

East-West Center Leadership Program

Participants

Group Independent Study Travel
(GIST)

Asia Pacific Leadership Program

Generation Sixteen (G16)

2016 – 2017



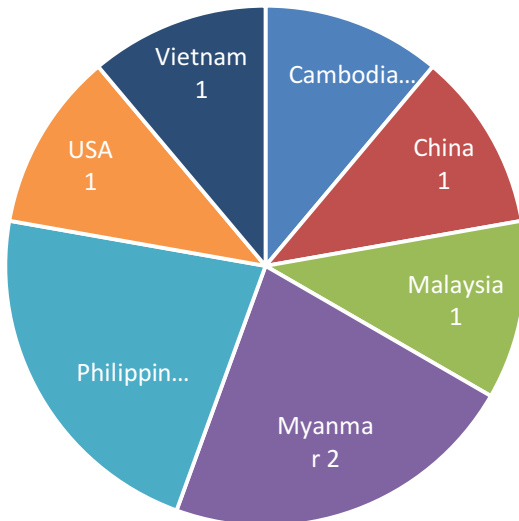
EAST-WEST CENTER

COLLABORATION • EXPERTISE • LEADERSHIP

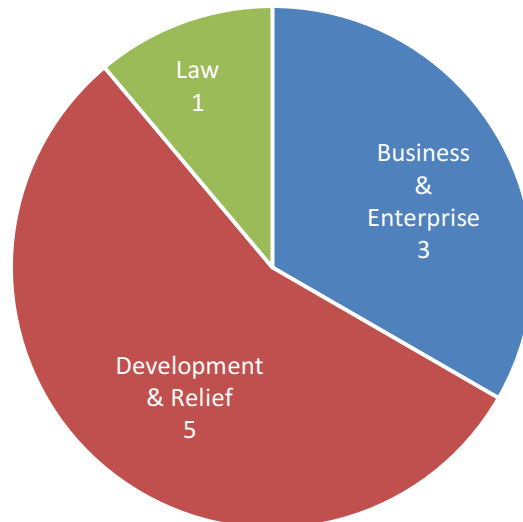
EastWestCenter.org/leadership

APLP Generation 16 GIST

Participants by country



Participants by professional background



Participants' profile



Ying CHEN (China) is the program director of A Better Community (ABC) Consulting, the non-profit strategic partner of Accenture and one of the most influential consulting institutions for non-profits in China. She is in charge of volunteer community management and curriculum development. Her work also aims at empowering young professionals and cultivating them to be citizens with social responsibility. She previously served as a management consultant in the Health and Public Service Department at Accenture Co., where she worked with various companies on strategic and business models on social issues and public service. Her

GIST project explores the methodology, activity design and curriculum development on youth empowerment in Thailand, Vietnam and Cambodia that are committed to developing young people into change-makers for positive social change.

Wesley HEDDEN (USA) is founder and executive director of Sarus, a Cambodia-based peacebuilding and youth empowerment nonprofit organization with operations in five countries in Asia. Mr. Hedden has ten years of experience living and working in education and nonprofits in Southeast Asia, and earned a bachelor's degree in Philosophy and Latin American Studies, with minors in Spanish and History, from Tulane University. He has worked to develop curriculum and programs for organizations such as Volunteers in Asia, VISIONS Service Adventures, Designing for Social Innovation and Leadership, and Heifer Project International in Cambodia, Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia, and Myanmar. He is committed to developing his leadership capabilities in order to help Sarus face challenges of leading systemic change in communities and societies. His GIST project explores the intersections between peacebuilding and leadership. Mr. Hedden hopes to better understand the extent to which good peacebuilding is good leadership and vice versa in order to apply these insights to his work at Sarus.





Thao Phuong LE (Vietnam) is an associate manager at THN Solutions, a technology consulting company in Ho Chi Minh City. In this role, she assists in planning and implementing software projects, mobilizing human resource and software development strategies. Ms. Le earned her Bachelor of Arts in English from Cantho University. She intends to use her leadership skills and knowledge of modern information technology to contribute to a more sustainable Vietnam, one that nurtures human resources, the natural environment, and technology. She is also passionate about strengthening cultural, social, and economic collaboration in the Asia Pacific region through international relations. Her GIST project explores female leadership in the private sectors of Myanmar and China in order to empower female entrepreneurship and the possibility of creating a mentoring and networking database in Myanmar, China and Vietnam.

