



# 2016

ANNUAL REPORT

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## Letter from the CEO

2017 has been an exciting year, and the Wedu team and I look forward to highlighting a few important innovations from 2016 that have extended our mission's impact throughout 2017 with many implications beyond.

In 2016, the world became insular; leaders stopped listening to people's cries for help and talked about building walls and breaking bridges. I realised that Wedu's work is needed now more than ever. The Wedu team listened to community members and expanded our team to develop new impactful initiatives. I am excited to share our three main areas of development!

Firstly, we connected the powerful global community that we nurtured over the past few years. Wedu mentors from 74 different nationalities are all united by the passion of seeing the future leadership of our world with a fair representation of talented women. Our Rising Stars

come from 22 countries and are building international bonds via our network and beyond. I believe that the future of leadership lies in these communities of changemakers. If you want to learn how you can connect your community, family, work, or village to Wedu, please reach out to me. Keep Connecting!

Secondly, we are expanding the benefits and opportunities we provide to Rising Stars. We are improving our measurement of leadership development to tailor opportunities to needs more effectively. We are hoping to revolutionize lifelong leadership development in an effective and innovative way. Keep Growing!

Lastly, we are increasing our investments in financing for higher education via Future Income Sharing Agreements (FISAs). Thanks to our partnership with Kiva, we see many individuals and organizations around the world who are

eager to support the education of Rising Stars. We hope to open this opportunity to contribute to women's education to more supporters of the FISA revolution. Keep Investing!

For more in-depth updates on Wedu's progress, be sure to follow us! Thank you all for being part of this incredible journey and for contributing in your own ways to our growing community. Be it mentoring, advising, or partnering—together, we are investing in women leading the change.

As we move towards a successful completion to 2017, I wish you all health, love, and growth.

Keep Rising!



**Mario Ferro**

Wedu Co-founder and CEO



# MILESTONES 2016

## January

Started with **225**  
Rising Stars!



## July

Introduced LTOP as a pre-program orientation to better prepare new Rising Stars for their mentoring relationship!



## October

Launched our first Women's Leadership Academy in Jakarta, Indonesia with US Mission and YSEALI



**US-ASEAN  
WOMEN'S  
LEADERSHIP  
ACADEMY  
FOR YSEALI**



## December

Reached  
**318**  
Rising Stars!



## June

Go live for our first major Salesforce CRM customization



## September

Participated in the CGI Annual Meeting in NYC by hosting 3 events with Rising Stars and partners!



## November

Kicked off Wedu Rise corporate partnership with Astro in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia



# RISING STAR FEATURE



## YING LOONGKU

Ying Loongku is 22 years old and is currently studying Nursing Science in Chiang Mai University. She was born in Shan State, Myanmar but migrated to Thailand twenty years ago because of the conflict in her hometown. Her parents worked as farmers in order to earn a living and put her through school.

After studying in The School for Shan State Nationalities Youth for a year, Ying joined Shan Youth Power to work as a teacher to teach migrant children as she wanted to give back to her community. She decided to pursue a university education, as she believes that having more skills and knowledge will allow her to

**“Ying aspires to be a nurse because she wants to provide basic healthcare services to her community”**

contribute more effectively to her community. In most rural areas of Myanmar, there are not enough nurses to provide these services. Besides meeting people’s healthcare needs, she also believes that nurses can provide education and healthcare training—something that she aims to do.

Ying and her mentor Xian have built a supportive and caring relationship. They open up to each other about their lives regularly,

and end up talking to each other for a few hours. Through mentorship, she developed her critical thinking and acquired skills to solve problems amicably. She has learnt a lot from her mentor who never hesitates to explain things to her and share her skills and knowledge.

To young women who are fearful of pursuing what they want, Ying wants to tell them that fear is a feeling that one conjures up to prevent herself from doing something she believes in. To these women, she wants to say: believe in yourself and you will achieve what you believe in.

