



An occasional look at TIME programs, promotions and activities around the world

TIME Asia's 60th Anniversary, honoring 60 years of Asian Heroes

On November 29, TIME Asia celebrated 60 years of publishing in Asia with the largest ever gathering of Asian Heroes in Hong Kong. Held at the Ritz-Carlton, the evening brought together 14 Asian Heroes and six Hero representatives—men and women who have shaped Asia over the last 60 years.

The Ritz-Carlton's ballroom served as an elegant backdrop to the Asian Heroes awards dinner, which attracted almost 200 guests, including VIPs and influential people in Hong Kong and representatives from various consulates.

TIME Asia publishing director, Alan Lammin started off the awards dinner with a welcome note, before introducing TIME international editor, Michael Elliott, who spoke about the astonishing array of heroes that Asia has produced since TIME began publishing an Asian edition 60 years ago. "It has been our privilege to encounter the most exceptional of them. We have many of them here with us tonight, and it is an honor to acknowledge the role they have played in shaping the Asia of our times," said Michael.

Corazon Aquino, former President of the Philippines and one of the Asian Heroes, delivered an inspiring keynote speech that paid homage to individuals "who make the same total commitment to scientific progress and technical innovation, or to the eradication of poverty."

A highlight of the evening was the token of appreciation that TIME Asia presented to Aquino—a framed photograph of her late husband Senator Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino, which she had been trying to locate. The photograph by Arthur Kan is said to be the last known photograph of Aquino, taken just hours before his assassination at Manila airport on August 21, 1983.

The evening came to a close when TIME associate publisher, global marketing, Taylor Gray welcomed all the Heroes back on stage for a toast, with champagne and wines sponsored by Pernod Ricard. This was followed by his announcing the winning number for a set of the latest model of TaylorMade golf clubs, sponsored by TaylorMade—which went to Tisa Ho, executive director, Hong Kong Arts Festival.



The survivors have struggled for 30 years to re-assert their humanity, find justice, and reconcile with the perpetrators of genocide and even themselves. My sister and mother are among them. It is to them and the other victims that this award belongs.

Youk Chhang



More often than not, heroism is a call to forget oneself and to focus on doing good to others. Thank you for reminding everyone today that there is a seed of heroism in all of us.

Corazon Aquino





The Heroes and Hero representatives who were present included:

Cambodia

Youk Chhang—A relentless investigator of Cambodia's killing fields.

Hong Kong

Victor Fung—Honored along with his brother William Fung as Hong Kong's masters of global manufacturing.

Judith Mackay—Her work in tobacco control helps save countless lives.

Guan Yi & Malik Peiris—Their scientific research on deadly diseases makes all of us safer.

India

Narayana Murthy—He launched an economic revolution from a Bombay studio.

Gandhi & Nehru—Opposite in nature, they shared a passion for freedom and justice. (The awards were accepted by Gandhi's great-grandson Tushar A. Gandhi, and Nehru's great-grandson Rahul Gandhi.)

Indonesia

Rudy Hartono—His spellbinding victories showed a nation that anything was possible.

Japan

Akio Morita & Masaru Ibuka—Friends and partners for 40 years, they made Sony an icon of Japan's rebirth. (The award was accepted by Yasuo Maruyama, managing director, Sony Hong Kong.)

Momofuku Ando—A late bloomer who invented the instant noodles. (The award was accepted by Ken Sasahara, director & GM of Nissin Foods International Division.)

South Korea

Chung Ju Yung—His iron will and just-do-it spirit propelled South Korea's industrial rise. (The award was accepted by his grandson Chung Eui-sun, president of KIA Motors.)

Kang Chol Hwan—A survivor of a prison camp who exposes the horrors of Kim Jong Il's regime.

Taiwan

Stan Shih—The engineer who turned Taiwan into a PC manufacturing powerhouse.

Thailand

King Bhumibol Adulyadej—A beloved monarch who used his moral authority to guide Thailand through many crises. (The award was accepted by Vichai Varasirikul, Consul-General of the Royal Thai Consulate.)

Mechai Viravaidya—By preaching safe sex, Thailand's "Condom King" became a legend.

The Philippines

Corazon Aquino—A Philippine widow who harnessed the power of prayer and protest to overthrow tyranny.

Eugenia Apostol & Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc—The Philippine press was terrified of covering a dictator's regime—until this duo came along.

Efren Reyes—Pool isn't merely a beer-hall amusement—it's a path to the top.

The awards ceremony was officiated by TIME Asia editor William Green and TIME Asia senior editor, Zoher Abdoolecarim, who introduced each Hero or their representative. Award recipients spoke about their influences, motivation and aspirations.

1. Michael Elliott with (left to right) Kang Chol Hwan, Narayana Murthy, Anson Chan, Corazon Aquino and Stan Shih
2. Left to right: Carlos Magsanoc, Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc with Zoher Abdoolecarim
3. Left to right: William Green with Stan Shih, Michael Schuman and Mrs Stan Shih
4. Michael Elliott presenting Corazon Aquino with the framed picture of her late husband, Senator Benigno Aquino
5. Narayana Murthy, Rahul Gandhi and Tushar A. Gandhi sharing a moment

