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NEWS/ HONG KONG/ CITY

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**ETHNIC MINORITIES ON GOVERNMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEES, PLEASE
RACE FOR OPPORTUNITY: DIVERSITY LIST 2016
*Less than 1.9% of advisory body positions are held by ethnic minorities***

Hong Kong, 21 March 2016, The International Day on the Elimination of Race Discrimination in Hong Kong

The Zubin Foundation today launched *Race for Opportunity: Diversity List 2016*, Hong Kong's first list of ethnic minorities that are qualified and committed to serve on Hong Kong's government committees. The list profiles 16 individuals across various professions who nominated themselves and who have been through a screening process with Spencer Stuart, a leading recruitment firm and partner on the project.

"Hong Kong's ethnic minorities excluding Foreign Domestic Helpers represent 3% of the population and is growing. The population of ethnic minorities is young in age and is an important talent pool at a time when Hong Kong has a rapidly ageing population. This population brings local knowledge, self-defines with a Hong Kong identity and is committed to staying in Hong Kong. This population should be included in advisory committees of our government and also on voluntary and corporate boards", said Shalini Mahtani, Founder of The Zubin Foundation.

The 16 individuals named today as part of *Race for Opportunity: Diversity List* come from a wide range of professional and personal backgrounds. Alice Au, Board Director of Spencer Stuart, partner on this project said, "Along with the base criteria we also evaluated the candidates based on attributes we use for board candidates. This is a group of hardworking, talented, dedicated and passionate people many of whom have endured adversity as minorities but persevered, who have gone on to make significant contributions to their professions and communities. This is a group of people who are role models, not only for ethnic minorities groups but also for the general population in Hong Kong."

Mrs. Carrie Lam, Chief Secretary of Administration of Hong Kong SAR Government was the official guest to commemorate the Launch of the Race for Opportunity: Diversity List 2016 and deliver the opening remarks. "It should be our common goal to build a society that embraces cultural diversity and racial harmony. These values underpin peace and stability which are so very important for Hong Kong – a place we call home." said Mrs. Carrie Lam.

"*Race for Opportunity: Diversity List* is a great way to profile ethnic minorities positively. Including diversity of candidates onto any committee will bring diversity of ideas. Hong Kong is not a monoculture but has many cultures and embracing these cultures and making use of their talents and expertise is critical to our success as a global city" Dr. York Chow, Chairperson of the Equal Opportunities Commission remarked.

Last year, The Zubin Foundation released 'The Status of Ethnic Minorities in Hong Kong, 1997 to 2014'. The findings showed ethnic minorities suffering particularly in education and employment. "It got me to thinking, are ethnic minorities included in government decision making?" said Mahtani. The Zubin Foundation then conducted research to analyse the composition of HKSAR Government advisory bodies. They found that in 100 publically available advisory bodies, with 1,454 members, only 1.9% of advisory body positions were held by ethnic minorities and 79% of the ethnic minorities serving on Government advisory bodies were "White". "Clearly there is work to be done," adds Mahtani.

The Race for Opportunity: Diversity List was launched on the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination with over 120 attendees from the Indian, Pakistani, Filipino, and Thai communities

NOTES TO EDITORS:

Link to the *Race for Opportunity: Diversity List 2016*:

http://www.zubinfoundation.org/images/RfODL_final_small.pdf

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The Status of Ethnic Minorities in Hong Kong, 1997 to 2014

Summary Report: <http://www.zubinfoundation.org/index.php/en/2013-12-27-07-21-21/2014-05-13-07-51-61>

Video clip: <https://youtu.be/YyloCRjmsxA>

About The Zubin Foundation

The Zubin Mahtani Gidumal Foundation (also known as The Zubin Foundation) is a social policy think-tank committed to improving the lives of Hong Kong people. Our focus is on racial inclusion, patient care and special education needs (SEN) of non-Chinese speaking children. The Zubin Foundation was established by two Hong Kong individuals, Shalini Mahtani and Ravi Gidumal in memory of their son Zubin who died tragically in 2009.

See www.zubinfoundation.org



The Zubin Foundation launches Hong Kong's first list of 16 ethnic minorities talents that are qualified and committed to serve on Hong Kong's government committees. Mrs. Carrie Lam, Chief Secretary of Administration of Hong Kong SAR Government commemorates the launch.

(Back from left to right: Dr. Theresa CUNANAN, Ms. Anita GIDUMAL, Mr. Vijay HARILELA, Mr. Alok JAIN, Dr. Hanif KANJI, Mr. Azan Aziz MARWAH, Mr. Vikas Subhashchandra MEHRA, Mr. Vishal MELWANI, Mr. Thirupathi NACHIAPPAN, Ms. Katherine LIU-BEVAN)

(Front from left to right: Ms. Samyuktha SANKARAIAH, Ms. Shalini MAHTANI, Mr. Arun NIGAM, Ms. Sabita PRAKASH, Mr. Kishore Kundanmal SAKHRANI, Mrs. Carrie Lam, Dr. Naubahar SHARIF, Ms. Shalini SUJANANI, Dr. Rizwan ULLAH, Ms. Alice Au)



Mrs. Carrie Lam, Chief Secretary of Administration of Hong Kong SAR Government was the official guest to commemorate the Launch of the Race for Opportunity: Diversity List 2016 and deliver the opening remarks



Mrs. Carrie Lam, Chief Secretary of Administration of Hong Kong SAR Government and Ms. Shalini MAHTANI, Chair of The Zubin Foundation celebrate The International Day on the Elimination of Race Discrimination together