**“THE MOST IMPORTANT YET DIFFICULT STEP IS THE BEGINNING. HOWEVER, ONCE WE START, THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS.”**

# IMPACT IN 2016



**+4** RS COUNTRIES REPRESENTED

*ADDING PHILIPPINES, INDONESIA, SYRIA AND SOUTH KOREA*



**237** RS ENGAGED IN MENTORSHIP

*AS OF THE END OF 2016*



**11,059**

MENTORSHIP  
HOURS



**85%** RS SATISFACTION

**85%** are learning from their mentors

**88%** are making steps towards achieving their goals

**83%** indicate greater capacity to take risks for something they believe in

**92%** indicate they are proud to be a Wedu Rising Star



**80%** MENTOR SATISFACTION

**89%** are inspired by their mentee

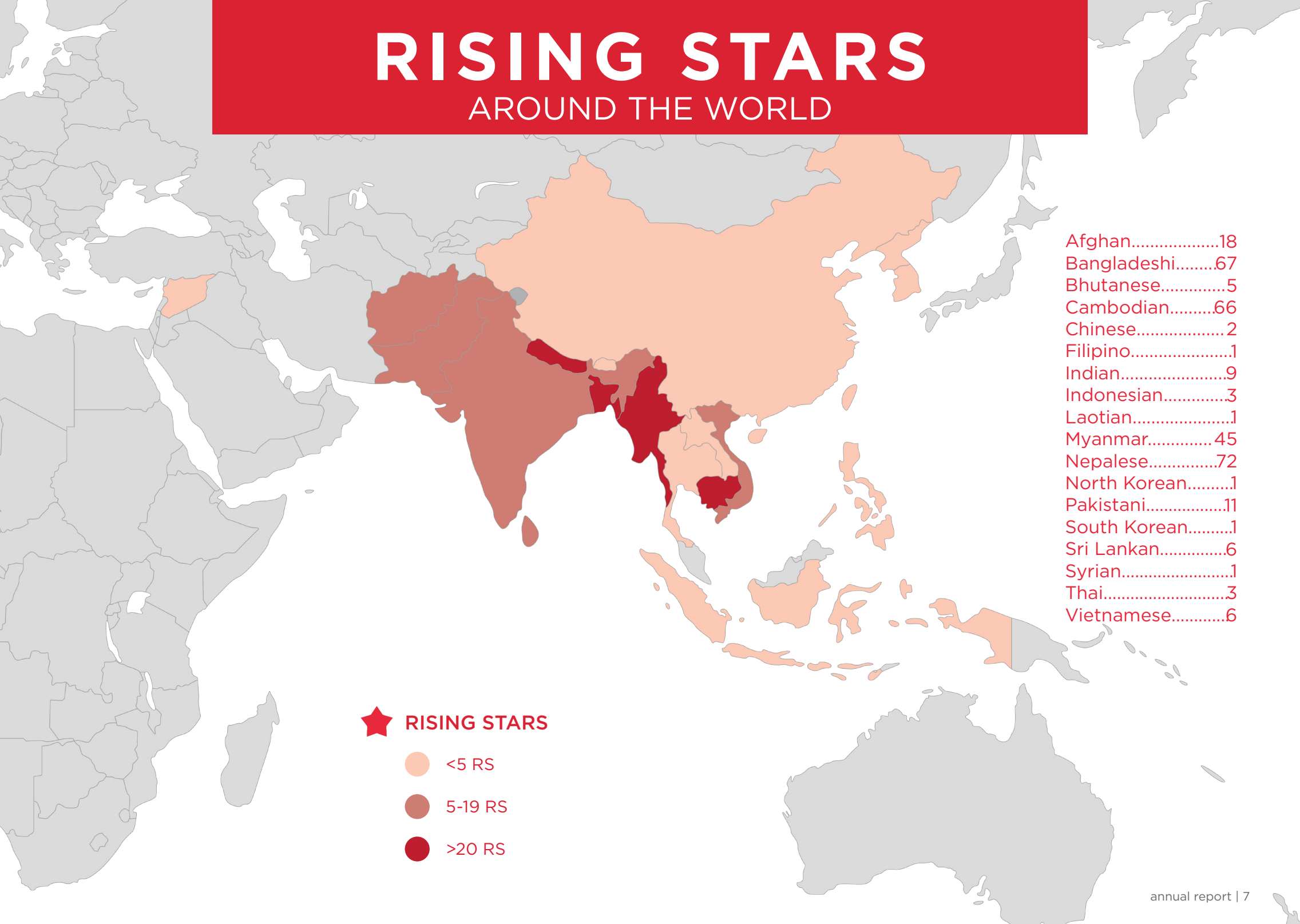
**82%** say their mentee is challenging herself to become a better leader

