



UNIVERSITY
SCHOLARS
LEADERSHIP
SYMPOSIUM

HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS ASIA

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PRESENTS

12TH UNIVERSITY SCHOLARS LEADERSHIP SYMPOSIUM

BE THE CHANGE

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE CENTRE, BANGKOK | AUGUST 6 TO 9, 2024



12th UNIVERSITY SCHOLARS

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Be the Change



A TRANSFORMATIVE JOURNEY

Have you ever felt the world's weight on your shoulders, yearning to make a difference but feeling lost and alone in your quest? Global issues, such as climate change and inequality, can be overwhelming. But what if we told you that you're not alone? What if we told you there's a community of passionate young leaders like you ready to take action and make a real impact? Welcome to the University Scholars Leadership Symposium (USLS). Here, you'll enjoy a transformative experience that will equip you with the tools and confidence to tackle the most pressing issues. Through engaging UN workshops and inspiring talks by real-life change-makers, you'll find your voice, purpose, and power to make a difference.



PASSION, PERSISTENCE, PATIENCE AND PURPOSE

Embark on an unparalleled journey with the University Scholars Leadership Symposium (USLS)! This transformative program is crafted to ignite the flame of humanity deep within you, setting your heart ablaze with a fervour to champion justice, give a voice to the voiceless, take action against the climate crisis and unlock your potential to become the destined leader you were meant to be.

At the core of the USLS experience is the cultivation of emerging world leaders, instilling the confidence to spearhead sustainable development projects within their communities. It's a melting pot of ideas, a hub for collaborations, and a space where diverse voices unite for a shared vision of a better world.

Join us at the USLS, where your passion meets the purpose and the 4 Ps guide you to make a lasting impact. Let the flame within you burn brighter as you become the leader the world awaits.

BECOME A PIONEER

P **POTENTIAL.** Develop leadership competencies such as communication skills, public speaking, and empathy.

I **NSPIRATION.** Learn from humanitarian heroes and transformational leaders through their motivational speeches.

O **PPORTUNITY.** Initiate socially meaningful projects addressing climate change, poverty, and inequality.

N **ETWORKING.** Connect with like-minded peers from around the world committed to positive social change.

E **NGAGEMENT.** Participate at the Service Learning Day and advocate for people, environment and animals.

E **NLIGHTENED.** Join our community of Global Changemakers to advance the UNSDG.

R **ESOURCEFUL.** Accelerate your career in social change, advocacy work, and humanitarian affairs.

The USLS isn't just an event; it's your launchpad into a world of possibilities. Be part of a community where your passion for humanity meets a network of like-minded emerging leaders. Your journey towards becoming a humanitarian superstar starts here, and the impact lasts a lifetime.



CHAMPIONING CHANGE

I return from the 'University Scholars Leadership Symposium' by Humanitarian Affairs Asia, and my heart is overflowing with gratitude for this transformative experience. Surrounded by remarkable individuals from 46 countries across the world, I have been profoundly touched by the power of unity and compassion.

The USLS is more than just an event; it's a gathering of kindred spirits who share a common vision for a better world. It's difficult to capture the essence of this extraordinary gathering, but at its core, it radiates hope for a brighter future and an unwavering commitment to action. Among these like-minded souls, I felt a palpable connection that transcends borders, all of us bound by our shared dedication to creating a safer and more sustainable world for everyone.

The atmosphere throughout the event was one of introspection and a deep consideration of our roles in addressing complex social issues. Despite the daunting challenges we discussed, optimism flowed through every moment of the week. The speakers shared their personal journeys of transformation, highlighting a common thread: they saw a problem, and they decided to be part of the solution. Each of them had crossed the threshold from being mere observers to becoming catalysts for change. This revelation was my main takeaway - an understanding that action is not a choice; it's a responsibility, and it is through action that we can pave the way for profound change.

I am inspired to take the message of 'take action' and weave it into the fabric of my daily life. Volunteering and advocacy will no longer be occasional commitments; they will become intrinsic parts of who I am.

Jake Beasley
University of Westminster
London, England



SEEDS OF INSPIRATION



I reflected on the profound impact the symposium had on me. It reaffirmed my belief in the power of one person to make a difference in the world, given knowledge, passion, and determination. I felt an overwhelming sense of gratitude for the opportunity life had presented me and was inspired to seize every chance that came my way.

Most importantly, the symposium transformed my dream of working for an international organisation like the United Nations from a distant aspiration into a tangible goal. It opened new possibilities I had never considered, igniting a fire within me to pursue a path of leadership and positive change.

