

On the occasion of the World Economic Forum's 2020 AM, International Bridges to Justice presents the JusticeHub at Davos Town Hall

Davos, Switzerland, January 22, 2020

– International Bridges to Justice (IBJ) brought together some of the world's most influential leaders at the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2020. The aim was to inspire a collaborative approach to realizing UN Sustainable Development Goal 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions.

As the sun rose over the snow-capped peaks of Davos, guests were welcomed into the exquisite Gross Stube, the 'living room' of Davos Town Hall, where Swiss bureaucracy has reigned for centuries. A duet performance from former Zurich Tonhalle Orchestra member, violinist AnMing Karrer-Bien, and harpist, Ekaterina Afanasieva, set the scene for the theme of this year's event: 'Building Hope for the Future: Morning reflections on peace, justice and SDG 16'.



AnMing Karrer Bien and Ekaterina Afanasieva welcome guests with harp and violin



Mrs. Hilde Schwab

important."

Ms. Tse articulated the repercussions of arbitrary detention and torture, with her ultimate message being one of hope. After 20 years of experience in ensuring access to justice, she spoke of how

Following tradition, guests were welcomed by the Mayor of Davos, Tarzisius Caviezel, who voiced his faith in IBJ's ability to continue securing access to justice. Mrs. Hilde Schwab, Chairperson and Co-Founder, Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship, and Reverend Karen Tse, CEO and Founder and of IBJ were then invited to give their welcome remarks. Mrs Schwab touched on the the hidden nature of incarceration saying; *"Nobody knows really what is going on, well you, with IBJ, can create a little bit of transparency. This is very*

IBJ's soon-to-be-launched platform, the Justice Hub, is the conduit between defender and detained. Tse explained, *"Justice Hub, for us, is the nucleus and the mitochondria, so that all of us can connect and so that each of us can use our role and do our part."* She continued to describe how the JusticeHub will enable lawyers to come together to defend the voiceless like never before, supported by their communities and technological innovation.



IBJ's CEO and Founder, Karen Tse



UNOG Director General Mrs. Tatiana Valovaya

Following this introduction for the future of innovative justice, Tatiana Valovaya, Director-General of the United Nations Office Geneva, spoke about the need to facilitate global conversations to achieve the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. The Director-General spoke about the moral obligation of providing access to justice for all but also the broader social benefits of focusing on strengthening institutions, and ended by thanking IBJ;

'So, I would like to thank you for what you are doing, International Bridges to Justice, and to say that it is exactly the type of partnership and cooperation that the United Nations wants and we can ensure, that working together, we will be able to build a more prosperous and more just society in the world.'

Dr. Shinichi Kitaoka, President of the Japanese International Cooperation Agency spoke about the importance of collaboration and of promoting a culture of peace, and in keeping with this theme, local pastor Martin Gruesser gave a short blessing. Azza Karam, Secretary-General of Religions for Peace, followed to talk about how strong institutions are central to the functioning of society.



Dr. Shinichi Kitoaka



Doreen Bogdan-Martin poses with Caroline Kende-Robb

The Director of ITU's Telecommunication Development Bureau, Doreen Bogdan-Martin, took to the stage to talk about how technology is one of the greatest equalizers that the world has ever known. She congratulated Reverend Tse for her innovative work, noting how SDG 16 actually underpins so many of the other SDG's, and how the JusticeHub is a vital platform to achieve justice for all.

Concluding the guest speakers, Henry Elkus, CEO and Founder of Helena, perfectly rounded-up the speeches with a proposed solution: closer collaboration between the public and private sector. He explained that this would enable organizations such as IBJ to combine their specific expertise with the readily available technologies already developed by certain private companies, to drive our global collective mission to realize the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.



Azza Karam with Karen Tse



Mayor Tarzsius Caviezel



Henry Elkus signing the declaration after the event

Closing the event, Karen Tse spoke about the need to commit to the creation of the Justice Hub and invited each guest to pledge their commitment by signing IBJ's JusticeHub poster, symbolizing the beginning of a digital justice revolution.

The event was wonderfully facilitated by Mrs. Caroline Kende-Robb, Secretary General of CARE International.



*Mayor Tarzsius Caviezel, Pastor Martin
Guesser, and Karen Tse*