



ASIAN UNIVERSITY  
FOR WOMEN

EDUCATE • INSPIRE • EMPOWER

ANNUAL REPORT

2017

## ON THE COVER:

### MASOOMA MAQSOODI

Afghanistan | Class of 2015

The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan forced Masooma and her family to flee Afghanistan and seek refuge in bordering Iran. There, Masooma worked as a carpenter's assistant to earn money for English and computer classes.

Masooma was admitted to Asian University for Women in 2010. As an AUW student, Masooma participated in the *Women in Public Service Institute* and developed a U.S. Department of State-sponsored project to study attitudes towards street harassment in Afghanistan. Following graduation, Masooma worked for the Afghanistan Human Rights and Democracy Organization and was a regular contributor to a Farsi/Dari newspaper on topics related to the challenges that Afghan women face. In August 2017, Masooma received a Fulbright to pursue her Masters of International Development Policy at Duke University.

"As a Politics, Philosophy & Economics major at AUW, I took a variety of courses that strengthened my critical thinking and communication skills, and helped me find my passion in Development Studies. My education at AUW expanded my worldview, raised my self-confidence, and encouraged me to dream big and take bold actions to build a better world for myself and my community. After getting my Masters degree from Duke University, I would like to return to Afghanistan and improve public services for the poor," Masooma shares.

Dear friends,

It gives me great pleasure to introduce our 2017 Annual Report. This report is a testament to the longstanding relationships that the University has fostered; time that is significant of the faith our partners have in this institution and its incredible students. It is an opportunity for us to take pride in the past year, celebrate what we are, and inspire the future.



In 2008, AUW opened as a space where women could feel free to concentrate on learning and socializing without the constraints of extraneous norms and expectations. Over these 10 years, AUW has augmented the hearts and minds of over 1200 students from 15 countries across Asia and the Middle East. This would have been impossible without the commitment of the individuals and communities mentioned in these pages, nor the dedication of staff and students throughout the University. We are heading towards the future on secure foundations, enriched by our past and enthusiastic about the possibilities of the future.

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*"Over these 10 years, AUW has augmented the hearts and minds of over 1200 students from 15 countries across Asia and the Middle East. This would have been impossible without the commitment of the individuals and communities mentioned in these pages, nor the dedication of staff and students throughout the University."*

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As Vice Chancellor, it is a great privilege to oversee AUW's growth and impact. I hope you enjoy reading about the incredible work our global community has accomplished over the last year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nirmala Rao".

**PROFESSOR NIRMALA RAO, OBE, FAcSS**

Vice Chancellor, Asian University for Women



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*"At a time when there is still so much strife in the world on the basis of our inherited identities, Asian University for Women shows that yet another world is possible where young women from different upbringings can come together – first in solidarity with each other, and second in supporting a wider vision of changing their communities together."*

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**CHERIE BLAIR**

Chancellor, Asian University for Women

## WRITTEN & EDITED BY:

Kiko Wemmer & Ingrid Lustig





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## 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.



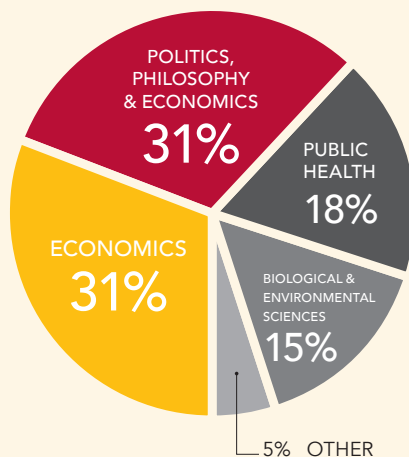
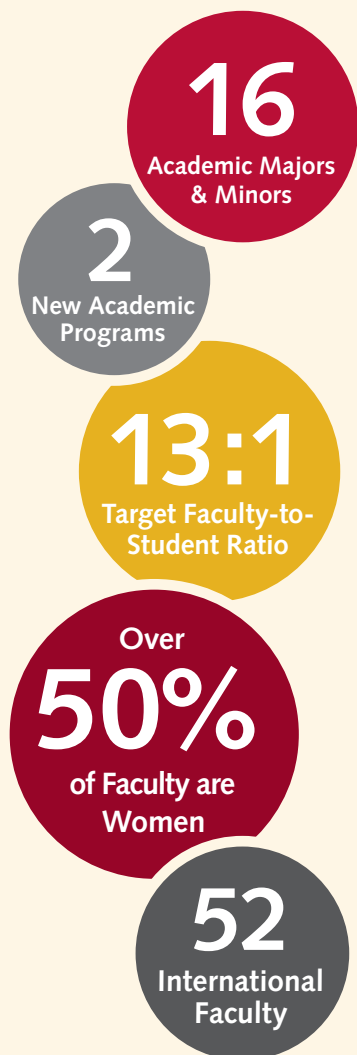




# ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

## BY THE NUMBERS:

## STUDENT ENROLLMENT BY MAJOR:



### Majors:

Bioinformatics  
Economics  
Environmental Sciences  
Politics, Philosophy & Economics  
Public Health

### Minors:

Asian Studies	Finance & Management
Biology	Gender Studies
Computer Science	Math
Development Studies	Psychology
Economics	Public Health
Environmental Sciences	

### New Academic Programs:

Bioinformatics Major  
Finance & Management Minor



## TAKEDA DONATES \$1 MILLION TO ESTABLISH THE TAKEDA CHAIR IN PUBLIC HEALTH

In October 2017, **Takeda Pharmaceutical Company** Limited (TSE: 4502) ("Takeda") and AUW jointly announced the establishment of the **Takeda Chair in Public Health** as the first endowed chair at AUW.

With funding from Takeda, the Takeda Chair in Public Health will propel research and create opportunities for collaboration with scholars in public health. The Takeda Chair will also enable AUW to build upon its strengths to improve public health in developing and emerging countries, and to educate the next generation of leaders in Asia and the world. An endowed chair is the highest academic award that AUW can bestow upon a faculty member.

**Haruhiko Hirate**, Corporate Officer of Corporate Communications and Public Affairs of Takeda commented, "It is our great pleasure to establish the Takeda Chair in Public Health as the first endowed chair at AUW, which provides high quality university education to hundreds of women. It reflects our global CSR strategy: prevention for health in developing countries, and promotion of diversity and inclusion everywhere."

## NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAMS & PARTNERSHIPS

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The AUW Undergraduate Program offers students the opportunity to gain relevant, interdisciplinary knowledge across multiple fields. Students are empowered to think critically, communicate effectively, and work intelligently to address the most pressing issues of the day with innovative and bold solutions. This year, AUW is pleased to announce the creation of two new academic programs, a new academic partnership with the University of Sussex, and a poetry center.

### Bioinformatics

The new Bioinformatics major at AUW will train students to use computer technologies and biological data to understand biomedical research and developments, as well as curative and preventive medicines; identify waste cleaning bacteria; and produce high-yield and low-maintenance crops. As the first university in Bangladesh to offer a Bioinformatics major, AUW is advancing scientific innovation to improve quality of life in the region.

### Finance & Management

All across Asia, the rapid growth of the financial sector and subsequent demand for financial services is creating enormous need for university graduates with financial literacy and management skills. AUW is now offering a set of courses in finance and management topics.

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*“We aim for our students to be competitive globally, not just locally, and excel in whichever sector they join whether in their home country or abroad. Training in finance, management, and entrepreneurship will enhance AUW students’ personal attainment, their future employability, and prepare them to face real world business challenges.”*

#### PROFESSOR MEHERUN AHMED

Associate Professor of Economics

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*“We already have a lot of interest in Bioinformatics among first-year undergraduate students. I hope that this interest and the major’s growth will allow AUW to pioneer Bioinformatics in the region. Students who study Bioinformatics will also have the opportunity to collaborate with scientists from all over the world, and work in government and private sector positions that require these particular skills.”*

#### PROFESSOR AKM MONIRUZZAMAN MOLLAH

Associate Professor of Biological Sciences & Head of Science and Math Programs

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### FORMER DUTCH PARLIAMENTARIAN JOINS AUW AS HONORARY PROFESSOR

This year AUW welcomed **Kathleen Ferrier**, a former Member of the Parliament of the Netherlands and an expert in development aid and policy, as Professor of the Practice for Global Human Rights. As Honorary Professor, Ferrier will lead AUW workshops and coursework on topics relating to human rights, gender equality, and international affairs during the summer months.

Professor Ferrier is passionately committed to creating a more just world with equal chances for both women and men regardless of their ethnicity, sexual orientation, creed, or age. Ferrier spent many years working with disadvantaged groups while working in the United Nations, where she concentrated on issues related to gender, refugees and other displaced groups, and human rights. Professor Ferrier’s father, Johan Ferrier, was the first president of independent Suriname.

In accepting her Honorary Professorship, Professor Ferrier stated, “We need new structures, new visions, new ways of communicating using new technologies, and new leadership. AUW is a most amazing place where highly motivated, talented young women from the poorest parts of 15 different countries come together and are educated and trained to become the leaders of their countries and their continent.”





Values in Action:

## AUW RECEIVES \$20,000 FROM DUKE UNIVERSITY PHILANTHROPY LAB

**Thea Dorwich** and **Kiori Tanaka** are passionate about education as a force for good. Since high school, Dorwich and Tanaka have been ardent supporters of Asian University for Women. Now freshmen at Duke University in North Carolina, Thea and Kiori have carried their support into a university experience of their own.