The University Scholars Leadership Symposium was a turning point in my academic journey. It taught me that the world is full of opportunities waiting for those willing to take action. As I continue my studies and strive to make a positive impact, I carry the lessons and inspiration from this experience, reminding me that I can be a force for change in our complex and interconnected world.

Charlie Maher
University of Technology Sydney

SPEAKERS SPOTLIGHT

Ordinary Individuals, Extraordinary Impact



Tech Visionary

Jack Growden once pondered a fundamental question at the USLS, 'Who am I to make an impact in the world?' Fast forward seven years, Jack is now a young and thriving CEO with a mission to make technology accessible to everyone. He initiated this journey by donating his laptop to a school in Papua New Guinea and pledging to establish a computer lab. Following the USLS, he founded LiteHaus International and has since positively influenced over 105,000 students in need. Globally recognised as a One Young World Lead 2030 Challenge Winner for SDG 4 and locally acknowledged as a Finalist in the 2022 Queensland Young Australian of the Year Award, Jack continues to make a significant impact.



Survivor to Champion

Ifrah Ahmed, a Somali-Irish social activist, is a staunch advocate for women's rights and gender equality. Originating from Somalia, she sought refuge in Ireland after enduring the harsh realities of war. Having survived the traumatic experience of female genital mutilation (FGM), Ifrah channelled her pain into a powerful advocacy mission. Through the establishment of the Ifrah Foundation, she is at the forefront of the fight against FGM, aiming to eradicate the practice and provide support to survivors. Globally recognised, Ifrah's impactful advocacy extends to addressing the United Nations and contributing to Ireland's criminalisation of FGM. Her work exemplifies the transformative influence of dedicated individuals in challenging systemic injustices and fostering positive change.



Fists to Hope

Bahir Ahmad, an MMA champion, transitioned from the world of sports to becoming a crusader for street kids in Pakistan. Originating from a background of physical prowess, Bahir redirected his passion toward a compassionate cause. Witnessing the plight of marginalised street children, he founded initiatives aimed at their welfare and education. Through sports programs and educational interventions, Bahir seeks to uplift these vulnerable youths, providing them opportunities for a brighter future. His journey from the MMA arena to the streets reflects a remarkable transformation, illustrating the profound impact one individual can have in addressing societal challenges and championing the cause of those often overlooked.



Elephant Guardian

Born in a hill tribe village with an innate love for Thailand's symbol, the Elephant, Lek, known as Thailand's Elephant Whisperer, communicates with these creatures through love, not language. Her story is one of fearless advocacy, making her the voice and protector of Thailand's maltreated animals, urging a connection with the animal kingdom. Over 200 elephants find solace at the Save Elephant Foundation, a sanctuary Lek established in Chiang Mai. Her mission transcends shelter and is dedicated to protecting traumatised elephants exploited in animal tourism. An international Animal Rights Activist and one of six Women Heroes of Global Conservation recognised by Hillary Clinton in 2010, Lek stands true to her roots amidst nature with her rescued elephant herd.



Global Humanitarian

David Begbie, the visionary Founder of Crossroads Foundation in Hong Kong, responded to global misery by establishing a non-profit organisation driven by a deep sense of responsibility for a world in dire need of repair. His belief in the innate willingness of individuals to help those in need became the foundation of his mission. Connecting people globally, Crossroads transformed into a Global Service featuring interactive simulations that offer participants a firsthand understanding of poverty, refugees, HIV/AIDS, and blindness. This experiential approach compels individuals to take meaningful action at the intersection of compassion. Recognised as a world leader in humanitarian issues, David received the Hong Kong Humanity Award. His Global X-perience simulations garnered attention from former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon and British tycoon Sir Richard Branson.



Defying the Odds

Sam Cawthorn defied all odds and embraced a newfound love for life after a fatal near-death experience. Pronounced dead for over three minutes following a high-speed collision, Sam's life took an unexpected turn. Faced with the loss of an arm and severe leg damage, he was told he would never walk again. Yet, within a year, Sam took his first steps, choosing to bounce forward. His decision transformed him into an international best-selling author, entrepreneur, and sought-after keynote speaker. Sam's story challenges us to reconsider our choices, emphasizing that our decisions, not our conditions, determine happiness and success. He inspires us to live each day with meaning and purpose, proving that a spring in our step is our choice.



