

## *Dr. Vandana Shiva, Founder Navdanya*

Dr. Vandana Shiva is trained as a Physicist and did her Ph.D. on the subject “Hidden Variables and Non-locality in Quantum Theory” from the University of Western Ontario in Canada. She later shifted to inter-disciplinary research in science, technology and environmental policy, which she carried out at the Indian Institute of Science and the Indian Institute of Management in Bangalore. In 1982, she founded an independent institute, the Research Foundation for Science, Technology and Ecology in Dehra Dun dedicated to high quality and independent research to address the most significant ecological and social issues of our times, in close partnership with local communities and social movements. In 1991, she founded *Navdanya*, a national movement to protect the diversity and integrity of living resources, especially native seed, the promotion of organic farming and fair trade. In 2004 she started Bija Vidyapeeth, an international college for sustainable living in Doon Valley in collaboration with Schumacher College, U.K. Dr. Shiva combines the sharp intellectual enquiry with courageous activism. **Time Magazine** identified Dr. Shiva as an environmental “hero” in 2003 and Asia Week has called her one of the five most powerful communicators of Asia. **Forbes magazine** in November 2010 has identified **Dr. Vandana Shiva as one of the top Seven most Powerful Women on the Globe**. Dr. Shiva has received honorary Doctorates from University of Paris, University of Western Ontario, University of Oslo and Connecticut College, University of Guelph. Among her many awards are the Alternative Nobel Prize (Right Livelihood Award, 1993), Order of the Golden Ark, Global 500 Award of UN and Earth Day International Award. Lennon ONO grant for peace award by Yoko Ono in 2009, Sydney Peace Prize in 2010, Doshi Bridgebuilder Award, Calgary

Peace Prize and Thomas Merton Award in the year 2011, the Fukuoka Award and The Prism of Reason Award in 2012, the Grifone d'Argento prize 2016 and The MIDORI Prize for Biodiversity 2016.

## *Valérie Cabanes,*

She is a lawyer in international law with an expertise in international humanitarian law and human rights law. She visited more than 40 countries in the world and spent 18 years conducting international solidarity programmes in the field of health and human rights.

Since 2012, she is also committed to being the spokesperson of the citizen movement **-End Ecocide on Earth-** which aims at making ecocide crime recognized as one of the most serious international crimes.

Ms. Valérie drafted with Koffi Dogbevi and Adam Cherson, a proposal of 17 amendments to the International Criminal Court Statute which define the ecocide crime. The document is presently under review by various States parties to the Statute and in the hands of Mr Ban Ki Moon since November 29, 2015.

She took part in the writing of few collective books:

- Did we forgot that we used to be brothers? Founding alliances and recognition of indigenous peoples in the history of Quebec ) under the coordination of Mathieu D'Avignon and Camil Girard.
- Crime climatique Stop!" coordinated by Attac and 350.org, published in 2015. This book calls on governments from civil society so that they stop subsidizing the fossil fuel industry and freeze their extraction by giving up the exploitation of 80% of all the fossil fuel reserves.

- « Des droits pour la Terre » (Rights for Nature) Utopia 2016. Written in the special occasion of the COP21 as she was part of the steering committee who set up the International Tribunal for the Rights of Nature which took place in Paris during the COP.

And She wrote a book entitled ‘A new Law for the Earth, to end ecocide’ (« Un nouveau droit pour la Terre, pour en finir avec l’écocide ») which has been published in october 2016 by Le Seuil.

### *Dr. Saamdu Chetri*

Dr. Saamdu Chetri was born on 15 October 1957 in rural Bhutan in a cowshed and holds a PhD in Commerce, a Masters Degree in Commerce and Post-Graduation Certificate in HRM. He was the first government graduate who chose to work on the development of private sector in the country in 1982. During his six years’ tenure in the private sector, he worked closely with TATA, Tractors India Limited, McLean Magor, Durgapur Steel Plant, and many other prominent firms.

He also carries 18 years’ of experience since June 1988 in socio-economic development, working as the Bhutanese Head for bilateral development agencies at the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and Helvetas. During this period, he was a member of numerous development programmes in and outside Bhutan, engaging in consultancies for organizations including UNDP, UNCDF, and Helvetas. His experience and expertise range from rural development, microfinance, teaching, and research, to project management and administration.

