



Atlantic *Fellows*

FOR HEALTH EQUITY
IN SOUTHEAST ASIA



THE EQUITY INITIATIVE

A FELLOWSHIP FOR HEALTH EQUITY AND LEADERSHIP
IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND CHINA



WHO WE ARE

The Equity Initiative is an exciting program that nurtures health equity leaders (500+) over a 20-year period. The Equity Initiative utilizes two components to develop transformative leadership for Health Equity: the Induction Year; and the Equity Community. This unique initiative is linked to global and regional institutions and partners, world-class expertise and knowledge, with a long-term vision and sustained support, backed by a pooled fund from CMB Foundation and the Atlantic Philanthropies.

INDUCTION YEAR

Nurtures and facilitates the development of leadership for health equity, by bringing together changemakers from different backgrounds throughout the region for a series of in-person and online learning sessions over a year-long induction period. Upon graduating from the Induction Year, Fellows enter into the Equity Community.

EQUITY COMMUNITY

Empowers Fellows and partners to take action for systems change for health equity, through community building beyond the fellowship year, collaborative projects, national and regional networks and initiatives, and engagement with the global Atlantic Fellows community to make meaningful systems change. With EI Fellows at its core, the community strives for fairer, healthier, and more inclusive societies in Southeast Asia and China.



WHY HEALTH EQUITY

Health equity goes beyond health and the health sector. Social determinants of health like equitable jobs, education, housing, food and diet, and transnational forces are all important drivers of equity in health. Equity in health is a major challenge all over the world, but especially so in economically dynamic Southeast Asia and China. We care about inequities in health as a moral and ethical challenge, rather than a technical challenge.

Southeast Asia and China confronts many health equity challenges which includes issues outside of healthcare such as structural and political determinants, environmental degradation, and armed conflict. Health equity challenges also include issues such as ensuring universal access to primary health care, developing pro-equity health financing policies, training workers who will serve the poor and disadvantaged, tackling the pressing health issues of women and children, migrants and refugees, ethnic minorities, the poor and disadvantaged, and those ravaged by humanitarian crises.

WHY LEADERSHIP

Leadership and a community of practitioners are critically important to bring regional attention to health equity, and also to motivate, innovate, and craft solutions. The Equity Initiative's goal is that the Fellows will become transformational leaders who can guide, direct, and influence others to bring about fundamental changes for health equity.

THE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

THE INDUCTION YEAR

The Equity Initiative Fellowship is a fully funded award designed for working professionals from Southeast Asia and China. Fellows join a diverse group of 25-30 peers for 6 weeks of in-person learning events over the course of a year within Southeast Asia and around the globe, to advance their competency in leadership and health equity. The Fellowship program also seeks to inspire and deepen the Fellows' commitment to advance social justice in health.



The experience goes beyond traditional academic coursework to incorporate peer, experiential, and blended online learning organized around two themes: Health Equity and Leadership.

The Induction Year is structured around 6 learning events, each approximately 1 week in length: Opening Retreat, Global Learning I & II, Asia Trek, Project Accelerator, and Annual Forum. Learning events are facilitated by leading experts and practitioners from a range of fields, including policy makers, academic professors, NGO professionals, social entrepreneurship founders, and social activists. Competencies are developed through core readings, interactive sessions with peers, sessions with guest speakers, panel discussions and debates, field visits, skill-building workshops, and project development.

Upon finishing the Induction Year, Fellows receive seed funding to conduct their second-year project- collaborative health equity projects with their peers. This gives Fellows the opportunity to apply the technical and soft skills developed from the Induction Year into real world situations, and lay the groundwork for collaboration amongst their peers as they join the Equity Community.



“I had the chance to experience real life stories of health equity from different countries.”

OPENING RETREAT | MARCH

The Opening Retreat is the initial orientation for the Fellows during which they become grounded in the core modules and ideals of the program, engage with leadership development theory and practice, and gain exposure to health equity frameworks and values. The Opening Retreat also aims to create a comfortable atmosphere in which Fellows start the bonds that will ultimately determine the success of the Induction Year and future collaborations between Fellows.

GLOBAL LEARNING I | MAY

Global Learning I takes Fellows beyond Southeast Asia for global exposure to health inequities. It introduces Fellows to global perspectives on social determinants of health, and on-the-ground health equity work and social movements. Past Global Learning I locations include Havana, Cuba; Johannesburg, South Africa; and Atlanta, USA.

**“What I loved about this retreat :
clearly the wonderful connections
we made with one another
fast-forwarding our friendship.”**



GLOBAL LEARNING II JUNE

Global Learning II connects Fellows with world-class scholars and inspirational leaders and deepens their understanding of the ways in which social and economic determinants affect the health of communities and of ongoing global efforts to improve social justice in health. In addition to academic sessions at Harvard University, the learning event includes field visits that enable Fellows to learn about the U.S. healthcare system and innovations that are being pursued in healthcare delivery.