Thea and Kiori, who attended high school at The American School in Japan, were enrolled in a course at Duke called “Values in Action: The Duke Philanthropy Lab” in their first semester of freshman year. This course, in conjunction with The Philanthropy Lab—a nonprofit dedicated to promoting philanthropic education at colleges and universities—taught students to understand the nature of giving through different religious traditions, while also giving students the opportunity to allocate real money to nonprofit organizations of their choice.

When it came time to choose an organization, Thea and Kiori knew they wanted to focus on education. Both women believe that education is the most important factor to relieve poverty—without an educated population, they say, it is impossible to create change. Because they had been connected to AUW for many years, Thea and Kiori felt confident in the university’s transparency, effectiveness, and credibility. They were inspired by AUW’s mission to create change-driven leaders who could innovate their own communities, and they found the need-blind aspect of the University’s admissions process exceptional. The mission of AUW was particularly poignant for Kiori, reflecting on her own position as a university student: “People are born into different circumstances based purely off of luck; we are lucky to be where we are. We complain about finals and work, but seeing how women can be so successful after coming from nothing makes me realize that if you have the ability to make a change, you should—it’s your obligation as a global citizen.”

**Dr. Christy Lohr**, who taught this class with **Dr. Laura Lieber**, explains that the goal of Duke’s Philanthropy Lab is to make “this concept of loving humanity not a future proposition, but a present proposition. It is time to start participating in our shared humanity.”

Because of their passion, earnestness, and empathy, Thea and Kiori successfully pitched AUW to be the recipient of a US \$20,000 Philanthropy Lab grant. Reflecting on her philanthropic education, Thea says, “it’s the most important thing you can possibly do—to give back to people who are in need if you have the capacity.”

AUW is incredibly grateful to receive the generosity of this joint initiative between Duke University and the Philanthropy Lab.

## Faiz Ahmed Faiz Poetry Corner

The arts are a powerful medium for developing self-confidence and community. At AUW, we offer many creative outlets for students, including opportunities to explore and showcase cultural dances, poetry, music, and fashion. The opportunity to share the traditions of their homelands encourages students to embrace parts of their identity that may have been sources of shame or violence in their past lives. This cultural exchange also encourages students to cultivate mutual understanding among diverse communities across Asia and the Middle East.

This fall, AUW introduced the Faiz Ahmed Faiz Poetry Corner on campus. A fearless Pakistani writer, Faiz (1911-1984) used poetry to comment on society and resist political oppression. The Faiz Poetry Corner located within the AUW Library showcases poetry from all over the world, as it offers a place of inspiration, contemplation, and connection for all its readers.



## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The Physical Education program at AUW emphasizes the importance of a healthy mind and body. The program provides students with opportunities to participate in a variety of activities, indoors and outdoors, as well as individual and team activities such as Martial Arts, Basketball, Volleyball, Badminton, Cricket, Table Tennis, Yoga, Zumba, and others.



As part of our exchange program, AUW has enjoyed a longstanding relationship with the Paris Institute of Political Studies (Sciences Po). **Nanjiba Zahin** (right) spent her exchange year at Sciences Po, Reims, and had the opportunity to meet Sciences Po President, **Fédéric Mion** (left).

## AUW PARTNERS WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX

AUW is delighted to announce a new partnership with the **University of Sussex**. This three-year agreement will promote cooperation in teaching and research, staff and student exchanges, and opportunities for AUW students to receive scholarships for graduate study at Sussex.

Currently there are three AUW alumnae pursuing graduate studies at Sussex under this partnership. **Tanjila Drishti** from Bangladesh (AUW '14) is pursuing her M.A. in Globalisation, Business and Development. **Alinery Lalngilneii Lianhlawng** from India (AUW '15) is pursuing an MBA and **Nikita Naik** from India (AUW '17) is pursuing an M.Sc. in Genetic Manipulation and Molecular Cell Biology.

Professor **Adam Tickell**, Vice Chancellor of the University of Sussex, shared, "We are delighted to enter this unique partnership with AUW. Providing an even playing field, and ensuring as wide as possible access to education, is something we care about passionately here at the University of Sussex, and we are pleased to be building on this partnership through innovative collaboration with AUW." In December 2016, Richard Follett, a Professor of American History and the Director of International Recruitment and Development at Sussex visited the AUW campus in Chittagong. Professor Malcolm WR Reed, the Dean of Brighton and Sussex Medical School, visited AUW in July 2016. **Marina Mahathir** of Malaysia, a member of the AUW Board of Trustees, is a Sussex alumna.



Dean of Faculty & Academic Affairs  
**Dr. Rosie Bateson**

## OUR FACULTY

AUW faculty are competitively recruited from all over the world. They hold Ph.D. qualifications from institutions across Asia, Australia, Europe, and North America. They are also committed to conducting cross-cutting, innovative research in their respective fields. In November 2017, the faculty presented their research to the AUW Board of Trustees:

**Herman Salton** | Associate Professor of Politics, Philosophy & Economics

"Trouble at the Top: Uses and Abuses of the UN Secretary-General by Member States." Introducing his new book published by Oxford University Press, *Dangerous Diplomacy: Bureaucracy, Power Politics, and the Role of the UN Secretariat in Rwanda* (2017).

**Varuni Ganepola** | Associate Professor of Politics, Philosophy & Economics

"Exploring Family Empowerment: Changing Opportunities in Education and Employment for Women in South Asia." Presenting a research project funded by the Ford Foundation.

**Jacqueline Armijo** | Associate Professor of Humanities

"Islam in China, and China's Rapidly Developing Relationship with the Countries of the GCC"

**Meherun Ahmed** | Associate Professor of Economics

"Climate Induced Displacement, Livelihood Choices and Economic Wellbeing: Evidence of Slum Areas in Dhaka Metropolitan City"

**Lina Kassem** | Associate Professor of Politics, Philosophy & Economics

"Exploring Domestic Violence Legislation for the State of Qatar"

**AKM Moniruzzaman Mollah** | Associate Professor of Biology

"Research on Plastic-eating Microbes"

**Nazmul Alam** | Assistant Professor of Public Health

"Human Papilloma Virus infection and Cervical Cancer risk among Women in Bangladesh"

## MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN 2018!

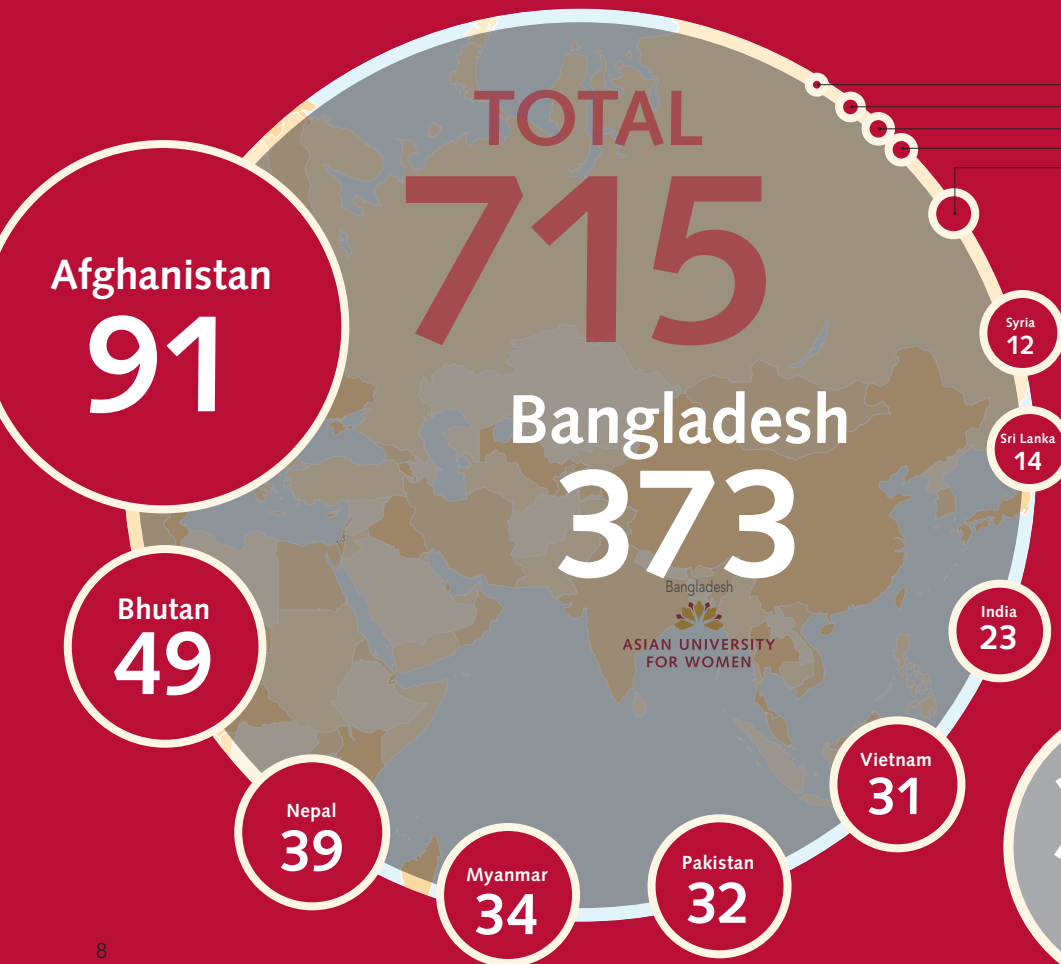
**ASIAN UNIVERSITY FOR WOMEN** seeks partners to endow professorships; support student scholarships; and provide books, school supplies, and lab equipment. Your support will go a long way toward making this world a kinder and more inclusive place for women and all those who respect and admire women. Contact AUW Support Foundation Managing Director Katsuki Sakai for more information at [Katsuki.Sakai@asian-university.org](mailto:Katsuki.Sakai@asian-university.org). We hope you will join our global community.



