

UNITED NATIONS

AUGUST 1 TO 7, 2017

ORGANISED BY



8<sup>TH</sup>  
UNIVERSITY  
SCHOLARS  
LEADERSHIP  
SYMPOSIUM

BUILDING LIFE, GIVING HOPE

# 8<sup>TH</sup> UNIVERSITY SCHOLARS LEADERSHIP SYMPOSIUM



UNITED NATIONS  
AUGUST 1 TO 7, 2017





**N**ine hundred emerging world leaders from over 70 countries will convene at the United Nations for the **8<sup>TH</sup> University Scholars Leadership Symposium (USLS)**, in Bangkok, Thailand. The theme for the Symposium is ***"BUILDING LIFE, GIVING HOPE."***

This annual Leadership Symposium in Social Change is hosted by Humanitarian Affairs United Kingdom in partnership with Humanitarian Affairs Asia. The 8<sup>TH</sup> USLS is specially designed to impart the next generation's leaders with awareness towards arising humanitarian issues in the world and to imbue compassion towards humanity among them.

In this challenging world - poverty, war, injustice, modern slavery, human trafficking, refugee crisis, terrorism, racism, inequality, climate change, political corruption, and so forth - have left many individuals in desperate situations. Basic human rights are exploited, homes are destroyed, families are torn apart, education is taken away, and innocent lives are lost every single day.

This world is spiralling downwards – you can be the change to make the world spiral upwards. The 8<sup>TH</sup> USLS will inspire and empower emerging world leaders to look at the world in a different light, think bigger beyond themselves, take actions to transform communities and make positive impacts in this world.

# MESSAGE FROM UNESCO

# DR. QIAN TANG

## ASSISTANT DIRECTOR-GENERAL FOR EDUCATION

**A**s young leaders, you are a particularly cherished group for UNESCO, the United Nations' specialized agency for education. In the last few years, across the world, we have seen young people taking to the streets, demanding to have their views taken into account. In many cases, these youth are the first generation in their family that have had a chance to go to university, or to finish – or even start school.

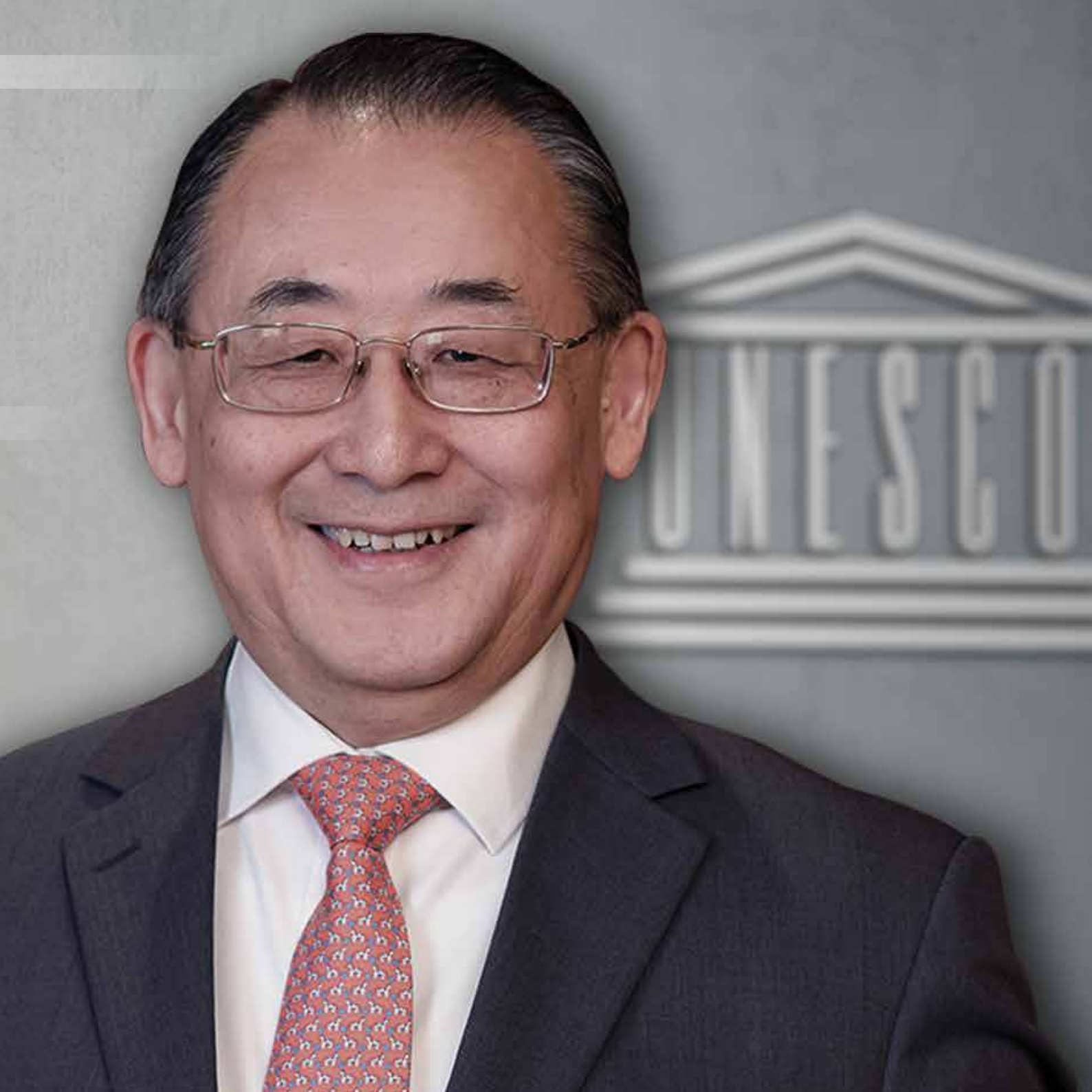
Your generation is the most-educated generation that has ever walked the earth. Through your intellect, your energy, your activism, you can contribute to building a more equitable and sustainable world – one in which all people can access the right education to build better lives for themselves and their communities. Simply put, you are the future.