**81%** are able to provide creative ideas to challenge their mentees

**89%** indicate greater understanding of a different culture through mentorship

# RISING STARS

## AROUND THE WORLD



Afghan.....	18
Bangladeshi.....	67
Bhutanese.....	5
Cambodian.....	66
Chinese.....	2
Filipino.....	1
Indian.....	9
Indonesian.....	3
Laotian.....	1
Myanmar.....	45
Nepalese.....	72
North Korean.....	1
Pakistani.....	11
South Korean.....	1
Sri Lankan.....	6
Syrian.....	1
Thai.....	3
Vietnamese.....	6



# MENTOR FEATURE

Menno de Block, 31, joined Wedu's community of volunteer mentors two years ago and continues to have fruitful and insightful discussions with his Rising Star, Rashida. Leadership and gender equality are two important concepts that reflect how Menno has shaped his career. He is a strategy consultant and freelance social business consultant, and he is currently writing a book about female leadership in Cambodia.

Being a consultant has helped him develop skills that are crucial to mentorship: thinking critically, delivering valuable insight, and integrating cultural sensitivity to communicate effectively are just a few of the ways he enhances his mentoring experience.

Menno and Rashida have been able to make Rashida's ambitions and goals more tangible, while helping her address the mindsets

that may be holding her back. Menno notes that mentorship has taught him that its benefits extend both ways. Throughout his sessions with Rashida, Menno challenges himself to listen more attentively and keep the discussion on Rashida. This empathy has enabled a dynamic where difficult topics can be explored, unclear futures can be focused, and valuable feedback can be shared and received openly.

**"Intelligence and sense of humor make each call with her a joy."**

When asked what Menno would say to potential Rising Stars, he said, "Be independent in the journey of finding your own identity and your own beliefs. No matter what other people think or say, if you work for what you believe in, however big or small it is, you are making a difference. You are making a difference in your own life, in the lives of the people you work with and in your society as a whole."

# MENNO DE BLOCK



**"BEING A MENTOR ENRICHES YOUR LIFE: BEING ABLE TO HELP ANOTHER, AMBITIOUS PERSON TO ACHIEVE THEIR DREAMS IS AN INCREDIBLY FULFILLING JOURNEY."**



# WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Among the myriad of new opportunities and milestones in 2016, Wedu's partnership with the US Mission to ASEAN was among the most notable. In partnership with the U.S. Mission to ASEAN, Wedu organized the US – ASEAN Women's Leadership Academy for Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI) in Jakarta, October 2016. This five day leadership academy brought together 39 women leaders from 10 ASEAN countries to participate in workshops, trainings, and panels designed to empower them and further their leadership knowledge, skills, and abilities. Here are a few of the highlights from WLA:

- Mentor Day: A diverse group of 10 mentors provided mentorship insights and advice in short panel discussions and trainings.
- "Women Who Lead" Panel Discussion: Ambassador Hachigian, the US Ambassador to ASEAN, moderated a panel discussion of 4 women leaders from different sectors, who shared professional and personal wisdom about being female leaders in ASEAN.
- Workshop and Training highlights included: Practical leadership training and professional networking, goal setting, personal branding, and elevator pitches.
- Innovative Solutions: Participants teamed up and engaged in "Design Thinking" training to help them identify sustainable solutions for key issues in their region.
- Following Up on Leadership: the ensuing 6 months after the WLA, Wedu provided continued support in the form of mentorship, workshops, and webinars to the participants. Participants from the 2016 cohort will also be integral for designing components for the 2017 WLA conference.



