



JOVITO R. SALONGA

Philippines

*2007 Ramon Magsaysay Awardee
for Government Service*

Citation for the 2007 Ramon Magsaysay Award for Government Service

JOVITO SALONGA

Jovito Salonga's long life began only twenty-two years after the onset of American rule in the Philippines. His youth was a time of national hope and longing for independence. These things shaped him, alongside his family's deep Christian convictions and the hardships of their daily life. When he was twelve, a speech by the independence-champion Manuel Roxas in his hometown stirred him to dream of a life in law and in public service.

Seizing on this ambition, he rose through public schools to the College of Law at the University of the Philippines. When war overtook his studies, Salonga quickly ran afoul of the new Japanese authorities. He was tortured and jailed and released after nearly a year. Amid dearth and uncertainty, he crammed for the bar examinations and, in 1944, earned the highest score.

At war's end, Salonga embraced Philippine independence but denounced "parity rights" and other compromising ties to the United States. He topped off his legal education with graduate degrees from Harvard and Yale universities and then plunged headlong into the life of his new nation.

Salonga established himself as a sought-after lawyer and an influential legal scholar and educator. In 1960, the Liberal Party tapped him for Congress in his home province of Rizal. Four years later, he outpolled all other candidates for the Senate—a feat he repeated twice. He built his reputation as a crusader for clean government and public education. As a staunch nationalist, he opposed Philippine complicity in the Vietnam War and other acts of "puppetry." And he so persistently exposed the troubling anomalies of President Ferdinand Marcos that the *Philippines Free Press* named him the "Nation's Fiscalizer."

The bomb that crippled him at a political rally in 1971, Salonga says, led him to a second, "borrowed life." He opposed martial law from the start, defending opponents of the Marcos dictatorship and working tirelessly for the succor and release of political prisoners and for the democratic opposition. In 1980, he was briefly jailed himself and then spent four years in exile.

Yet he never lost hope. In 1985, Salonga returned home to revitalize his political party and confront the dictatorship. Putting aside personal ambition, he withdrew his candidacy for vice president in the snap elections of February 1986 and threw himself heart-and-soul into Corazon Aquino's presidential campaign and the People Power Revolution.

Afterwards, Salonga initiated the new government's legal efforts to reclaim wealth stolen by the Marcoses. In 1987, voters returned him to the Senate. There, he authored new laws protecting the state from plunder, military coups, and corrupt officials and, in 1991 as Senate president, triumphantly led his colleagues in ejecting American military bases from the Philippines.

Salonga returned to private life the following year, having finally lost an election—for the presidency. But through his NGOs, Bantay Katarungan and Kilosbayan, he has sustained his principled interventions in the affairs of the nation up till now.

Salonga relishes the point-and-counterpoint of democratic politics. But to Salonga politics is not a game. There *is* a right and a wrong. Democracy is right. Social justice is right. The rule of law, honest and competent government, compassion for the poor, pride in country—all are right.

To be sure, these are the familiar mantras of Philippine politics. But to Salonga they are a creed. His rare moral authority stems from a simple fact: he practices what he preaches.

Today, at eighty-six, Salonga urges young people to seek happiness in service. More important in life than wealth is meaning. We will find it, he says, if we live "by what we know to be true and good."

In electing Jovito Salonga to receive the 2007 Ramon Magsaysay Award for Government Service, the board of trustees recognizes the exemplary integrity and substance of his long public career in service to democracy and good government in the Philippines.

2007 Ramon Magsaysay Award for Government Service

Personal Data

Awardee: **JOVITO R. SALONGA**
Nationality: Filipino
Date of Birth: 22 June 1920
Civil Status: Married

Spouse: Lydia Busuego
Nationality: Filipino Occupation: Housewife

Sons/Daughters: Ricardo B. Salonga Businessman
 Atty. Esteban B. Salonga Lawyer
 Patricia B. Salonga-Rubio Real Estate Broker in Hawaii
 Eduardo B. Salonga Administrator
 Regina Victoria B. Salonga Employee in Providence, Rhode Island, U.S.A.

Educational Background

2003 LL.D., *Honoris Causa*, Philippine Christian University
2001 LL.D., *Honoris Causa*, Silliman University
1994 LL.D., *Honoris Causa*, Central Philippine University
1991 LL.D., *Honoris Causa*, Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila
1991 D.H.L., *Honoris Causa*, Queens College, North Carolina, U.S.A.
1990 D. Pub. Adm., *Honoris Causa*, Polytechnic University of the Philippines
1990 LL.D., *Honoris Causa*, University of the Philippines
1988 LL.D., *Honoris Causa*, State University of Arizona, U.S.A.
1988 LL.D., *Honoris Causa*, University of Manila
1986 LL.D., *Honoris Causa*, Claremont Graduate School, Claremont, California, U.S.A.
1949 J.S.D., Yale Law School, New Haven, Connecticut, U.S.A.
1948 LL.M., Harvard Law School, Cambridge, Mass., U.S.A.
1946 LL.B., University of the Philippines

