

Dear Fellows, Colleagues, and Friends,



Understanding Emotions in Oneself
Emotion meter

Now, take a moment to reflect on how you currently feel along both the pleasantness and energy scales. What emotion did you get?

10	SHRUG	WARRIED	STRESSOR	UPSET	SOBERED	AMUSED	UPSET	FEELER	WARRIORS	ACTIVE
9	LOVE	WARRIED	DISGUSTED	TERRA	CONCERNED	WARRIED	WARRIED	WARRIED	WARRIED	WARRIED
8	WARRIED	WARRIED	WARRIED	WARRIED	WARRIED	WARRIED	WARRIED	WARRIED	WARRIED	WARRIED
7	WARRIED	WARRIED	WARRIED	WARRIED	WARRIED	WARRIED	WARRIED	WARRIED	WARRIED	WARRIED
6	WARRIED	WARRIED	WARRIED	WARRIED	WARRIED	WARRIED	WARRIED	WARRIED	WARRIED	WARRIED
5	WARRIED	WARRIED	WARRIED	WARRIED	WARRIED	WARRIED	WARRIED	WARRIED	WARRIED	WARRIED
4	WARRIED	WARRIED	WARRIED	WARRIED	WARRIED	WARRIED	WARRIED	WARRIED	WARRIED	WARRIED
3	WARRIED	WARRIED	WARRIED	WARRIED	WARRIED	WARRIED	WARRIED	WARRIED	WARRIED	WARRIED
2	WARRIED	WARRIED	WARRIED	WARRIED	WARRIED	WARRIED	WARRIED	WARRIED	WARRIED	WARRIED
1	WARRIED	WARRIED	WARRIED	WARRIED	WARRIED	WARRIED	WARRIED	WARRIED	WARRIED	WARRIED
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

ENERGY ↑

PLEASANTNESS →

THE EQUITY INITIATIVE

If there is one thing that our Fellows, staff, and supporters have learned over the past year, it is that the work of building health equity won't wait. COVID-19 has made social, economic, and health inequities even more apparent, and its disproportionate impact

on vulnerable communities is a call to action for all of us. COVID-19 reminds us that the moment for developing the leadership for health equity is right now. That urgency of the moment – the immediate need for talented, committed health equity leaders – is the underlying message of our call for applications for the 2022 Equity Initiative Fellowship Program.

Experiential learning, interaction with health and policy leaders, and bonding are the hallmarks of EI's induction year. Over the past year, the EI team has successfully translated these elements into the virtual environment. We brought our curriculum to life in the online environment, earning high marks from our current class of Fellows. We developed a dynamic case study that immersed Fellows in exploring the barriers that prevent displaced Rohingya from accessing social, health, and education services. We recruited highly regarded speakers who spoke about their experiences in responding to equity challenges and offered encouragement as Fellows shared their own. We created channels for our 2021 Fellows to interact with each other and with our Senior Fellows.

We are confident that our EI induction year continues to offer aspiring health equity leaders the best-available opportunity for personal development, building skills, collaboration, and networking, as well as the support needed to turn their equity goals into action. We ask for your help in identifying candidates – passionate, committed, impatient-for-change young leaders – for our 2022 cohort. Help us build a pipeline of transformative leaders who will strive to build fairer societies in Southeast Asia and China!

Le Nhan Phuong
EI Executive Director

We are accepting applications for the 2022 cohort – APPLY NOW!

HELP US SPREAD THE WORD: 2022 APPLICATION PROCESS IS NOW OPEN!