In 2030, today's young people will be beginning to assume responsibility for guiding their communities' policy decisions. What kind of world do you want? Who better than you can tell governments what the key education challenges you face are? Who better than you can explain the types of knowledge, skills and competencies you need to be able to find decent work and make an active contribution to the development of your communities? Who better than you can help educationalists to make learning relevant to your needs and expectations?

This is why it is so important that you, today's young leaders, contribute to this debate on the future of global education. I encourage you to engage on these issues and think about how you can make a difference. As university scholars, you are among those who have been privileged to have a higher education.

**Together, let's make education a reality for all.**





# HUMANITARIAN



**T**he mission of Humanitarian Affairs is to empower young people and facilitate those youth who are passionate about positive social change. The organisation was established with a vision to set an action based example for young people interested in making a difference to those less fortunate than themselves. It aims to translate their intention and ideas into action, and provide comprehensive exposure for the development of well-rounded future leaders.

Humanitarian Affairs seeks to create a drive and sense of purpose in young leaders by equipping them with the rights skills and tools to spark a generation of dynamic individuals paving the way for the larger social good. Ultimately, the organisation envisions building an international network of inspired, empowered and proactive young leaders who will be influential change-makers and decision-makers of the future.

Humanitarian Affairs is affiliated with the United Nations Global Compact, World Association of Non-Governmental Organization, International Association for Voluntary Efforts and the World Alliance for Citizens Participation.





# AFFAIRS





# WHERE GREAT

**U**SLS 2017 at the United Nations, where emerging world leaders from all UN member states will come together, to exchange and formulate action plans on UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Delegates will experience the beauty of diversity and the contagious positive energy at the USLS 2017, where 900 emerging world leaders come together to empower each other in reversing the downwards spiral of today world.



*It's safe to say that attending the University Leadership Symposium has been a week of challenges and emotional exhaustion, but it has also opened up previously unimaginable possibilities as to how we can make a difference.*

*Ariane Cox, University of the Pacific*



# MINDS MEET



USLS will provide a perfect venue to establish close friendships with like-minded global young leaders from more than 70 countries. Get a glimpse of different cultures in the world, and build valuable networks.

Ignite your passion for humanity at the United Nations. Step out of your comfort zone and set your heart on a greater cause beyond self. USLS will challenge you to carry out a life of change, passion, persistence, patience and purpose, and rekindle the light of humanity that is deep within you.

*osium has been the highlight of my university career thus far.  
on but this incredible opportunity has opened up so many  
ow I can be a positive contributor to society.*

*of Newcastle, Australia.*



# WHERE POTENTIAL IS UNLOCKED AND EMPOWERED



**D**o you think you have what it takes to make a difference in this world? Discover your limitless potential at the 8th USLS, hosted in the United Nations, where global scholars get one-step closer to finding a fit in the global humanitarian puzzle.