Employment/Educational Background

Present Chairman Emeritus, Kilosbayan Foundation
Present Chairman Emeritus, Bantayog ng mga Bayani Foundation
Present Founder, Adviser and Coordinator, Bantay Katarungan
1995 - present Jose P. Laurel Professor, Claro M. Recto Academy of Advanced Studies,
 Lyceum of the Philippines
1994 Visiting Lecturer, International Christian University of Japan
1994 Visiting Lecturer, University of Hawaii
1993 Visiting Lecturer, University of Windsor, Canada
1993 Professorial Lecturer, University of Sto. Tomas Graduate School
1993 Ambassador Melencio Lecturer, College of Law, University of the Philippines
1992 Guest Lecturer, U.P. College of Public Administration "Ethics in Politics"
1987 - 1991 President of the Senate, Republic of the Philippines

1986	First Chairman, Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG)
1965,1971,1987	Senator, Republic of the Philippines
1961 - 1965	Congressman, 2 nd District of Rizal
1953 – 1986	Senior Partner, Salonga, Ordoñez, Yap and Associates
1949 – 1986	Practicing Lawyer and Professor of Law
1957 - 1961	Dean of Law, Far Eastern University
1957 - 1961	Professor of Law, Far Eastern University, Lyceum of the Philippines and Philippine Law School
1957 - 1961	Pre-Bar Reviewer, University of the Philippines

Honors/Awards Received

2000	Jose P. Laurel Award, Lyceum of the Philippines
1996	Aurora Aragon Peace Awardee
1993	One of Ten Outstanding Filipinos (TOFIL award)
1992	Recto Memorial Foundation Awardee
1983	Mahatma Gandhi Freedom Award, College of William and Mary, Virginia, U.S.A.
1966 - 1971	“Most Outstanding Senator,” Senate Press Club
1968 - 1969	“The Nation’s Fiscalizer,” Philippine Free Press
1948 - 1949	Ambrose Gherini Prize for the Best Paper in International Law, Yale University
1962 - 1965	“Congressman’s Congressman,” Philippine Free Press
1944	Topped the Philippine Bar Examinations, with a rating of 95.3%

Publications

2005	<i>The Task of Building a Better Nation</i> , Regina Publishing Company, Mandaluyong City
2003	<i>The Intangibles that Make A Nation Great: Selected Speeches, Lectures and Writings</i> , Regina Publishing Company, Mandaluyong City
2001	<i>A Journey of Struggle and Hope</i> , U.P. Center for Leadership, Citizenship, and Democracy and Regina Publishing Company, Mandaluyong City
2000	<i>Presidential Plunder: The Quest for the Marcos Ill-Gotten Wealth</i> , U.P. Center for Leadership, Citizenship, and Democracy and Regina Publishing Company, Mandaluyong City
1995	<i>Private International Law</i> , Regina Publishing Company, Mandaluyong City
1994	<i>The Senate that Said No!</i> , U.P. Press, Quezon City
1991	<i>Public International Law</i> (with Chief Justice Pedro L. Yap)
1968	<i>Philippine Law on Private Corporations</i>
1967	<i>Land of the Morning: A Collection of Speeches</i>
1965	<i>Philippine Law on Evidence</i>
1964	<i>A Plea for Sobriety: A Collection of Essays and Speeches</i>
1951	<i>Introduction to Jurisprudence</i>

Author of Selected Laws

1991	<i>Anti-Plunder Act</i>
1990	<i>Anti-Coup d'etat Law</i>
1989	<i>Code of Conduct & Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees</i>
1964 - 1965	<i>Magna Carta for Public School Teachers</i>
1963 - 1964	<i>State Scholarships Law</i>



Rev. KIM SUN-TAE

Korea

*2007 Ramon Magsaysay Awardee
for Public Service*

Citation for the 2007 Ramon Magsaysay Award for Public Service

KIM SUN-TAE

It is a cruel fate anywhere to be blind, and all the more cruel in societies where sightless people are cursed as unlucky and shamed as useless burdens on their families and on society at large. Kim Sun-tae, director of Seoul's Siloam Eye Hospital, knows these degrading aspects of Korean society from bitter personal experience. He has devoted his life to changing them.

Kim Sun-tae was not born blind. For the first ten years of his life, he was the adored only son of a prosperous family. In June 1950, the violent outbreak of the Korean War suddenly rendered him an orphan. Not long afterwards, a mortar shell that he and other boys found while scavenging for food exploded and left him blind. Even his own relatives now treated him like a pariah and a slave. He ran away. Learning to survive as a beggar, Kim gathered strength from the random kindnesses of compassionate Koreans and American soldiers, and from Christian teachings he had imbibed in Sunday school. "God, please help me," he prayed.

Kim persevered and developed an iron will. From the hard life of the streets, he moved to the hard life of wartime orphanages and finally into school. He learned to read Korean Braille and to type. Vowing to become a Christian pastor, he became the first blind graduate of Seoul's Soongsil High School and, in 1962, overcame the resistance of Korea's military junta to enter Soongsil University. A master's degree in theology followed in 1969, a doctorate in 1993.