**US-ASEAN  
WOMEN'S  
LEADERSHIP  
ACADEMY  
FOR YSEALI**



*Attendees and Speakers of WLA, 2016*



**"LOOK OUT FOR YOUR SISTERS, AMPLIFY YOUR IDEAS, ENCOURAGE YOUR FEMALE COLLEAGUES TO TRUST IN THEMSELVES. ASEAN WILL BE STRONGER IF WE ALL REACH OUR FULL POTENTIAL."**

-Former U.S. Ambassador to ASEAN,  
Nina Hachigian

SUPPORTED BY:



# RISING STAR FEATURE



LIMON  
BUNN

Limon Bunn, 19, is majoring in Global Studies and Social Entrepreneurship in Thammasat University School of Global Studies. She was born in a Cambodian province called Siem Reap and grew up as the eldest child amongst her four younger siblings. Hoping to be a good role model to her siblings, she worked extremely hard at a young age and attained a scholarship to study in Jay Pritzker Academy.

Besides focusing on her studies, Limon also volunteers extensively. She joined Cambodian Diabetes Association to raise awareness about diabetes, participated in environmental efforts, and taught English to middle school children. In her

two years as an English teacher, she realised that parents' employment status influenced their children greatly. She is thus passionate about alleviating unemployment in Cambodia and hopes to do so by starting up her own social enterprise to provide jobs and skills training to people.

**“She encourages young women to build up their courage to strive for great things, because that is the only way change can happen”**

Limon shares a strong bond with her mentor Siriboon, who she spends much time talking to about important issues like feminism, good leadership, and stress management. She receives

interesting ideas from her mentor that challenge her to use her creativity and critical thinking. The greatest lesson she has learnt from her mentor was how to break out of her comfort zone and do things she has never done before.

Limon hopes that young women know that they have as much potential to be great leaders as men. She encourages young women to build up their courage to strive for great things, because that is the only way change can happen. As long as a woman believes in herself, she can accomplish anything.

**“BOTH MEN AND WOMEN HAVE THE SAME POTENTIAL. THERE IS NO LIMIT TO WHAT WE CAN DO BECAUSE OF OUR GENDER.”**



# LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

The young women that Wedu aims to support are a special type of leader-- they are young women who have clarity of vision; they stand at the front of a cause when others sit behind it; they develop their voices when others keep their thoughts to themselves; they make the greatest impact; and they are champions for social, economic, or political change. **Rising Stars see the world for what it can be and do what is right, not what is easy.**

The Leadership Development Team refined Wedu's 7 Dimensions of Leadership to not only add sophistication to how we measure impact, but to accommodate for nuances amongst our Rising Stars and their leadership journeys. The addition of leadership traits to each dimension enables us to uniquely characterize the progress, achievements and leadership milestones according to each Rising Star's goals and ambitions.



## Inspires

IDENTIFIES COMMON PURPOSES AND SHARED GOALS, MOTIVATES AND SUPPORTS THE EMPOWERMENT OF OTHERS, CONFIDENT, COLLABORATIVE, PERCEPTIVE TO THE NEEDS OF OTHERS, ATTENTIVE LISTENER, DRIVES OTHERS TO TAKE ACTION

## Takes Risks

GRIT, ACCEPTS AND LEARNS FROM FAILURE, OPEN TO NEW IDEAS , ABILITY TO ASSESS ALL ASPECTS OF A SITUATION

## Takes Action

TAKES INITIATIVE, SETS AND IMPLEMENTS CLEARLY DEFINED GOALS, STRIVES FOR MAXIMUM IMPACT, UPHOLDS PERSONAL VISION AND MISSION, ACCOUNTABLE

## Strong Moral Compass

SELF-AWARE, REFLECTIVE, ACTS WITH INTENTION , AUTHENTIC, ACTS WITH INTEGRITY

## Challenges Status Quo

PROMOTES SOCIAL JUSTICE, CHALLENGES SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND GENDER NORMS, AWARENESS OF CURRENT EVENTS, PERSEVERES.