*I learnt so much at this great Symposium and are ready to begin my humanitarian journey. I know it wouldn't be an easy path but I am glad, I have built my level of confidence after this wonderful experience at the USLS. I can assure you that it is going to be rewarding for those who have the chance to attend this life-changing event.*

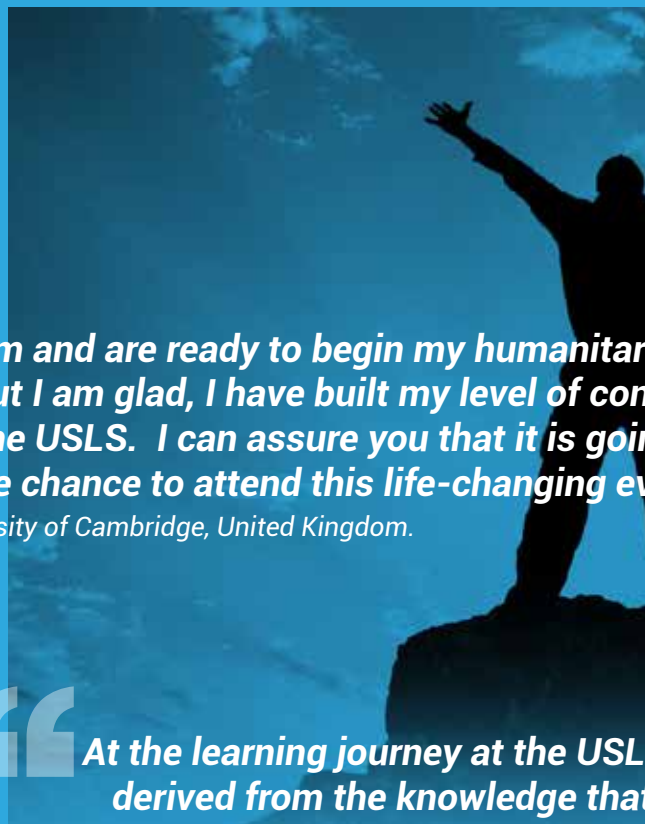
*Willie Brown, University of Cambridge, United Kingdom.*

At USLS, you will discover things about yourself that you did not think existed. You will be empowered to know that you are never too small to make a difference. Get your full potential unleashed and find out how you can be “YOU” and make a positive change in this world at USLS 2017.



*At the learning journey at the USLS, I have derived from the knowledge that I have gained brings more emotional growth and leaves one more contented.*

*Virginia De Leon, King College*



# WHERE PARADIGM OF LIFE IS SHIFTED



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S, I have such a feeling of fulfilment  
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ed than any perishable rewards.”

ge London, United Kingdom.

**A**s human beings, we tend to think of ourselves as individual entities, separate from the rest of mankind. Travel may open our eyes to a myriad of personalities, languages and cultures. However, the most important lesson we can hope to learn is of the common humanity which binds us all together. As we begin to explore the world around us and discover that we share a mutual destiny, hopefully, we will also begin to have the courage to believe that we are able to make a difference in this world and build a sustainable future for mankind?

And being the emerging world leaders, you have the power to make a difference in the lives of those living in extreme condition. You can harness the potential to contribute to the social and economic development of our respective countries, and build the foundation of the world's future. This Symposium was what the UN is all about, and what humanity should be all about: making a difference in the lives of people. You will grow richer in experience, and excited to bring about positive change with all the learning and ideas from USLS 2017.

When one looks at the word leadership, they say 'Can I become a leader?' The answer to that question is 'Yes, all of you can be leaders.' Another question asked is: 'What does it take to become a leader?' Leadership involves having the capacity to translate vision into reality." And this is what USLS stands for – **Inspiring Individuals, Transforming Communities.**



