

Ripples of Reform

ASIA AND THE RAMON MAGSAYSAY AWARD

Background

This annual gathering of selected Magsaysay Laureates is an opportune time to come together as a community of moral leaders in Asia, especially Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation (RMAF) celebrates the 50th anniversary of the award in 2008. This year's gathering is an occasion to reflect and assess the impact of the award from the perspective of the awardees, and ponder on the relevance and impact "greatness of spirit", which the award has been honouring for the past five decades. The coming together of selected Magsaysay Laureates is a way to engage in a reflective dialogue about personal experiences, in inspiring and empowering individuals, communities and sectors within the societies towards genuine human development and social change. The Magsaysay Awardees conference is an annual tradition that continues to be supported by a grant from the Rockefeller Brothers Fund for the Programme for Asian Projects (PAP).

2007 conference focus:

This year, the Magsaysay Awardees Conference focuses on the manifestations, impact and relevance of "greatness of spirit" as gleaned from the personal experiences of the Magsaysay Awardees and against to the backdrop of social, political, cultural and economic developments in Asia and the world. Thus, the conference seeks to answer the questions

- What has been the impact of the work of Magsaysay Laureates in their respective fields?
- How have the Awardees been helped or hindered by the recognition conferred upon them as Magsaysay Awardees?
- As a community of moral leaders in Asia, how can the Magsaysay Awardees collectively influence the development of Asia and its people?

Conference Objectives:

The 2007 Magsaysay Awardees Conference adopting the theme '*Ripples of Reform: ASIA AND THE RAMON MAGSAYSAY AWARD*' seeks to encourage the participants.

- To engage in reflective dialogue about their respective experiences their thoughts on the evolution and impact of their work, and the impact of the award on their work;
- To exchange insights on the emerging issues affecting Asia and its people particularly within their respective countries;
- To reflect on the changing criteria on the relevance for the award, and how the Foundation can become more responsive to the changing Asian and Global contexts;
- To explore new opportunities for partnerships, between and among awardees, that can strengthen.

Participating Magsaysay Awardees:

A T Ariyaratne
Arjun Krishnaratne
Mahesh C Mehta
Syed Adibul Rizvi
Anton Soedjarwo
Benjamin Abadiano
Zafrullah Chowdhury
Prateep Hata
Asma Jahangir
Lakshmi Jain
Devaki
Ibn Abdur Rehman
Zacarias Sarian
V Shanta