Samriddhi survives

Earthquakes and Maoists have not stopped a bootstrap think tank from Nepal from leaving its mark on the policy landscape.

Robin Sitoula stands with his wife on the lawn outside their apartment building. Aftershocks to the April 25 earthquake that rocked Nepal are frequent and severe, making it imprudent to re-enter buildings that still stand. Robin is able to access Facebook via his cell phone, and types a response to nervous messages flowing in from friends from throughout the extended Atlas Network: “Arpita and I and the whole team and family are fine. Huge damages in Kathmandu and other cities! Thank you everyone for your wishes and prayers!”

The April 25 earthquake is only the latest of challenges to confront the country of Nepal and the Samriddhi team, which Robin has led since its founding in 2007.

Continued on page 3
CEO’s corner

As you see on this page, we have been celebrating the centenary of the birth of Atlas Network founder Antony Fisher. It has been thrilling to see so many salute his life, his vision, and his impact on the world, which is still unfolding thanks to our partners and supporters.

In this issue of Highlights, you’ll see how the Fisher vision is taking root in Nepal thanks to the leaders of Samriddhi. This organization’s work has always been ambitious. How they persist in the aftermath of April’s catastrophic earthquake and its aftershocks will inspire you.

At the time of this publication, Greece appears poised to receive a third bailout and remain in the Eurozone — for now. I remain doubtful that Greece will find the political will to heed the advice of those we brought together at our recent Emergency Economic Summit in Athens, and avoid the need for another bailout in the future. It is heartening, however, that such a large audience heard our message that the Syriza strategy of ignoring mathematical realities will only keep Greece suspended in financial crisis. The rising generation is waking up to reality: Greece will not have prosperity without reducing the size of government and increasing productivity.

Also in this issue, we welcome Charles Murray as Atlas Network’s new Templeton Leadership Fellow and keynote speaker for the 2015 Freedom Dinner. Murray’s 1983 masterwork Losing Ground changed the welfare debate forever, and helped put Manhattan Institute (another Antony Fisher creation) on the map. His new book By the People: Rebuilding Liberty without Permission shows Murray at his best: thinking big and bold, with implications for our partners around the world. We will be privileged to share his insights in the months to come.

Atlas Network founder Sir Antony Fisher turns 100

During the spring and early summer of 2015, Atlas Network paid tribute to its late founder, Sir Antony Fisher, who would have turned 100 years old on June 28, 2015.

Milton Friedman once remarked: “Few people have ever been able to do as much to translate their ideas into practice. Antony Fisher’s persistence and idealism and dedication deserves enormous credit for the transformation of his ideas from heresy to orthodoxy.”

In celebration of what would have been Fisher’s 100th birthday, Atlas Network planned events, produced videos, and collected reminiscences regarding one of the 20th century’s most important, if most overlooked, freedom champions.

Thanks to a grant from the Earhart Foundation, Atlas Network also published more than a dozen essays on Fisher and his impact. Celebrated historian Dr. George H. Nash was joined by contributors from multiple countries, including, among others, Dora de Ampuero (Ecuador), Eamonn Butler (UK), Bican Şahin (Turkey), Jean-Guillaume de Tocqueville (France) and Mao Yushi (China).

Visit AtlasNetwork.org/Fisher100 to read more.
To really understand the impact of Samriddhi, you must not merely look at what it has made happen, you must understand what might have happened.

Not long ago, Nepal was on the brink of being taken over by Maoists, who have been a powerful political faction since 1995 when they laid out a plan to capture the state and impose the equivalent of a communist dictatorship. In 2012, it seemed their ambitions were coming to fruition. The specter of Khmer Rouge–style terror hung over the country.

Today, the situation is different. The Maoist grip on Nepal dissolved in the wake of a stunning electoral defeat, and the Maoists themselves are internally reforming toward moderate views and participating in democratic processes. The changed political landscape has given Nepal a chance for success that once seemed remote.

Even before the earthquake, there were many challenges in Nepal, such as burdensome regulations for entrepreneurs and an inconsistent application of the rule of law. These challenges still remain. But they are even more complicated with the devastation from the April earthquakes.

Two days after the quake, the Samriddhi team huddled around a make-shift office, since their normal headquarters remained inaccessible. Luckily, no one on the team had been injured.

The team brainstormed on how to create value for their country in light of the natural disaster that, for the time being, put all other topics on the back burner. They contemplated doing hands-on humanitarian work, but then realized that was not where they had their comparative advantage. Instead, team members from Samriddhi and its five sister organizations gathered in a temporary facility to start NepalRelief.net, a digital platform that matched relief seekers with relief providers. In the three weeks following the quake, their effort benefited more than 30,000 people across the affected areas.