## Commitment to Community

STRONG ROOTS WITHIN THE COMMUNITY, ADVOCATES ON BEHALF OF COMMUNITY ISSUES, INCLUSION AND ENGAGEMENT WITH VARIOUS COMMUNITIES AND FAITHS, PROPENSITY FOR CIVIC ENGAGEMENT, DEMONSTRATES HUMILITY AND EMPATHY

## Enterprising

IDENTIFIES OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH AND ENHANCES LEARNING, LEADS EFFECTIVE AND DIVERSE TEAMS, DEVELOPS STRATEGIC PLANS AND PARTNERSHIPS. INNOVATIVE , DEMONSTRATES CRITICAL THINKING



# MENTOR FEATURE

Gillian Rhodes is a trans-national artist. Originally born and raised in Colorado, she moved to New York and Paris for her education, before moving to Cambodia, and is now living in Seoul, South Korea. Besides working as a dancer and choreographer, she also volunteers in community management and peacebuilding.

Gillian has built a strong, trusting relationship with her mentee Shreya. The pair bonded over their similar personalities and interests—both are passionate and engaged women interested in a range of different activities. Gillian mentors Shreya by offering her advice and most importantly, listening and understanding her. Through mentoring Shreya, Gillian realized that being a mentor is

not so much showing someone the path, but truly listening: “It’s not about imparting your thoughts, but helping your mentee articulate her own.”

In helping Shreya think through her problems, Gillian was able to find solutions for herself as well. Being a mentor is a humbling and valuable experience that has trained her to think more critically and become a more supportive person.

Even though people’s conception of leadership is male-centric, Gillian hopes that young women will be able to create a unique way of leading that is true to themselves. She encourages young women to be leaders, because anyone can be a leader if they can articulate their vision passionately.

# GILLIAN RHODES



**“IT’S NOT  
ABOUT IMPARTING  
YOUR THOUGHTS, BUT  
HELPING YOUR MENTEE  
ARTICULATE THEIR OWN.”**

# CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS

## Key Partnership: Astro Malaysia

Corporate Partnerships gained momentum in 2016 as we officially launched our partnership with Astro Malaysia! This joint initiative, encompassing both HR and CSR, links professional employee development with valuable impact by mentoring future generations of female changemakers.



Astro Malaysia's first cohort of nurturing mentors attended workshops centered on practical, hands-on mentoring skills to prepare them for the journey with their Rising Stars and their

own leadership development. Each mentor will also benefit from one-on-one coaching sessions throughout their 8 month engagement with Wedu.



## Thank You, CSR Asia!



We want to take a moment to give our thanks to CSR Asia- we were honored with a scholarship to attend CSR Asia's summit in Hong Kong held last September. The summit, themed Sustainability Leadership, united over 70 influential speakers and 500 participants from 25 countries to foster new partnerships between government, business, and academic institutions. Together, we participated in a conference that combined workshops and breakout sessions to evolve the dialogue on sustainability and innovative partnerships.

CONTACT CORPORATE PARTNERSHIP - [RISE@WEDUGLOBAL.ORG](mailto:RISE@WEDUGLOBAL.ORG)

# INVESTMENTS IN EDUCATION

## Partnerships to Grow FISA

The growth of Future Income Sharing Agreements (FISAs) will contribute to ensuring the financial sustainability of Wedu, provide affordable financing options for our Rising Stars' higher education and pave the way for improving the lives of thousands of women and their communities in Asia..

In 2016, Wedu increased our FISA recipients from 2 in 2015 to 6 by the end of 2016. We also began to lay the operational groundwork, or infrastructure, to support growth in our FISA systems and processes. We began the expansion of FISA to countries other than Cambodia by

1. Offering experimental FISAs to Rising Stars in Bangladesh and Nepal,
2. Beginning conversations with legal partners in 3 additional countries

We also started partnership conversations with the Cambodian Children's Fund to build the local infrastructure in Cambodia to facilitate our collection process, as we have a few Rising Stars who will begin to make FISA contributions in 2017.