After a short break of establishing himself for societal change, he was appointed to the Office of the first democratically elected Prime Minister in May 2008. In Oct 2011, he was given the task to develop the GNH Centre in Dewaling, Bumthang, Bhutan, and now serves as its Executive Director. He has travelled in many countries since 2011 delivering talks in Universities of India, US, UK and Denmark, addressing in conferences all over the world, and teaching /learning of GNH. He has been as well as giving lectures to many foreign student-groups visiting Bhutan since 2013. He claims to be not a commerce student any more but a transformed strong believer in natural order of the existence and begins to advocate against global warming, non-organic farming and consumerism.

Dr. Chetri has many article publications to his credit and two books titled 'money and microenterprises' and 'far apart and close together', contributed to the writing of first book on Gross National Happiness.

## *Dasho Neten Zangmo,*

Dasho Neten Zangmo, originally from Mongar migrated to Samdrup Jongkhar and studied at Sherubtse public school. She is an engineer by profession but through out her life has served various posts in the government and has contributed her expertise in various fields.

Dasho Neten Zangmo currently heads the Anti-corruption Commission of Bhutan and is one of the few who have received the **Druk Thuksey Award**.

Dasho Neten believes that on a large scale the reservation of quota could act as a way of garnering support and confidence for women and this would help create women role models whom the younger generation could look to for inspiration and motivation.

Her advice to the youth of today, and in particular the young women out there, is to look in the mirror and see beyond the external beauties. She encourages young women to strive for success and look deep within to find the courage and ambition that she know exists within everyone. In today's modern world a lot of women try to portray them selves as beautiful commodities and that is very wrong. Rather you should try to be a beautiful human being and fulfill the aspirations of yourself, your family and your nation.

*Ani Choying Drolma, the Singing Nun & the UNICEF  
Goodwill Ambassador to Nepal;*

Ani Choying was born on June 4, 1971, in Kathmandu, Nepal, to Tibetan exiles. Ani Choying Drolma is a Nepalese Buddhist nun renowned for her numerous humanitarian efforts including the education of young girls, care of older people, and providing medical services for the underprivileged and dispossessed.

Her efforts have been constantly praised and emulated, and her autobiography, *Singing for Freedom*, has been published in eleven languages and is listed as an international best seller.

In 2011, she is scheduled to perform in eleven.

One of her great and early accomplishments was the creation of the Arya Tara School, which opened in 2000. The school aims to equip nuns with the abilities and skills necessary to professionally serve their communities in a humanitarian capacity.

Arya Tara School helps young nuns harness their compassion in effective, meaningful ways. "Traditionally," says Ani, "women's education is neglected in Asia. Most of the girls at my nunnery are from rural areas where women are expected just to cook, clean and

bear children. Many cannot write their own names.” The school educates them in literacy, math and science, as well as medical and nursing skills, and Buddhist philosophy.

In 1997, Ani began performing and recording her music for audiences around the world. She was discovered by a young American guitarist named Steve Tibbets who heard her chanting. Upon returning to Nepal, he recorded her and subsequently added accompaniment; the result being the best selling album called Cho. Since then, she has gone on to record multiple CDs and gained international fame and popularity.

Ani Choying present projects are:

- *Kidney Hospital*  
NUNS' WELFARE FOUNDATION OF NEPAL (NWF)  
KATHMANDU, NEPAL

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- *Pure Drinking Water Project*  
KATHMANDU VALLEY, NEPAL

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- *Bio Gas Production*  
KATHMANDU VALLEY, NEPAL

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- *Street Dog Care*  
KATHMANDU VALLEY, NEPAL

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She has been recently appointed as the UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador to Nepal.

## *Danièle Kapel-Marcovici*

Danièle Kapel-Marcovici, born on the 14 July 1946 In Pavillons-sous-Bois, Seine-Saint-Denis, is a French businesswoman, CEO of the RAJA Group, the European leader in packaging distribution for companies and founder of the RAJA-Danièle Foundation Marcovici.

## The RAJA Foundation: A Commitment to Women

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In 2006, Danièle Kapel-Marcovici, a committed woman, convinced that her personal responsibility as a leader must play a role in civil society, created the RAJA Foundation – Danièle Marcovici, under the aegis of the Fondation de France .

Its mission is to support, in France and throughout the world, community projects in favor of women in the fields of solidarity, training, education and health.

Its actions are organized around three axes:

- **Women's rights and the fight against violence**

Support women in difficulty in their struggle against injustice or violence against them.

- **Health and social work**

Accompany women in difficulty in their fight against the illness or the inequalities to which they have to face.

- **Training and professional integration**

Help women in difficulty gain access to employment or improve their incomes.

Since its inception, the [Foundation](#) has supported more than 200 programs around the world.