# GROUP DISCUSSION

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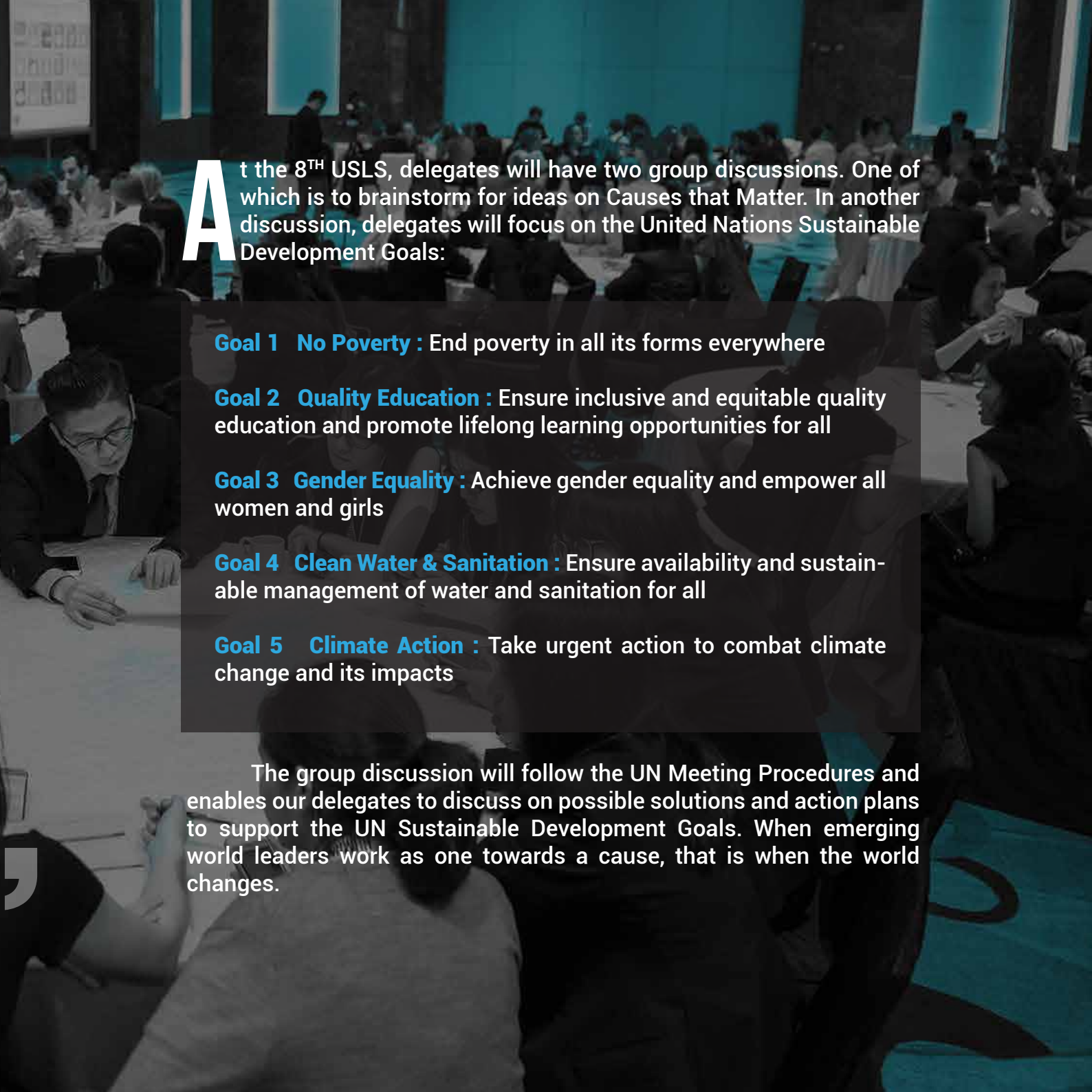
*The USLS experience filled me with compassion to implement change in my community. Since being involved with the USLS, I became the President of the University of Newcastle, Law Students' Association and Sponsorship Officer for the Australian Law Students' Association.*

*Do not hesitate, even for a moment about applying for this great Symposium. You will never know what you will discover, unless you try.*

Andreena Kardamis

*President, University of Newcastle Law Students' Association.*

”



**A**t the 8<sup>TH</sup> USLS, delegates will have two group discussions. One of which is to brainstorm for ideas on Causes that Matter. In another discussion, delegates will focus on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals:

**Goal 1 No Poverty** : End poverty in all its forms everywhere

**Goal 2 Quality Education** : Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

**Goal 3 Gender Equality** : Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

**Goal 4 Clean Water & Sanitation** : Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

**Goal 5 Climate Action** : Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

The group discussion will follow the UN Meeting Procedures and enables our delegates to discuss on possible solutions and action plans to support the UN Sustainable Development Goals. When emerging world leaders work as one towards a cause, that is when the world changes.







