Reimagining philanthropy for the next decade

November 18 - 19, 2021
Rosewood Hong Kong & Virtual
Reimagining philanthropy for the next decade
UBS Philanthropy Forum
Greater China 2021

More than 700 participants attended over the two-day hybrid event on November 18 – 19 November 2021. The theme of this year’s Forum was Reimagining Philanthropy for the Next Decade, with discussions and keynote addresses focused on health and environment philanthropy, climate change as well as sustainable development goals.

Christina Tung, Head of UBS Philanthropy Services, Greater China and UBS Optimus Foundation, Hong Kong, opened the event.

Amy Lo, Co-head of UBS Wealth Management APAC and Head and CEO of UBS Hong Kong Branch and a Group Managing Director, in her opening address noted that the pandemic has changed the world and created many environmental issues. It is the aim of this year’s forum to exchange insights on the most effective philanthropical road map for the next decade. She said she was excited to host this event in person after 2 years of the pandemic.

Ronnie C. Chan, Co-founder and Chair of Centre of Asian Philanthropy and Society (CAPS), delivered the opening keynote address on Philanthropy and Common Prosperity in China and a preview of CAPS China Issues Guide on Health and Environment, a thought leadership report series covering health, education, environment and poverty alleviation. CAPS specializes in research work of Asian philanthropy aimed at encouraging better philanthropic work, both in quality and quantity, by providing scientific and solid research to philanthropists. He outlined common prosperity in China and how philanthropy can support the national priorities. He remarked that reducing wealth is not the aim of common prosperity; it encourages people to give back and it’s a joy in life to do something meaningful.

“Common prosperity is to bring people up from the bottom rather than bring top people down.”
Ronnie C. Chan

“This pandemic has changed the world and created many environmental issues; there’s an urgency to act and resolve these issues”
Amy Lo
Dr. Ruth A. Shapiro, Co-founder and Chief Executive of CAPS, was another keynote speaker. She noted that philanthropy has experienced significant progress in China - in 2018, philanthropic donations recorded a 50% increase from the year before and almost a fourfold increase from a decade ago. And it has been elevated to a new height since the common prosperity goals were announced. Dr. Shapiro shared findings of the CAPS report in health and environment as well as their top strategies and future pathways.

Dr. Ruth A. Shapiro, Co-founder and Chief Executive of CAPS

The first panel focused on building mental resilience of young people through sports. There is an increasing trend in youth mental health problems especially in recent years. Moderator, Ellen Yip, Director of UBS Philanthropy Services, Greater China, invited speakers to share their experience on how to build up the mental wellbeing and positive mindset of young people through an active lifestyle and sports.

Judy Kong Ka Wai, Chief Executive of Inspiring HK Sports Foundation, described her foundation’s vision of developing better youths through sports and their work in providing equal sports training opportunities for the underprivileged. She also shared insights of youth mental health problem from a prevention perspective.

Christina Gaw, Managing Principal and Head of Capital Markets of Gaw Capital Partners and Council Member of Inspiring HK Sports Foundation, was another speaker of the panel. As a mother of 4 kids, she noted how sports contribute towards children’s discipline, determination and resilience.

The final speaker of the panel was Vivian Kong Man Wai, Hong Kong Fencer and 2016 & 2020 Olympian. She shared her experience at the Olympic Games and explained how sports can strengthen young people’s body and mind.

“Sports teach me how to overcome challenges and build up a positive mindset”
Vivian Kong Man Wai

The second panel addressed issues in climate change with focus on how nature-based solutions can benefit both our planet and people. Moderated by Justin Chang, Asia Social Finance Program Director of UBS Optimus Foundation, panel speakers Ronnie Mak, Managing Director of RS Group and William McGoldrick, APAC Regional Managing Director of the Nature Conservancy, outlined the opportunities and challenges of nature-based solutions in the region and how philanthropy can act as a catalyst for more investments.

William McGoldrick explained the concept of nature-based solutions and the power of philanthropy as a catalytic capital.

“Tackling climate change could be a long journey and bringing in people along the journey would be the key.”
William McGoldrick
Ronnie Mak’s organization is a family business and philanthropy has always been their key focus. They have conducted an extensive landscape study in South-east Asia and defined 6 key areas to focus on, namely marine protected area, blue carbon, seaweed, forest timber, forest carbon and soil carbon. She shared examples of how to attract commercial capital to invest in nature-based solutions and believes business models with sustainability and scalability are crucial.

Later in the afternoon, Prof. Mark Post, Co-founder and Chief Scientific Officer of Mosa Meat, explained how cultured meat help solve the issues of climate change and food scarcity. The session started with an introductory video of Mosa Meat, the world’s first cultured meat.

Moderator L H Koh, APAC Global Family Office Co-head of UBS Global Wealth Management, asked Prof. Post about his perspectives on actor Leonardo DiCaprio joining Mosa Meat this September as an investor and advisor. Prof. Post stated that around 800 million people globally are undernourished, and figures have shown that participation from the public could help draw attention and promote awareness. He also shared what philanthropists could do to support sustainable food and promote food waste reduction.

The final panel discussed development finance and philanthropy for the Sustainable Development Goals. Moderator, David Chin, Head of UBS Investment Bank, Asia Pacific, remarked that the world is faced with a US$2.5 trillion funding gap annually to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 and asked for speakers’ views on how philanthropy and development finance could combine forces to achieve impact.