Igniting Potential

Simerjeet Singh, an influential motivational speaker from India, is renowned for his dynamic and inspirational presentations that empower individuals and organisations. With a charismatic and engaging speaking style, Singh tackles various personal and professional development aspects. With a background in psychology, he seamlessly blends insights from diverse fields to motivate and instil positive change. Singh has garnered international acclaim for fostering growth mindsets and encouraging transformative action through motivational talks, workshops, and coaching sessions. He is not just a speaker but a catalyst for positive change, leaving an indelible impact on audiences seeking motivation and leadership guidance.



UN WORKSHOPS FOR CHANGEMAKERS

Dream, Learn, Lead

Embark on an epic journey with UN superheroes through four mind-blowing workshops that promise to spark brilliance, ignite ideas, and set the stage for a dance with inspiration. These aren't your ordinary workshops; they are secret passages to unleashing the potential within every young mind, turning them into global changemakers. Imagine the curtain lifting on the world's most significant challenges, and in that moment, young minds collide with creativity, passion, and the power to make a difference. These workshops aren't just about gaining knowledge and fostering minds that will lead us to a cooler, more balanced world. Get ready to walk away not just informed but armed with the superhero skills needed to make our world truly awesome.



UN GLOBAL SOLUTIONS SHOWCASE

Elevate. Inspire. Transform

The United Nations Exhibition goes beyond being a mere display of knowledge; it stands as a testament to the boundless power of inspiration and an unwavering dedication to a better world. In the face of unprecedented challenges, the United Nations emerges as a beacon of hope and change, presenting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a roadmap to a brighter future. Yet, these goals require champions, and who are better than today's young and dynamic leaders – YOU?

Humanitarian Affairs Asia recognises this imperative and orchestrates a symphony of purpose at the USLS 2024. Ten selected UN agencies with remarkable stories of change and progress converge to showcase groundbreaking work and, more importantly, to ignite inspiration among the delegates.

The United Nations Exhibition is not just an event; it's an invitation for delegates to embark on a transformative journey. It's an opportunity to delve into the ocean of global challenges, emerging stronger, armed with knowledge, and motivated to become architects of a brighter, more sustainable future.



KINDNESS DAY

Leave No One Behind

Kindness Day at the 12th University Scholars Leadership Symposium sparks an electrifying vibe, leaving an unforgettable imprint on everyone present. It's not just a mark but a dynamic burst of unity, compassion, and an unwavering determination to ignite transformation.

Think about it - instead of mere promises, the symposium carves a path of action, fuelling the fire of a fresh cohort of leaders ready to sculpt a world steeped in positive change. They turn the mundane into the magical, proving that every small effort adds up and that the youth wields the power to sculpt a future adorned with empathy and innovation.

And oh, the symposium? It isn't just a gathering; it's an orchestra of inspiration and empowerment. It pulsates with the rhythm of unity, resonates with the melody of compassion, and harmonises with the symphony of impactful deeds. A platform that talks and walks the talk leaves a trail of kindness, unity, and boundless hope.

So here's to a symposium that isn't confined to four walls; it's an idea, a spark that ignites a revolution of hearts and minds. It's not just a legacy; it's a movement that shapes tomorrow's trailblazers, one act of kindness at a time. Welcome to a world where youth is not just a bystander but the conductor of positive change, where every moment etches an indelible mark on humanity's canvas.



WHERE GLOBAL LEADERS MEET

The USLS will be held at the United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC) in Bangkok, Thailand. The UNCC is the headquarters of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP). As a specialised agency of the United Nations, UNESCAP addresses global challenges and opportunities and promotes a coordinated and integrated approach to sustainable development.



WHO CAN BECOME A DELEGATE

We invite all outstanding youth leaders between the ages of 18 to 30 with the following qualities to participate in the University Scholars Leadership Symposium:

Youth Leaders should be able to demonstrate strong leadership potential and demonstrate how they can aspire to learn from others to become better leaders.

Youth Leaders should have an open mind and genuinely appreciate different perspectives and individuals with different backgrounds, interests and ambitions.

Youth Leaders should hold consideration and respect for others and possess an interest in serving society better.



WHAT DOES THE REGISTRATION FEE COVER

The fee of USD 1,500 + 7% VAT (tax) includes:

- 5-night Accommodation on a sharing basis
- Local Transportation during Official Activities
- Meals include 5 breakfasts, 4 lunches and 5 Coffee Breaks
- An Enriching Interactive Experience
- Inspiring Guest Lecturers
- Knowledge-based Plenary Discussions
- A Kindness Day Activities
- One Souvenir T-shirt
- An Electronic Certificate of Participation
- Networking Opportunities