### Tevory Sao

#### Cambodian Rising Star and 2016 FISA recipient

"As a child, I dreamed of becoming a doctor to help people in my country, and I kept this dream alive in my heart while growing up. After [working at an] international NGO where my role was focused on mental health care, I realized I needed to study further in this specialized field, and am now pursuing my Master's in Clinical Psychology and Counselling. Wedu's holistic support will help me contribute in delivering good mental healthcare to my clients, their families, and the wider community"

### New Partnerships

Partnered with CCF, a local NGO, to facilitate FISA collections.



**CAMBODIAN  
CHILDREN'S FUND**

### KIVA Funding

Reinforced 50k USD credit line and agreed on a plan to be eligible for higher lines of credit.

**kiva**



# RISING STAR FEATURE



**BINITA  
KARKI**

Binita Karki was born in Southern Terai and brought up by a single mother. She is currently pursuing her Master's Degree in Crisis Management at Kathmandu University. She chose this particular field after experiencing firsthand the 2015 earthquake in Nepal.

Binita witnessed how much her mother had struggled due to her lack of education and literacy. She believes that much of Nepal's social problems stem from women's illiteracy and lack of vocational training. She is passionate about changing this reality for Nepalese women and aspires to contribute to women's vocational education.

Besides pursuing her studies, she is also working in the area of non-formal education in preparation for the future work she wants to do with women's vocational training. Binita was selected as a 2030 United Nations Development Programme change-maker for the exceptional work she has been doing for her community.

**“Her mentor inspires her to be unafraid to pursue her dreams and is always there to support her when the need arises”**

Her mentor, Adam, has been extremely supportive of Binita, acting as a guardian towards her. He believes in her

potential to succeed and constantly encourages her, especially in times when she meets an obstacle. Binita is also an accomplished debater, clinching the title of Nepal's Top 7 Debaters in 2013.

Binita hopes to encourage young women who are afraid to take on leadership positions to come out of the box of fear they have constructed for themselves. She believes everyone has a fire within that has the potential to bring positive, life changing inspiration to those around them. All they need is the confidence and support to channel it in the right direction.

**“WE ALL HAVE FIRE IN US. WE ARE THE ONES WHO HAVE TO BRING POSITIVE CHANGES TO OUR COMMUNITY.”**

# MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS



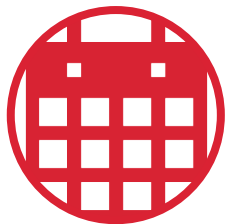
## Round table discussion with SGS

Thammasat School of Global Studies and Wedu had the opportunity to sit down together and talk about a number of critical topics. They included how and why social entrepreneurship is vital in creating a force of female leaders in Asia, and how cross-sector partnerships can enable such opportunities where the cost of more innovative and impactful higher education programs may be out of reach for female changemakers!



## Community Ambassadors

In order to better serve Wedu's vast international community, four Mentors in Vietnam, Thailand, New York, and Washington DC stepped up in a significant way to strengthen community ties and spread the word about Wedu to other potential mentors.



## Meet Ups

Wedu's community mobilized in Washington DC, New York City and twice in Bangkok in 2016! These are great ways for new and veteran community members to meet one another, share experiences, and continue building bridges that will last a lifetime!



**“WHAT STOOD OUT ABOUT WEDU FOR US WAS ITS GENUINE PASSION AND COMMITMENT TO EMPOWERING DISADVANTAGED YOUNG WOMEN”**

Oranutt Narapruet from IRC



# MENTOR FEATURE

**H**anna Ebeling is the Senior Relationship Manager at Social Enterprise Finance Australia (SEFA). She started off working in traditional finance with HSBC. After spending two years in the Philippines working with various grassroots social enterprises, she found her calling in impact investing. She is passionate about creating change in communities and aspires to give back to society the opportunities she has been afforded.

