Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Health Delivery – Introduction
by Prof Audrey Chia

Ladies and Gentlemen, Welcome to the session on Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Health Delivery. I am Audrey Chia, Associate Professor at National University of Singapore. This session is jointly organized by the Asia Centre for Social Entrepreneurship & Philanthropy at the NUS Biz School and the Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health.

Why has a session on social entrepreneurship been included in the World Health Summit?

It is time to recognize the increasingly significant and growing role of social entrepreneurs in addressing health problems in Asia. At times when governments or markets have failed to help neglected and poor populations, social entrepreneurs have stepped in with their unconventional and sustainable solutions.

This session features three of Asia’s public health heroes.

The social entrepreneurs who will speak in this session fully understand that health is the foundation for sustainable development. They have striven to defy seemingly insurmountable odds to solve problems of poverty, sanitation and disease in rural parts of Asia. They have done their work with imagination, compassion, and a good dose of humour. In this session we will feature a community-based approach, a leveraged model approach and a technology enabled approach to delivering health through social entrepreneurship.

Antonio Meloto (Philippines) is the founder of Gawad Kalinga and recipient of the Skoll Foundation award for Social Entrepreneurship. Mr Meloto has led numerous community-based social innovations to the problems of poverty, housing, food sufficiency and health.

Jack Sim is Singapore’s foremost social entrepreneur. Also known as Mr Toilet, he founded WTO, the World Toilet Organisation. Mr Sim uses advocacy, leverage and business-inspired approaches to give the underprivileged access to sanitation.

Amit Jain from India is President and co-founder of E Health Point. Mr Jain has harnessed telecommunications technology to provide communities in Punjab with a one-stop service for clean water, medical consultation and medicines.

Closing:

Social entrepreneurs play a complementary role to governments, scientists and health workers. Our speakers have worked across sectors and ignited the power of communities, advocacy & leverage and technology to achieve sustainable health solutions. They have created positive social impact and improved health for millions in Asia and beyond. The question for us is, how can governments and the public sector better work with Social entrepreneurs to achieve our common objective of health for sustainable development in Asia.
Thank you for participating in this session! Please join me in showing our appreciation to our speakers.