



the DROP

iLEAP's quarterly newsletter

A letter from our Executive Director:



Welcome back to The Drop!

While it has been on a prolonged hiatus, we are happy to be restarting our quarterly newsletter and for this opportunity to reconnect with friends from around the world.

And this Year of the Dog is an auspicious time to be re-animating The Drop as we are celebrating our TENTH YEAR of doing programs at iLEAP! It is hard to believe but, since 2008, over 600 people from nearly 45 countries have come through an iLEAP program. It has been my fortune to have been touched and inspired by each one of these spirits and their work reminds me every day why the work of iLEAP is so important. And in these times of intensity and uncertainty, we need each other now more than ever.

As we move through the year, expect a number of “ten year” updates and developments. We continue to grow, learn, and evolve as an organization and we are excited to share our journey with you.

In Global Community,

Britt Yamamoto

SINCE OUR FIRST PROGRAMS IN 2008:



60%
women

21% identify as indigenous

42% go on to collaborate with other iLEAP graduates

98% say that after coming to iLEAP they have a greater sense of personal freedom and liberation



PRITI BHATTARAI

iLEAP Program Manager

The past year and a half at iLEAP has been tremendously powerful. Having an opportunity to manage programs for global leaders allowed me to truly understand the importance of transformation and the impact our work has in renewing, sustaining and inspiring social leaders. Our various programs, such as the International Fellowship, Microsoft Philanthropies Asia, and Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos (NPH), brought incredible individuals from all over the world who are working on issues concerning access to healthcare, women's empowerment, the role technology plays in development, sustainable agriculture, quality education and fighting for democracy.

While accompanying our social change leaders on their path to transformation, somewhere along the way, I realized I too was breaking down my own barriers and unshackling myself from the chains of social construction. Coming from a culture where being a woman is still considered by many to be a terrible burden, working at iLEAP has helped me reclaim my own power and truly believe that I am enough. Being surrounded by inspirational leaders and co-workers whose sole purpose is to make the world a more equitable place, I was reminded that change really is in our own hands.

GLOBAL PROGRAMS PROFILE

PHAM THI THANH TAM, VIETNAM

TITLE: Founder and Executive Director

ORGANIZATION: REACH

REACH is a local, Vietnamese, non-government organization specializing in vocational training and employment for Vietnam's most disadvantaged youth. Tam is the organization's first Executive Director and under her dedicated leadership and hard work, the organization grew from a small 5-person team to a fully functioning staff of 50.



“ This is the most effective program I have attended in my career development. It is intensive, interactive and integrated. The methodology is unique and I can apply many things I learned from this program to my current work. I was very inspired from the program facilitators and the program participants. ”



KEI ERIKSEN

iLEAP Senior Program Manager

Over several years at iLEAP, I have witnessed many leaders on the journey of owning their power and finding their potential. My experience at iLEAP has taught me this journey requires a community of support -- people who truly believe that you already have everything you need. When I left Japan years ago and came to the U.S., I was at a point where I could not see the hope, ample resources and potential in Japan. Recalling that time, I did not have a community of support who could have helped me to see the opportunities and possibilities for positive social change despite the social issues that existed. My hope in leaving Japan was to find clarity, knowledge, and the skills to address the social issues upon returning to Japan.

Although I have yet to return to Japan, I have had an extraordinary opportunity to continue to witness leaders from all over Japan who have been working on the same social issues that motivated me to leave, while questioning cultural norms and the existing social structure. TOMODACHI FIRST, TOMODACHI-Microsoft Social Innovation and Leadership, Women's Eye program participants renewed their souls and returned to Japan with a community of support they co-created at iLEAP. Through the amazing leaders I met, I have come to see so much hope and potential in the world. With my commitment to deepen this work, I know I am in the right place.

JAPAN PROGRAMS PROFILE

YUI TAKAKI, KUMAMOTO

AGE: 22

SCHOOL: University of Tokyo

Being one of the few female law school students at the most prestigious university in Japan, Yui has seen gender inequity throughout the campus from the classroom to informal discussions between students. Knowing that many graduates will work for the government bringing with them their gender biases, Yui is challenging the prevalent gender social construct by raising her voice with other female students at her university. She also provides a workshop to high school students in her hometown of Kumamoto in the south of Japan to share what she has learned at iLEAP.



“ My life completely changed after the iLEAP program. Learning more about myself led me to be confident to say No and to understand what really matters to me. ”

A LETTER FROM UGANDA

International Fellowship graduate Obed Kabanda reports back to iLEAP on his work at home and working with fellow graduate Fred Bauma from the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Dear iLEAP Friends,

2016 marked a lasting networking opportunity for Fred (LUCHA, DRC) and I after jointly attending the International Fellowship at iLEAP. Fred and I met for the first time and went through the program with enthusiasm to learn, share and build strong relationships for leadership and organizational growth.

A year after the fellowship, we both moved miles in strengthening the internal leadership and management at our institutions but also grew the opportunity to leverage resources.

In the last week of November 2017 I worked closely with Fred to coordinate a very extensive week-long capacity building training for LUCHA leaders from all over DRC and this was successfully conducted in Uganda. During the time of the training, Fred was still in the US but his absence did not in anyway affect the training because I was able to support the entire process of organizing this important meeting that turned into very successful training.

Effective leadership, governance and management plays a crucial role on enhancing institutional performance and this is one core aspects the training covered to help LUCHA appreciate the basic principles for effective management and leadership in order to realise the much needed institutional growth at LUCHA.

iLEAP provided an opportunity for lasting partnership and relationship building for us, which helped in leveraging resources for not only personal but also institutional growth and learning that fosters sustainable social change and impact. We thank iLEAP for promoting sustainable social change through training, empowering and impacting social change leaders!

Obed Kabanda
Executive Director
Action For Community Development (ACODEV)



HOST A LEADER THIS SUMMER!



August 1st to September 14th
(3 or 6 week hosting option)

Homestay hosting is a unique opportunity to create a genuine connection with our inspiring leaders.

Contact:

Stacey Miyahara, *iLEAP Hospitality Coordinator*

Email: stacey@iLEAP.org

Join us in mid-May for a Hosting Happy Hour to learn more about the upcoming programs and hosting experience. We are always open to new host connections and this casual and informative event will be open to any and all interested hosts. Details to come!



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