

2022

EISENHOWER FELLOWS



GLOBAL PROGRAM



Grace Tam | AUSTRALIA

Director · Clean Energy Finance Corporation

As her corporation's "green bond" and consumer-loan specialist, Tam led the creation of Australia's first program that offered discounted mortgage financing for the construction of energy-efficient homes. In 2021, she launched Australia's first fleet-leasing program that addresses the uncertain resale value of electric vehicles at the end of their leases. On fellowship she wants to draw on EF's network of environmentally friendly innovators to fast track the development of green loans for homes, cars and credit cards.



João Braga | BRAZIL

Chief Executive Officer · Invest Minas

Braga leads a government agency that promotes investment leading to economic and social prosperity for the 21 million inhabitants of the state of Minas Gerais. The state's formerly agrarian economy has attracted global giants in automotive, mining, steel manufacturing, biotechnology and life sciences. Projects funded by Invest Minas in 2021 created an estimated 64,000 new jobs. On fellowship Braga wants to create "a strategic road map" for a green economy for Minas Gerais with the goal of net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.



Max Larrain | CHILE

General Counsel · National Mining Company of Chile

With its 1,250 employees, 13 development offices, five mineral processing plants and a smelter to process and sell minerals on the international market, Empresa Nacional de Minería is a state-owned company that for more than 60 years has supported the sustainability of small- and medium-sized mining operations at 50 locations in Chile. As its lead lawyer, Larrain oversees its legal agreements and has generated a business strategy for the exploration and exploitation of lithium, an alkali metal much in demand for the batteries of laptops, cell phones and electric vehicles. On fellowship he wants to design a model for the promotion of small-scale and artisanal mining and create a global fair-trade network that connects small-scale gold and copper miners with buyers and processing plants.

Leaders bettering the world around them.



Jason Hsu | CHINESE TAIPEI

Senior Fellow, Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation • Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University

At the Ash Center Hsu conducts research and convenes programs on semiconductors, supply-chain resilience and geopolitics. A former member of Taiwan’s parliament, Hsu was on the board of one of Taiwan’s most prominent tech associations when the Covid pandemic hit in 2020. He organized meetings with the city of Taipei, the Taiwanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and medical gear suppliers, which ended up donating millions of pieces of personal protective equipment to the U.S. cities of Boston, Atlanta and San Francisco. On fellowship he wants to create a Technology Impact Fund to provide capital for innovative research on climate change, financial inclusion, education equality, global healthcare and internet infrastructure.



Carlos Correa | COLOMBIA

Former Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development • Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of Colombia

As his government’s top official on environmental affairs, Correa led Colombia’s efforts to reduce deforestation, restore degraded landscapes, rehabilitate coral reefs and achieve the goal of carbon neutrality by 2050. He is a former mayor of the city of Monteria, where he oversaw the creation of 5,000 houses for impoverished families. On fellowship he wants to create a nonprofit “carbon fund” to provide the necessary resources to slow the loss of biodiversity, reduce pollution and finance climate-change adaptations.



Maria Correa | COLOMBIA

Former Chief of Staff • Presidency of the Republic of Colombia

Since 2018, Correa has coordinated relations between Colombia’s head of state and the country’s political parties and government entities. An achievement of which she is particularly proud is the role she is playing in establishing programs, policies and a territorial pact to promote the Gulf of Morrosquillo as a top-level tourist destination. On fellowship she wants to create a nonprofit, non-partisan organization dedicated to generating cross-sector discussions about the climate crisis and Colombia’s goal of carbon neutrality by 2050.

Leaders bettering the world around them.



Shahira Diab | EGYPT

Managing Director · La Poire Group

Established as a family business in 1975, La Poire grew its pastry shop into a popular chain of 170 stores. Starting at the age of 12, Diab spent summers helping her mother and grandmother running the shop. After graduating from university, she took a management role and within five years was appointed to head the company. On fellowship she wants to establish an “incubator-accelerator” for food businesses in Egypt, offering supply-chain support, mentorship, training, seed funding and kitchen space to give ground-breaking start-ups the ability to succeed “in a cut-throat market,” and place her company at the forefront of innovation.



Benedikt Lux | GERMANY

Member, Berlin State Parliament · Group of the Greens

Lux, a lawyer specializing in the balance of power between public security and individual rights, was elected to the German parliament in 2006. He is a founder of his party’s caucus on effective policing. On fellowship he wants to study how highly industrialized countries adapt to climate change. How do metropolises cushion themselves against extreme weather while preserving affordability for their inhabitants? What are their common challenges and regional differences? “The aim,” he says, “is to establish comparability [and] learn better from each other.”