The overflow of government aid into Nepal creates another institutional challenge for the country: how to avoid creating an “aid dependent” economy? Samriddhi joined with other important civil society groups to bring together 800 opinion leaders at a conference that produced a report, “Ideas for Rebuilding Nepal.” It recommends steps to liberate the private sector to bring investment and innovation to Nepal, with particular attention to small enterprises that form the backbone of the Nepali economy.

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Just three months after the earthquake, Samriddhi is back on track, promoting sound economic ideas to policy makers to improve the prospects for a free and prosperous Nepal. Visit samriddhi.org to learn more about Atlas Network partner Samriddhi.
Atlas Leadership Academy

Malaysian ALA grad helps build oasis of liberty

Tricia Yeoh, Chief Operating Officer, IDEAS (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia)

Atlas Network regularly shares the work of Atlas Leadership Academy (ALA) alumni in their own words. Tricia Yeoh was one of 35 ALA graduates in 2014.

“IDEAS is an independent, non-partisan think tank based in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. We are the only classical liberal think tank in the country, and all our work is based on the principles of individual liberty, free markets, the rule of law, and limited government. But we also get involved in hands-on projects that show we are not ivory-tower policy wonks. We run an autism centre for children from low-income families, as well as an academy for secondary-level refugees and stateless children.

“I've long been interested in Malaysian public policy, but I was inspired to join IDEAS after seeing how serious they were about making real policy changes based on classical liberal solutions. I suppose I am drawn to the ‘intellectualism’ of the entire setup: the belief that public policy ought to be based on principles, as opposed to expedient thinking. In a way, IDEAS forms an oasis in the middle of what is pretty much a desert of classical liberal thought, and it is this challenge of working for fundamental change that motivates me to do even more. Today, I’m chief operating officer at IDEAS and my role is to ensure all streams of our work are running smoothly.”

To read Yeoh’s full profile, visit onatl.as/malaysiangrad

IDEAS will host the 2016 Asia Liberty Forum, sponsored in part by Atlas Network. For more details about attending this event, held from Feb. 6–8 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, contact Stephanie@AtlasNetwork.org.

Upcoming ALA trainings

Aug. 10–Sept. 6  Libre Afrique Freedom Schools (Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire, Mali, Morocco, Senegal, Tunisia)
Aug. 20  Webinar: CEO Strategies that Work, featuring Ron Wilder (Aligned Action)
Sept. 7–Oct. 12  Think Tank Navigator, Online
Sept. 10  Webinar: Fundraising in Difficult Places, featuring Aboagye Mintah (IMANI, Ghana)
Sept. 10–12  Transatlantic Think Tank CEO Summit (Vilnius, Lithuania) (By invitation only)
Sept. 24  Webinar: Research Methodologies, featuring Jeffrey Miron (Cato Institute)
Sept. 26–28  Balkan Lights, Camera, Liberty (Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina)
Oct. 8  Webinar: Relationship Fundraising, featuring Judy Duke (Hillsdale College)
Oct. 13–16  Brazilian Think Tank Start-Up Training (São Paulo, Brazil)
Oct. 30–Nov. 10  Think Tank MBA (Fairfax, Virginia)
Nov. 8–11  Think Tank Leadership Training (New York City)
Nov. 29–Dec. 2  MENA Think Tank Start-Up Training (Marrakesh, Morocco)

Learn more about Atlas Leadership Academy: www.atlasnetwork.org/academy
Trainings

Atlas Leadership Academy recently hosted six trainings over eight weeks on virtually every continent, training more than 80 up-and-coming think tank leaders:

- **Latin American Think Tank Start-Up Training (Santiago, Chile)** run in coordination with Libertad y Desarrollo

- **African Think Tank Start-Up Training (Accra, Ghana)** run in coordination with IMANI Ghana and facilitator Manali Shah

- **European Think Tank Start-Up Training (Vilnius, Lithuania)** run in coordination with Lithuanian Free Market Institute

- **Lights, Camera, Liberty Workshop (Sydney, Australia)** run in coordination with the Australian Taxpayers’ Alliance and Taliesin Nexus

- **Effective Campaign Strategies Workshop (Sydney, Australia)** featuring Matthew Elliott of the the TaxPayers’ Alliance, based in the United Kingdom

- **Policy Research School (Kochi, India)** run in coordination with Centre for Public Policy Research

In June, at the “Effective Campaign Strategies” workshop in Australia, participants worked on four exciting campaigns, developing an action plan, fundraising presentation, promotional leaflet, and elevator pitch. Two of the campaigns that were workshops have already moved into the implementation phase.

