

Creating a Supportive Environment for Social Businesses

Speaker Professor Muhammad Yunus

Nobel Peace Prize Laureate
Pioneer of Social Business
Chair, Yunus Centre



Photo courtesy of Silv Malkmus

Synopsis

Co-organised by the NUS Enterprise and the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (LKY School), this public lecture by Professor Muhammad Yunus will address the challenges of creating a supportive environment for social businesses. Addressing civil society and government bodies, Professor Yunus will illustrate how social business can play a partnering role in addressing the social needs of a country, and also suggest policy frameworks that will be conducive for the growth of such businesses.

About the speaker

Since he turned 15 years, Muhammad Yunus has proven to be an extraordinary entrepreneur. He studied economics at the Vanderbilt University, USA, and received his Ph.D. in Economics in 1970. He taught economics in the Middle Tennessee University from 1969 to 1972. Returning to Bangladesh in 1972 after gaining its independence, he joined the University of Chittagong as Head of the Economics Department and tested different projects designed to fight poverty in practice. In 1976 he started the Grameen Bank project, which was transformed into a formal bank in 1983, and founded further 50 companies, which are led on a high social awareness.

The **Nobel Prize in Peace 2006** was awarded jointly to Muhammad Yunus and Grameen Bank “for their efforts to create economic and social development from below.” Grameen Bank is properly the most extraordinary social business worldwide.

In addition to providing loans to poor people, Professor Muhammad Yunus devoted his work of the last years to spread and implement his idea of **social business**: a concept for businesses that strive to solve social problems, but are also financially self-sustainable. A social business pays back only its original investment and reinvests its profits in innovations or further growth that advance its social goals.

Muhammad Yunus is also the author of the books “Banker to the Poor” (2003), “A World Without Poverty: Social Business and the Future of Capitalism” (2008), and “Building Social Business” (2010).

Muhammad Yunus was born on 28 June 1940 in the village of Bathua, in Hathazari, Chittagong, the business centre of what was then Eastern Bengal. He was the third of 14 children; five of whom died in infancy. His father was a successful goldsmith who always encouraged his sons to reach for higher education. But his biggest influence was his mother, Sufia Khatun, who always helped any poor who knocked on their door. This inspired him to commit himself to the eradication of poverty. Muhammad Yunus is married to Afroji Yunus, a professor of physics at Jahangirnagar University, Savar, Dhaka. He has two daughters, Monica and Dina.

The Public Lecture at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy is one of the events held in conjunction with the Social Business Week.

The Social Business Week is an annual programme organised by the Grameen Creative Lab@NUS, an initiative of the NUS Entrepreneurship Centre, to inspire, connect and engage social entrepreneurs, corporate leaders, social venture investors, academia, government, civil society and youths. This year, the Social Business Week will be held from the 20-24th of February 2012, and a highlight is the active participation of Nobel Peace Laureate and social business pioneer Professor Muhammad Yunus.

PUBLIC LECTURE

Chair

Professor Kishore Mahbubani
Dean, Lee Kuan Yew School
of Public Policy

Date

Thursday, 23 Feb 2012

Time

5:15pm - 6:30pm

Venue

Level 3, Auditorium,
Block B, Faculty of Law,
NUS Bukit Timah Campus

469G Bukit Timah Road
Singapore 259776

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The event will be followed by
a networking dinner.