Hanna has been a Wedu mentor since 2016 and has mentored two Rising Stars to date. Being a mentor has given Hanna a chance to provide life skill support to her mentees and develop herself personally. She has had the opportunity to bond with young women whose life and culture were vastly different from her own. Hanna learnt the importance of empathizing across different age and culture and she advises aspiring mentors to: Hanna's current mentee is Tasfia, an inspiring Rising Star

**“Be open to listening to the experiences of a young woman from a vastly different background.”**

from Bangladesh. Personality-wise, Hanna and Tasfia are similar in that they are both active and communicative. In terms of their professional outlook, the pair share the same drive, conviction and passion to be leaders and changemakers. Hanna is impressed by the work Tasfia has done in support of women's rights.

Hanna hopes that all young women will believe in themselves and their power to accomplish change. For her, leadership is about driving change and inviting others along on the journey. She believes that all young women have the potential to be leaders if they are passionate about driving positive change for their communities.

# HANNA EBELING



**“ALL YOUNG WOMEN HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO BE LEADERS IF THEY ARE PASSIONATE ABOUT DRIVING POSITIVE CHANGE FOR THEIR COMMUNITIES”**



# OUTREACH AND SELECTION



## New Partnerships

Partnered with **8 new academic institutions** (3 universities, 5 colleges) across three countries and key humanitarian organization IRC to outreach to potential Rising Stars.

In 2016, we developed a Leadership Training and Orientation Program (LTOP) for Rising Star applicants. In this 2-month program, potential Rising Stars learn more about the fundamentals of Wedu's Leadership Development program and discover if this is the right program for them. The LTOP covers an exciting and challenging schedule of activities, designed to help applicants find focus in their leadership development objectives and start reflecting upon their personal and professional goals. Upon successful completion of the LTOP, Rising Stars are well prepared and equipped to start their leadership development journey at Wedu.



**“WITH WEDU’S HUMAN TOUCH AND PERSONAL APPROACH TO THEIR RISING STARS, WE BELIEVE THAT THE YOUNG WOMEN WE WORK WITH CAN ALSO RISE – AND FOR THAT, WE ARE GRATEFUL.”**

Oranutt Narapruet from IRC

# TALENT, SYSTEMS & MANAGEMENT

## Hiring of Management Team

In 2016, we filled a number of key management positions that helped either initiate or further build capacity in key pillars of Wedu's impact-driven business model.

The Leadership Development team also experienced growth with the additions of Leadership Development Advisors Flora Brils, Sumayah Hasan and Bettina Stuffer.

Leading up to 2017, Wedu was able to initiate expansion of its Marketing & Communications department, as well as begin the redesign of our Leadership Development department in a way that hopes to serve our Rising Stars and Mentors better.



**Tchissole Carvalho**  
Corporate Partnership  
Manager



**Charles Selestine**  
FISA Strategy Adviser



**Elizabeth Andrews**  
Leadership Development  
Manager

## Partnership with Vera



Wedu selected Vera Solutions as its Salesforce implementation partner for a first major phase of configuration work that aimed to migrate and consolidate

our many disparate forms, excel databases and manual workflows to the cloud-based Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system. In doing so, we gained visibility, integrity and connectedness of our program data, which has allowed us to improve the overall program experience, streamline certain program and support operations, and make better and faster management decisions.

## Board of Directors

Audrey Mandela joins Kate James, Mari Sawai and Mario Ferro on our UK Charity's Board of Directors, bringing her expertise as an entrepreneur and investor to Wedu's global strategy.

Audrey is an entrepreneur, consultant, and angel investor. She chairs Informilo, a technology news site that links business with innovation; and Women in Telecoms & Technology, a networking group. Audrey runs Mandela Associates, which provides consulting services for clients in the telecom, internet and geographical information sectors.





