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26 Fantastic female scientists

(Reprinted from the Asian Scientist Magazine)

These 26 female scientists are all movers and shakers in their chosen fields, from mathematics to materials science. (Mar. 8, 2019) – Here at Asian Scientist Magazine, we are committed to raising the profile of scientists living and working in Asia—regardless of their gender. The fact remains, however, that women remain under-represented in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields, particularly at the leadership levels.

To mark International Women's Day, we highlight 26 outstanding female scientists featured on our annual Asian Scientist 100 list. These women are breaking new ground across every scientific discipline and making the world a better place one research study at a time.

1. **Tamal Lata Aditya**, Bangladesh Rice Research Institute. Aditya received the 2018 Senadhira Rice Research Award for her contribution to rice genetics in Bangladesh.
2. **Amitha Bentota**, Department of Agriculture, Sri Lanka. Bentota received the 2018 Senadhira Rice Research Award for her contribution to rice genetics in Sri Lanka.
3. **Chanchao Lorthongpanich**, Siriraj Center of Excellence for Stem Cell Research. Lorthongpanich won the 2018 L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science National Fellowship for her work on using stem cells to produce donor-independent platelets.
4. **Varisa Pongrakhananon**, Chulalongkorn University. Pongrakhananon was recognized for her research on lung cancer with the 2018 L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science National Fellowship.
5. **Wan Yue**, Genome Institute of Singapore. In 2018, Wan was named a CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholar in the Molecular Architecture of Life program. The program funds and supports researchers within five years of their first academic position by helping them build research networks and develop essential skills needed to become leaders in global research. Wan was recognized for her work on the role of RNA structures in human health and infectious diseases. Previously, Wan was elected as an EMBO Young Investigator in 2017 and received the L'Oréal Singapore for Women in Science National Fellowship in 2016.
6. **Witri Wahyu Lestari**, Sebelas Maret University. Lestari, who was previously featured on the AS100 2017 list, makes a second appearance for winning the 2018 OWSD-Elsevier Foundation Award for Early-Career Women Scientists in the Developing World.

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Rosalinda C. Torres

7. **Rosalinda C. Torres**, Department of Science and Technology, the Philippines. For her research on the larvicidal ability of Philippine medicinal plants, Torres received the 2018 Gregorio Zara Award for Basic Science Research.
8. **Chularat Wattanakit**, Vidyasirimedhi Institute of Science and Technology. Wattanakit won the 2018 L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science National Fellowship for her work on the synthesis of chiral molecules.
9. **Sanghamitra Bandyopadhyay**, Indian Statistical Institute. Bandyopadhyay received the 2018 The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) Prize for Engineering Sciences. Bandyopadhyay, the first woman director of the Indian Statistical Institute, previously appeared on the AS100 list in 2018.
10. **Surapa Thiemjarus**, National Electronics and Computer Technology Center. Thiemjarus received the 2018 L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science National Fellowship for her research on Internet of Things (IoT) technology for the elderly.



Gay Jane Perez

11. **Gay Jane Perez**, University of the Philippines Diliman. Perez is the first Filipino to win the ASEAN-US Science Prize for Women, an award to encourage promising female scientists working in Southeast Asia. She was recognized for her research using satellite data to improve agriculture for precision farming. Perez, who did her postdoctoral studies at the NASA Goddard

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Space Flight Center, was responsible for leading the Department of Science and Technology's microsatellite program that successfully sent the Philippines' first microsatellite—Divata-1—into space in 2016.

12. **Kusala Rajendran**, Indian Institute of Science. Rajendran received the inaugural National Award for Women Scientists from the Indian Ministry of Earth Sciences for her work on understanding earthquakes in India.
13. **Toshiko Terakawa**, Nagoya University. Terakawa received the 38th Saruhashi Prize for developing a new method to rationally estimate the pattern of stress fields that cause earthquakes.
14. **Chang Meemann**, Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology. In 2018, Chang was awarded the Ho Leung Ho Lee Foundation Achievement Prize and named a laureate of the L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science. Both prizes recognize her seminal contributions to our understanding of how aquatic vertebrates made the transition from sea to land. Chang, who became the first woman to become head of the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology in 1983, has three species named in her honor: the extinct sarcopterygian fish Meemania; the theropod dinosaur Sinovenator changii; and the extinct bird Archaeornithura meemanna. She was also featured in a children's book series highlighting outstanding scientists from Asia titled Asian Scientist Junior.
15. **Judith Swain**, National University of Singapore. Swain was awarded the 2018 President's Science and Technology Medal for raising Singapore's global reputation in clinical and translational research.



Charissa Marcaida Ferrera

16. **Charissa Marcaida Ferrera**, University of the Philippines Diliman. For her research on improving water quality in marine environments, Ferrera was awarded the 2018 L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science National Fellowship.

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17. **Ho Weang Kee**, University of Nottingham Malaysia. Ho received the 2018 L'Oréal-UNESCO for Women in Science International Rising Talent award for developing a statistical tool to predict breast cancer risk in women.
18. **Wirulda Pootakham**, National Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology. Pootakham was awarded the 2018 L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science National Fellowship for her work in identifying heat-tolerant coral species for marine ecosystem restoration.
19. **Xue Shifeng**, Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology. Xue received the 2018 Young Scientist Award for her research on how genes are controlled during development.
20. **Luo Huixia**, Sun Yat-sen University. Luo received the 2018 International Association of Advanced Materials Scientist Medal for her work on functional inorganic materials and condensed matter physics.
21. **Nguyen Thi Hiep**. Nguyen received the 2018 L'Oréal-UNESCO for Women in Science International Rising Talent award for developing a smart nanoparticle gel that can accelerate tissue regeneration.
22. **Yukiko Ogawa**, National Institute of Materials Science. Ogawa received the 2018 L'Oréal-UNESCO for Women in Science International Rising Talent award for creating a metal alloy with shape-memory.



Marissa A. Paglicawan

23. **Marissa A. Paglicawan**, Department of Science and Technology, the Philippines. For her research on turning Manila hemp or abaca into an engineering material, Paglicawan was awarded the 2018 Gregorio Zara Award for Applied Science Research.
24. **Hasibun Naher**, BRAC University. Naher received the 2018 OWSD-Elsevier Foundation Awards for Early-Career Women Scientists in the Developing World for her research on non-linear partial differential equations, which has applications in tsunami simulations.

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25. **Oh Hee**, Korea Institute for Advanced Study. Oh was awarded the 2018 Ho-Am Prize for Science for her work on Apollonian circle packings, a concept that can be used to interpret fractals found in nature.
26. **Urbasi Sinha**, Raman Research Institute. Sinha is the recipient of the 2018 ICO/ICTP Gallieno Denardo Award given out by the International Commission for Optics (ICO) and the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP). She was recognized for her contributions to the field of quantum photonics as well as her outreach activities to popularize science in India. Sinha runs the Quantum Information and Computing Lab at the Raman Research Institute, India's first lab dedicated to research on quantum information processing and its applications. The lab has been chosen to represent India in an international collaboration with Canada to explore using entangled photons for quantum satellite communication. (AMGuevarra\ITDI S&T Media Service)

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