Sir Danny Alexander, Vice President of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, suggested an efficient way to blend in different kinds of finance to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals collectively. Having attended the recent COP26 in Glasgow, Sir Danny noted that it was crucial to set global agenda on climate change for the world to move in the right direction. Multilateral corporations, banks, philanthropic investors and development institutions each play an important role; collaboration is essential and can be worked in a number of different ways to make the overall investment package more attractive and sustainable.

Sir Danny Alexander said, “By 2025, at least 50% of our corporation’s investment will be for climate finance and we will commit at least US$50 billion by end of the decade.”

The forum concluded on the first day with closing remarks from Christina Tung, Head of UBS Philanthropy Services, Greater China and UBS Optimus Foundation, Hong Kong.

On the following day, panel discussion addressed health and environment philanthropy focusing on China with philanthropists from China attended as panel speakers.

The panel addressed common prosperity in China and health philanthropy. Liu Zhongxiang, Visiting Professor of International Academy of Red Cross & Red Crescent at Soochow University, shared his perspective on how philanthropy can make greater impact to support the pursuit of common prosperity. He believes philanthropy would be one of the key measures to achieve third degree contribution.

Moderated by Hao Ruixi, Senior Program Officer of Philanthropic Partnerships & China Country Office, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the morning’s final panel addressed health philanthropy and how philanthropy can play a more significant role in improving public health in China.
Prof. Winnie Yip, Professor of the Global Health Policy and Economics at Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health, explained the unique position of government, commercial and philanthropy in the development of public health. It is not a competitive relationship - each sector can complement each other and can achieve win-win solutions through collaboration, she said.

Guo Meiling, Chairman of Century Galaxy Technology Group Co., Ltd. and initiator of Beijing Meiling Foundation, shared her experience in running effective philanthropy projects.

Another panel speaker, Qu Jiangting, Co-Founder of Ribo Fashion Group Company Limited and Founder and President of Rici Foundation, focused on mental health projects. She said that although mental health is commonly perceived to only affect a minority in the community, it actually applies to everyone.

“There is no shortcut for philanthropy, you reap what you sow.”
Qu Jiangting

From Top left: Professor Winnie Yip, Ms. Guo MeiLing
From bottom left: Ms. Qu Jiangting, Mr. Chen Dongsheng

The final panel speaker was Chen Dongsheng, Philanthropist, Founder, Chairman & CEO of Taikang Insurance Group Inc. He focused on elderly care, and explained how he leveraged his commercial capacity for philanthropy work and built it in a systematic and strategic perspective.

Concluding the panel discussion, moderator Hao Ruixi remarked that philanthropy plays a unique role in the development of public health and is gradually promoting the formation of China's unique philanthropy pattern.

Moderated by Ronald Wu, Head of ESG/Sustainability Research APAC of UBS Investment Bank, the parallel panel speakers Ma Jun, Founding Director of The Institute of Public & Environmental Affairs, and Tang Dingding, Honorary Chairman of the Green Trade and Investment Committee of the Chinese Academy of Environmental Sciences, addressed environment philanthropy.

Ma Jun outlined that with the recent introduction of biodiversity and climate goals, environmental protection is an area prioritized by the government. In the past decade, China has made significant progress in environmental protection and ecological construction through diversified participation and efforts, especially in air pollution control. He hopes more commercial organizations, investors and consumers can participate in carbon reduction and green transformation.

Mr. Ma Jun

Tang Dingding shared the latest policy trends in China and noted that in recent global conferences, especially the COP26 climate conference, important milestone dates were set down. Climate change and environmental protection are drawing the attention of philanthropists around the world. He believes that environmental protection can be promoted through “One Belt One Road”, international trade agreements and the power of philanthropy.
This material has no regard to the specific investment objectives, financial situation or particular needs of any specific recipient and is published solely for information purposes. No representation or warranty, either express or implied, is provided in relation to the accuracy, completeness or reliability of the information contained herein, nor is it intended to be a complete statement or summary of the developments referred to in this material. This material does not constitute an offer to sell or a solicitation to offer to buy or sell any securities or investment instruments, to effect any transactions or to conclude any legal act of any kind whatsoever. Nothing herein shall limit or restrict the particular terms of any specific offering. No offer of any interest in any product will be made in any jurisdiction in which the offer, solicitation or sale is not permitted, or to any person to whom it is unlawful to make such offer, solicitation or sale. Not all products and services are available to citizens or residents of all countries. Any opinions expressed in this material are subject to change without notice and may differ or be contrary to opinions expressed by other business areas or divisions of UBS AG or its affiliates (“UBS”) as a result of using different assumptions and criteria. UBS is under no obligation to update or keep current the information contained herein. Any charts and scenarios are for illustrative purposes only. Historical performance is no guarantee for and is not an indication of future performance. Neither UBS AG nor any of its affiliates, directors, employees or agents accepts any liability for any loss or damage arising out of the use of all or any part of this material. UBS specifically prohibits the redistribution or reproduction of this material in whole or in part without the prior written permission of UBS, and UBS accepts no liability whatsoever for the actions of third parties in this respect.

All pictures or images (“images”) herein are for illustrative, informative or documentary purposes only, in support of subject analysis and research. Images may depict objects or elements which are protected by third party copyright, trademarks and other intellectual property rights. Unless expressly stated, no relationship, association, sponsorship or endorsement is suggested or implied between UBS and these third parties.

© UBS 2021. The key symbol and UBS are among the registered and unregistered trademarks of UBS.