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Newsletter.



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CEO's message

The year has certainly passed by swiftly! As we busied ourselves adjusting to the re-opening of borders all over the world – after the worst of COVID-19 – we find ourselves almost at the end of 2022.

First, I would like to thank Jin Yee for heading SymAsia Foundation over the past 6 years, since 2017. SymAsia has seen tremendous growth during that period.

I am honored to take over from her as CEO of this unique Credit Suisse client offering. Some of you might know that philanthropy has always been one of my passions and one that I hold very close to my heart. I have been blessed in Singapore for over 18 years to spend time in different parts of the community and be able to participate in a variety of charity and philanthropy events (from education, aged care, visually impaired and the less privileged). It always makes me so proud when I see the generosity of time, experience and giving of individuals and families to change the lives of others – no matter whether the giving is small or large, what is precious is the intent, sincerity and a difference to improve the quality of life for others.

I was in Australia prior to coming to Singapore, where I was also very privileged to be part of philanthropy and give back to the children in the outback to allow them to obtain education online. So I truly hope my experiences and passion can contribute to SymAsia, which has an amazing Board of equally passionate individuals, whose experience in philanthropy is amazing and enormous! My dream is that we can continue to grow SymAsia and make a more impactful presence and contribution to change for the positive.

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I am very much looking forward to this exciting new dimension to my role and working alongside you – our Client-Donors – to enlarge your philanthropic impact.

Looking back, this was a hectic but productive year for the Foundation. We're very glad to have welcomed more Clients into the SymAsia family, and even prouder that we've helped our Clients achieve several firsts in the social impact space (you can read more on this in the following pages).

In the area of sharing and learning, a big highlight was the return of our Philanthropists Forum, renamed "Philanthropists Connect". It was our first in-person event since COVID-19 broke out. We were honored to have Singapore President Madam Halimah Yacob as Guest of Honor, and New World Development Executive Vice Chairman Dr. Adrian Cheng as Keynote Speaker. The event was themed "From Bringing Wealth to Purpose to Bringing Purpose to Wealth", reflecting a key finding from our white paper that NextGen philanthropists are no longer compartmentalising how they deploy capital between their investment portfolio and philanthropy. Instead they are looking to embed impact into business strategy, moving beyond CSR to seeking purpose in tandem with business growth.

Overall, onstage and offstage, 2022 for SymAsia was a year of strengthening old partnerships and forging new relationships as the pandemic barriers came down. Philanthropy has always been part of the DNA of Credit Suisse and SymAsia is a key part of the bank's philanthropic expression. Through SymAsia, Credit Suisse remains fully committed to facilitate and support philanthropic giving in the Asia-Pacific region.

With best wishes for the year-end holidays,

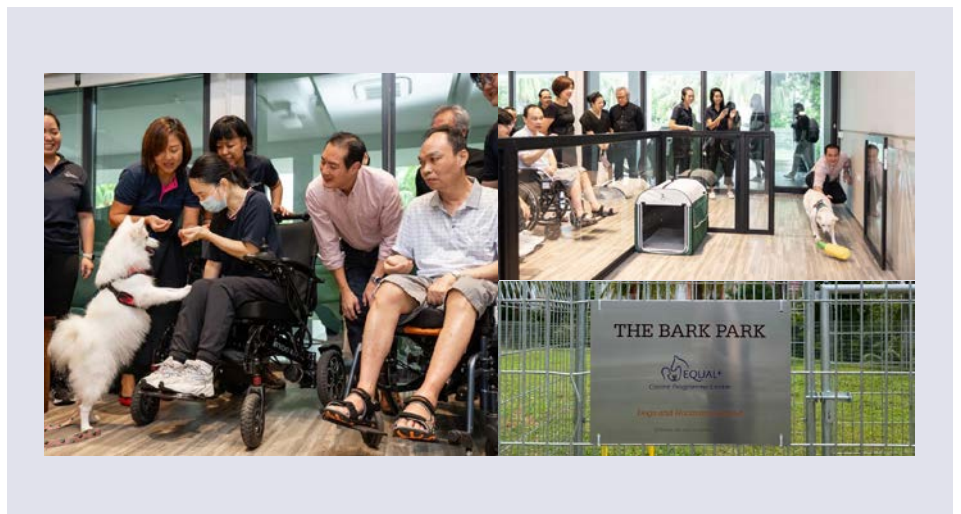
Dominique Boer*

Spotlight on a philanthropist

Many of our Client-Donors are doing exciting work through their foundations. We hope their work will inspire and encourage you on your own philanthropy journey.