Meeting hardship with frugality, Kim struggled to form Korea's first church for the blind in 1972. Its seven members worshipped in a borrowed room and a dilapidated apartment. The following year, the Korean Presbyterian Church named Kim director of Blind Evangelical Missions, a new department with a staff of one. He seized the opportunity to build a ministry for blind Christians, visiting church after church, publishing Braille bibles and hymnals, and launching a scholarship program for deserving students. He began to travel widely and, in Japan and the United States, witnessed public amenities and rehabilitation programs for the blind that enlarged his hopes for Korea.

Increasingly, Kim devoted himself to the dream of a hospital dedicated to treating and curing blindness. Drawing support from Korea's business community, in 1986 he led in founding Siloam Eye Hospital, where sight-restoring surgery and state-of-the-art facilities were available free to the needy. In 1996, Kim added a mobile clinic to deliver eye services to the rural poor, prison inmates, and other underserved communities. And, in 1997, he opened Korea's largest rehabilitation-and-learning center to help blind and low-vision people cope with day-to-day life, learn new job skills, and become computer-literate using new Braille- and voice-friendly software. Meanwhile, Kim's voice and esteemed example helped advance new laws requiring safe public spaces and employment for the disabled.

Today, more than twenty thousand people have received free eye surgery and two hundred thousand more have been treated at Siloam Eye Hospital and its mobile unit. There are medical missions to Bangladesh, Kenya, China, and the Philippines. And nearly one thousand students have received scholarships through programs that Kim initiated. Moreover, the church for the blind that he founded thirty-five years ago now has its own sanctuary, four hundred members, and many vibrant offshoots and branches.

As for his own role in all of this, Kim echoes the words of the Apostle Paul, "I can do all things through Him who gives me strength."

But Pastor Kim also has some words of his own. He says, "Blessed are those who never give up."

In electing Kim Sun-tae to receive the 2007 Ramon Magsaysay Award for Public Service, the board of trustees recognizes his inspiring ministry of hope and practical assistance to his fellow blind and visually impaired citizens in South Korea.

2007 Ramon Magsaysay Award for Public Service

Personal Data

Awardee: **Rev. KIM SUN-TAE**
Nationality: Korean
Date of Birth: 9 September 1941
Civil Status: Married

Spouse: Jung-Ja
Nationality: Korean

Daughters: Eun-Hae (35) Voice major
 Eun-Mi (34) Pianist
 Ji-Hae (34)

Educational Background

2007 Honorary Doctor of Philosophy, Changshin Presbyterian College and Theological Seminary, Seoul, Korea
2000 Honorary Doctor of Philosophy, Soongsil University, Seoul, South Korea
1993 McCormick Theological Seminary, D.Min., Degree in Pastoral Studies, Chicago, U.S.A
1982 Th.M., Graduate School, Changshin Presbyterian College and Theological Seminary, Seoul, South Korea
1969 M. Div., Changshin Presbyterian College and Theological Seminary, Seoul, Korea
1966 B.A. in Philosophy, Soongsil University, Seoul, Korea

Employment/Educational Background

2007 - present Adjunct Professor, Soongsil University
2006 - present Vice-Chairman, Presbyterian Church of Korea, Seoul, Korea
2005 - present Adjunct Professor, Hanil University and Presbyterian Theological Seminary
2004 - present Member, Board of Directors, Lighthouse Foundation Director, Siloam Eye Hospital
2003 - 2004 Member, Board of Directors, Korean Ecumenical Building
2001 - 2005 Chairman, Governing Committee, Hanvit School for the Visually Impaired
1999 - present General Secretary of the Board of Directors and Executive Secretary of the Permanent Committee, Siloam Welfare Foundation for the Visually Impaired
1994 - present Member, Board of Directors, Chungju School for the Visually Impaired
1993 - present Lecturer, Presbyterian College and Theological Seminary
1993 - 1997 Member, Board of Directors, Hanvit School for the Visually Impaired
1990 - present Member, Board of Directors, International Association of Visually Impaired Persons
1986 - present Hospital Chaplain, Siloam Eye Hospital
1983 - present Associate Pastor, Korea United Church for the Visually Impaired
1973 - 2001 Member, Board of Directors, Hongpawon Social Welfare Foundation
1974 - 1998 General Secretary, Mission Board for the Visually Impaired, Presbyterian Church of Korea
1972 - 1976 Head Pastor, Korean United Church for the Visually Impaired

Honors/Awards Received

2007	Honorary Ph.D., Changshin Presbyterian College and Theological Seminary
2000	Honorary Ph.D., Soongsil University
1999	Special Prize for Social Service, Fifth Yujip Awards
1998	Soongsil Honors Award for Social Service and Welfare, Soongsil University
1998	Hoam Social Services Award, Hoam Prize Committee
1995	“Meritorious Alumni of the Year,” Soongsil University
1995	“Best Alumni of the Year,” Presbyterian College and Theological Seminary
1994	Recipient, First Indon Cultural Award, Hannam University (Daejeon)
1989	Civil Merit Dongbaeg Medal
1985	Citation from the President of the Republic of Korea
1981	Citation from the Secretary of Health and Social Services, Republic of Korea