# MENTOR FEATURE

Hailing from Italy, Vittoria's sights have always been set beyond the borders of her hometown. She's been attracted to talking with people from different cultures and lifestyles since she was young, and she's made dramatic achievements since her early childhood days pretending to speak English with foreigners. Apart from living in Italy, England, Holland, Singapore, and Thailand, she recently raised \$100,000 through her work with Women on a Mission by being part of the first group of women to trek across the Lut Desert. The organization provides support to charitable endeavors that provide services and raise awareness for women whose livelihoods have been affected by war, conflict, and abuse.

While Vittoria doesn't shy from change, she is fully aware of its challenges. Moving from city to city has meant recreating and sometimes redefining her life, her world, and her perception. Recent events in the international political sphere have only further contested with how

she thought the world operates. In response, she's made a career out of helping people with life changes.

**"It's really exciting to connect with someone out of the blue - somewhere far away and being able to make an impact."**

Transition coaching is Vittoria's way of "helping people find the best means to implement the way you want to show up in life," and for the past 10 months as a Wedu mentor, her expertise has been invaluable to her Rising Star, Alinery.

Despite an internal conflict between cultural expectations and Alinery's personal ambitions and dreams, Alinery's dedication to her future continues to inspire Vittoria. She describes her Rising Star as brave with an explosive character who knows how to ask for what she wants. While Alinery endeavors towards working at an international NGO or going into politics, Vittoria provides moral support in addition to life coaching.

# VITTORIA ZIPOLI



**"AS SOON AS WE SAW EACH OTHER, IT WAS IF WE ALREADY MET BEFORE. IT WAS A NICE CONFIRMATION THAT THE RELATIONSHIP WE DEVELOPED ONLINE THROUGH MENTORING WASN'T VERY DIFFERENT FROM BEING IN THE SAME PLACE."**



# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

2016 was a year full of new and exciting business development opportunities and wins that helped us to expand our sources of funding while deepening our impact. For the first time, Wedu secured a government contract for program implementation, as well as worked with a top university and inspiring individual donors to provide dedicated scholarships to Rising Stars.

Changing the gender balance of the global leadership landscape will take a collective effort, and as Wedu grows, we are seeking to expand our partnerships and alliances.

## Winner YSEALI WLA Implementation Partner



We are honored to have been chosen to partner with the U.S. Mission to ASEAN to implement the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative's (YSEALI) Women Leadership Academy (WLA) in Jakarta for 2016 and 2017 with the support of leading global corporations such as VISA, General Electric, and Air Asia. We aim to increase funding for future WLAs by collaborating with more interested corporations and government leaders in Southeast Asia and beyond.



## USD 1.1+ Million cash and commitment raised to date

USD 500k+ raised this year alone, including multi-year commitments from many new supporters.

**We are incredibly thankful to our long-standing supporters who have been with us from the very beginning!**



WOODCOCK  
FOUNDATION

THE GLORY  
GOSPEL  
SINGERS

## Co-funding Partnership with Thammasat University



This year, we started working with Thammasat University on a scholarship co-funding agreement for our Rising Stars. While these are not direct funds raised in cash by Wedu, it represents a significant partnership or collaboration that we aim to do more of in order to mobilize special resources for our Rising Stars.

You may find all of our past financial statements and annual reports on Wedu's [website](#).

# “ THANK YOU ”

Looking back on a successful 2016, Wedu is excited for the opportunities, new faces, and growth and development of our programs in 2017!

Here is what we're working on in 2017:

- Improved community engagement, both online and offline
- More sophisticated measurement of Leadership Development growth so that we can sustainably and effectively provide more Leadership Development opportunities and programs to Rising Stars
- Increased investment in education financing through FISA growth and our #KeepRising digital fundraising campaign
- Expanded opportunities for corporate engagement and partnership
- Enhanced technology and systems
- Continued rebranding efforts
- A second Women's Leadership Academy for YSEALI

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to Wedu's mission.

**For questions & inquiries, email:**  
**[info@weduglobal.org](mailto:info@weduglobal.org)**

