

Changing Asia; forging partnerships, building sustainability, the Indian perspective at 50th Magsaysay award function

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The uniqueness of the conference was the presence of all the living Magsaysay awardees of last 50 years (As the Magsaysay Awardee from India was Binova Bhave in 1958) right there in plenary sessions along with Young social activists, to discuss the various subjects which ranged from 'Resolving Asia's conflicts and Asia's contradictions to building sustainability in Asia' to 'Poverty and Inequality' to 'Managing social Conflicts'.

Indian side categorically refuted the ideas like privatisation of water to eradicate poverty and corporatisation of NGO's for their sustainability. There were various other issues discussed to eradicate social conflicts including alternative methods of conflict resolution encompassing not only socio-political but even military aspect.

The Indian side was led by leading voices of India like M.S. Swaminathan, Arun Shourie and Rajendra Singh etc. Who propagated Indian issues with very potent voices. Prof. Swamynathan emphasised the need of Indian concepts like 'Antyoday' & 'Sarvoday'. Dr. Arun Shourie questioned the very basis of GDP in measuring the quality of life.

As the Ramon Magsaysay award is considered the Nobel Prize of Asia and the Magsaysay foundation is one of the most prestigious bodies, this was a unique effort by foundation to link the veteran experience of 50 years with the young leaders and thus create a forum for young social activists for solving Asian problems.

There was a Asia society delegation designed by Vani Tripathi, Asia 21 Young Leaders Programme and National Secretary Youth, BJP Had Varied Multi Faceted People Like Dr. Sudhanshu Trivedi (Political Advisor To BJP President Raj Nath Singh), AICC Spokesperson Manish Tiwari, Vibhav Kant Upadhyaya (Chairman India Center Foundation), Vijay Jolly (MLA and President Delhi Study Group). The conference also focused on certain serious contemporary issues like food crisis that the world is facing today. It concluded with a hope that the young leaders present there will definitely get enlightened by the awardees and thus will be able to resolve the social problems of future.

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