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ACCELERATING WOMENS LEADERSHIP WORLDWIDE



WORLD ACADEMY
FOR THE FUTURE OF WOMEN

Jiehan (Jessie) Huang

Leadership in Action



Jessie Huang is leaving the World Academy to enter Nottingham University in Great Britain. Jessie joined the World Academy her Freshman year at Sias in 2015 and continued each year, including an additional year, as a Bridge student, enabling her to have five years as a World Academy member. Following graduation from Sias she became Jerrie's Administrative Assistant in 2020. Her position was advanced to Executive Assistant during the Covid Pandemic where she remained to maintain the stability of the program because international facilitators were unable to go to China for a three-year period.

Even though her plans were to leave and continue her education she requested to stay an additional year because, she said, "No one in the World Academy has been a member when the program operated as it was designed. If I leave now, there will be no one with the institutional memory of how it was created. I want to stay and be certain the World Academy maintains the integrity of its' original plan." And she did!
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August Facilitator/Mentor Training in Scottsdale, Arizona - August 25-27

Prior to becoming a World Academy Facilitator and qualified to deliver the curriculum at one of our international sites, applicants must attend an Orientation and Preparation training to organize for their 5-week experience. Behnoose Azizi & Alek Richman will host a Facilitator Orientation and Preparation weekend in August to certify applicants.

The training will begin at 5:30 on Friday, August 25 through 4:00 on Sunday, August 27 at their home in Scottsdale. Attached is the flier announcing the event and the registration form for those attending.

Persons wishing to support the World Academy are invited to attend in order to be certified to travel as a volunteer to the following countries where World Academies are in operation or have Memorandums of Understanding to begin a World Academy. These countries include China, Bangladesh, India, and Mexico. We welcome your inquiries and registration for this August event. For further information, contact:

jerrie@globalinteractions.org

Welcome Miriam Wickertsheim to the Global Interactions Board



Miriam Wickertsheim discovered The World Academy for the Future of Women on our website www.wafw.org, after leaving Shanghai to visit her parents in Germany. Although she had lived in Shanghai for 14 years, she had never heard of the World Academy nor met any of the World Academy alums. During her visit to her parents Covid occurred and she was unable to return. She contacted the World Academy through our website and expressed an interest in being involved with the World Academy. When asked what she could contribute she asked if we needed mentors! Of course, we were interested! Due to the Pandemic international facilitators had been unable to enter China to deliver the curriculum and there was a decline in the level of English the World Academy members were achieving because they were not being required to speak English consistently.

The partnership began. Within a couple of weeks Miriam called to say she had 43 mentors. Amazed by the quick results, it was uncertain how the program would actually operate and whether Miriam had fully explained the World Academy. We requested a zoom meeting to ensure that they understood their role ... to contact a World Academy member twice a week for a thirty-minute call to speak English and discuss their World Academy program. Miriam indicated that the time differences were varied, and a zoom call would be a challenge.

We suggested 2 zoom calls. She said that would also be difficult due to their varied locations. "Where are they from?", Jerrie asked. The list included Sweden, Netherlands, Singapore, Malaysia, China, France, Bulgaria, USA, Switzerland, and more! What an amazing opportunity to connect the World Academy with mentors worldwide. What an extraordinary resource Miriam became!

Miriam describes herself as a global citizen, connector of people and opportunities, and a process-driven creator with a passion for female leadership. She is the General Manager for two companies, Direct HR LTD, a foreign HR Service provider and Pawlik Asia, focusing on leadership, recruitment, and training and development.

Since 2021, Miriam has contributed her services to the World Academy by recruiting more than 50 mentors, identifying 15 speakers for the Women's Symposium, managing LinkedIn and leading a project team to revamp the WAFW homepage www.wafw.org.

We welcome Miriam as a world connector, collaborator and innovator!

(Jiehan (Jessie) Huang continued:)

During Covid, with the numerous lock downs, shut downs, marginalized resources, lack of access to international facilitators, cancelled Symposiums years 2020 and 2022, she was persistent in having the World Academy operable. Whenever it was possible, the World Academy was in action. When virtual modules were not workable, she began recruiting facilitators from the ex-pat community and from China. She successfully organized the 14th Women's Symposium in 2021, when internationals were unable to attend on site, and the 15th Women's Symposium in 2023, when, at last, internationals could enter China. The keynoters, presenters, and Honoring Mother's Reception were better than ever before under her leadership, as well as the members she prepared to produce events, even though they had never experienced the Symposium before. Her passion for demonstrating how the World Academy and the Women's Symposium was intended to operate and produce leaders was remarkable.

During the Pandemic she and her leadership team recruited new members, ran the UN SDG's projects, and produced extraordinary results through their performance and commitment. Her ability to interact with Sias administrative staff, have full respect from the World Academy women and men, and the facilitators who deliver the curriculum.

Jessie's performance in this role indeed, has been a significant example of her training and commitment to the World Academy Oath and Operating Principles, as well as her incomparable dedication and ability to be her word. Any concern about how the World Academy will operate in the future were resolved during her tenure. The World Academy, alums and members are well trained to sustain and amplify the work that the Facilitators have prepared them to perform through the action leadership curriculum and their dedication to the future leadership of these young leaders.

Jessie will leave Sias in August after nine years of development and service to get an advanced degree. She will be missed because she brought so much joy, calmness, precision. She is leaving a solid team of alumnae, advanced members and new members who have seen what World Academy performance looks like. Her image and her years of service have brought the World Academy to a new level of performance, as well as a new level of possibility for what each of us can do.

Thank you, Jessie. We all look forward to your future results and remain committed to your continued success

Joyview and World Academy Partnership



Joyview Education and WAFW have been partners for two years thanks to the advocacy of Gloria Pan, an alumnus of the World Academy.