# WORKSHOP SESSION

**T**o have a fulfilling life, we need to do something that matters to us. Satisfaction comes when we are doing something meaningful and purposeful. Everyone has a cause that he / she is passionate about. The issue that you are concerned with or excited about may be different from that of another person. The important thing is, all of us have a concern that makes us want to step out and do something.

What is your concern and passion? Have you been thinking about it lately? Have you done something about it? Unfortunately, we are sometimes too busy with our activities that we have no time to think or do something about what really matters to us. For some of us, the spark of passion within us may have been extinguished by the mundane activities of life. For others, we may want to turn our desire into action but do not know where to start and what to do.

The Workshop Session at the USLS 2017 aims to provide an avenue for our delegates to discuss on "Causes That Matter". At the end of the session, we hope to turn the "Causes That Matter" into concrete action plan. Hopefully, some delegates will start taking baby steps and have the courage to start Doing Good.

# LEARNING JOURNEY

**T**he adage '*it is better to give than to receive*' illustrates the importance and joy of sharing and caring. It is also not so much the gift but the thought behind it that matters. Mother Teresa said that it is not how much we give but how much love we put into giving that counts and a simple deed, like bringing a word of encouragement or lending a listening ear, can much comfort to a person who needs a friend. A simple act of showing concern can lift up another person's spirit and bring light to his / her darkness.

It is with this in mind that Humanitarian Affairs focuses on the training of the heart and the attitudes of the participants at the USLS. The Organization hopes to instill a sense of social responsibility as well as cultivate the attributes of selfless giving among our emerging world leaders. The learning journey provides an avenue for our young leaders to understand what it means to give back to the community by offering acts of compassion and unconditional services to the marginalized.

The USLS is all about changing the lives of communities in need. Hence, the learning program at the symposium hopes to give our participants the opportunity to interact with those in need in the community. The delegates will learn from first-hand experience the harsh realities that countless people face due to poverty, age, social status, injustice and others. Through these meaningful interaction with the marginalized, our delegates will have a broader perspective of life and hopefully, some may be challenged to step forth to effect positive changes.

This experiential learning is, indeed, an unforgettable experience that has touched the lives of many delegates in previous USLS Conferences and will continue to do so year after year.














# KNOWLEDGE WHIZ

**A**re you keen to start a humanitarian initiative and doesn't know how to begin? If you're seriously considering to develop a project to benefit a community in need, then you are invited to book an appointment with us and to meet one of our humanitarian specialists on an inspiring and thought provoking one on one session. You will acquire new skills and gain new knowledge that will help to build your confidence consequently propelling you to fulfil your dreams. If you want to be among the next generation leaders, and you have a humanitarian heart and spirit that pushes you to do something about the pain, suffering, hardship, and poverty in this world, then you can realise your dreams at the USLS.

# GUEST SPEAKER AND LIFE COACH

**T**he University Scholars Leadership Symposium has some of the world-renowned coaches and motivational speakers that believe that all the young scholars have the wisdom and power within them to make their life what they want it to be. Our speakers have gained international acclaim and recognition for their humanitarian work.

Their inspirational stories of survival in the face of adversity and lost hope demonstrate the extraordinary strength of the human spirit. These humanitarians acknowledge the fact that there are people out there that have been failed by our systems, people whose rights have been violated, and deserve our help and compassion; their work and perseverance serve as an inspiration to many.



# S IES

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# DR. LUTFI FADIL LOKMAN

FOUNDER, HOSPITAL BEYOND BOUNDARIES  
UNITED NATIONS YOUNG LEADER - MALAYSIA



**D**r. Lutfi Fadil Lokman is a 28-year-old medical doctor and Health Economics researcher at the Malaysia Institute of Health Systems Research (IHSR).

In 2012, he founded Hospitals Beyond Boundaries (HBB), where he currently serves as the Chief Executive Officer. HBB is a non-profit organization that builds clinics and hospitals in impoverished communities in South East Asia. HBB's first clinic was established in Phnom Penh, providing healthcare accessibility to more than 3000 families from the marginalized Cham ethnic minority of Cambodia.

The healthcare facilities are run as social enterprises by the local youth population, who are trained and employed as community health workers working alongside doctors, nurses and health professionals. Since its establishment, Hospitals Beyond Boundaries has trained and served more than 3,000 young people.

