

About Maryam Forum

Driving transformative leadership through research-based policy and collaboration

The problem we're trying to solve

The world faces multiple, urgent and complex challenges on an unprecedented scale. From climate change and oceans, to global growth, financial architecture, human mobility and disinformation, courageous leadership is needed to navigate our future. Yet, the world is increasingly characterised by divergent national interests, regressive policy and corruption. Mass protests are emerging everywhere – in Latin America, Asia, Africa, Europe and the Middle East – expressing frustration with incumbent rulers and desire for system change. Transformative leadership must be grounded in evidence and exercised by leaders representing the full breadth of our global communities. For it to emerge, we need stronger links between research and policy along with an ecosystem that encourages meritocracy, accountability and inclusion.

From rulership to leadership

Maryam Forum is a multi-year programme aimed at accelerating the kind of leadership the world needs urgently. A product of the LSE Institute of Global Affairs (IGA) and its Global Policy Lab (G-Pol) at the new School of Public Policy (SPP), it has been conceived as a collaboration between policy makers, students, academic researchers, business leaders and media.

Driven by deep engagement with students and faculty, Maryam Forum will build on LSE and IGA's strong track record in research, policy engagement and capacity building. To create this ecosystem, it will chart a new and ambitious trajectory through action-oriented public policy research, a fellowship programme, an online platform for knowledge sharing, executive leadership courses, private working group events and an annual global event. It will facilitate peer to peer learning among its partners and comparative analysis across emerging and advanced economies. Year round working groups will help bring research from LSE and its partner universities into focus, creating opportunities for the Forum's broader network of business leaders to engage deeply and for researchers to tap into their expertise.

Maryam Forum also presents an unrivalled opportunity for students to meet and work alongside global leaders and influential professionals, developing valuable connections for the future. To help build the leaders of tomorrow, students from LSE's school of Public Policy are central to supporting every part of the Forum's activities. The experience will inspire, motivate, and support development of real world understanding in their fields of interest. At the same time, it will promote the importance of engaging with the full breadth of global communities in the development of policy.

The road ahead

To support its launch in 2020, Maryam Forum is developing a community of fifty founding individual members who will provide their input to the annual agenda and collaborate in the Forum's working groups from February onwards. Activities this year will build towards its first ever global event, to be held in December alongside media partners The New York Times, Caixin Media and content partner Kite Insights.



From rulership to leadership: who will lead the transformation?



Khalid Abdulla-Janahi

Chair, Vision 3

38 years experience in banking and financial services, including serving as Group CEO of Dar Al-Maal Al-Islami Trust, Chairman of Faisal Private Bank, Ithmaar Bank and Solidarity Co. Served as Vice Chairman of Arab Business Council of the World Economic Forum. Currently on various boards and chairs Vision 3, with a focus on venture and infrastructure.



Erik Berglof

Professor, Department of Economics; Director, LSE IGA
Former Chief Economist at European Bank of Reconstruction and
Development; Deputy Secretary, G20 Eminent Persons Group on Global
Financial Governance; Senior Fellow at Brookings; and Director of
Stockholm Institute of Transition Economics. Awarded Leontief Medal
and honoured by US Congress for contribution during global financial
crisis.



Stephen Dunbar-Johnson

President, International, The New York Times
Responsible for the oversight and strategic development of the Times
Company's international businesses. Formerly publisher of the
International Herald Tribune, following 12 years at The Financial Times.



Kishore Mahbubani

Former Dean, LKY School of Public Policy

Distinguished Fellow at Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore. Served in Singapore's Foreign Service for 33 years, notably as Ambassador to the United Nations and twice as President of the UN Security Council.



Lindiwe Mazibuko

Co-founder & Executive Director, Apolitical Foundation; Former Leader of the Official Opposition, Parliament of South Africa
Former Shadow Deputy Minister for Communications, Shadow Minister for Rural Development and Land Reform and Parliamentary Leader and Leader of the Official Opposition. Mason and JFK Fellow at Harvard.



Andrés Velasco

Dean, LSE School of Public Policy; Former Finance Minister and Presidential Candidate in Chile

Member, G20 Eminent Persons Group on Global Financial Governance; Director of NYU centre for Latin-American and Caribbean Studies; Professor at Harvard, NAFTA Negotiator and President of Corporación Expansiva. Recipient of award for Excellence in Research from the Inter-American Development Bank.