lifetime Giving Societies.

IN-KIND		
Dorsey & Whitney	Mayer, Brown	
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INNOVATION SOCIETY		
Annual Gifts of \$1,000,000 and up		
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Stiching IKEA Foundation		

IMAGINATION SOCIETY		
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Annual Gifts of \$50,000 to \$99,999		
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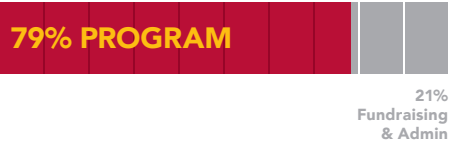
FINANCIAL REPORT

Over the past year, the Asian University for Women spent \$5.3 million on programs and administration, providing a higher education to over 600 women from Asia and the Middle East. This shows a rising commitment to women’s education around the world. Without scholarships, many AUW students would not be able to pursue their undergraduate degrees. Below is a breakdown of revenues and expenses for Fiscal Year 2016.

EFFICIENT AND ACCOUNTABLE

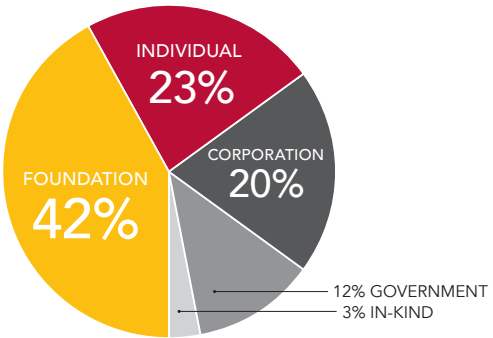
In Fiscal Year 2016, 79% of funds went to education-related activities, and 21% to fundraising and administration, excluding donated legal services. Your gift has a direct impact on educating AUW students.

Using your gifts wisely:

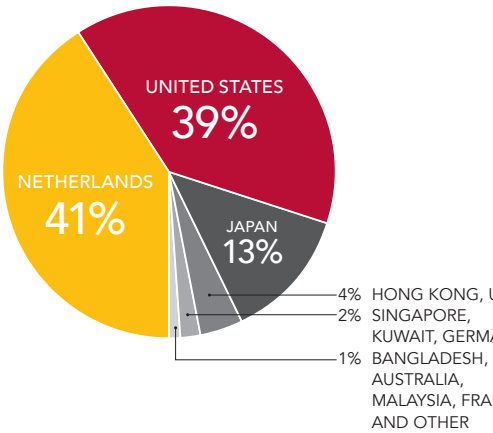


OUR SUPPORTERS

Supporter Type Breakdown FY 2016



Supporter Country Breakdown FY 2016



Statement of Activities and Change in Net Assets	2015	2016
REVENUES		
Contributions and Grants	\$1,644,779	\$1,195,767
Donated services	\$153,738	\$395,046
Interest and dividend income	\$43	\$956
Miscellaneous income	\$7,188	\$4,981
Net assets released from restrictions	\$4,013,881	\$3,735,240
TOTAL REVENUE AND SUPPORT	\$5,819,629	\$5,331,990
EXPENSES		
Program Services		
University	\$3,784,270	\$3,266,683
Access Academy	\$865,515	\$959,995
Campus Planning and Operations	\$1,318	\$0
TOTAL PROGRAM SERVICES	\$4,651,103	\$4,226,678
Supporting Services		
Management and general	\$405,566	\$514,092
Fundraising	\$718,033	\$880,619
TOTAL SUPPORTING SERVICES	\$1,123,599	\$1,394,711
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$5,774,702	\$5,621,389
NET ASSETS		
Net assets, beginning of year	\$14,476,973	\$11,187,166
Increase (decrease) in net assets	(\$3,289,807)	\$326,963
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	\$11,187,166	\$11,514,129
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$609,601	\$1,365,662
Unconditional promises to give	\$6,267,551	\$5,755,281
Other Assets	\$4,559,071	\$4,597,853
TOTAL ASSETS	\$11,436,223	\$11,718,796

AUWSF makes its past audited financial statements publically available here: <http://asian-university.org/whoweare/> Reports are under the “Finances” tab.

“Asian University for Women’s financial data reflects the growing confidence of donors and partners in our approach to educating women who will have a meaningful impact in their communities. During Fiscal Year 2016, our strategy of investing in programs and critical support services while ensuring financial stability resulted in AUW expanding its programs and furthering its commitment to educating women leaders. Whether you are a new donor or a long-term supporter, we at AUW deeply appreciate your confidence and support.”

KAPIL JAIN
Partner, Ernst & Young, India; Chairman, AUW and AUW Support Foundation Audit Committees



ASIAN UNIVERSITY FOR WOMEN

Support Foundation

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Liane Cresswell, Lynne Anne Davis, Jennifer Kok, Laura Tyson, Disha Widge

Nominations Committee:

Lynne Anne Davis, Rebecca Ip

Audit and Finance

Committee: Caroline Chiu, Lynne Anne Davis, Lâle Kesebi

JAPAN SUPPORT GROUP

Kathy Matsui

Catherine Watters-Sasanuma

Miwa Seki

Ashir Ahmed

Anaroid Arrick

Lauren Bliss-Kawasaki

Annie Chang

Hiroko Nishikawa Fu

Martha Gomez

Sandra Guldemann

Chizuru Hoshi

Ritsuko Kitahara

Kathy Krauth

Michaela Kuster

Kanako Miyakoshi

Yi Mei

Cecilia Melin

Robyn Nadler

Nuzhat Nazmul Nishi

Vlerie Rubsamen

Angela Slape

Jill Solomon

Karen Thomas

Nobuko Tsutsui

Maggie Yamasaki

ON THE COVER:

Pakistani student, **Usra Shaukat** (Class of 2019), harvests vegetables on the site of AUW's permanent campus. As we raise funds to build the permanent campus, our land is utilized to grow produce for AUW's dining hall and to provide students respite from the bustle of Chittagong city.