
Changing Leaves, Changing Lives 🍂 and our Gala Highlights

1 message

Sun, Nov 12, 2023 at 9:29 PM

Dear Friends,

Best wishes for a happy Diwali, the Festival of Lights today, as we pray for world peace, compassion, and light in every heart.

A BIG thank you to everyone who attended, or supported from afar, to make our 2023 **Share the Light Gala** such a success! A short video from the event is below. We hope that you will also enjoy reading here about some of many projects that your support makes possible!

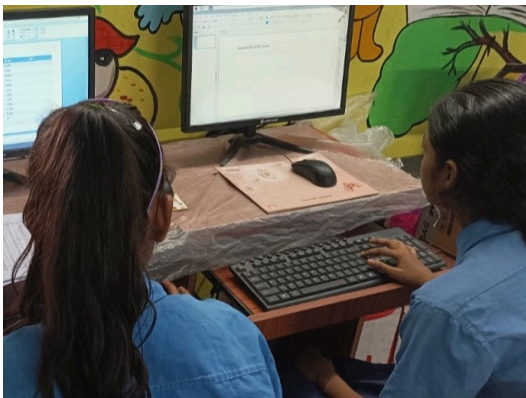


A Tribute to Prof. M.S. Swaminathan, who Inspired the Founding of Asia Initiatives



Prof. M.S. Swaminathan, the world renowned agriculture scientist and humanist also known as Modern Gandhi and the Father of the Green/Evergreen Revolution in India, passed away on September 28, 2023. His words that all development should be **Pro-poor, Pro-environment and Pro-Women** have guided us since our founding in 1999. Recipient of the first World Food Prize and 84 honorary doctorates from around the world, he joined us every year, first in Tokyo, and then in New York, to confer the Swaminathan Award at our Galas as long as his health permitted. Awardees of the Swaminathan Award have included Jeffrey Sachs and Indra Nooyi who is in the top left picture. The picture on the right is of Professor celebrating with our board member Eva Haller. Asia Initiatives is committed to continue striving towards his ideals.

SoCCs Enhance Education in Schools in Bihar



In the heart of **Gaya, Bihar**, where Buddha is said to have attained enlightenment, Asia Initiatives is collaborating with 11 public schools with our **Cascades of Learning** program. Middle school students mentor and support younger students to to enhance overall academic success, forging a bond that extends far beyond the classroom. The **SoCCs** (Social Capital Credits) they earn for mentoring are redeemed for lessons in digital upskilling and coding.

Young Leaders Pledge Their Prize Money to Their Communities



Savitri Devi (left) and **Manisha Upadhyay** (right), recipients of the **Ban Ki-moon Award for Young Leaders**, have committed their prize money to benefit their communities. With support from our local partner **Savera Foundation**, Savitri's community plans to establish a library using these funds. Positioned at the crossroads of three villages in Jharkhand state, the library will cater to the educational needs of over 1,000 individuals. Manisha Upadhyay, in conjunction with our partner **Mera Gaon Meri Dunia**, has allocated her prize money to local schools to enhance parental involvement in education.

Dr. Chiling From TARI, Our Partner in Taiwan, Visited New York



Dr. Chiling Chen of **TARI** (Taiwan Agricultural and Research Institute) visited us in New York last month. The video above includes her comments about the program and the evolution of **SoCC Menu**, customized to incentivize sustainable and water smart agriculture, biodiversity, tree planting and preservation of indigenous cultures and traditions.

Asia Initiatives Featured at Clinton Global Initiatives, and more...



In September, amid the UN General Assembly week in New York, Asia Initiatives received exclusive invitations to participate in notable events. These included a distinguished roundtable discussion on the launch of a Global Climate Resilience Fund for Women and a keynote panel addressing Global Food Insecurity, hosted by Padma Lakshmi at **Clinton Global Initiatives**. Asia Initiatives was also represented at the **MIT SOLVE** event and participated in the **Gates Foundation Goal Keepers** event. In October, our impactful work received acknowledgement through the **AARP Purpose Prize Fellowship**.

More about our mission and work can be found at our [Website](#) and our [Youtube](#).

Thanking you for your support, and wishing you a happy Thanksgiving and Holiday Season!

Geeta and the Asia Initiatives Team

Click [HERE](#) to double your GIVING TUESDAY (Nov 28) impact



Asia Initiatives has special consultative status with the
Economic & Social Council (ECOSOC)
of the United Nations



Asia Initiatives is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that promotes sustainable development for underserved communities, with a particular focus on women and their families.

We can be reached at info@AsiaInitiatives.org

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