Publications

2005	<i>Mission Welfare</i> Textbook, Korean version
2002	<i>The River of Hope</i> , an autobiography, English version, The Korean Christian Journal, Chicago, Il., U.S.A.
1999	<i>The River of Hope</i> , an autobiography, Korean version



MAHABIR PUN

Nepal

*2007 Ramon Magsaysay Awardee
for Community Leadership*

Citation for the 2007 Ramon Magsaysay Award for Community Leadership

MAHABIR PUN

Nangi Village, where Mahabir Pun was born, rests high in the Himalayan foothills of western Nepal. Here and in surrounding Myagdi District live the Pun Magar, whose men have soldiered for generations across the globe as Gurkhas. Yet, their worldly careers have done little to change their sleepy homeland, so far from the traffic patterns that knit together the rest of the world. Indeed, Nangi is seven hours' hard climb from the nearest road. No telephone lines have ever reached it. Despite this, these days the people of Nangi are definitely connected to the world outside. Wireless Internet technology has made this possible. Mahabir Pun has made it happen.

Pun passed his boyhood grazing cattle and sheep in mountain pastures and attending a village school that had no paper or pencils or books. Wanting more for his son, Pun's father moved the family to Nepal's lowlands, where, in Chitwan, Pun finished high school and became a teacher, working for twelve years to help his younger siblings through school. Finally, a timely scholarship led him to a bachelor's degree at the University of Nebraska at Kearney. Then, in 1992, after more than twenty years away, Pun returned home to Nangi, determined to make things easier for other youths than they had been for him.

Nangi's leaders were busy establishing a village high school. Pun eagerly joined in. Once a month, he made the two-day trip to the nearest major town of Pokhara to check his e-mail and maintain his links to friends abroad. This led, in 1997, to the donation of four used computers from Australia. Powering them with hydro generators in a nearby stream, Pun began teaching computer classes at the high school. More computers followed, but it proved impossible to get a telephone connection to Pokhara and the Internet.

Pun e-mailed the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), asking for ideas. In 2001, the BBC publicized his dilemma and within a year volunteers from Europe and the United States were helping him rig a wireless connection between Nangi and the neighboring village of Ramche, using TV dish antennas mounted in trees. Some small grants soon led to the construction of improvised mountaintop relay stations and a link to Pokhara. By 2003, Nangi was online.

As word of Pun's project bounced around the World Wide Web, backpacking volunteers carried more and more donated computers, parts, and equipment into the hills. Meanwhile, Pun expanded the wireless network to embrace twelve villages—distributing a hundred computers to local schools, connecting them to the Internet, teaching teachers how to use them, and then tinkering and troubleshooting until everything worked.

Today, connectivity is changing Myagdi. Using the district's "tele-teaching" network, good teachers in one school now instruct students in others. Doctorless villagers use Wi-Fi to consult specialists in Pokhara. Village students surf the Net and are learning globe-savvy skills. Pun himself is using the Web to e-market local products such as honey, teas, and jams and to draw paying trekkers to campsites that he has outfitted with solar-powered hot showers. In parallel projects, villagers in Nangi have themselves added a library, a health clinic, and new classrooms for the high school.

Pun, now fifty-two, is both self-effacing and charismatic. "I'm not in charge of anything," he says. Yet, he seems to be the driving force of much around him. Eventually, he says, the people of Myagdi District will have to carry on for themselves. In the meantime, he hopes to play his unique role indefinitely. "As long as I can walk," Pun says happily, "I can do this."

In electing Mahabir Pun to receive the 2007 Ramon Magsaysay Award for Community Leadership, the board of trustees recognizes his innovative application of wireless computer technology in Nepal, bringing progress to remote mountain areas by connecting his village to the global village.



TANG XIYANG

China

*2007 Ramon Magsaysay Awardee
for Peace and International Understanding*

Citation for the 2007 Ramon Magsaysay Award for Peace and International Understanding

TANG XIYANG

Over the centuries, as primeval nature yielded to a vast human habitat in China, the Chinese came to see themselves not as creatures of nature but as its masters. Environmentalist Tang Xiyang believes that this mentality lies behind the predatory assault on China's environment today. In China, he says, under the pressure of rapid industrialization and the material yearnings of 1.4 billion people, "nature has been badly damaged." Healing it is his passion.