Among the participants at African Think Tank Start-Up Training in Ghana were staff from Centre for Free Market Enterprise (Malawi), Uhuru Initiative (Tanzania), and Egyptian Center for Public Policy Studies.
Atlas Network assembled an Emergency Economic Summit in Athens on May 19 that attracted significant national and international attention. Nobel laureate economist Thomas Sargent, New York University economist Nicholas Economides, and more than 15 other economists and reformers prescribed solutions to break Greece’s cycle of crises and return the country to economic growth. The conference provided a marked change in a conversation then revolving around short-term fixes and negotiating brinkmanship.

Yanis Varoufakis, then–Finance Minister of Greece, joined the debate at Atlas Network’s invitation. Sargent responded to Varoufakis’s government talking points by pointing out the difficult reforms that must be made to restore lenders’ confidence in Greece’s future.

The event was held in conjunction with Atlas Network’s local partners, Greek Liberal Monitor and Liberty Forum of Greece, as well as the Cato Institute and the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom.

Nobel laureate Thomas Sargent warned that, if it refused to prioritize structural reforms, the Greek government will lose the confidence of the European Union and external investors alike, and its economy will continue in a downward spiral.

The Emergency Economic Summit for Greece was a featured news story on the country’s major TV stations. Dozens of interviews were published with the summit’s speakers and on May 19 #EESG was a trending topic on Greek Twitter.
Upcoming Atlas Network events

**Aug. 27–29, 2015**
**American Principles Project’s Jackson Hole Summit**  
*(Jackson Hole, Wyoming)*
Atlas Network’s Judy Shelton will be among the speakers at this parallel conference to the Federal Reserve’s traditional August retreat. The conference will present a new vision for achieving monetary reform in the direction of sound money.

**Sept. 10, 2015**
**Lithuanian Free Market Institute’s 25th Anniversary Gala**  
*(Vilnius, Lithuania)*
Atlas Network’s Templeton Leadership Fellow, Charles Murray, will headline this gala celebration of the work of LFMI, winner of the 2014 Templeton Freedom Award.

**Nov. 11–12, 2015**
**Atlas Network’s Liberty Forum & Freedom Dinner**  
*(New York City)*
New interactive sessions are planned to complement popular Liberty Forum features like Think Tank Shark Tank, sponsored by the Rising Tide Foundation; the John Blundell Elevator Pitch Competition; the Lights, Camera, Liberty Film Festival; the annual Liggio Lecture featuring Randy Barnett; International Speed Networking; the Freedom Dinner featuring Charles Murray; and much much more!

**Sept. 18–23 & Sept. 24–25, 2016**
**Mont Pelerin Society’s General Meeting, followed by Atlas Network’s Liberty Forum**  
*(Miami, Florida)*
The prestigious Mont Pelerin Society will hold its biannual General Meeting in the United States for the first time in a decade. MPS meetings are restricted to members and their guests. Atlas Network is proud to organize this meeting, back to back with its 2016 Liberty Forum, in Miami.

A full listing of Atlas Network events is available at AtlasNetwork.org, along with a [Global Events Calendar](https://atlasnetwork.org/events) that annually lists hundreds of conferences hosted by Atlas Network partners around the world. This is a wonderful resource for our well-travelled supporters who enjoy attending freedom movement events during their business and leisure travel. Visit: atlasnetwork.org/events

Congratulations to the Institute of Economic Affairs (United Kingdom) on the occasion of its 60th anniversary! Given our shared origins with Sir Antony Fisher, Atlas Network was proud to celebrate this milestone with its friends at IEA. We also note that, on Oct. 14, the IEA will host a program in London, *In Conversation with Charles Murray*, Atlas Network’s new Templeton Leadership Fellow.
Atlas Network news & analysis

As part of Atlas Network’s commitment to the ideas of freedom and prosperity for all, it regularly publishes and places scholarly pieces by members of the Atlas Network team, and commissions original analysis articles from some of the world’s most renowned classical liberals. Recent articles include:

“Pope Francis and the Environment: Sound Theology, Politicized Science?”
by Dr. Alex Chafuen
In a recent piece on Forbes.com, Atlas Network President Alex Chafuen breaks down Pope Francis’s encyclical on the environment. “Although the Pope writes and speaks as he is not an expert on bio-technology—allowing for differences of opinion—when he speaks about political economic topics he does it with conviction and certainty. Like other Church documents, this one again cautions that ‘on many concrete issues the Church has no reason to propose a final word’ and that it promotes and respects honest debate among scientists respecting the diversity of opinion. But on economic topics, Laudato Si seems one sided.”
To read the full article, and to read all of Dr. Chafuen’s Forbes articles, visit: onatl.as/popefrancisencyclical