L87 Foundation is making a difference in the service animals space! It has:

- Enabled Guide Dogs Singapore to locally train the country's first guide dog for the visually impaired. Three of these guide dogs – Eve, Laurie and Jade** – graduated with their handlers in September.
- Funded EQUAL to open Singapore's first Canine Programme Centre, providing dog therapy for vulnerable communities, e.g. the elderly and persons with special needs.
- Supported K9 Assistance to engage Singapore government agencies and businesses to allow assistance dogs in public or on their premises. Next step is to import assistance dogs to serve the community.



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White Paper

White Paper: A Generation of Change-Makers

This year, SymAsia partnered the Asian Venture Philanthropy Network (AVPN) to take a deep dive into the emerging philanthropic trends across Asia. The findings were reported in our white paper, entitled “A Generation of Change-Makers”, which was produced in collaboration with Credit Suisse. Five prominent newgeneration philanthropists were featured:

- Ms. Annie Chen, RS Group (Hong Kong)
- Mr. Gavin Vongkusolkit, Mitr Phol Group (Thailand),
- Mr. Laurence Lien, Asia Philanthropy Circle (Singapore)
- Dr. Mary Ann Tsao, Tsao Family Foundation (Singapore)
- Ms. Noni Purmono**, Bluebird Peduli (Indonesia)

The white paper explored how philanthropy is no longer just a good-to-have, but becoming a mission-critical activity among the wealthy. The new generation of philanthropists are no longer satisfied to be just passive funders, but seek to be cocreators of social solutions. By doing good in various, complementary forms (from grant-making to social investing) and focusing on ecosystem change, their philanthropy is becoming much more all-encompassing and sustainable.

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paper report:



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Outreach

Philanthropists Connect 2022

From *Bringing Wealth to Purpose* To *Bringing Purpose to Wealth*
Raffles Hotel | 31 August 2022

Renamed Philanthropists Connect, the event marked the return of SymAsia's Philanthropists Forum and was our first in-person event since COVID-19 broke out. It reflects Credit Suisse's major commitment to facilitate and support philanthropic impact in Asia.

Guest of Honor Mdm. Halimah Yacob, President of the Republic of Singapore, and Keynote Speaker Dr. Adrian Cheng, Executive Vice Chairman of Hongkong's New World Development, inspired the guests with their philanthropic passion.

The event also launched our philanthropy white paper, "A Generation of Change-Makers". Three of the five white paper interviewees shared their experiences in greater depth on the Panel moderated by Mr. Lito Camacho, SymAsia Board Director and Vice Chairman APAC at Credit Suisse.



From left: Helman Sitohang (Senior Advisor to Credit Suisse Group CEO)*, Prof Tommy Koh, (Chairman of SymAsia Foundation)**, Guest-of-Honor, Mdm. Halimah Yacob (President of the Republic of Singapore)**, Dr Adrian Cheng, (Executive Vice Chairman & CEO, Hongkong's New World Development)**, Edwin Low (CEO APAC), and Benjamin Cavalli (CEO Hong Kong, Head of Wealth Management APAC and APAC Sustainability Leader)*.

“ Insight from our speakers

It is a paradigm shift ... where everyone is philanthropic and everyone wants to create social impact.

Dr. Adrian Cheng**, on a “decentralised” form of philanthropy that leverages social media to crowdfund donations.

Impact investing is actually not so easy to do in terms of understanding impact.

Dr. Mary Ann Tsao**, sharing her family's decision to explore the Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) impact of their businesses to identify additional tools through which they could create positive change.

Our panelists are leading their families' philanthropic endeavors today through new approaches that are often very different from how philanthropy was seen and done by their founders.

Mr. Lito Camacho*, Panel Moderator.

There's a lot that we can learn from one another.

Mr. Laurence Lien**, on the importance of collaborations and partnerships in generating meaningful change.

We want to make sure that they get a good yield. The more cane they can produce on their farms, the more sugar they can have, and the better the value.

Mr. Gavin Vongkusolkit**, on a key focus of his family's philanthropy, which is to improve the welfare of sugarcane farmers in Thailand.

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