AUW endeavors to provide education and empowerment to women from **all corners** of the region.



## UNPRECEDENTED REACH



- 1 MALAYSIA
- 2 CHINA
- 3 INDONESIA
- 5 PALESTINE
- 6 CAMBODIA

### DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Although diverse in background, AUW students are united in their passions to innovate the economic, social, and political landscapes of their communities. AUW seeks students who are curious learners, entrepreneurial thinkers, and hopeful spirits. They live and study together, expanding their worldviews and embracing cross-cultural diversity as a regional strength.

**35+**  
Ethnicities

**25+**  
Languages spoken

**5+**  
Religions



# INCREASING ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION

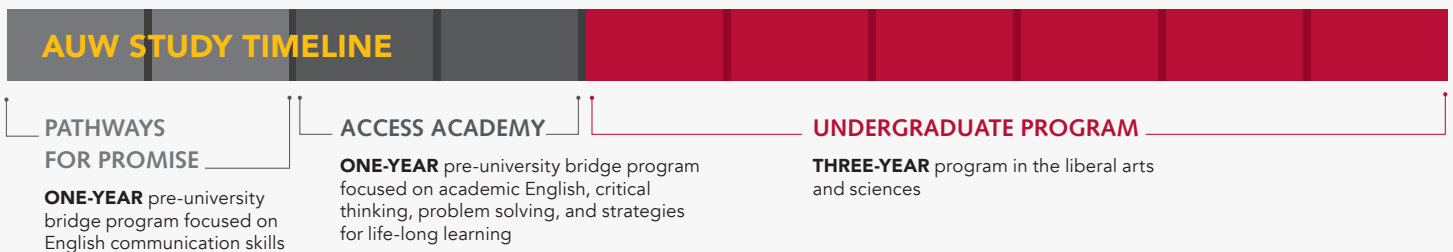
At AUW, merit and character count for all. AUW welcomes and supports any academically qualified student who demonstrates leadership potential through courage, empathy, and outrage at injustice—regardless of the opportunities or difficulties she has been dealt in her lifetime. To increase access to university education for women who were denied high-quality secondary schooling, AUW offers two flexible pre-university programs to prepare them for success in the AUW Undergraduate Program.

In **Pathways for Promise**, women who have not previously had access to high-quality English-language training

are offered an additional year of pre-university preparation in advance of the one-year Access Academy and three-year Undergraduate Program. *Pathways for Promise* specifically targets communities of women who are first in their family to enter university and otherwise represent adverse backgrounds, including: daughters of microfinance borrowers; historically neglected ethnic minorities, particularly from highland areas of South and Southeast Asia; ready-made garment factory workers; workers from tea estates; refugees and internally displaced persons; and women from extremely poor socio-economic strata. Every year

at least one-third of all students entering AUW enter through *Pathways for Promise*.

**Access Academy** is a flagship year of pre-collegiate courses focused on academic English, quantitative skills, research skills, communications skills, critical thinking, problem-solving, and strategies for life-long learning. The program is designed to help students overcome prior deficits in their educational background and habits of rote learning, and prepare for success in AUW's liberal arts and sciences Undergraduate Program.



## REACHING THE “LAST MILE”

AUW strives to reach the “last mile” in higher education by establishing the infrastructure and networks necessary to recruit students from the most rural and underserved areas of Asia and the Middle East. As a result of such recent efforts, AUW is pleased to initiate a new collaboration with groups from Switzerland to bring courageous women from Nagaland (India) into AUW's global network of women leaders.

### Where is Nagaland?

Nagaland lies east of Bangladesh and shares an eastern border with northwest Myanmar. According to anthropologist **Willem van Schendel** of the University of Amsterdam, Nagas are often denied equal treatment within their country due to their religious, linguistic, and ethnic backgrounds. The vast majority of Nagas practice Christianity and speak English and other indigenous languages.

Common challenges in Nagaland and its surrounding hill states include limited access to economic opportunities, healthcare, and public schooling. The majority of adults are subsistence cultivators. As a result of widespread poverty, primary-school aged children must work informally by cooking or cleaning to fund their own schooling.

### The Next Generation of Naga Leaders

To leverage the community's strengths and address its challenges, Nagaland requires leaders who will anchor their experiences and education to the needs of their community. According to Professor van Schendel, many educated Nagas leave the community for better professional opportunities in other parts

Brüzüni | Nagaland | Class of 2022



Zuboni | Nagaland | Class of 2022





Map data ©2018 Google. Nagaland (<https://www.google.com/maps/place/Nagaland,+India/>)

Athunglo | Nagaland / Class of 2022



of India and elsewhere; therefore, there is a pressing need for Naga leaders who will remain attuned and committed to the challenges in their state.

Looking ahead, recently admitted Naga students, **Athunglo**, **Hrüzüni**, and **Zuboni** strive to emerge as leaders who will do just that. Athunglo states, “In the future, I will address educational challenges in my community.

I want to improve the education system to focus more on critical thinking and less on rote memorization, and to educate women and let them know of their abilities and rights. If we can solve these educational issues, then many problems in Naga society will be addressed.” Hrüzüni, the daughter of a widowed subsistence farmer, shares, “As a future leader of Nagaland, I hope to increase incomes of working Nagas and give more educational opportunities to the people.” Meanwhile, Zuboni aims for a career in public health; “In the future, I will make quality healthcare affordable for the people in my community,” she shares.

In many ways, Athunglo, Hrüzüni, and Zuboni are paving the way for future Naga women to enroll at AUW and realize their full potential. **Dolly Kikon**, a Stanford-educated anthropologist and AUW advisor who mobilized Naga leaders and institutions, including the **Morung Express** newspaper, to recruit students from Nagaland, explains, “the initiative to recruit Naga students was difficult. The idea that a university in Bangladesh could offer full scholarships to Naga students was met with suspicion from many well-meaning Nagas. Many parents thought this opportunity was a trap to dupe tribal students.”

For this reason, the bravery of Athunglo, Hrüzüni, and Zuboni cannot be understated. Their willingness to enroll at AUW despite skepticism among their neighbors, and then speak openly about their experiences, have already influenced other Naga families. Dolly reports, “The best way to counter negative assumptions about Bangladesh has been to feature the examples

set by Athunglo, Hrüzüni, and Zuboni. Already we see the local press publishing their stories, leading prospective parents, guardians, and students to inquire about attending AUW.”

Meanwhile, Athunglo, Hrüzüni, and Zuboni are also making an impact on other AUW students. Prior to their arrival, few AUW students had heard of this seemingly remote state in Northeast

India. The new perspectives that these Naga students bring to AUW’s diverse Asian community brings vital exposure to the unique strengths and struggles of Nagaland and its neighboring hill states.

According to Professor van Schendel, “There are many other highland groups in northern Burma, the Himalayas, and elsewhere that have even less access to higher education than Nagaland. It is important for AUW to continue recruiting students from these groups that seem marginal to the centers of political and economic power in the region. For these women, their communities are far from marginal; they are central and worthy of the world’s attention.”

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*“It is important for AUW to continue recruiting students from these groups that seem marginal to the centers of political and economic power in the region. For these women, their communities are far from marginal; they are central and worthy of the world’s attention.”*

**PROFESSOR WILLEM VAN SCHENDEL**  
University of Amsterdam

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## What's Next?

AUW is already accepting applications for the 2018 – 2019 academic year. The University anticipates another cohort of women from Nagaland and the surrounding highland areas of India, Myanmar, and Bangladesh will be part of the next cohort. Although these areas are difficult to reach by conventional means of travel and communication, AUW will continue to partner with local leaders who believe that women in their communities deserve a chance to study at AUW. The University will continue to offer flexible pre-university preparatory programs in English and math, and academic advising and mentorship opportunities for women who require additional academic and social support. These resources are made possible by AUW’s global network of visionary and generous supporters, including **Reformierte Kirche Baselland**, **Evangelical-Reformed Church of St. Gallen**, and the **Morung Express**.

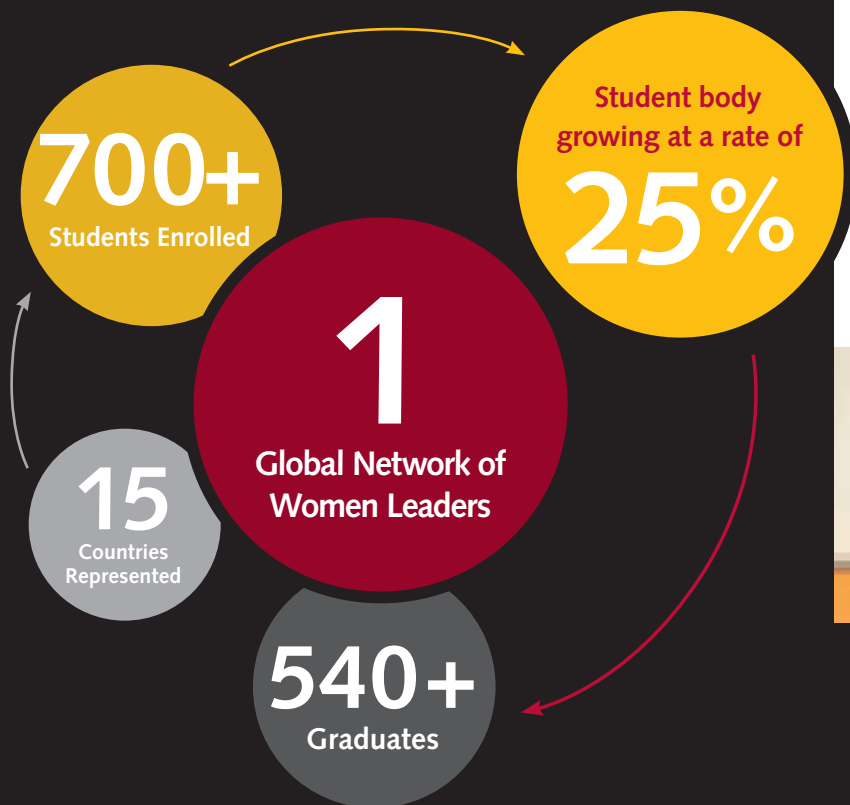


AUW students apply their **passion for change** at organizations and graduate schools across the globe.



