

Foreword

A number of years back, during a review of our work at Asia Philanthropy Circle (APC), we decided to create toolkits for our member philanthropists to use when deepening their philanthropy. We did this as we could not find existing toolkits with a focus on Asia.

Moreover, after years of interacting with our APC members and getting to know their philanthropic work, I realised that they were an incredibly rich source of knowledge. They and their organisations held so many hidden secrets in their practice which were valuable examples that ought to be shared with the rest of the world. I am delighted that we have compiled this resource, which has 31 valuable case studies from around Asia, particularly from our members.

This book is not meant to be read from cover to cover. Instead, I encourage readers to use it as a constant reference book that you can call upon every time you have a specific question about philanthropy.

I hope this will also prompt philanthropists in Asia to appreciate what is happening in our backyard. We do not have to look to the West, particularly the US, for models and answers. This is not a competition, but a recognition that we need to evolve something different for Asia given our unique context and culture.

Lastly, I would like to thank the APC team, especially Bradley Wo, who has been driving this project even after he left for graduate school. I would also like to thank our many knowledge partners — Mathias Terheggen, Stacy Choong, Cynthia D'Anjou-Brown, and the Centre for Evidence and Implementation — for sharing their expert insights, and all of our APC members and friends who shared their stories for the case studies.

Happy reading!

Laurence Lien
Chairman and Founding CEO
Asia Philanthropy Circle