Do you know young professionals

who are striving for more equitable societies in Southeast Asia and China? Who are eager to build the skills and develop the networks that will enable to do more? Through the Equity Initiative, they can join a lifelong fellowship program that will connect them with a diverse community of individuals who are applying their knowledge, creativity, and skills to advance health equity. The induction year offers six learning events and opportunities to interact with key actors in health equity and development. Please encourage young leaders in your network to apply! The application deadline for 2022 Fellows – our sixth cohort! – is 30 September. [Learn more.](#)



OUR INVESTMENT IN COMMUNITY BUILDING



In April, EI announced a new funding opportunity – **Equity Community Building Funds** – to support EI Senior Fellows working to strengthen the equity community networks in their respective countries as well as in the region. The response from our Fellows has been tremendous! Proposals are still under review, but we are already inspired by their sharp focus on critical equity

challenges and the ways they suggest working with partner institutions and organizations to address them. We look forward to sharing further information about their projects in the near future.

EI LEARNING - STILL GOING STRONG

How does the induction year for our 2021 Fellows compare with that of earlier cohorts? We might use the words “different but still dynamic” to describe the experience to date. While transformed for digital delivery, our curriculum retains the building blocks of earlier years: a deep dive into the concepts of health equity and leadership, learning events delivered by leading experts and practitioners, skill-building workshops, discussions and debates, and project development. More detailed descriptions of some components follow.

Case Study. Our online course on “Power, Privilege, and Oppression” uses a real-world scenario to introduce concepts, provide context, and explore solutions. The case study focuses on the plight of Rohingya women living in Malaysia, and it challenged Fellows to work together to propose steps forward. The five group presentations showed that our Fellows grasped the scope of the problem in ways both conceptual (xenophobia, racism, etc.) and practical (lack of legal status, limited access to basic health care, etc.). They brought holistic thinking to their proposed solutions, calling for legal recognition, work permits, dialogue with government, media coverage, digital inclusion, and preservation of



culture and identity, among other steps.



Learning from Leaders. The **EI Guest Speaker Series** gives Fellows a forum to hear from leading researchers and practitioners and to raise their own questions and ideas. Three recent speakers used examples from their research and

professional experience to frame discussions about health equity goals and actions, particularly with respect to COVID-19. **Martha Chen**, a lecturer in public policy at the Harvard Kennedy School and co-founder of the global research-policy-action network Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing – known as WIEGO – spoke about the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 on informal workers and WIEGO’s call for a post-COVID “Better New Deal” for them. **Richard Cash**, a senior lecturer on global health at the Harvard Chan School of Public Health, used examples from Bangladesh – including how the nongovernmental organization BRAC trained 12 million mothers to prepare and administer an oral rehydration solution to children – to show how empowering community health workers can scale up effective health solutions. **Kumanan Rasanathan**, a public health physician who leads the Equity and Health (EQH) Unit at the Social Determinants of Health Department of the World Health Organization in Geneva, said that COVID-19 has shown how health is created and destroyed beyond the health sector – underscoring the need for multisectoral action to ensure health equity.

Public Narrative

Workshops. Why do Fellows respond enthusiastically to our public narrative training? Perhaps because the skills of public narrative can be so effective in inspiring collective action. Public narrative builds on three core elements –the story of self, the story of us, and the urgency of now – and recognizes the



persuasive power of storytelling. Small-group training sessions gave Fellows practice in crafting and presenting their stories and, as one Fellow said, in asking people to do hard things. One Fellow summed up public narrative this way: “Public speaking is to impress people, public narrative is to mobilize people.” These sessions also are exercises in bonding, as Fellows share their personal stories and recognize themselves in the stories that others tell.

In addition... Fellows have received training in **adaptive leadership**, participated in an assessment of their **personal strengths**, received **individual coaching** of their approach to leadership, and more. As local conditions permit, Fellows have met within their own countries (with appropriate health precautions), creating opportunities for learning and bonding across cohorts.