Dr. Lutfi's work was recently acknowledged by the United Nations which recognized him as one of 17 individuals, from a list of 18,000 people from 186 countries, who is inducted into the group of advocates for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Formerly an intern at the World Health Organization (WHO) in Switzerland, Dr. Lutfi's main interest lies in the field of health economics, intercalating between prescribing medications to individual patients and prescribing sustainable health systems to impoverished communities.



# RYAN HRELJAC

FOUNDER, RYAN'S WELL FOUNDATION  
CANADA

**W**hile only six year old, Ryan Hreljac was inspired to take action as a grade one student when he learned of the devastating consequences of people without access to safe drinking water. He was determined to provide help and he succeeded in rallying his community to help him raise the funds needed to build one well in Uganda, Africa. That one well has changed his life and many lives in Africa.

Ryan Hreljac, who is only 25 years old, is a busy 'diplomat'. He has laid a wreath with Prince Charles, dined with Prince Edward at Buckingham Palace, attended a church service with Queen Elizabeth, appeared a number of times on the Oprah Winfrey Show, collaborated with Dr. Jane Goodall and received communion from the late Pope John Paul II. His organization, Ryan's Well Foundation, has helped raise millions of dollars to bring clean water to more than 850,000 people in sixteen developing countries around the world.

Ryan has received numerous awards including the Order of Ontario, the Canadian Meritorious Service Medal, the Top 20 under 20 Youth Award, and World of Children's Founder Award. Ryan's work has also been featured in dozens of textbooks and hundreds of books and magazines including Time Magazine, Christian Science Monitor, People Magazine, and the Reader's Digest.

He is recognized by UNICEF as a Global Youth Leader and by CNN as a CNN Hero. The work of the Ryan's Well Foundation has become the story of countless people, young and old, from around the world who reject apathy and realize that anyone – even children in grade one – can make a difference.

The Ryan's Well Foundation is a Canadian charitable organization providing effective and sustainable solutions to the water crisis in the poorest regions in developing countries. Together with local partners, it provides access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene education in these regions.

In Ryan's words; "We educate and motivate people to share our passion and contribute to achieving change in the world."

# FRANCIS KONG

INSPIRATIONAL SPEAKER & AUTHOR  
PHILIPPINES



**F**rancis J. Kong is a well-respected speaker in the Philippines and has earned the distinction as one of the recipients for 2014 The Outstanding Filipino Awards. Francis is a businessman, a columnist, a broadcaster, a book author and an inspirational speaker.

As an entrepreneur, Francis is well versed in the field of manufacturing and retail. He founded a famous garment brand and ran it successfully for 17 years. He also ventured into retailing an Italian fashion brand and managed its marketing and operations for many years. Francis also formed Funworks Inc. and Success Options Inc. which started as a publishing firm and now offers training and development consultancy in business, work and life. He also co-founded Inspire, a leadership consultancy company.

As a business consultant, Francis sits as an adviser in some of the country's top business corporations. As a personal coach, Francis has mentored many of the top business leaders in the country. As a broadcaster, Francis runs a radio program called Business Matters at DZFE-FM 98.7.

As a speaker and trainer, Francis gave an average of 300 talks at seminars and conferences both locally in the Philippines and abroad yearly. As a book author he has authored 18 books.

Francis won the Anvil Award for Excellence for the staging of the Dr. John Maxwell Seminar Series, Gold Quill Award for Best Public Speech category awarded by the International Association Business Communicators.

Francis has also completed the 'Apologetics and Philosophy' Course at Oxford University and the 'Managing Yourself and Leading Others' seminar in Harvard University's Continuous Education Program.





# SIMERJEET SINGH

INTERNATIONAL MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKER & PERFORMANCE COACH  
INDIA

**S**imerjeet Singh is a highly sought after International Motivational Speaker who coaches youth and students to tune into and celebrate their inner selves amidst the noise of public opinion. Over the last decade, he has partnered more than 200 organizations worldwide to help them reach the next level of success.

His mission is to help young minds define their own understanding of success and to celebrate their inner selves. His talks and interactive sessions provide a fresh perspective of the purpose of life, cultivated through more than a decade of working with businesses, educational institutes and non-profit organizations globally.

Simerjeet's background is unconventional, as is his approach. He believes it is the unconventional wisdom that will speak to youth the most. He chose to leave a successful career in the hospitality industry to pursue his dream. In sharing what he's learned from his experience, he inspires students and youth to harness their own power to pursue their dream.