**Launched in 2013, the "RAJA Women's Awards" Prizes** reward each year for outstanding actions that have been made for women in each of the following three categories:

- **Education and Culture**

Rewarding organized actions for the education of women from disadvantaged backgrounds as well as cultural projects in favor of social integration.

- **Women's rights and the fight against violence**

Defend the rights of women, wherever they are threatened, fight against discrimination, denounce attacks on the integrity of women.

- **Social Entrepreneurship and Vocational Training**

Encourage the emergence of training projects to promote socio-professional integration, support projects that will enable women to gain financial autonomy by teaching them a trade.

***Shyam Saran, Former Foreign Secretary of India & Special Envoy and Chief Negotiator on Climate Change.***

Shyam Saran is born on September 4, 1946. Since joining the Indian Foreign Service in 1970, he has served in several capitals of the world including Beijing, Tokyo and Geneva. He has been India's Ambassador to Myanmar, Indonesia and Nepal and High Commissioner to Mauritius.

Shyam Saran served as Co-Chair of the India-Asean Eminent Persons' Group which drafted the Vision document for India-Asean relations for 2020.

On January 26, 2011, Shyam Saran was awarded the Padma Bhushan by the President of India for his contribution to Civil Service. The Padma Bhushan is the third highest national award in the country.

Currently, he serves as Chairman, Research and Information System for Developing Countries, which is an autonomous think tank specializing in studies on economic and trade related issues. He is also a Senior Fellow with the Centre for Policy Research, a prestigious think tank which covers a wide range of political, social and economic issues, including foreign policy related issues. He speaks and writes regularly on a variety of subjects.

**Previous Positions Held:**

1. Chairman, National Security Advisory Board (till January, 2015)
2. Independent Director, Indian Oil and ONGC (V) (Till June, 2015)
3. Co-Chair, ASEAN-India Eminent Persons' Group (2010-2012)

## Current Positions:

1. Member, Board of Trustees, WWF (India)
2. Member, Aspen Group on India-US Relations
3. Member, India-China-US Trilateral, organized by CPR, Brookings and CICIR
4. Member, National Civil Service Awards Committee
5. Member, PSA's Group on the National Clean Coal Mission
6. Member, Global Zero (on nuclear disarmament)
7. Co-Chair, India-Bhutan Eminent Persons' Group
8. Member, World Bank Group on South Asia Visioning Process
9. Chairman, ASEAN-India Centre
10. Chancellor, Hemwati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University, Srinagar
11. Member, Court of Ambedkar University, Delhi
12. Member, Core Group of the Institute of South Asian Studies, South Asian University
13. Jury Chair, CII-ITC Sustainability Awards, 2015 & 2016
14. Member, Board of Governors, Centre for the Escalation of Peace
15. Additional Director (Independent) of the Press Trust of India Ltd. (since Dec 2015)

## *Dr D.P. Dobhal,*

Dobhal, is geologist turned glaciologist, works for the **Indian government's Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology**, one of the few organizations studying what's happening to the high-altitude Himalayan glaciers. what that might mean for the hundreds of millions of people downstream who rely for their livelihoods on snow- and ice-fed rivers in the short term, it means floods; in the medium term, drought.

While glaciers in the Alps, the Rockies and the Arctic have been studied by countless scientists, those in the world's highest mountain

range, the Himalayas, have not. Which makes D.P. Dobhal's work all the more important. Dobhal uses simple bamboo stakes to measure the rise and fall of glacial mass. It's risky work, carried out at altitudes of up to 13,120 ft. (4,000 m), but Dr Dobhal goes about it in a quietly dutiful way, unfazed by the danger.

According to Dr Dhobal Glaciers are the best indicator we have. "Glaciers are very sensitive to climate change. They are a way of diagnosing what's happening.

Dobhal is one of the Indian on the list, which includes other prominent names like Nobel Peace Prize winner and former US Vice-President Al Gore, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Prince Charles of Wales and former Russian President Mikhail Gorbachev.

The Time magazine said he is 'Heroes of the Environment'

The list is focused on those who are making efforts to address the pressing questions of sustainability. The magazine has described Dobhal as the one scaling "the shrinking glaciers of the Himalayas to track the globe's warming in real time."

*Andre Leu: farmer and the President of IFOAM - Organics International*  
*author of **The Myths of Safe Pesticides***

**Andre Leu** is an organic farmer, the author of *The Myths of Safe Pesticides* and the President of IFOAM – Organics International.

Andre has over 40 years of experience in all areas of Organic Agriculture, from growing, pest-control, weed management, marketing and post-harvest transport to grower organizations, developing new crops and education – not only in his home country Australia, but across Asia, Europe, the Americas and Africa.