# GLOBAL RELEVANCE GLOBAL IMPACT

Each year AUW receives support from a range of individuals and organizations. This year, our partners have helped us introduce a new fundraising framework and a number of new internships, mentorships, and postgraduate options for students.



## INTERNSHIPS

AUW students are encouraged to complete three summer internships during the course of their studies at the University. The first internship is typically with a not-for-profit organization or a government agency; the second is with a for-profit entity; and the third is with an entrepreneur. By exposing students to three frameworks of professional life, AUW helps prepare its students to recognize organizational environments where they can have the most positive impact. Internships have been organized in virtually all countries from where AUW draws its students. In addition, opportunities for internships have been available in Japan, Hong Kong, the EU, and the United States.



Kathy Matsui (right) featured with AUW students, **Ayanti Barua**, **Naima Iman**, **Sakshi Sharma**, and **Sumayea Binte Shafiul**, who completed a summer internship with UNIQLO this year as part of UNIQLO's longstanding partnership with AUW.

## INTERNSHIP PLACEMENT EXAMPLES

### AFGHANISTAN

Afghan Women's Educational Center  
Afghanistan Public Policy Research Organization  
Civil Society and Human Rights Network  
World Vision Afghanistan

### BANGLADESH

BanglaCAT  
Bangladesh Legal Aid Services and Trust  
Caritas  
Democracy International  
GlaxoSmithKline Bangladesh  
GrameenPhone  
ICDDR,B  
Institute of Wellbeing (IWB)  
International Finance Cooperation  
Li & Fung Foundation  
MetLife  
Prime Bank Limited  
Teach For Bangladesh  
UNHCR  
Unilever  
VF Bangladesh

### HONG KONG

AIA Group  
Li & Fung Foundation  
Marriott International  
Women's Foundation

PricewaterhouseCoopers  
Tory Burch Hong Kong Limited

### INDIA

Abbott  
Rural Litigation and Entitlement Kendra

### JAPAN

Temple University, Japan  
UNIQLO

**MALAYSIA**  
eHomemakers

### MYANMAR

Kaw Dai Organization

### NEPAL

The Kathmandu Post  
Youth Thinker's Society

### PAKISTAN

Aga Khan Education Service for Pakistan

### SOUTH KOREA

KEXIM Bank

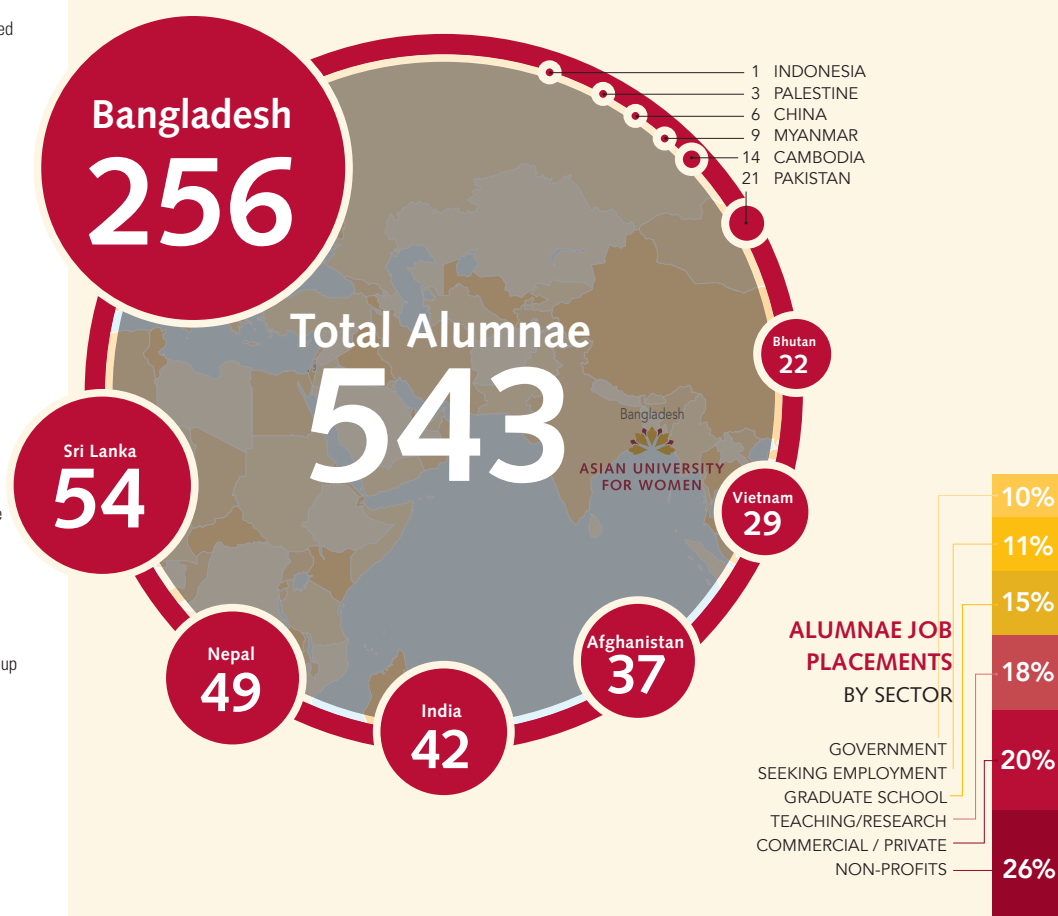
### SRI LANKA

Hutchison Asia Telecom Group

### VIETNAM

Abbott  
OpenM

## OUR ALUMNAE BY COUNTRY:



## SEEKING MENTORS & INTERNSHIP HOSTS

Help us continue to build peace and prosperity in Asia one woman leader at a time! AUW is currently looking for mentors and organizations to host AUW students as interns in 2018. If you are interested in hosting AUW students at your organization, or mentoring an AUW student, please contact our Center for Career Development & International Programs at [cdip@auw.edu.bd](mailto:cdip@auw.edu.bd).

*"Our intern has been exceptional, hardworking, and dedicated, systematically taking initiative and looking for opportunities to contribute to our work in a discreet yet highly effective manner."*

### MS. LUCILE MARTIN

Grants & Communications Manager, Afghanistan Public Policy Research Organization

## MENTORSHIPS

In addition to internships, AUW's Mentorship Program provides students with a supplementary and professional support system. Mentees benefit from personalized professional guidance and growth of networks from their mentors, who hail from a wide variety of industries and countries. In kind, mentors report that they feel professionally re-energized and fulfilled in their advisory roles.

In 2017, the AUWSF (HK) Mentorship Committee chaired by **Anne Charron** and **Mia Bourgeoise** made AUW history by working with Marriott International to secure the largest number of employees from a single organization to mentor 50 AUW students. In Singapore, the AUW Support Group organized 25 mentor-mentee relationships.



## GRADUATE SCHOOL PLACEMENTS\*

### AFGHANISTAN

American University of Afghanistan

### AUSTRALIA

Holmes Institute  
La Trobe University  
Macquarie University  
RMIT University  
University of Queensland  
University of Technology Sydney  
University of Western Sydney

### BANGLADESH

American International University  
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

### BELGIUM

Vrije Universiteit Brussels

### BHUTAN

College of Natural Resources

### CANADA

University of Guelph

### COSTA RICA

University for Peace

### FINLAND

University of Tampere

### GERMANY

Goethe Universität - Frankfurt am Main  
Ludwig Maximilians University of Munich  
Ruhr University  
University of Duisburg- Essen  
University of Hamburg

### HUNGARY

Central European University

### INDIA

Ashoka University  
Indian Institute of Information Technology & Management  
Mahatma Gandhi University  
Manonmaniam Sundaranar University  
South Asian University  
St. Xavier's College  
TERI University

### INDONESIA

Seameo Recfon University

### IRELAND

Trinity College

### ITALY

University of Trento

### JAPAN

United Nations University

### MALAYSIA

Universiti Kebangsaan  
University of Nottingham-Malaysia

### NEPAL

Merryland College Biratnagar  
Nepal Engineering College Center

### NETHERLANDS

Wageningen University

### PAKISTAN

Aga Khan University Karachi

### RUSSIA

Ural Federal University

### SOUTH KOREA

Ewha Womans University  
Sungkonghoe University  
Yonsei University

### SRI LANKA

Royal Institute of Colombo  
University of Colombo  
University of Peradeniya  
Vidura College

### SWEDEN

Dalarna University  
Lund University  
Umea University  
University of Gothenburg

### UNITED KINGDOM

London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine  
Oxford University  
SOAS, University of London  
University of Bradford  
University of Durham  
University of East Anglia  
University of Surrey  
University of Sussex

### UNITED STATES

Brandeis University  
Colorado School of Public Health  
Columbia University  
Duke University  
Florida International University  
George Mason University  
Illinois State University  
Marquette University  
New York University  
Portland State University  
School for International Training  
Southern Illinois University  
Stanford University  
State University of New York - Buffalo  
University of Massachusetts - Lowell  
University of Utah  
Wright State University

## GRADUATE SCHOOL PLACEMENTS

Since graduating its first class in 2013, AUW has graduated five classes totaling nearly 550 alumnae. To date, more than 25% of AUW alumnae have enrolled in graduate schools throughout the world, including Columbia University, the University of Oxford, and Stanford University. We are pleased to spotlight a few outstanding AUW alumnae who are pursuing graduate studies abroad.