SOLIDARITY GRANTS: OUR FELLOWS MAKE AN IMPACT

Through **2020 Solidarity Grants**, the Atlantic Institute and EI supported 18 projects that enabled EI Senior Fellows to help meet the needs of the



most vulnerable and at-risk in their home countries. Fellows combined purpose and creativity through projects that responded to disruptions to health and social services caused by COVID-19; launched creative initiatives and solutions to reduce COVID's negative impacts; and addressed food insecurity. From Fellows' impact reports,

we estimate that more than 50,000 people were direct beneficiaries of these projects, including students, laborers, job seekers, the elderly, hospital staff, street vendors, and many others. Designing a project, preparing a funding proposal, and assessing the project impact were practical exercises in leadership development for the Fellows. As one Fellow wrote, "Receiving the solidarity grant has been such a personally rewarding experience, allowing me to be in a position to address a need in my community in a way that I would not have been able to without the fund." Watch this [short video](#) to learn more about the impact of our Fellows' projects.

OUR FELLOWS TAKE ACTION

EI's commitment to developing leaders for health equity is long term, but it is extremely rewarding to see our Fellows already taking action to make health equity a priority in their communities, home countries, and the region. Below are a few examples of the ways that Fellows from a range of sectors are translating their goals for health equity into action.

Fellows apply knowledge to the real world. **Nicola Pocock** of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and **Rapeepong Suphanchaimat** of the Bureau of Epidemiology, Thailand, are the editors of a report "Moving toward culturally competent, migrant-inclusive health systems: a comparative study of Malaysia and Thailand," part of WHO's Comparative Country Studies series. "Migrant health policies require intersectoral thinking," Nicola and Poon wrote, and they hope that their findings illustrate the potential for policy makers to use systems thinking as a tool to consider how the current system set-up leads to certain outcomes." **Tharani Loganathan** of the University of Malaya also contributed to the report. To read the report, [click here](#).



Fellows collaborate across countries to promote health equity. **Raudah Yunus** (Malaysia) and **Ratawit Ouaprachanon** (Thailand) are organizing two workshops for EI Senior Fellows on "Impactful Health Equity Transformation Leadership." The workshops, to be held in September and November, will introduce the practice of "process work," a whole system approach to facilitation and coaching, and prompt Fellows to consider how personal development and group dynamics can facilitate health equity processes. The interactive sessions will take a closer look at how roles, power differentials, rank, and privilege as well as change and conflict resolution can be used to drive social transformation.



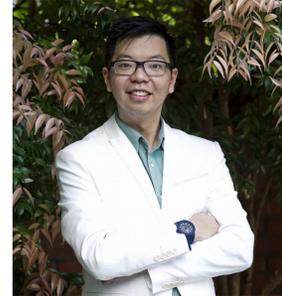
Fellows contribute innovative ideas for social change. **Goris Mustaqim** is the founder and chairman of

Asgar Muda Foundation, an Indonesian social enterprise that focuses on youth education, youth entrepreneurship, and community development. In one of our recent "Brown Bag Series" presentations, Goris highlighted some of the distinctive characteristics of social entrepreneurship as he responded to the question "Is entrepreneurship all profit and no equity?" With its focus on solving social problems, seeking community participation, and valuing social capital, Goris showed Fellows how social entrepreneurship can be used to design solutions to reduce inequities.



Fellows join the effort to bring about systems change.

Renard Siew is an advisor to the Center for Governance and Political Studies in Kuala Lumpur, a nonpartisan think tank, and a member of the World Economic Forum's Expert Network in Sustainable Development. At a recent Brown Bag session, he spoke about "Facing the Climate Crisis – If Not Now, When?" Renard detailed how climate change is already have negative effects on crop production, water supply, and global and community health, with ever more serious consequences on the horizon. He challenged Fellows to identify the solutions already at hand and consider ways they can be used to respond to the needs of the most vulnerable.



EI CALENDAR

Online Applications: August-September

Adaptive Leadership Workshop: September

National Committee Meetings: October

EI Guest Speaker Series: October-November

Next Brown Bag: November

Send us your news!

Help us build an engaged community for health equity by sending us updates on your speaking engagements, highlights of your work and travel, and interesting projects you encounter. Send your news to:

info@equityinitiative.org