Global Learning I and II exposes Fellows to diverse perspectives and participate in exchange across disciplines, cultures, and geographies.

ASIA TREK AUGUST

Asia Trek provides Fellows with a local lens to examine transnational health equity issues. This 1-week experiential immersion in Southeast Asia includes exposure to key health actors, action and engagement with policymakers through field visits, panel discussions and debates, and dialogue with community leaders. Asia Trek focuses on power dynamics and structural challenges, explored through themes of vulnerable populations such as the urban poor, ethnic minorities, domestic and international migrants, displaced people and informal dwellers, and children and youth with disabilities. Past Asia Trek locations include Mae Sot, Thailand; Manila, Philippines; and Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh.

“To be with like-minded people is the most enjoyable part of the gatherings with the Fellows, guest speakers and mentors. Another unique experience is to be in the communities with serious equity challenges.”



“It’s so refreshing to see leadership in academia transcending to actual, real work. It’s like the knowledge never stopped here.”

PROJECT ACCELERATOR OCTOBER

Project Accelerator gives Fellows a space to craft and polish their second-year project proposals. Fellows work in their project groups with guidance and support from experts. Designing a health equity project gives Fellows the opportunity to combine peer and experiential learning — and to make an impact in promoting health equity in the region. These projects enable Fellows to practice the core values of health equity, which they have studied during the Induction Year, and exercise newly acquired leadership skills. Project Accelerator also aims to continue building leadership and management competencies via action-oriented training workshops and open discussions to allow Fellows to exercise creativity, spontaneity, communication, leadership, purposeful teamwork, and to receive coaching on public speaking.

ANNUAL FORUM JANUARY

The Annual Forum is the culminating event of the Induction Year, and is the Equity Initiative's signature event in building a sustained Equity Community. The Forum marks the start of the Fellows' second-year projects to advance health equity in the region, and it formally inducts the graduated Fellows into the life-long community of the Atlantic Fellows Program. The forum also plays an important role in promoting inter-cohort relationships with senior Fellows, incoming Fellows, and other allies as a bridge to building a regional Equity Community.

"I'm much more appreciative now of the need for such programs as the EI and bringing like-minded champions together for intellectual and moral support. Advocacy and direct service can be very lonely, disheartening work and a burden shared is a burden halved."

"It made me recognize how professional our Fellows were in providing training on program management and communication skills."





THE EQUITY COMMUNITY

The Equity Initiative's lifelong fellowship also entails the Equity Community, which strives to influence meaningful systems change for health equity in Southeast Asia and China. The Equity Community, which the Fellows join once they finish the Induction Year, was formed because advancing health equity through meaningful systems change at any level requires more than collaboration between just the Fellows. With EI Fellows at its core, the community is composed of national, regional, and global partner-

ships, including the Atlantic Fellows community. The Equity Initiative and its Fellows are constantly looking for those who share the same values and can partner with us to achieve the ultimate goal of fairer, healthier and more inclusive societies. Opportunities for partners include building up the country communities, working on thematic issues, and collaborating with senior Fellows through the Community Building grant funding.



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The Equity Initiative will accept applications for the 2024 Equity Initiative Fellowship program from **June 1 to August 15**, with successful applicants informed in December.

TIMETABLE

31 August 2023	Applications Closed
October 2023	Shortlisted Candidates Notified
October-November 2023	Shortlisted Candidates Interviews
December 2023	Final Selection Announced
January 2024	2024 Fellows Announced
March 2024	First 2024 Fellowship Event Commenced



ELIGIBILITY

POTENTIAL APPLICANTS

Our Fellows come from a diverse range of sectors and expertise to promote health equity in the region because health equity goes beyond health and the health sector, and requires collaborative effort to achieve.

The Equity Initiative (EI) seeks outstanding early to mid-career professionals from ANY SECTOR from Southeast Asia and China, who have demonstrated leadership in their field, shown a commitment to health equity, and are interested in a lifelong engagement with the Equity Initiative's Equity Community.



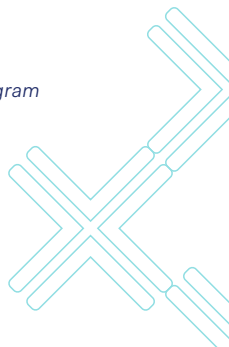
APPLICANTS MUST :

- Have a track record of demonstrated leadership and commitment to social justice.
- Have a clear long-term vision to promote systems change for health equity.
- Have at least 6 years of professional working experience.
- Be a resident citizen of Southeast Asia or China
- Be proficient in spoken and written English

APPLY NOW!



To apply, please visit: <https://www.equityinitiative.org/fellowship-program>



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The Equity Initiative, also known as the Atlantic Fellows for Health Equity in Southeast Asia (AFHESEA), is jointly funded by CMB Foundation and The Atlantic Philanthropies
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