For him, it comes down to a core belief that for all people, in all places - we have more inside us than we are currently using. Simerjeet's purpose is to help his audience first identify what their strengths are and to ignite their motivation, enabling them to harness the power of these strengths to achieve success.

# GRACE LI

CEO AND FOUNDER, WE CARE ACT  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**A**fter seeing the devastating footage of the Sichuan earthquake on television in May 2008, Grace, then a 12 year old elementary student, decided to do something for the victims. She began printing newsletters and going door-to-door to collect donations for the victims of the earthquake. Grace also got permission from the local Red Cross to allow her to place donation tins at three schools managed by the Red Cross. Grace was so committed to the cause that she stationed herself at community centres, to collect more donations. Within a few months of her efforts, she raised over US\$6,000 for the victims.

At the end of summer 2008, her family arranged for her to make a trip to Sichuan, where she met some of the earthquake victims of her own age. Her experience in Sichuan impacted her deeply and Grace believes she should do more to help. Thus, upon her return, Grace set up the "We Care Act" organisation to provide support for the victims of the earthquake.



Over the years, Grace has raised more than \$240,000 and helped more than 40,000 people in 17 natural disaster areas. For her work, Grace was recognised by the America Youth Service, as one of the 25 Most Powerful and Influential Young People in the World, receiving also the U.S. President's Volunteer Service Award. She has spoken at the U.S. Summit for Global Citizen Diplomacy and the Youth Service Institute Annual Conference, and was a guest blogger on the White House website.

Currently, Grace is a senior at Duke University, where she studies biology, after which she will spend two years in New York City working for Teach for America before going to medical school. She is passionate about education, disaster relief, and youth engagement for positive change.



# RACHEL SUMEKH

FOUNDER, SWIPE OUT HUNGER  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**W**hile only 18 years old, Rachel Sumekh, a former student from University of California, Los Angeles, noticed there were many homeless people living on the streets. Concerned for their hunger and plight, Rachel and two college friends came together and brainstorm for ideas to help alleviate the susceptibility of the homeless population in the neighbourhood.

One idea was to encourage students with unused meal plans, which would otherwise go to waste, to donate them to the homeless at the end of each semester. Rachel and her friends would collect and donate them to residents in the homeless shelters as well as the homeless living on the streets. Many other initiatives, targeting food wastage in the residential dining halls, fast-food eateries on campus, and community businesses, were started to salvage food for those less fortunate on a daily basis.

Thus, Swipes, a volunteer project was established in the University of California, Los Angeles. It hopes not only to feed the homeless, but also to educate the students on campus about homelessness and hunger problems in Los Angeles, and what they can do to help.

Swipe Out Hunger, which began as a college volunteer project, has served 1.2 million meals to the homeless and Rachel, the founder of the organization, was called a Champion of Change by The White House. Swipe Out Hunger has been highlighted by The New York Times, Forbes and others, all before Rachel turned 25 years old.

Before joining Swipe Out Hunger full-time, Rachel followed her millennial urge to change the world and to serve those in poverty as a case manager in Chicago. She is a graduate of UCLA and a millennial Change-Maker.

# REGISTRATION FEE

All applicants for the USL Symposium must pass through the Organisation's screening process. Thereafter, successful applicants must confirm their participation by paying their registration fee.

Successful Applicants and Faculty Observers may choose from a selection of registration packages which best suit their needs.

	Full Symposium Registration Fee (Individual)	Group Registration Fee (For 5 and above)	Convention & Networking Access (Meals Without Breakfast)
<b>Early Registration</b> (From 1 November 2016 to 31 March 2017)	USD 950.00	USD 890.00	USD 650.00
<b>Late Registration</b> (From 1 April 2017 to 22 July 2017)	USD 990.00	USD 950.00	USD 700.00
<b>6-Night Accommodation</b> on a Sharing basis	✓	✓	
<b>Participation in the Learning Journey</b>	✓	✓	✓
<b>Meals including 6 Breakfast Meals, 5 Lunch Meals and 6 Coffee Breaks</b>	✓	✓	✓
<b>One Piece of Souvenir T-shirt</b>	✓	✓	✓
<b>Entry to All Guest Lectures and the Plenary Sessions</b>	✓	✓	✓
<b>Entry to all Networking Sessions</b>	✓	✓	✓
<b>Local Transportation during Official Activities</b>	✓	✓	✓
<b>A Certificate of Participation</b>	✓	✓	✓