Born in 1930, Tang Xiyang emerged from a youth amid war and revolution as a hopeful believer in the new China. He attended Beijing Normal University in the heady inaugural years of the People's Republic and, in 1952, joined the *Beijing Daily* as a reporter. In 1957, however, he was denounced as a Rightist. During the next twenty years, he was made to toil in a rock quarry, sweep the streets, and write confession after confession. In the Cultural Revolution, his wife was murdered by raging teenagers, and Tang himself was torn from his two young daughters to labor in the countryside. There, paradoxically he found himself "surrounded by flowing waters, . . . singing birds, and rustling leaves." His despair lifted and, he says, "Nature saved me."

Exonerated in 1980, Tang became editor of *Great Nature* magazine and began exploring China's nature reserves. In Yunnan, he met fellow nature-lover Marcia Bliss Marks, an American who became his wife and partner. As they explored China together, Tang wrote prolifically about the richness and variety of China's wildlife and animal habitats. Later, the pair toured fifty national parks and wildlife refuges in Europe, North America, and Asia. Tang's book about their trip, *A Green World Tour*, introduced its readers to nature preservation as a global movement and became the bible for China's young environmentalists. Tang challenged them to become "great travelers, explorers, scientists, and vanguards for nature conservation."

In 1996, the year Marcia died, Tang invited twenty-one university students to spend their summer holidays in Yunnan, where local officials planned to harvest logs on a one-hundred-square-mile swath of old-growth forest, the unique habitat of the golden monkey. The research and publicity arising from Tang's Green Camp helped pressure the government to change course. Buoyed by this success, Tang began organizing Green Camps every year, dispatching a fresh team of students to a different site each summer—from Tibet's primeval forests to the beaches of Hainan. Graduates of Tang's Green Camps have now organized spin-off camps all over China and can be found today among the staff members of China's environmental NGOs. Meanwhile, Tang himself lectures tirelessly throughout the mainland—delivering 130 lectures in seventeen cities in 2005 alone.

He tells audiences that nature follows its own law. If the natural law is violated, "nature will seek revenge." This is why preserving the habitats of brown-eared pheasants and red-crowned cranes and golden monkeys is inescapably linked to preserving a healthy habitat for humans.

Society also follows certain laws, he says. China has paid a heavy price for its errant legacy of "feudalism, autocracy, and violence." Tang has concluded that democracy is better. Indeed, without democracy, he says, "there can be no everlasting green hills and clear waters."

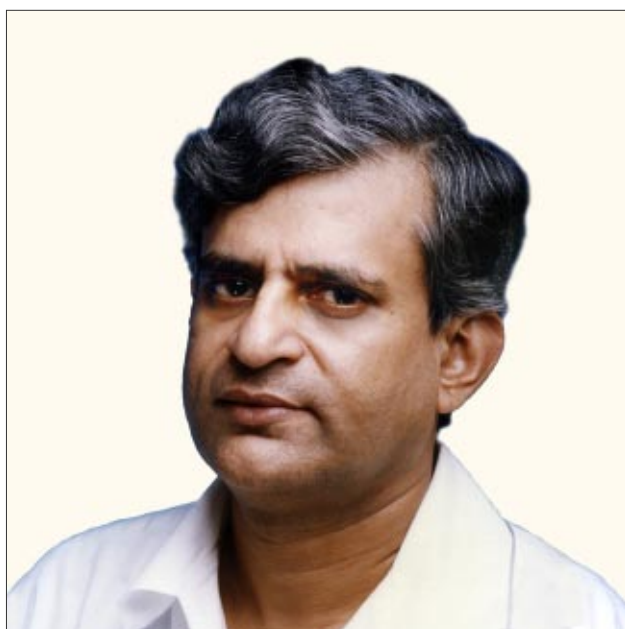
Finally, Tang stresses that preserving nature is not China's problem alone. It requires global cooperation. "China needs to know the world," he says, "and the world needs to know China."

Tang's friends marvel at his workload. At seventy-seven, he remains passionately engaged. Still, although he never lets up, he *has* learned to get to the point quickly. His latest book, summarizing his views, is called *Wrong, Wrong, Wrong*.

In electing Tang Xiyang to receive the 2007 Ramon Magsaysay Award for Peace and International Understanding, the board of trustees recognizes his guiding China to meet its mounting environmental crisis by heeding the lessons of its global neighbors and the timeless wisdom of nature itself.

Publications

- 2007 *Green Camp*
- 2004 *Wrong, Wrong, Wrong (Cuo, Cuo, Cuo in Chinese)*
- 2001 *Trekking through Nature Reserves in China*
- 1999 *A Green World Tour* (English Version). Edited by Ren Lingjuan, published and distributed by New World Press, Beijing, China
- 1999 *Go to Nature Reserves*
- 1999 *From the Himalayas to the Plains of the Three Rivers*
- 1993 *A Green World Tour* (Chinese Version)
- 1991 *In Search of Rare Animals*
- 1987 *Exploring Nature Reserve*
- 1987 *Living Treasures: An Odyssey Through China's Extraordinary Nature Reserves*
- 1983 *The Song of Swans*



PALAGUMMI SAINATH

India

*2007 Ramon Magsaysay Awardee
for Journalism, Literature, and
Creative Communication Arts*

**Citation for the 2007 Ramon Magsaysay Award for
Journalism, Literature, and Creative Communication Arts**

PALAGUMMI SAINATH

In the early twentieth century, the press was at the heart of India's freedom struggle. During those formative years, says Indian reporter Palagummi Sainath, journalism contributed to "the liberation of the human being." In contrast, he says, India's press today merely performs "stenography" for big business and the governing elite. As the economy surges, matters that call for the urgent attention of the public and government are ignored in favor of film starlets and beauty queens, the stock market, and India's famed IT boom. Sainath has taken a different path. Believing that "journalism is for people, not for shareholders," he has doggedly covered the lives of those who have been left behind.