### Nishat Mowla | Bangladesh | Class of 2013

After graduation, **Nishat** (pictured right) enrolled in the Engineering College of Ewha Womans University in South Korea to pursue a fully-funded Ph.D. in Computer Science. In 2016, Nishat won the Best Masters Thesis Award for her research on multi-defense mechanisms against cyber-attacks.

Nishat's doctoral research focuses on improving network security, which is important for protecting everything from an individual's credit card information to a country's nuclear missile codes. "Every day there are new technological developments that improve people's lives, but they also raise many new security risks," says Nishat. "To protect against these attacks, we need more research and network security tools."



### Savitri Kumari | India | Class of 2015



**Savitri** (pictured left) earned her M.Sc. in Environmental Change and Management from Oxford in 2017 with full scholarship support from the Weidenfeld-Hoffmann Trust. After earning her Ph.D. in the area of Environmental Studies, Savitri aims to work for the Government of India's Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change.

"It was difficult for my parents to raise us, for economic and social reasons," Savitri shares about growing up with two sisters in Jharkhand, one of the poorest

states in India. Because of lasting gender inequalities in their hometown, Savitri feels endlessly grateful for having parents who encouraged her to go to school. "My mother always inspired me to work hard and show [people] that women are equal to men."

Once at AUW, Savitri was also constantly inspired by her mentors and professors.

"They believed in me more than I did in myself," she says. "They instilled confidence in me and made me realize that I have all the potential to do whatever I want and make a positive difference in my life and in others' lives." This confidence led Savitri to establish and manage a new Math Center at AUW as a graduate fellow, where students can access one-on-one tutoring.

As Savitri looks to the future, she reflects, "I cannot imagine pursuing higher education if I had not received scholarships to study at AUW and Oxford. I owe so much to all the known and unknown faces who have supported me throughout my education. Now I feel obligated to pay this generosity back to other children, who might not have the necessary resources to pursue higher education."

\*This table does not represent a comprehensive list of graduate school placements.



**Tien Nguyen** (middle) began her graduate placement with L'Oréal in September of 2017.

## PROFESSIONAL PLACEMENTS\*

### AFGHANISTAN

Embassy of the State of  
Canada  
Ministry of Counter  
Narcotics  
Office of the First Lady of  
Afghanistan  
Office of the President of  
Afghanistan

### AUSTRALIA

Architectus  
Oxfam Australia

### BANGLADESH

BRAC  
Chevron  
Citibank  
Democracy International  
Embassy of the State  
of Qatar  
GlaxoSmithKline  
Bangladesh Ltd.  
International  
Organization of  
Migration  
Korea Eximbank  
Marriott International  
Ministry of Finance  
Obayashi & Shimizu  
Corporation Japan  
Standard Chartered Bank  
Teach for Bangladesh  
The Daily Star  
World Bank  
World Food Programme  
World Health  
Organization  
Unilever  
UNESCO  
UNIQLO

UN High Commissioner  
for Refugees

### BELGIUM

Across Health

### BHUTAN

Ministry of Education –  
Health and Nutrition  
Division  
Ministry of Health

### CAMBODIA

Cambodia-Oxford  
Medical Research Unit  
CARE  
Ford Motor Company  
Konrad-Adenauer  
Foundation  
Peace Corps

### CHINA

Shanghai Greenwave  
Enviro-Tech

### INDIA

Poverty Alleviation Unit  
Tropical Institute of  
Ecological Sciences

### IRELAND

Trinity College

### JAPAN

Accenture

### KYRGYZSTAN

Organization for Security  
and Co-operation in  
Europe

### MYANMAR

Bridge Blue Myanmar  
Medical Action  
Myanmar

### NEPAL

DanChurchAid  
Nepal Health Research  
Council  
Teach for Nepal

### PAKISTAN

Hasegawa Memorial  
Public School and  
College  
Karimabad Hunza  
Rural Support  
Programmes Network

### PALESTINE

ABC Consulting

### QATAR

Qatar Building Engineering

### SRI LANKA

CARE International  
Institute for Health Policy  
National Peace Council  
T-Field Child  
Development  
Federation  
UN Development  
Programme  
World Vision

### SWEDEN

Swedish Secretariat for  
Gender Research

### UNITED ARAB

EMIRATES  
New York University –  
Abu Dhabi

### UNITED STATES

Strategy XXI

### VIETNAM

L'Oréal  
VietEduAid

## PROFESSIONAL PLACEMENTS

Throughout their studies, AUW students are taught to be ethical and innovative leaders. Our students and graduates actively seek opportunities to revitalize their communities through improved education, healthcare, environmental conservation, and other meaningful projects. When confronted with challenges that reflect societal tensions, AUW students use their experience living and studying in a diverse community to promote tolerance and understanding. Upon graduation, AUW alumnae put these unique skills to work as government employees, non-profit leaders, and private-sector professionals.

**Tien Nguyen** | Vietnam | Class of 2017

**Tien** has accepted placement in L'Oréal's Management Trainee Programme. This highly competitive opportunity enables young graduates to receive training and mentorship to jumpstart their careers with the company. Through their provision of scholarships, internships, and, now, graduate placements, L'Oréal has been one of AUW's biggest supporters over the years.

Originally from a village near Hue, Vietnam, Tien grew up in a rural community where her father is a taxi driver and her mother is a textile worker. Although her parents struggled to afford food for the family, they never sought short term solutions to their poverty. Instead of sending Tien to work in the textile industry, Tien's parents emphasized the importance of education. "The only way to solve our poverty is through education," Tien's father would say.

After years of dedication and hard work, Tien graduated last May with her Economics degree. In September 2017 she began working full-time in L'Oréal's Vietnam Office. Tien is pleased to continue her work with L'Oréal, which hosted her as an intern in their Paris headquarters last year. "L'Oréal is a very dynamic but supportive environment," she shares.

L'Oréal returns the enthusiasm: "Tien is a highly intelligent and refreshing colleague," shared L'Oréal Employer Branding Project Manager, Emma Ly. "She impressed our entire team with how

\*This table is not a comprehensive list of job placements.



quickly she adapted to Paris and the corporate culture of L'Oréal Headquarters. She is a great communicator who brought people together. Tien would speak to the CEO and President of HR like they were her friends, and she shared the same bright, bubbly confidence with her fellow interns. We all enjoyed working with Tien immensely, and I know she is going to thrive as a Management Trainee in Vietnam."

Tien received guidance and assistance in securing this placement from the A UW Center for Career Development & International Programs, which supports undergraduates through highly competitive application processes for internships, job opportunities, and national and international fellowships.

Tien credits A UW for giving her the confidence and skills to pursue her dreams. "Coming to A UW is like taking a turn from an alley onto a highway. I used to dream of merely communicating with foreigners in English, but now I dream of creating a multimedia enterprise which tells stories that change people's lives," Tien shared; "There is no place like A UW; it is a close-knit community of compassionate people who want to contribute their skills and time to the betterment of society. I am motivated and inspired by the incredible passion that drives my professors and classmates to work so hard. This is why I want to tell their stories to the world."

**Sinthuka Vivekananthan** | Sri Lanka | Class of 2013

After Sinthuka's father passed away, Sinthuka's mother worked as a tailor to raise Sinthuka and her sibling. With few financial resources among them, Sinthuka needed a full scholarship to pursue higher education and ultimately support her widowed mother.

In 2008, **Sinthuka** (pictured right) joined A UW as part of its inaugural class. With full financial and academic support from A UW, she evolved from a quiet, introverted student to a confident and independent leader who, above all, is committed to fighting for gender equality. As an Environmental Sciences major at A UW, Sinthuka was a member of the Environmentalism in Action Club and was elected President of the Science Club and Treasurer of the Public Speaking Club. In these roles, she organized academic programs, public speaking competitions, and opportunities for A UW students to volunteer at an orphanage in Chittagong. Sinthuka also completed internships at TATA Consulting Engineering Ltd. in India and the Association of War Affected Women in Sri Lanka.

After graduation, Sinthuka returned to her hometown of Jaffna, Sri Lanka to work for the Jaffna Social Action Center and the International Youth Alliance for Peace. Her work focuses on former internally-displaced persons, women-headed families, children in poverty, and community reconciliation following Sri Lanka's 26-year civil war. In 2017, Sinthuka participated in the International Visitor Leadership Program at the U.S. State Department to work alongside other international delegates from the NGO sector to promote gender equality and combat gender-based violence in their communities. By constantly questioning historic hierarchies of power, Sinthuka has made working for gender equality her lifelong mission.

## Public-Private Partnership Initiative

A UW has initiated a *Public-Private Partnership* (PPP) initiative. In this framework, *public and philanthropic* support is channeled to finance the first three years of the 5-year A UW program, and the last two years are funded by private corporations that also provide internships and post graduate job opportunities. The basis of the PPP is a recognition that the initial three-years of an A UW education must often make up for systemic deficits in the public education system in the region and therefore require public and social investment. In contrast, by the time students have completed their third year, they will have already become focused on careers. By matching student career interests with local and multinational corporations that seek their diverse talents in their staff roles, A UW plays an important role in deploying student talents in the most productive way. By partnering with A UW, corporations also have an opportunity to entice talented women from different backgrounds onto their staff.