He has written and published extensively in magazines, newspapers, journals, conference proceedings and newsletters in print and online on many areas of Organic Agriculture including climate change, the environment and the health benefits of organic agronomy. He was

recently invited by the FAO to present research findings from the organic movement at a high-level “Science Fair for a Safer Tomorrow.”

Andre and his wife, Julia, run an organic tropical fruit orchard in Daintree, Queensland, Australia.

## *Philip Ackerman Leist*

Philip is a Professor of Sustainable Agriculture & Food Systems  
Director of the GMC Farm & Food Project Masters in Sustainable Food Systems (MSFS) Founding Director

Philip Ackerman-Leist is a professor at Green Mountain College, where he established the farm and sustainable agriculture curriculum, directs Farm & Food Project, and founded and directs the Masters in Sustainable Food Systems program (the nation’s first online graduate program in food systems). He is the author of *Rebuilding the Foodshed: How to Create Local, Sustainable, and Secure Food Systems* (2013) and *Up Tunket Road: The Education of Modern Homesteader* (2009).

He and his wife, Erin, farmed in the South Tirol region of the Alps and North Carolina before beginning their sixteen-year homesteading and farming venture in Pawlet, Vermont. With more than two decades of “field experience” working on farms, in the classroom, and with regional food systems collaborators, Philip’s work is focused on examining and reshaping local and regional food systems from the ground up.

### **Honors**

- Elected Faculty Chair for 2010–2012
- Methodist Award for Excellence in Teaching at GMC (2011)
- Robert W. Leonard Award for Excellence in Teaching (2010)
- Vermont Governor’s Award for Environmental Excellence in Education (2008)

- Presidential Scholarship to San Francisco Theological Seminary (full tuition)
- Scholarship to Institute for American Universities in Aix-en-Provence, France
- Distinguished Scholarship to St. Andrews College (full tuition)

#### Publications

- Currently working on a book manuscript and multimedia project with Douglas Gayeton of the Lexicon of Sustainability, documenting the historic precedent of the democratic creation of the world's first pesticide-free township in Mals, a 95 sq. mi. municipality in the South Tirol province of Italy.

### *Vidya Rao, renowned Thumri, Classical Singer*

**Vidya Rao** is one of the leading performers of the delicate style of thumri-dadra singing.

For many years the closest disciple of the legendary singer, the late Smt Naina Devi, she has continued her study of this form under the renowned Smt Girija Devi and Smt Shanti Hiranand. Her training has therefore helped her imbibe the traditional gayaki of both Banaras and Lucknow styles. Her initial training in khayal was under the late Prof. B.N. Datta and thereafter under Pandit Mani Prasad of the Kirana gharana.

Specialising in thumri-dadra and the allied folk derived forms such as chaiti, hori, kajri etc, Vidya also sings ghazal in the traditional thumri-ang style, as well as the devotional poetry of the medieval bhakti and sufi mystic poet-saints. Her repertoire includes Sanskrit verses from the Hindu and Buddhist texts, as well as the Islamic elegiac forms of soz and marsiya and praise-forms like naat etc.

Vidya Rao has performed at national and international forums to appreciative audiences. She has composed and sung for the theatre, for film and for dance. She has been associated, as a founder-member, with the Delhi-based theatre group Vivadi, and has

researched and designed the music, composed, sung and acted in several of their productions. She has collaborated with other artists (dancers, writers, painters, musicians from different traditions, theatre and film) to create innovative and experimental works. She has conducted lecture- demonstrations and workshops in music with schools and colleges and also for young professionals.

The recipient of Fellowships for the intensive study of thumri from the Ford Foundation, and the Indian Government's Department of Culture, Vidya Rao has researched and written extensively on music and the performing arts, has published in several academic journals and books, and has presented papers on music and the performing arts at various seminars and conferences.

Vidya Rao has been Visiting Professor at the School of Arts and Aesthetics, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, and Visiting Fellow at the Centre for Advanced Study, Jadavpur University, Kolkata. She is Visiting Faculty and Advisor at the Deer Park Institute, Bir (Himachal Pradesh), and at the Bija Vidyapeeth, Dehradun. She is associated with the Advisory Board of the Adivasi Academy, Tejgadh (Gujarat), and Matrika, New Delhi, and is Consulting Editor with Orient Blackswan Publishers, New Delhi.

Vidya Rao is currently fellow at the Institute of Advanced Studies, in Nantes, France from October 2012- June 2013.