Born in Chennai in 1957, Sainath completed a master's degree in history before turning to a life of journalism. At *Blitz*, a Mumbai tabloid, he rose to be deputy chief editor and became a popular columnist. In 1993, he changed course.

For the next few years, under a fellowship from the *Times of India*, Sainath painstakingly investigated life in India's ten poorest districts. In *Everybody Loves a Good Drought*, his bestselling book of 1997, and in hundreds of subsequent articles, Sainath presented his readers with a world that belied the giddy accounts of India's economic miracle. In this India, the harsh life of the rural poor was, in fact, growing harsher.

Sainath discovered that the acute misery of India's poorest districts was not caused by drought, as the government said. It was rooted in India's enduring structural inequalities—in poverty, illiteracy, and caste discrimination—and exacerbated by recent economic reforms favoring foreign investment and privatization. Indeed, these sweeping changes combined with endemic corruption had led small farmers and landless laborers into evermore crippling debt—with devastating consequences.

Sainath provided the evidence. He reported, for example, that the number of migrant-swollen buses leaving a single poor district for Mumbai each week had increased from one to thirty-four in less than ten years. He exposed the shocking rise in suicides among India's debt-pressed farmers, revealing that in just six hard-hit districts in 2006 alone, the number of suicides had soared to well over a thousand. He revealed that at a time when officials boasted of a national grain surplus, 250 million Indians were suffering from endemic hunger, and that in districts where government storehouses were "stacked to the roof with food grain," tribal children were starving to death.

Sainath's authoritative reporting led Indian authorities to address certain discrete abuses and to enhance relief efforts in states such as Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, and Maharashtra. But his deeper message also struck home. In 2000, nearly thirty of his articles were submitted as evidence at a national hearing on anti-*dalit* (untouchable) atrocities. In such ways, he has touched the conscience of the nation.

India's press today, Sainath says, is "creating audiences that have no interest in other human beings." He is training a new breed of rural reporters with a different point of view. His journalism workshops occur directly in the villages, where he teaches young protégés to identify and write good stories and to be agents of change.

Sainath finds hope in these young reporters and in the resilience and courage of the people he writes about—such as the legions of poor rural women in Tamil Nadu who have overcome taboos and learned to ride a bicycle. To advance freedom, even small freedoms such as this, is the most significant legacy of the early giants of Indian journalism to today's reporters, he says. "I'm not ready to give up on my legacy yet."

In electing Palagummi Sainath to receive the 2007 Ramon Magsaysay Award for Journalism, Literature, and Creative Communication Arts, the board of trustees recognizes his passionate commitment as a journalist to restore the rural poor to India's consciousness, moving the nation to action.

**2007 Ramon Magsaysay Award for
Journalism, Literature, and Creative Communication Arts**

Personal Data

Awardee: **PALAGUMMI SAINATH**
Nationality: Indian
Date of Birth: 13 May 1957
Civil Status: Married

Spouse: Sonya Gill Occupation: Sociologist and women's rights activist

Educational Background

1979 Master in Arts, History, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India
1977 Bachelor of Arts, History, Loyola College, Madras, India

Employment/Professional Background

2004 - Present Rural Affairs Editor, *The Hindu*
Present Professor of journalism, Sophia Polytechnic University, Mumbai, India
Present Adjunct professor, Asian College of Journalism, Chennai, India
 Also taught at other universities in India and overseas including the
 University of Western Ontario, Canada; Tampere University, Finland;
 Curtin University, Australia; and Iowa University, U.S.A.
1993 - 2004 Freelance journalist. Writes for *The Hindu*, *The Times of India*, *Frontline*, *The
Telegraph* and other publications.
1982 - 1993 Deputy chief editor, *Blitz* Group of Publications
 Foreign editor, *Blitz* and *The Daily*, Mumbai, India
1981 - 1982 Sub-editor, *United News of India*, Mumbai, India
1980 - 1982 Sub-editor, *United News of India*, New Delhi, India

Honors/Awards Received

2006 Harry Chapin Media Award: Judge's Prize, for work "that focuses on the
 causes of hunger and poverty," New York, U.S.A.
2004 Shaheed Niyogi Memorial Journalism Award for writings on labour and
 working people, Chattisgarh, India
2004 Prem Bhatia Journalism Prize for Excellence in Political Reporting & Analysis,
 New Delhi, India
2003 Asia Leadership Fellow, Tokyo. Asian Leadership Programme of the
 International House of Japan (IHJ) and Japan Foundation Asia Centre