US Department of State provided nearly US \$1,000,000 to help initiate the PPP program. Private sector sponsors thus far include Li & Fung and Marriott International.

"Marriott International is thrilled to have developed a close partnership with A UW. Through the PPP our offices will be able to foster relationships with some of the most talented young leaders in Asia. After visiting the campus in Bangladesh, **I saw with my own eyes what a unique environment it is for women's growth and empowerment.** Marriott is looking forward to welcoming these change makers into our global community."

### PEGGY ROE

Chief Sales & Marketing Officer – Asia Pacific, Marriott International; Director, A UW Support Foundation – Hong Kong



## JOIN US

A UW is currently seeking additional corporate partners to participate in the Public-Private Partnership Initiative. A UW students and alumnae are exceptional candidates for internships and post-graduate employment, as they bring to organizations local knowledge, a unique sensitivity to diversity, and the ability and motivation to learn new skills. If you would like to give a woman the educational and professional resources she needs to help herself, her family, and her community realize peace and prosperity in Asia, please contact Ingrid Lustig at [Ingrid.Lustig@asian-university.org](mailto:Ingrid.Lustig@asian-university.org)

## 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 list of upcoming events in 2018.

## 2018

**February 5 – April 9** Global: International Women's Day Crowdfunding Campaign

**March 22** Tokyo: Japan Support Group's 9th Annual Fundraising Event featuring Sung Joo Kim

### May 10 – 12 **SAVE THE DATE!**

AUW is pleased to announce a celebratory program marking the **10th anniversary** of its founding. The event will take place on May 10-11, 2018 at the AUW campus in Chittagong, Bangladesh. The celebrations will culminate with AUW's **6th Commencement Ceremony** on May 12.

All alumnae, current and former faculty and staff, and other friends and supporters of AUW are warmly invited. For further information or to reserve your seat, please contact Kiko Wemmer at [kiko.wemmer@asian-university.org](mailto:kiko.wemmer@asian-university.org).

**June 12** Hong Kong: Hong Kong Support Foundation's 2nd Annual Gala featuring AUW Chancellor Cherie Blair

**Autumn** NYC: New York Support Group's 1st Annual Fundraising Event

## SEEKING HOSTS

AUW Support Foundation is looking for individuals and organizations to host events that raise scholarship funds for AUW students and raise awareness of the University. If you are interested in hosting such an event, please contact AUW Support Foundation Managing Director Katsuki Sakai for more information at [Katsuki.Sakai@asian-university.org](mailto:Katsuki.Sakai@asian-university.org).



### JAPAN SUPPORT COMMITTEE RAISES \$700,000 IN SUPPORT OF AUW

In March 2017, AUW's **Japan Support Committee** (pictured above) hosted its 8th annual fundraising event in Tokyo. More than 400 guests listened to captivating speeches by the world's fastest female racecar driver, Keiko Ihara, and AUW Vice Chancellor Professor Nirmala Rao. The event raised US \$700,000 in support of AUW, which equates to 46 full one-year scholarships.

"AUW is unique and a uniquely collective effort, unlike universities that have a single sponsor. The majority of students are on full scholarships and the University is currently entirely funded by donations. We are able to provide young women with this kind of education and training only because of our excellent international network of supporters. Many of those supporters are multinational corporations who recognize the value of investing in the future talent of the region. Twenty-two percent of our funding comes from Japan. The First Lady of Japan herself visited our campus some years ago, and commended the role that women leaders can play in ensuring progress continues its forward march in the region," Professor Rao said.

Expressing her gratitude for the Japan Support Committee, Professor Rao also shared, "AUW is grateful to the Japan Support Committee for its long-term support. As one of AUW's most active support groups, it has worked tirelessly to promote awareness and sponsorship of AUW. It remains a model for the University's other support groups in Hong Kong, Singapore, and the UK."

### HONG KONG SUPPORT FOUNDATION RAISES \$500,000 AT INAUGURAL GALA



In June 2017, nearly US \$500,000 was raised at a riveting and moving gala dinner in Hong Kong in aid of AUW. The more than 300 guests who attended "**In Honour of Daughters: Empowering Women on a Mission**" at the JW Marriott Hong Kong

were regaled by inspiring tales of overcoming adversity and the hardest fought success from a wide array of speakers including former AUW students, public figures and academics from around the world, and human rights lawyer and AUW Chancellor Cherie Blair.

The event, which was the first gala dinner organized by **AUW-Hong Kong Support Foundation** (pictured above), will fund 31 full scholarships for one year, enabling the most promising young women from traditionally marginalized communities around the region to attend the university and go on to lead change.



Chair of the Hong Kong Support Foundation, **Lynne Anne Davis** (pictured left) said: "I am so delighted that our wonderfully generous guests have donated enough money to ensure that the dreams of 31 students wanting to attend this remarkable university can now do so, regardless of their ability to pay. We are so grateful that our network of sponsors, including our event partner Marriott International and platinum sponsors Li & Fung, Goldman Sachs, Mohammadi Group, L'Oréal, and Mr. Henry Hamrock, plus a host of other organizations, recognize the immense value of investing in the future talent of the region."





First Lady of Japan **Akie Abe** (left) with **Tamiko Soros** (right) of Open Society Foundations

## First Lady of Japan and A UW Chancellor Convene A UW Supporters in New York

In anticipation of the 10th year of its founding, AUWSF hosted a discussion in New York to celebrate and reflect upon the University's first decade of operations. To strengthen AUW's outreach to potential new supporters, the University announced plans to launch a New York Support Group.

In attendance of the event celebrating AUW were, among others, AUW Patron and First Lady of Japan **Akie Abe**; noted human rights lawyer and AUW Chancellor **Cherie Blair**; and AUW alumnae **Masooma Maqsoodi** from Afghanistan, **Jampa Latso** from Tibet (China), and **Vylyny Chat** from Cambodia.

**Jampa** (AUW '15), Manager at Strategy XXI consulting firm in New York City, described the experience of growing

up in a rural Tibetan village, and being the first member of her community to earn Bachelors and Masters degrees. She also discussed the impact AUW has had on her life and goals. "At AUW, I learned to discuss social issues such as gender-based violence which are considered taboo in my community. I met incredibly talented women from many Asian countries, about which I knew so little. I listened to their stories, which are heartbreaking at times, and yet incredibly powerful. This deepened my knowledge of women's experiences across the region, and as a result, my vision for the future became clearer," she said.

Following the graduates, Mrs. Abe remarked that she was happy to be in the presence of individuals who are committed to overcoming the obstacles that women face to receiving quality education. "Schools that educate women and girls need our support more than ever," Mrs. Abe said. "It is no secret that going to school as a girl or woman is not safe in many parts of the world. And yet, education for women and girls is the key to opening up new paths in their lives."

AUW Chancellor Cherie Blair emphasized the University's aim to graduate women who will be promoters of intercultural understanding and collaboration. She attributed the University's success in this regard to its ability to identify and enroll diverse cohorts of remarkable women from the most unsuspecting settings,

including garment factory workers, daughters of microfinance borrowers, and refugees. Looking forward, Mrs. Blair urged listeners to continue their support of AUW as the University strives to double its student body and complete construction of its permanent campus.

This event served as a prelude to the launch of an **AUW Support Group in New York City**. Support Groups are critical to the University's mission of educating the next generation of women leaders. They raise awareness of AUW; raise funds for the University; and provide counsel to AUW leadership regarding institutional strategy, development, and growth. Anyone interested in joining this emerging Support Group in New York City, or initiating a Support Group in their city, may contact AUW Support Foundation Managing Director Katsuki Sakai at [Katsuki.Sakai@asian-university.org](mailto:Katsuki.Sakai@asian-university.org).



From left, **Masooma Maqsoodi** (AUW '15), **Jampa Latso** (AUW '15), and **Vylyny Chat** (AUW '14).

## AUW Celebrates Fifth Commencement Ceremony



In May 2017, AUW celebrated its 5th Commencement Ceremony. The occasion marked the graduation of 85 students from 12 countries: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Palestine, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam.

AUW also conferred honorary degrees upon four remarkable individuals in recognition of their steadfast and earnest support of the University. First Lady of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan **Rula Ghani** received a Doctorate of Humanities, *honoris causa*. Former Chief Secretary of Hong Kong **Anson Chan**

earned a Doctorate of Laws, *honoris causa*. Additionally, the James Bryant Conant University Professor of Harvard University **Danielle Allen** and the immediate past Chief Operating Officer of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation **Leigh Morgan** each received a Doctorate of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*.

In accepting her honorary degree, **First Lady of Afghanistan Rula Ghani** (pictured left) told the graduates, "In a world that has lost its balance, where no corner has been spared from violence and upheavals, you have been privileged to experience first-hand the benefits of a multicultural, multiethnic, multinational environment. It is now your turn to go out there and stand up to the currents of factionalism and discord, stand up to those who want to pit one group against

another, one religion against another, one ideology against another, or one country against another."

AUW also granted the inaugural **Andy Matsui Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement** to four graduating students: **Dipannita Barua** (Bangladesh), **Sumaiya Nehla Saif** (Bangladesh), **Sharmin Akter Shitol** (Bangladesh), and **Christina Tamang** (Nepal). Through academic achievement and devotion to public service, these graduates exemplify Andy Matsui's life and his myriad achievements. Like Andy, the recipients of this award prove 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.

Dr Dipu Moni, Chair of the Board of Trustees and former Bangladesh Foreign Minister, highlighted the importance of A UW graduates going out into the world as change makers. She called for celebrating the diversity of the graduating class and reaffirmed the mission and values of A UW to educate compassionate and courageous young women for a life of leadership and service.