Marcia Ashong | GHANA

Founder & Chief Executive Officer · The Boardroom Africa

On a mission to accelerate the appointment of women to corporate boards, Ashong has created a network of more than 2,000 female executives across 60 countries. Her EF project hopes to launch a virtual boardroom of female leaders from diverse nations and institutions to “co-design solutions to regional and global challenges.” She aims to “elevate the voices of women, especially in the [marginalized countries] of the global south.”



Karan Thakur | INDIA

Vice President, Projects & Public Affairs · Apollo Hospitals

With 70 hospitals, 4,000 pharmacies, 100 clinics and 50,000 employees spread across India, Apollo Hospitals Group is Asia’s largest integrated healthcare network. During his 15-years tenure in senior management, Thakur had led the hospital’s communications, public policy and public affairs divisions and was instrumental in the growth of the hospital’s solid-organ transplant division. On fellowship Thakur wants to do a deep study of all the polluting contributors that make up a hospital’s carbon footprint, and how to reduce them.

Leaders bettering the world around them.



Sharlini Putri | INDONESIA

Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer • Nusantics

Working to protect biodiversity by exploring and sequencing native microbiomes, Nusantics, a genetics research company, helped alleviate the economic impact of the Covid pandemic in Indonesia by designing a reduced-price PCR test kit for millions of users. Putri's fellowship project, which she calls the "Indonesian Microbiome Initiative," grows out of work she began at Nusantics and will begin by making microbiome diversity measurable. Humans are "half genetics and half microbiome," says Putri. "A microbiome profile is as unique as a fingerprint." Aggregating and analyzing the data, she says, will enable the government to formulate better health policies and help insurance companies make more informed decisions about premiums and risks.



Luma Fawaz | JORDAN

Chief Executive Officer • Oasis500

Supporting technology start-ups, Fawaz leads a team that has provided seed capital for 180 entrepreneurs, creating 1,400 direct jobs and 4,000 indirect jobs. That support, which increases their investment readiness, enables them to unlock scale capital. Every dollar put up by Oasis500 attracted \$10 USD in foreign direct investment. On fellowship she wants to meet with U.S. fund managers to learn from their experience and create a technology early-stage venture capital fund. "While Jordan's entrepreneurship ecosystem has made progress over the last decade," she says, "there is still a lack of early-stage funding that is instrumental to accelerating economic growth."



Phyllis Wakiaga | KENYA

Senior Private Sector Development Advisor - Industrialization Practice • Tony Blair Institute for Global Change

Wakiaga is the Senior Private Sector Development Advisor at the Tony Blair Institute for Global Change, where she works on design and implementation of strategies for 17 African countries to advance industrialization and economic transformation. On fellowship she wants to research how women-owned enterprises are funded in the U.S. Her goal is the creation of a revolving fund--a self-replenishing pool of money--for women that utilizes interest and principal payments on old loans to underwrite new ones.

Leaders bettering the world around them.



Kirsten Mason | NEW ZEALAND

Director, Artistic Programming, Innovation and Audience Engagement • New Zealand Symphony Orchestra

As a leader with the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra, Mason is responsible for the planned development of a National Music Center based in Wellington’s historic Town Hall encompassing spaces for performance, education, recording, broadcasting and technology. Set to launch in 2025, it will house the 90-musician orchestra and New Zealand’s premier music conservatory. Because the Wellington region is home to significant Maori, Pacific Island and immigrant communities, Mason wants the center to serve a much wider audience than the typical concertgoers, who are overwhelmingly white and middle class. On fellowship she wants to visit orchestras and performing arts centers across the United States to learn how they serve diverse communities.



Róisín Brown | NORTHERN IRELAND

Police Officer – Inspector • Police Service of Northern Ireland

Police in Northern Ireland work in a society still grappling with the intergenerational trauma of the decades-old sectarian conflict known as “The Troubles.” On fellowship Brown wants to establish a Harm Reduction Hub in the Lower Falls area of West Belfast. This initiative would employ a public-health framework to diagnose and treat the causes of violence and paramilitary manipulation. “In the context of rising global violence, police reform, and a year since the violent takeover of Capitol Hill,” says Brown, “this project will have global impact. I will share best practices ... to prevent young men becoming involved in politically motivated violence in America and beyond.”