- 2002 Inspiration Award of the Global Visions Film Festival, Edmonton, Canada
(together with film maker Joe Moulins)
- 2002 First McGill Fellow, Trinity College, Hartford Connecticut, U.S.A.
- 2001 The A.H. Boerma Prize (of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization) for
“work of international importance in addressing the issues of hunger”
- 2000 Global Human Rights Journalism Prize, Amnesty International, U.K.
- 2000 B.D. Goenka Prize for Excellence in Journalism, B.D. Goenka Foundation
(*Indian Express* Group of newspapers), India
- 2000 Eisenhower Fellowship, Eisenhower Exchange Fellowships, U.S.A.
- 1998 Nehru Fellowship (for work on *dalits*), Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Fund,
India
- 1998 Distinguished Visiting Professional, University of Iowa, U.S.A.
- 1998 Human Rights Award for Journalism (strengthening *dalit* human rights),
Human Rights Education Movement, Chennai, India
- 1996 Senior Divisional Fellow, Division of Humanities, Curtin University of
Technology, Perth, Australia
- 1995 Lorenzo Natali prize for Journalism, European Commission, Brussels
- 1995 National Media Fellow, National Centre for South Asian Studies, Melbourne,
Australia
- 1995 Journalism for Human Rights Award, People’s Union for Civil Liberties,
New Delhi
- 1995 Outstanding work on rural unorganized labour, V.V. Giri Centenary Award,
New Delhi, India
- 1995 Ashoka Fellowship, Ashoka Foundation International

Publications

- 2006 “The Moral Universe of the Media,” *The Indian Media: Illusion, Delusion, Reality.*
Essays in Honour of Prem Bhatia. Ed. AshaRani Mathur, Rupa, New Delhi,
India
- 2004 “The Age of Inequality. Life in the times of Market Fundamentalism,” *Unequal
Worlds.* IHJ, Japan Foundation, Tokyo, Japan.
- 2003 “Headloads & Heartbreak,” *Gender & Caste.* Ed. Anupama Rao, Kali for
Women, New Delhi, India.
- 2001 “The Hills of Hardship,” *Greatest Reportage of the 20th Century.* Ordfront,
Sweden.
- 2001 “Reports from Orissa,” *The Penguin Book of Indian Journeys.* Editor Dom Moraes.
Viking, India.
- 2000 “The Age of Inequality,” *India, Another Millennium.* Editor Romila Thapar.
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CHUNG TO

China

*2007 Ramon Magsaysay Awardee
for Emergent Leadership*

Citation for the 2007 Ramon Magsaysay Award for Emergent Leadership

CHUNG TO

In China today, a transformation of dazzling speed and complexity is reshaping society and calling forth new leaders. Chung To and Chen Guangcheng are two of these. Each one in his own way, and on his own initiative, has stepped forward to address an urgent contemporary need. Where others have been slow to act, they have acted.

Chung To was born in Hong Kong but migrated with his family to the United States when he was fifteen. He attended Columbia University, earned a master's degree at Harvard, and then plunged into a career in banking. In 1995, success led him back to Hong Kong as director of a major bank.

By this time, Chung To was already sensitized to the AIDS crisis through the death of a favorite teacher and of many friends. In Hong Kong, he was alarmed to find the male homosexual community largely ignorant of the threat. Gay men accounted for a third of the city's HIV-AIDS cases, yet unprotected sex was commonplace.

Chung To reacted by creating the Chi Heng Foundation (CHF) in 1998, to arm gay men with a means of protecting themselves. Beginning in Hong Kong but later expanding into the mainland, he enlisted the help of pimps and brothel owners and hundreds of volunteers to distribute condoms and safe-sex kits in gay bars and clubs. He set up a help line with frank, factual information about HIV-AIDS and offered workshops and personal counseling, legal advice, and links to doctors. And he exploited the rising popularity of the Internet to reach the millions of gay Chinese men who use it. By 2006, Chung To had established CHF branches in ten Chinese cities. Taking note, the United Nations named his direct, management-savvy approach one of its "best practice" models for China.

In 2001, an encounter with AIDS victims in Henan Province led Chung To in a different direction. In Henan, the AIDS epidemic was caused not by sexual contact but by the egregiously careless practices of government-linked blood buyers. Here, he saw villages where half of the adults had either died of AIDS or were HIV-positive. "I have never seen so much hardship and suffering concentrated in one small village," he says. He was especially moved by the plight of children orphaned by AIDS. Their grim lives and futures stirred him to launch the AIDS Orphans Project in 2002. He now left his job at the bank to devote himself full-time to China's AIDS crisis.