# WHO SHOULD ATTEND THE SYMPOSIUM?

Humanitarian Affairs invites all outstanding youth leaders, between the ages of 18 to 30, with the following qualities to participate in the 8<sup>TH</sup> USL Symposium:

- Youth Leaders who demonstrate a strong leadership potential and aspire to constantly learn on how to better themselves
- Youth Leaders who have an open mind and a genuine appreciation for different perspectives and individuals of diverse backgrounds, interests and ambitions
- Youth Leaders who show consideration for others and possess an interest to better society

If you think you fit the criteria to be a delegate at the 8<sup>TH</sup> University Scholars Leadership Symposium 2017, do send us your application to : [UN@humanitarianaffairs.org](mailto:UN@humanitarianaffairs.org)

# REFLECTION

BY **THOMAS DE MAIO**

**FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY**

I am relaxing at the airport terminal before I made my final flight back to the United States. Sitting here at the lounge, I cannot help but to reflect upon the incredible and life changing journey that I embarked on over the past week. Before I left for the USLS in Hanoi, I did not know what to really expect. I had been to several conferences before but how was this one going to be different?

When I landed in Vietnam, I was in a culture shock; seeing pictures in books or watching documentaries gives you only a shallow look at what life is in a developing country. When I arrived at the hotel, I made my first international friend, Mengfan, from China. As the days passes on, I learned that it was not the fact that I was physically in Vietnam that would change my life; but rather to have the opportunity to engage in meaningful conversation with some of the most intelligent and compassionate young minds, I have the privilege to meet at the Symposium.

I drank with the Australians, I danced with the Afghanis, I laughed with those around the continent of Africa, I kayaked with Canadians, I ate with the Chinese, I opened my arms wide to the Mexicans amongst so many others; but most importantly, I open my heart to my new global friends and in return I made a loving family that now stretches around the globe. What I got from this experience has far exceeds anything I could have hoped for and has truly made me a changed man.

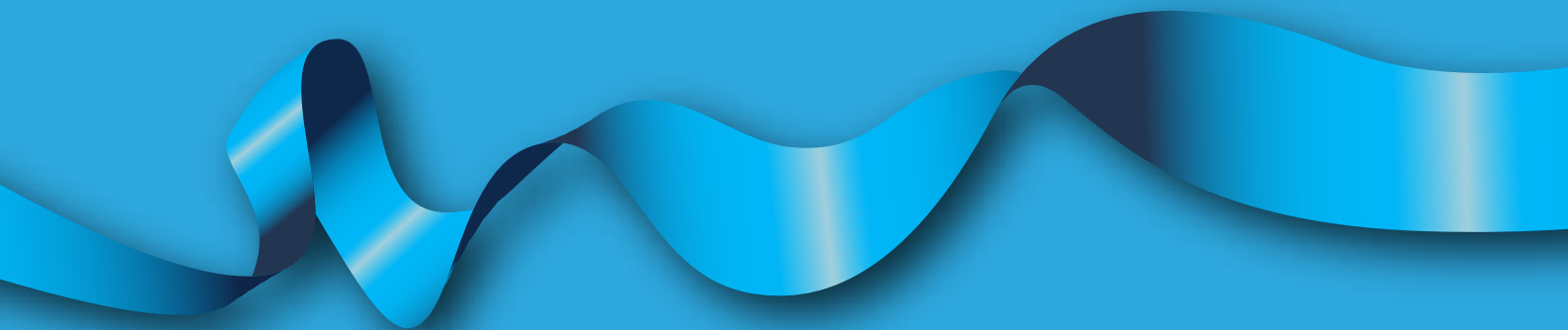
Something every delegate agreed with me is that even though we all had our preconceived ideas of what people in each country would be like, those thoughts were all so irrelevant in the sense of just how much alike we all really are. We came together and agreed that the media, not just in American but around the world, is so incredibly bias and only shows the bad in all of our societies and pits us against each other rather than showing the love that all of the people in the world have for each other.

Don't give into the hate, as it can sometimes seem so easy but rather push yourself to LOVE. Trust me, your life, as well as the world of tomorrow, will be a better place because of it. Together we can "Inspire individuals and Transform Communities."





CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH COMMUNITIES IN NEED



[WWW.UNIVERSITYSCHOLARS.ORG.UK](http://WWW.UNIVERSITYSCHOLARS.ORG.UK)