## GOVERNANCE

### A UW ELECTS FOUR NEW TRUSTEES AND TWO NEW PATRONS

A UW is pleased to announce the election of four new University Trustees: Executive Director of Milken Institute Asia **Laura Deal Lacey**, former Indian High Commissioner to the UK **Shiv Shankar Mukherjee**, Academy Award-winning filmmaker **Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy**, and President of Sweet Briar College Professor **Meredith Woo**. Additionally, A UW welcomes to its Council of Patrons former First Lady of the United States **Laura Bush** and former President of Sri Lanka Her Excellency Madam **Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga**.



"The inclusion of women in all aspects of society strengthens and improves the stability of their countries. Asian University for Women recognizes that investments in the success of women are investments that pay off, and that educating women has the power to change the world."

**FORMER FIRST LADY LAURA BUSH**

"I am thrilled to join A UW's Council of Patrons. A UW is a very important organization that has had a profound effect on many women's lives, including many Sri Lankan women. A UW exposes these young women to cultural diversity and provides them with the confidence and education they need to become great leaders who will create positive change within their own communities and beyond."

**FORMER PRESIDENT CHANDRIKA BANDARANAIKE KUMARATUNGA**



"Beyond making profound impact on life chances of its students, universities are agents of social change. Even so, A UW stands out because of the catalytic impact it has had in transforming the lives of many in societies across Asia. The impact that A UW has made is immediate, profound, and transformative."

**PROFESSOR MEREDITH WOO**

### Interview with YJ Kim



YJ Kim is one of A UW's most committed supporters. He serves as Board Chairman of A UW Support Foundation and Secretary of the A UW Board of Trustees. He also spearheads the creation of a new support committee based in South Korea. In July 2017, YJ convened A UW students, graduates, and current and new supporters for a dinner to establish and strengthen A UW's relationships with South Korean leaders and institutions including Korea EXIM Bank, ONE/SUN Law Firm, Ewha Womans University, Sookmyung Women's University, and Yonsei University. These institutions have generously hosted and sponsored A UW students and alumnae for internships, academic exchanges, and fully-funded graduate degree programs.

#### *How did you become involved with Asian University for Women?*

Arguably, it is almost a cliché to say that education is transformative. Nevertheless, the fact remains that education is indeed transformative, or at least aspires to be so. I am a product of this educational transformation myself, and have always remembered that education is what made me who I am today, through not only the raw knowledge, but more importantly through the values it instills in one as the ultimate purpose of education.

Asian University for Women has been a significant part of my life since its inception in 2008. I wasn't seeking out A UW, but when





I was presented with an opportunity to help spread the message of AUW, I was struck by its unique mission to transform Asia and the Middle East by educating this region's young women to become leaders and changemakers. I have been serving as a Trustee of the University and in such a capacity have felt privileged to be in a position to help set up its policies and offer strategic advice in this role. I am also involved as the Chair of the AUW Support Foundation, a position which allows me to advocate and source global funding for this important institution.

***AUW is in its tenth year of operations and has graduated nearly 550 alumnae. How do AUW graduates stand out?***

Whenever I speak to students, I am most struck by their intense commitment to enacting positive change in their communities and nations. Although they come from 15 diverse countries across Asia and the Middle East, AUW students share a unique passion for innovation and for making changes all around them. In recognition of the epidemic of 'brain drain' from developing countries, it is even more significant that they return to innovate in their countries of origin.

***Right now, 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?***

The UN Sustainable Development Goals for 2020 offer a snapshot of the transnational issues that we face as global citizens. Among goals for Clean Water and Sanitation (SDG6), Climate Action (SDG13), and Affordable Clean Energy (SDG7) lie the goals for Quality Education (SDG4) Gender Equality (SDG5). I believe that by achieving Sustainable Development Goals 4 and 5, thereby achieving quality education for



On November 4, 2017, the AUW Board of Trustees convened in Dhaka to plan for the upcoming year. Pictured top from left: **Kamal Ahmad, Kapil Jain, YJ Kim, Humayun Kabir, Shiv Shankar Mukherjee**; bottom from left: **Marina Mahathir, Lynne Anne Davis, Dipu Moni, Nirmala Rao, Låle Kesebi, and Laura Deal Lacey.**

both boys and girls, we will amplify our ability to achieve all other Sustainable Development goals. Studies have shown that when a woman is educated, the power of that education does not solely have impact on an individual level—a woman's education and empowerment will impact her children, her family, and her community. If we are able to imbue more than half of the world's population with the high level, normative knowledge needed to combat climate change, solve poverty and hunger, and forge transnational peace, we will be poised to address the most pressing issues of our globe.

***You personally donate to AUW. Why do you find AUW to be a powerful investment?***

To ignore women's education is to ignore the potential of more than half a country. Having seen how AUW students have been transformed in a short span of time to become leaders and changemakers, and have had such a compounding effect on those around them, I am more convinced than ever that women's education changes families, communities, and societies, much more than the education of the general population. It is truly the best investment one could make.

***You have mobilized a lot of support for AUW in Korea. What are some of your key achievements, and what is your vision for AUW support in Korea?***

I am particularly proud of the partnerships that have been created through our efforts in Korea. Through these partnerships, we have been able to bring even wider opportunities to AUW students and graduates. For example, Ewha Womans University in Seoul, which is the oldest women's university in the world, has for many years provided several full-tuition masters- and doctorate-level scholarships for AUW graduates. Our AUW graduates have already developed a reputation at Ewha for being some of the smartest, most diligent and tenacious graduate students. Sookmyung Women's University, started by one of the last empresses of the Chosun dynasty, also provides for one-semester exchange program for current AUW students each year. Korea Export-Import Bank also sponsors summer internships for current students, providing professional experience in the private sector. A number of former AUW Korea Eximbank interns have gone on to leading graduate degree programs and professional positions in development economics and public policy.

**Top left:** In October 2017, **Vice Chancellor Professor Rao** met with leaders of Ewha Womans University in Seoul.

**Bottom left:** YJ (center) with former **Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton** (right) and **Huma Abedin** (left).

**Right:** **Kamala KC** (AUW '13) is currently pursuing a Master's of NGO Studies from SungGongHoe University (Korean Episcopal University) with support from SUN Foundation, the pro bono arm of One Law firm in South Korea. In June 2017, Kamala was awarded the SUN Foundation Scholarship for International Human Rights to continue her research on the economic and social effects of remittances sent to Nepal by Nepalese migrant workers in Korea. Kamala expresses deep gratitude to SUN Foundation for supporting her graduate studies.







# THANK YOU

## We Cannot Do It Without You

*As women who are not far in age from AUW students, we are often struck by how fortunate we have been to have parents and mentors who believe in us and encourage us to reach the loftiest educational and professional heights we can imagine for ourselves. We have been gifted with inclusive and secure places to think, speak, and work in a world that is not always kind to women – especially women of color – and we are moved by the remarkable courage, tenacity, and brilliance of AUW students and graduates, many of whom have overcome immense adversity to come to AUW in search of their own mentors and spaces to learn without fear.*

As we reflect upon the past year and the more than 1200 women who have walked through the University's doors since 2008, we hope you will also take this time to reflect on the real need that persists at AUW.

The vast majority of AUW students are on full scholarship, and the University requires financial support to continue its model of enrolling students regardless of their ability to pay tuition. Moreover, the student body is growing at a rapid rate with limited space in its temporary facilities. Therefore, the University requires financial support to begin construction of its spacious permanent campus on its more than 140 acres of verdant land in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. This campus will represent a permanent space of empowerment for the women of Asia.

As you turn the last pages of this annual report, we hope you will consider making a donation in support of these critical projects so AUW can continue its work of making the world a kinder place for women and anyone who respects and cares for women.

Please visit <https://donate.asian-university.org/> to make an online donation today.

Sincerely,

The Editors

Kiko Wemmer & Ingrid Lustig







## OUR SUPPORTERS

Asian University for Women receives support from a range of individuals and organizations. Foundations and corporations — such as Abbott, Abbvie, 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.



Advantage Partners



## LIFETIME GIVING SOCIETIES (2002–2017)

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 June 30, 2017, 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  
Open Society Foundations/Open Society Institute  
United States Department of State and other Government Agencies

### SERVICE SOCIETY

**Cumulative Support of \$1 million to \$3,999,999**

Anonymous  
Abbott/Abbott Fund  
Goldman Sachs Foundation  
The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation  
The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation  
Andy Matsui  
Kathy Matsui and Jesper Koll  
UNIQLO Fast Retailing Co., Ltd  
Tadashi Yanai

### COURAGE SOCIETY

**Cumulative Support of \$500,000 to \$999,999**

Roy Y. Chen and Yuk Lynn C. Woo	The David and Lucile Packard Foundation
JPMorgan Chase Foundation	Pettit Foundation
The Maybank Foundation	The Rockefeller Foundation
MetLife Foundation	Vitol Foundation

### JUSTICE SOCIETY

**Cumulative Support of \$250,000 to \$499,999**

AbbVie Foundation	Takashi Murata
Mary D. Byron	Kathleen Pike
Chevron Corporation	The Margot and Thomas Pritzker Family Foundation
Citigroup Foundation	Pablo J. Salame
Negara Brunei Darussalam	Fumiko Ozawa
Robert and Yoko Feldman	Unique Zan Foundation
Kuwait Awqaf Public Foundation	Catherine Watters and Taisuke Sasanuma
Sir Mark and Lady Moody-Stuart	Tsumie Yamaguchi

### IN-KIND

The Government of Bangladesh	Mintz Levin Cohen Ferriz
Dorsey & Whitney	Glovsky & Popeo
FleishmanHillard	Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP
Google.org	Sotheby's
Mayer Brown	

## ANNUAL GIVING SOCIETIES (JULY 1, 2016 – JUNE 30, 2017)

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 Fiscal Year 2017 and exclude pledges.