Joyview Education's mission is to "help students develop self-awareness and self-actualization abilities, so that students can become compassionate young future leaders and global citizens who can positively impact the world." This collaboration enables high school students in the Joyview program to experience WAFW's leadership program and to learn about women's leadership and the United Nations' sustainable development goals before they officially start their college life. This activity is mainly conducted in the form of interviews. Joyview students interview WAFW members to give a project report on the existing class mode, project team, and future development of World Academy combined with personal thinking. At the same time, according to the stories of the members of the World Academy and the content they investigated, they completed personal projects based on the topic of female leadership. Thanks to Nina Zhang, Sophia Dong, Azalea Shi and Mia Zhang.

Houston Training a Success

Karen Blakeman, the AG from the Sharpstown Rotary Club, organized a Facilitator Orientation and Preparation weekend, July 7-9. The International Past Present of Rotary, Jennifer Jones', focus for her term in office was women. Karen saw the alignment and is committed to have Rotary Clubs engage with the World Academy by supporting a member of their club to become a World Academy Facilitator. Karen now serves as Chair of the Girls and Women's Empowerment Subcommittee. What an amazing partnership this would be and would fulfill both organization's outcomes. *(Continued P. 4)*

HOUSTON Continued:

The participants in the Houston week-end were diverse with international origins including Ricardo Guerrero, Columbia, Mediline Tador, Nigeria, and Nguyen Nguyen, (Wen), Viet Nam. All participants have unique and direct connection to community service: Liliana Cevallos, underrepresented minorities, Kate Gabriele, travel and language learning, Belinda Kaylani, public service, and Evelyn Martinez, environmental sustainability.

Facilitator Spotlight



Becoming a facilitator for WAFW can truly be a life-changing experience. Take for example Sebastian Knauer, whose long career in the automotive industry brought him into contact with Susanna Ma, WAFW alumna. Their meeting inspired him to become a WAFW facilitator at SIAS university, Susanna's alma mater. As fate and the COVID pandemic would have it, Sebastian spent three months at SIAS in 2020-2021 as the only foreign on-site facilitator.

That experience in itself was life-changing, but it has inspired Sebastian to do even more. As he puts it, "After a global career of more than 30 years, I am reassessing the priorities in my life, and engaging in greater causes where I feel I can make a contribution. The first and foremost among these is the World Academy for the Future of Women." To that end, Sebastian has decided to suspend his career and return to SIAS as a facilitator in November-December of 2024, and then immediately move on to other WAFW locations in Nepal and Bangladesh in early 2025, ending with attending the symposium in New York City in March 2025. As you can see, Sebastian is telling the truth when he says that "WAFW has truly become a key purpose for me at this stage of my life."

India and Mexico to Begin World Academies

The Government Degree College for Women, Begumpet, Hyderabad, India and the Autonomous University of Baja California in Mexicali, Mexico have each signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Global Interactions to host a World Academy for the Future on their campuses.

In November, board member Dr. Manuel Guillot and Jerrie Ueberle will travel to Hyderabad and visit GDCW(A) to establish relationships with the university administration, have a site inspection, announce the World Academy to the students, and create an initial leadership team to promote the opportunity and recruit applicants for membership. The World Academy will begin on December 2, 2023 with Module 1 completing on March 31. The break between semesters will be designed for members to create and operate their projects aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The second semester module begins on July 13 and the semester will complete on Dec. 9, 2024.

In October, a visit to Mexicali to UABC is scheduled to repeat the process so the World Academy can open on January 29, 2024 and end August 31.

We are seeking facilitators for both sites and seeking applications to begin the selection process. We invite you to be the inaugural members of the World Academy Facilitators for these two sites.

Contact Jerrie Ueberle if you are interested in becoming a facilitator for one (or both) of these new sites.



MEXICO



INDIA

Mandy (Mengdi) Tao:

Embracing Opportunities and Driving Change

In 2022, I was humbled to receive the honor of being selected as one of the twelve Asia Foundation Development Fellows, a prestigious program known as "Leadership for Asia's Future," tailored for highly accomplished young professionals from the Asian continent. This exceptional opportunity not only served as a platform for my personal growth but also nurtured a sense of inclusion and cross-cultural collaboration within our diverse cohort. As part of the program, I embarked on a transformative study tour that led me to more than 25 influential organizations and companies, providing invaluable insights into a range of critical topics, including global strategies in sustainability, bridging the gender equality gap, self-reflection, and wellbeing, among others.

When I took the bold step of resigning from my job and embarking on this unknown adventure last September, I had no inkling of where this journey would lead me. However, life has a way of surprising us when we least expect it. Throughout this expedition, I had the incredible opportunity to reconnect with numerous Academy facilitators and alumni I had met 9, 10, 11, and even 12 years ago. Rekindling connections with inspiring facilitators and mentors like Nanda in Cambodia, Andrea and Bridget in Washington DC, Laura in New Mexico, Rhonda in San Francisco, and many others brought back cherished memories.

With much excitement, I announce that I have decided to embrace the role of General Manager of the Women Empowerment Council in Beijing, China. In this capacity, I will work alongside leaders and decision-makers to advance gender equality in businesses both in China and beyond. While this marks an exciting next chapter in my life, it also carries a tinge of sadness as I bid farewell to Jerrie and her lovely home, a place that always opened its doors to me!

Mandy (Mengdi) Tao



Attending the United Nations Conference on the Status of Women—from right:

Mandy, Jerrie, Cyd, Elizabeth, Annum, Martha, Rachel



Meeting with World Academy Bangladesh Alumni

Top: Mahfuzah K, Sunil Boruna, Mandy Tao

*Bottom: Sumiya Santa, Nuzhat Farhana Prekha,
Nusrat Janhan Nishu*