

15 to Watch in Asia



blog, featuring an advice column, has garnered 80 million page views. CIMG printed three versions of *Time Out* magazine from 2003 through July 2007, then sold the licenses. —E.S.

**NAINA LAL KIDWAI**  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, HSBC INDIA



Harvard grad became the first woman to run a foreign bank in India when she took the top job at HSBC's Indian operations in 2006. Has been a banker for 26 years; 12 years at ANZ Grindlays, moved to Morgan Stanley's Indian investment banking arm in 1994. Left in 2002, taking a pay cut, to head HSBC's smaller investment bank. Became deputy chief executive of the bank's entire India unit two years later. Supports climate-change awareness, financial inclusion, rural entrepreneurship, wildlife; sits on the Nestlé board. —N.K.

**YURIKO KOIKE**  
MEMBER, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, JAPAN



A former TV news anchor and Cairo University grad who speaks English and Arabic, Koike, 56, worked for former prime minister Junichiro Koizumi's reforms and was briefly defense minister under Shinzo Abe. Jockeying to succeed Yasuo Fukuda at some point, which would make her the first female prime minister of Japan. —Kiyoe Minami

**EMILY LAU**  
LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR, LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF HONG KONG, CHINA

Lau worked as a journalist in Hong Kong and abroad in the 1980s, eventually becoming chairman of the Hong Kong Journalists



Association. In 1991 she became the first and only woman directly elected to Hong Kong's Legislative Council, where she has since been a vocal proponent for democracy and free speech. —Kate Macmillan

**PARK GEUN HYE**  
MEMBER, NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, SOUTH KOREA



Daughter of late, authoritarian leader Park Chung Hee. Chaired the Grand National Party as it and other opposition parties took over the legislature in 2005, then lost a bid for its presidential nomination narrowly; now the strongest contender for the Blue House in 2012. —Soyoung Ho

**JANE SHAO**  
MANAGING DIRECTOR, ISTITHMAR WORLD, CHINA



With \$8 billion in investments worldwide, Istithmar World (an investment arm of Dubai World) recruited the 41-year-old to help establish a China presence last year, out of Shanghai. First major deal: \$50 million investment in energy storage and logistics company Hans Energy. Columbia M.B.A., investment banker at Chase, CSFB, and JPMorgan in New York, Hong Kong and Beijing. Dabbled as an angel investor, producing an award-winning movie. Helps Nicholas Negroponte promote his One Laptop Per Child program in China. —Zina Moukheiber

**TSAI YING-WEN**  
CHAIRMAN, DEMOCRATIC PROGRESSIVE PARTY, TAIWAN

A former professor and chair of the Mainland Affairs Council, recently elected chairman of Taiwan's liberal opposition



party. Advocate for social welfare policies who focuses on the rights of women and labor. Petite and bespectacled, she earned the nickname Little Red Riding Hood upon her entry into politics as a nod to her standing up to the mainland's Big Bad Wolf. —Kate Macmillan

**CHER WANG**  
CHAIRMAN, HTC, TAIWAN



Daughter of Taiwan chemicals and plastics billionaire Y.C. Wang, Cher co-founded mobile phone maker HTC (see p. 103) in 1997. Though no longer involved in daily operations, leaving time for her tennis hobby, she is still chairman. Also chairs semiconductor maker Via Technologies, which her husband, Wenchi Chen, runs as chief executive. The couple share a \$3.5 billion fortune. The mother of two has founded three charitable foundations including Via Cord Blood Stem Foundation. —Luisa Kroll

**KATHY XU**  
MANAGING PARTNER, CAPITAL TODAY GROUP, CHINA



Hailing from Sichuan Province, Xu is known among Chinese rainmakers as the Iron Lady. She founded one of China's first venture capital firms, Capital Today, in 2005. Her \$280 million fund might be modest, but her picks are impressive. She has yet to pick a lossmaker. Her fund currently includes 11 companies, ranging from a fast-food chain to the Chinese YouTube, and she says they generated an average revenue growth of 141% in 2007. Four entrepreneurs she's backed have appeared in the top 100 of the FORBES ASIA China rich list. —Kate Macmillan