Pondering how to help the children of Henan, Chung To concluded that education was the key. In its target areas, his AIDS Orphans Project provides every child who has an AIDS-infected parent with school fees and expenses through university or vocational school. To avoid reinforcing the AIDS stigma and its social isolation, Chung To spurns orphanages and foster homes and insists that AIDS-impacted children attend normal village schools and live with relatives. His foundation also provides the children self-affirming counseling through art and writing therapy, summer camps, and home visits by CHF volunteers—including Chung To himself. Chung To's orphans project began with 127 students in a single village. Today, four thousand children in four provinces are benefiting.

Chung To works cooperatively with the Chinese authorities and has found allies in international NGOs and foundations. Raising funds is his constant concern. His business background is useful here and shows in CHF's "six-step fund-raising strategy."

Otherwise, for now, forty-year-old Chung To has left the business world behind. "I figured that the world could do with one less banker," he says. "But these children, they cannot wait."

In electing Chung To to receive the 2007 Ramon Magsaysay Award for Emergent Leadership, the board of trustees recognizes his proactive and compassionate response to AIDS in China and to the needs of its most vulnerable victims.



CHEN GUANGCHENG

China

*2007 Ramon Magsaysay Awardee
for Emergent Leadership*

Citation for the 2007 Ramon Magsaysay Award for Emergent Leadership

CHEN GUANGCHENG

In China today, a transformation of dazzling speed and complexity is reshaping society and calling forth new leaders. Chung To and Chen Guangcheng are two of these. Each one in his own way, and on his own initiative, has stepped forward to address an urgent contemporary need. Where others have been slow to act, they have acted.

Chen Guangcheng was born in a tiny village in Shandong Province. Blinded by a fever when he was an infant, he was denied schooling for most of his youth. Instead, he soaked in knowledge by listening to the radio and absorbing the classic Chinese stories his father read to him. At age seventeen, he entered a school for the blind and by thirty he had completed a university course in massage and acupuncture therapy. By this time, Chen's independent spirit had been thoroughly aroused.

When local officials in 1996 refused to honor a law exempting disabled persons from the annual agricultural tax—thus imposing an illicit burden on his own parents—Chen took his grievance all the way to central authorities in Beijing, and won! Local people with similar grievances began to seek his advice. By diligently studying law books read to him by others, he became a “barefoot lawyer” and helped his neighbors to register their complaints effectively and file civil cases in the local courts.

In 1998, Chen led farmers in Yinan County in protest against a river-polluting paper factory and persuaded an international donor to fund a deep well as an alternative to the filthy river water. He then set up a center for the rights of the disabled and filed a case against a public transportation company in Beijing for refusing to honor the law providing free rides to the blind. The case failed but created an unwelcome national stir.

Indeed, by this time, Chen's activism had drawn the irate attention of the local authorities. He was investigated and harassed. Anonymous wall posters in Linyi City, where he lived, called upon people to break his legs.

Chen was thus already a noted thorn in the side of Yinan County officials in 2004 when they launched a ruthless campaign to bring the county within government population-control quotas—by coercing mothers-to-be into late-term abortions, and thousands of other women into involuntary sterilization. All of this was in violation of an existing law requiring informed consent. The outcry soon reached Chen, who meticulously documented the abuses and worked with the victims and lawyers to organize a class-action suit against the responsible officials—the first case of its kind in China and also the first concerted domestic challenge to the use of violence in China's population policy. The suit failed, but led to an investigation by the State Family Planning Commission and a tacit admission of excesses. Meanwhile, Chen took the issue to the press and diplomatic corps and onto the Internet, leading to global exposure.

For this, he paid a heavy price. Back in Linyi, Chen's cell phone was jammed, his computer seized; he and his wife and friends were repeatedly beaten. He was held for months under house arrest and then finally charged with disturbing public order in connection with a demonstration on his behalf. In a trial behind closed doors to which his own lawyers were not admitted, he was convicted and is now serving a four-year prison term.

Chen's hope is in the rule of law. He is energizing the grass roots and, with many others, challenging Chinese authorities to obey the laws of the state. But this will not happen until citizens learn to act, he says. “People should protect their rights themselves.”

In electing Chen Guangcheng to receive the 2007 Ramon Magsaysay Award for Emergent Leadership, the board of trustees recognizes his irrepressible passion for justice in leading ordinary Chinese citizens to assert their legitimate rights under the law.

2007 Ramon Magsaysay Award for Emergent Leadership

Personal Data

Awardee: **CHEN GUANGCHENG**
Nationality: Chinese
Date of Birth: 12 November 1971
Civil Status: Married

Wife: Yuan Weijing
Nationality: Chinese

Daughter: Chen Kesi (2)

Educational Background

2001 Nanjing University Traditional Chinese Medicine
1998 Qindao School for the Blind

Employment/Professional Background

1996 - present Barefoot Lawyer
2003 Visiting Scholar for one month in the US under the American
“International Visitors Program”
2000 - 2001 Manager, China Law Association

Honors/Awards Received

2006 “Heroes and Pioneers, 2006 Top 100 People Who Shape Our World,”
Time Magazine
2005 “The Men of Year 2005,” *Asia Week Magazine*