### IN-KIND

Dorsey & Whitney	Mayer Brown
FleishmanHillard	MediaOutreach
Google.org	Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP

### EMPOWERMENT SOCIETY

#### Annual Gifts of \$500,000 to \$999,999

Open Society Foundation  
Stichting IKEA Foundation

### IMPACT SOCIETY

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Victor & William Fung Foundation	U.S. Department of State – DRL
MetLife Foundation	

### IMAGINATION SOCIETY

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Jack and Beth Meyer	Pettit Foundation
Takashi Murata	Shinichi Yokote

### JOY SOCIETY

#### Annual Gifts of \$50,000 to \$99,999

AbbVie Foundation	Hideki Kinuhata
All Stars Foundation	Shigeki Kiritani
Justin Gmelich	Levi Strauss Foundation
Kapil K. Jain and Sunita Jain	

*“In a world where there is a dearth of projects that work, that can in fact help bend all the charts that now capture the ill-fortunes of our society, AUW in my view and observation and engagement of many years is one project that can make a difference in not only just educating women to be leaders but also to make our whole societies a little more just. This is an irrepressible prospect.”*

### CHERIE BLAIR

Chancellor, Asian University for Women

### TRUTH SOCIETY

#### Annual Gifts of \$15,000 to \$49,999

Anne Charron	Rubana Huq	Marriott	Trading (Hong Kong) Limited	Wahab Al-Mutawa
Lynne Anne S. Davis	Indus Charitable Foundation	McKinsey & Company	Li & Fung	Toshiba Corporation
Abigail DeLessio		Kathy Matsui	L’Oreal Corporation	Kenro Tsutsumi
Richard Folsom	Young Joon Kim and Keun Joo Lee	Anthony Miller and Cecilia Melin	SAGE Publications Ltd	U.S. Department of State - INL
Henry Hamrock	Beedee and Ed Ladd	Mstar International	Shafeeqa Ali Abdul	
Hitachi, Ltd.				

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Katherine Ambrosino	DFS Group Limited	Ronald Lee	Mitsui & Co., Ltd.	Stella International Holdings
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Derek C. Bok	Robert A. and Yoko Feldman	Joan and George Lefroy	NPO Empowering Women Empowering Society	Stephanie Toppino
Boston Consulting Group Japan	Genting	Audrey Li	Pasha Family	UBS AG HK
Central European University	Girls Rights Project	John and Camilla Maria Lindfors	Point72 Asset Management LP	Phillipp and Donna Villhauer
Chuly Cheng	Bruce Hicks	Lombard Odier	Thierry Porte	John Williamson
Kimberly Cole	HSBC	John J. McGuire	Miwa Seki	Tsumie Yamaguchi
Michael Culhane	Stephanie M. Hui			
	Rebecca Ip			
	Alyson Jenkins			

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#### Annual Gifts of up to \$1,000 to \$4,999

Anonymous	Foundation	Toshiyuki Hirooka	Nomura Holdings, Inc.	Sasanuma
AC Global Solutions	Jeanette K. Chan	Stuart Hleckie	PAG Investment Management Co., Ltd	Joan Siegel
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Avanti	Caroline Chui	Interaction Event Management	Chris Rich	Jill Solomon
The Paul & Edith Babson Foundation	Christophe Duchatellier	Konsik Kim	Rock & Republic	David G. Pierce Ttee
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	Theodore C. and Yasuko Guild	Todd Moses and Yumiko Murakami		

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Yasuyuki Abe	Jeffrey Dobrinsky	Huckleberry	Julien Mathieu	Tetsuya Shiokawa
Philippe Lavan Adler	Marie Duhamel	Inframince	Catharine Matthews	Showa Women’s University
Tiziana Agnese	Mary F. Dunham	Jo K. Jagoda	Martin K. Matsui	Anthony Sorrenti
Alamprese	Ilan Shlomo Elad	Camille Jojo and Caroline Ergetie	Felicity McRobb	James Stewart
AmazonSmiles Foundation	Sarah Fields	Mayumi Jones	Susie Misini & Jane Loasett	T. Rowe Price Program for Charitable Giving
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	Marcy and Glenn Henderson	Yan Long		Feng Zhang
	Aya and Ernest Higa	Garrell Malacad		



## FINANCIAL REPORT\*

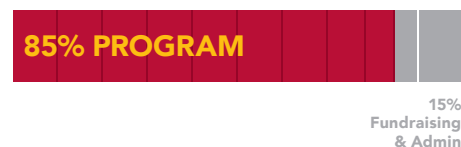
Statement of Activities and Change in Net Assets	2016	2017
<b>REVENUES</b>		
Contributions and Grants	\$1,195,767	\$1,228,859
Donated services	\$395,046	\$198,675
Interest and dividend income	\$956	\$1,447
Miscellaneous income	\$4,981	\$3,768
Net assets released from restrictions	\$3,735,240	\$3,560,600
<b>TOTAL REVENUE AND SUPPORT</b>	<b>\$5,331,990</b>	<b>\$4,993,349</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
<b>Program Services</b>		
University	\$3,118,326	\$2,569,914
Access Academy	\$862,052	\$679,437
Campus Planning and Operations	\$246,300	\$490,401
<b>TOTAL PROGRAM SERVICES</b>	<b>\$4,226,678</b>	<b>\$3,739,752</b>
<b>Supporting Services</b>		
Management and general	\$390,268	\$363,396
Fundraising	\$732,007	\$916,978
<b>TOTAL SUPPORTING SERVICES</b>	<b>\$1,122,275</b>	<b>\$1,280,374</b>
Donated Legal Services	\$123,824	\$64,724
Donated Outreach, Public Relations	\$148,612	\$13,450
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$5,621,389</b>	<b>\$5,098,300</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Net assets, beginning of year	\$11,187,166	\$11,514,129
Increase (decrease) in net assets	\$326,963	\$3,454,153
<b>NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$11,514,129</b>	<b>\$14,968,282</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$1,365,662	\$1,620,807
Unconditional promises to give	\$5,755,281	\$9,134,920
Other Assets	\$4,597,853	\$4,387,618
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$11,718,796</b>	<b>\$15,143,345</b>

\* AUWSF makes its past audited financial statements publicly available here: <http://asian-university.org/whowere/>. Reports may be found in the "Finances" tab. Above is a breakdown of revenues and expenses for Fiscal Year 2017. Additional contributions to AUW were also made directly to the institution in Bangladesh, as well as through the foundations in Hong Kong and the UK.

## EFFICIENT AND ACCOUNTABLE

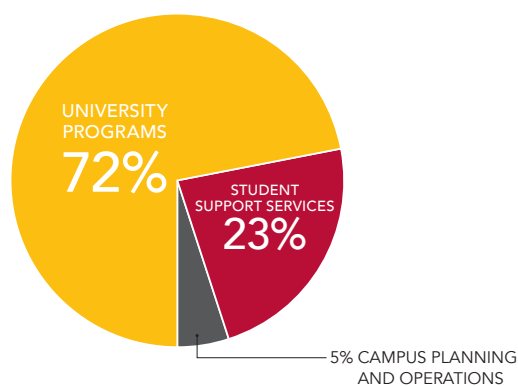
Your gift has a direct impact on educating AUW students. In Fiscal Year 2017, fundraising and general administration costs, net of donated services, represented 15% of all funds raised or committed for FY17. The remaining 85% of funds raised or committed went directly to AUW programs.

Using your gifts wisely:

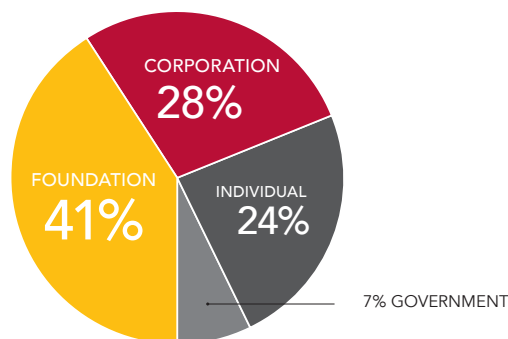


## OUR SUPPORTERS

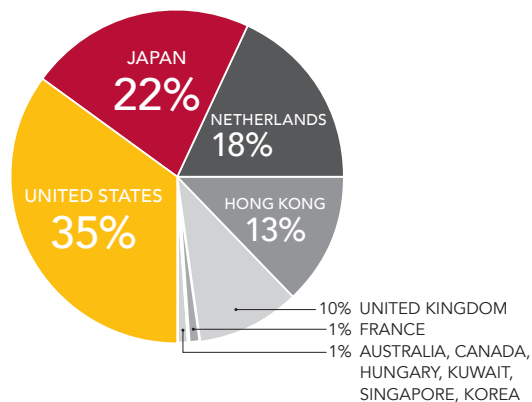
### Expenditures to Date



### Supporter Type Breakdown FY 2017



### Supporter Country Breakdown FY 2017





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20/A M.M. Ali Road  
Chittagong — 4000, Bangladesh  
Phone: +880-31-2854980-7  
Fax: +880-31-2854988

Asian University for Women Support Foundation  
1100 Massachusetts Avenue, Suite 100  
Cambridge, MA 02138, USA  
Phone: +1-617-914-0500  
Fax: +1-617-354-0247  
Email: [info@asian-university.org](mailto:info@asian-university.org)

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**Catherine Watters-Sasanuma**

**Miwa Seki**

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