



NEWS/ HONG KONG/ CITY  
Press release

**ETHNIC MINORITIES ON GOVERNMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEES, PLEASE  
DIVERSITY LIST & COMMUNITY CONNECTORS 2017**  
***5 out of 16 Diversity List 2016 candidates has been appointed to the advisory bodies***

Hong Kong, 21 March 2017, The International Day on the Elimination of Race Discrimination in Hong Kong

The Zubin Foundation today launched *Diversity List & Community Connectors 2017*. Building on the success of Diversity List 2016 (5 out of 16 candidates has been appointed to government advisory committees), Diversity List 2017 profiles 22 individuals across various professions who have been through a screening process with Spencer Stuart, a leading recruitment firm and partner on the project.

“Since 21 March 2016, 5 new appointments have been given to the 16 candidates. I applaud the HKSAR government – this is a tremendous milestone for ethnic minorities. The population of ethnic minorities is young in age and is an important talent pool at a time when Hong Kong has a rapidly ageing population. This population brings local knowledge, self-defines with a Hong Kong identity and is committed to staying in Hong Kong. This population should be included in advisory committees of our government – but also on NGO boards of those organisations that address ethnic minority issues.”, said Shalini Mahtani, Founder of The Zubin Foundation.

The 22 individuals named today as part of *Diversity List 2017* and the 5 Community Connectors come from a wide range of professional and personal backgrounds. Alice Au, Board Director of Spencer Stuart, partner on this project said, “Along with the base criteria we also evaluated the candidates based on attributes we use for board candidates. This is a group of hardworking, talented, dedicated and passionate people many of whom have endured adversity as minorities but persevered, who have gone on to make significant contributions to their professions and communities. This is a group of people who are role models, not only for ethnic minorities groups but also for the general population in Hong Kong.”

Mr. Matthew Cheung, Chief Secretary of Administration of the Hong Kong SAR Government was the official guest to commemorate the Launch of the Diversity List & Community Connectors 2017 and deliver the opening remarks. “Hong Kong is home to a diverse and multi-racial community with more than 200 000 ethnic minority people choosing to settle here. I truly appreciate that many ethnic minorities, having been here for generations, play important roles in shaping the city’s history. And many indeed contribute to making our home a better place to live in. We embrace the value of racial equality that makes us an inclusive and strong society. We appreciate the good work of think tanks like The Zubin Foundation, which have conducted numerous research studies on ethnic minorities in Hong Kong and put forward constructive recommendations for policy makers and private organisations alike. The Government will continue to develop Hong Kong into a socially inclusive society.” said Mr. Matthew Cheung.

The Zubin Foundation started the initiative in 2016 based on the finding of our research ‘The Status of Ethnic Minorities in Hong Kong, 1997 to 2014’ authored by Puja Kapai at The University of Hong Kong Centre for Comparative and Public Law. The findings showed ethnic minorities suffering particularly in education and employment. “It got me to thinking, are ethnic minorities included in government decision making?” said Mahtani. The Zubin Foundation then conducted research to analyse the composition of HKSAR Government advisory bodies. They found that in 100 publically available advisory bodies, with 1,454 members, only 1.9% of advisory body positions were held by ethnic minorities and 79% of the ethnic minorities serving on Government advisory bodies were “White”. “Clearly there is work to be done,” adds Mahtani.

Diversity List & Community Connectors 2017 was launched on the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination with over 150 attendees from the Indian, Pakistani, Filipino, Thai, Nepalese, Bangladeshi communities, etc.

**NOTES TO EDITORS:**

Link to Diversity List & Community Connectors 2017

<http://bit.ly/PRDLCC2017>

**Definition**

**Diversity List** Individuals who have the skills to sit on any board (government, NGO or corporate). They are seasoned leaders in their fields of work and would be an asset to any committee.

**Community Connectors** Individuals who have significant experience in directly working with ethnic minorities to address specific questions about employment, education, health, welfare and other issues. They would be an asset to NGOs or specific government committees that work directly with ethnic minority service users.

Link to the *Race for Opportunity: Diversity List 2016*: [http://www.zubinfoundation.org/images/RfODL\\_final\\_small.pdf](http://www.zubinfoundation.org/images/RfODL_final_small.pdf)

**MEIDA CONTACT: (Cantonese, Putonghua and English languages)**

Sandy Chan

Programme Director, The Zubin Foundation

Tel: +858 6421 2677

[sandy@zubinfoundation.org](mailto:sandy@zubinfoundation.org)

**The Status of Ethnic Minorities in Hong Kong, 1997 to 2014**

Summary Report: <http://www.zubinfoundation.org/index.php/en/2013-12-27-07-21-21/2014-05-13-07-51-61>

Video clip: <https://youtu.be/YyloCRjmsxA>

**About The Zubin Foundation**

The Zubin Mahtani Gidumal Foundation (also known as The Zubin Foundation) is a registered charity committed to equality and the betterment of Hong Kong. We focus is on social issues in Hong Kong including racial inclusion, education of non-Chinese speaking children with special education needs (SEN). The Zubin Foundation was established by two Hong Kong individuals, Shalini Mahtani and Ravi Gidumal in memory of their son Zubin who died tragically in 2009.

See [www.zubinfoundation.org](http://www.zubinfoundation.org)



**The Zubin Foundation launches Diversity List & Community Connectors 2017 today. 22 Diversity List candidates and 5 Community Connectors are profiled.**

**Mr. Matthew Cheung, Chief Secretary of Administration of Hong Kong SAR Government commemorates the launch. (Back from left to right: Zoher Abdoolcarim, Aarti Angara, Dewan Saiful Alam, Farzana Aslam, Jeffrey Andrews, Mohan Chugani, Alia Eyres, David Harilela, Javed Khan, Knattapisit Krutkrongchai)**

**(Middle Row from left to right: Jonnet Kudera, Nandkumar Lachmandas, Deepak Madnani, Guneet Makkar, Jagmeet Makkar, Karin Munasinghe, Chandran Nair, Pun Prakash, Huseina Tyebkhan, Neerja Sujnani, Harprabdeep)**

**(Front from left to right: Gary Ahuja, Aruna Gurung, Katherine Li-Bevan, Alice Au, Matthew Cheung, Shalini Mahtani, Sandy Chan, Poonam Mehta, Notan Tolani, Ajmal Samuel)**