Kagna MOURNG (Cambodia) was the coordinator at U.S. Peace Corps in Cambodia, where she worked closely with community members, volunteers, and students in the area of education. She has seven years of experience in the field of education. She holds a Master of Science in Community Development from the University of the Philippines Los Baños, a Bachelor of English Literature from Human Resources University, and a Bachelor of Tourism Management from Royal University of Phnom Penh. Ms. Mourng is passionate about empowering Cambodian women and marginalized groups to help them make their own decisions about advancing their education and developing their leadership skills. Her GIST project will study the curricula of women's leadership development training programs in Thailand and Myanmar in order to design such a model for young women in her home country, Cambodia.



Jeremi PANGANIBAN (Philippines) is a women's rights advocate who has worked as a program officer at the Women's Legal and Human Rights Bureau, Inc., a women's rights and feminist nongovernmental organization located in Quezon City, Philippines. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Community Development from the University of the Philippines. Ms. Panganiban is passionate about women's rights and community development and strives to strengthen democratic leadership in communities, especially among the marginalized. She is committed to building successful social movements in the Asia Pacific region. Her GIST project explores emerging modes and issues of mobility of marginalized peoples in archipelagic Southeast Asia.

SU LYNN MYAT (Myanmar) is a research associate in the Policy Research Team at Proximity Designs. She is involved in conducting research to understand the Myanmar's various social, political, and environmental issues, including those of the Rakhine and Kachin states. Ms. Su Lynn Myat has experience in managing support projects for the disabled and those with HIV/AIDS. She earned a bachelor's degree in English from Yangon University and an associate's degree in Social Science from Open University of Hong Kong. Her GIST project focuses on decentralization of government and will focus on Indonesia and the Philippines. She hopes to share her knowledge from APLP with government officials under a decentralized system.





Esther TEH (Malaysia) was involved in sustainability consultancy projects at CSR Asia Malaysia, now known as Helikon Advisory Sdn Bhd. Her experience includes stakeholder engagement, sustainability disclosure, community investment, research and benchmarking studies. She earned a Master of Business Administration from the Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR) and a Master of International Communication Studies from the University of Nottingham Ningbo, China (UNNC). Ms. Teh believes in the role of business in driving sustainable development, as well as the need to build a peaceful, just and prosperous world through cultural understanding. She is working towards becoming an AFS International Qualified Trainer on Intercultural Learning owing to her peacebuilding exposure in the one-year AFS Intercultural Exchange Programme to Osaka, Japan in 2000/2001. Her GIST project explores ways in which responsible agriculture and food companies operating in Myanmar can include the low-income population in its operations and value chain as a means of reducing poverty and encouraging shared economic growth between companies and society.

Ma. Perpetua “Maia” UNICO (Philippines) served as assistant secretary for legal affairs in the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG). She managed and supervised the Legal and Legislative Liaison Service, which handles administrative disciplinary cases of local elective officials, adjudicates appeals from decisions of subordinate agencies, and functions as the DILG’s legislative liaison. Her eight-year experience in both the legislative and executive branches of government gave her an opportunity to help shape national policies and map out high-impact government programs. Ms. Unico earned a Juris Doctor degree from Ateneo De Manila University School of Law, and worked in a developmental legal office focused on the field of human rights before entering government service. She strives to create meaningful impact in the Philippines through the fields of development, human rights and good, participatory governance. Her GIST project explores whether Thailand and Myanmar’s framing and enforcement of drug use and recovery policies are consistent with international standards of human rights.



YATI OO (Myanmar) served as program associate for Disaster Risk Reduction at the United Nations Human Settlements Program (UN-Habitat) in Myanmar where she worked in close collaboration with stakeholders, key ministries and government agencies at different levels. Previously, she served as hygiene promotion officer, working on community-based development projects focused on sanitation, water and hygiene promotion at the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies; and as a research officer for Population Services International. She holds a Master of Public Health from Mahidol University in Bangkok, Thailand, and a Bachelor of Pharmacy from the University of Pharmacy in Myanmar. She is passionate about building capacities of government and other stakeholders in order to promote sustainable development in Myanmar, and is committed to strengthening her skills for leading in complex emergencies. Her GIST will focus on the leadership roles of women in promoting resilience building to disasters and climate change at the national and local levels within Indonesia and the Philippines in order to gain a better understanding on enabling environments, and the challenges and barriers that women encounter to become leaders.