Muhammad Oves Anwar | PAKISTAN

Director • Research Society of International Law

Established in 1993, the Research Society on International Law is Pakistan’s oldest and largest legal think tank, employing 35 full-time researchers, visiting fellows, and support staff in offices in Islamabad and Lahore. Its capacity-building initiatives have trained thousands of civil servants, police officials, prosecutors and judges. On fellowship he wants to examine the role of special investigative techniques in combatting terrorism and develop a detailed, contextualized guide on how to employ them in Pakistan based on best practices in the U.S.

Leaders bettering the world around them.



Shabih Hussain | PAKISTAN

Assistant Inspector General, Research and Technology Wing • National Highways and Motorways Police, Government of Pakistan

Having worked in a variety of law-enforcement roles over a 14-year career, Hussain is a veteran of policing in Pakistan. He leads a group of officers in developing a police reform proposal to digitize and collate declassified intelligence records for use in analyzing trends. The proposal has received initial support from Pakistan’s Senate but needs to be refined. Sharpening it with input from relevant U.S. experts is the focus of his fellowship project. By “replicating concepts from the U.S.,” he says, “we can begin to introduce ... modern forensics, professional documentation and data management.”



Walter Sandoval | PARAGUAY

Academic Program Coordinator • National University of Asuncion

Founded in 1889, and with a current student population of 54,000, the National University of Asuncion is the oldest and largest higher-education institution in Paraguay. In addition to heading the university’s Microbial Biotechnology lab, Sandoval leads initiatives with the private sector, including a project that developed an organic fertilizer and another to reduce the methane gas emitted by cattle. On fellowship Sandoval wants to meet with directors of microbiome core facilities in the United States to learn the minimum requirements for establishing a DNA sequencing center in Paraguay, with funding to be provided by Paraguay’s National Council for Science and Technology.



Mufuth Nkurunziza | RWANDA

Founder and Chief Executive Officer • Guez Show

Guez Show, launched in 2013, is Rwanda’s one-stop shop for computer-generated imagery--animated short films, TV commercials, branding campaigns and immersive content in virtual reality. Launching his firm with no funding, Nkurunziza says, “I bootstrapped the company” into a self-supporting business, an industry leader in his nation, considered among the best in Africa. On fellowship he wants to establish a training center for best practices in computer-generated imagery, housing it within his company as a corporate social responsibility initiative. His goal: Increase the talent pool for computer-generated imagery and attract more international clients.

Leaders bettering the world around them.



Eng Dih Teo | SINGAPORE

Chief Executive • Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore

Teo leads the growth of Maritime Singapore, overseeing the Maritime and Port Authority's work as a leading maritime agency with strong industry partnerships. Teo aims to advance Singapore's strategic maritime interests by developing and promoting the Port of Singapore as a global commercial hub. On fellowship he wants to examine how academia and public institutions and the private sector in the U.S. and Singapore can work together to develop a resilient, secure, cost-competitive way to provide hydrogen power as a future fuel for industry and the broader society.



Manuel Muñiz | SPAIN

Provost • IE University

Dean • IE School of Global and Public Affairs

Founded a decade ago as a school of international relations, IE School of Global and Public Affairs has become one of Spain's most prominent centers of research and learning, with 80 faculty and 1,000 students pursuing undergraduate and graduate degrees. Since 2017, Muniz has overseen the growth of its degree offerings, tenure-track hires, partnership with the United Nations and other initiatives. On fellowship he wants to connect with top academic and research institutions in the United States to explore ways of constructing long-lasting partnerships for case studies, workshops, policy briefs and an executive master's degree program with residential periods in the U.S. and Madrid.



Dhananath Fernando | SRI LANKA

Chief Operating Officer • Advocata Institute

As COO of Advocata, an independent think tank, Fernando fosters economic development through free-market enterprise and has worked extensively on a project to reduce the high cost of menstrual hygiene products in Sri Lanka. He was the host of a weekly television program that interviewed politicians and was part of a team that taught vision- and hearing-impaired students how to swim. On fellowship he wants to create an online, trilingual economics education platform to help his compatriots "make better economic decisions," learn about debt restructuring, "overcome poverty and improve their quality of life."

Leaders bettering the world around them.



Giang Pham | VIETNAM

Co-Founder · Gene Friend Way, Inc. US (Genetica)

The DNA-based, genetic testing and analysis platform that Pham helped create in 2017 provides consumers with personalized recommendations for medical treatment and preventative care by identifying their hereditary risks for certain diseases. On fellowship she wants to develop practical guidelines for the use of applied behavioral genetics in personalized learning for children. She hopes to bring the initiative to 10 countries by 2030, reaching 100,000 teachers and administrators.

Leaders bettering the world around them.