“Capital, Piketty’s Ogre”
by Anthony de Jasay
In much of the world, Thomas Piketty’s critique of capitalism remains prominent, despite a myriad of critiques from scholars worldwide. But the emperor has no clothes, says the legendary Anthony de Jasay, author of Against Politics: On Government, Anarchy, and Order. In a new and witty contribution on AtlasNetwork.org, Jasay points out “the fairly obvious blunder” in Piketty’s theory “of putting both a large and small exponent, r and g, in the same exponential function and [expecting] them peacefully to coexist.” Jasay rejects Piketty’s work and calls instead for economic analysis that respects how incentives will drive behavior.
To read the full analysis, visit: onatl.as/pikettysogre

“Magna Carta and the Human Birthright to Liberty”
by Dr. Tom G. Palmer
Magna Carta is celebrating its 800th birthday in 2015. This great event is significant not only for the English, or even the English-speaking nations, but for all of humanity. Magna Carta teaches and inspires, points out Atlas Network’s executive vice president for international programs, Dr. Tom G. Palmer. What it should teach us, however, is not the special privilege of the English-speaking peoples, but a universal message of law over violence and of freedom over power.
To read the full analysis, visit: onatl.as/magnacarta

Atlas Network World10
Atlas Network’s World10 is our biweekly newsletter containing the top highlights from around the worldwide freedom movement, including inspirational news from Atlas Network partners, compelling updates to Atlas Network programs, and thoughtful analysis on critical topics. If you aren’t a subscriber already, sign up at: onatl.as/world10signup
Atlas Network launches Trendsetters group
Atlas Network Trendsetters is a group of young professionals passionate about the worldwide freedom movement. Each month, Trendsetters holds events in New York City for networking and learning about freedom champions from different think tanks connected to Atlas Network. Recent speakers have included Armando Regil Velasco, founding president of Mexico’s Agora Institute of Strategic Thinking, and Dr. Parth Shah, founding president of Centre for Civil Society in New Delhi, India. Contact Brittany Cobb at Brittany.Cobb@AtlasNetwork.org to join Atlas Network Trendsetters.

Atlas Network board member named new Cato CEO
The Cato Institute named Peter Goettler, a board member of Atlas Network, as its president and CEO, effective April 1, 2015. In a Cato Institute audio interview, conducted by Caleb Brown on May 5, 2015, and available online, Peter explained his path to the top job at the Cato Institute, noting his involvement with Atlas Network: “The global liberty movement has always been at the center of my family’s philanthropic interests.” Through Atlas Network, Peter met partner think tanks around the world, many of which look to the Cato Institute for leadership.

John Blundell Studentships
Adam Smith Institute (U.K.) has established the John Blundell Studentships initiative in memory of Atlas Network’s former president and CEO, and then-board member, who passed away in July 2014. The program will offer annual grants to pro-freedom students for postgraduate study. Those interested in supporting the initiative may visit adamsmith.org/john-blundell-studentships/ or contact Atlas Network CEO Brad Lips (Brad@AtlasNetwork.org), who serves on the board of this effort.

In Memoriam
We are saddened by the recent passing of five dear friends and supporters of Atlas Network. Please visit onatl.as/2015freedommemoriams to read more about their lives and legacies.

- **Thomas M. Lofton** — chairman of the Lilly Endowment for 22 years, during which time the Endowment became an important donor to Atlas Network and directed more than $7 billion in support of education, community development, and religion.

- **Borut Prah** — member of Atlas Network’s Advisory Council, who notably helped Atlas Network attract and put to use significant financial resources to boost the freedom movement in his home country of Slovenia.

- **Randy Richardson** — a leading free-market philanthropist and friend and collaborator to Sir Antony Fisher. Through his foundation, Randy provided the first grant for Atlas Network to work in Latin America.

- **Jesus Eduardo Rodriguez** — a Venezuelan businessman who co-founded Atlas Network partner CEDICE and worked throughout his life to preserve in Venezuela a movement opposed to the socialism of Chavez and Maduro.

- **Dr. Jack Templeton** — president of the John Templeton Foundation, as it became the largest supporter of innovative efforts to promote free enterprise around the globe.
Our growing network

Atlas Network is proud to welcome its newest partners:

- Center for Indonesian Policy Studies, Indonesia
- Centre for Public Policy, Sri Lanka
- Centro Atlántico de Pensamiento Estratégico, Spain
- Centro Diego de Covarrubias, Spain
- Foundation for Economic Freedom, Albania
- Geneva Network, United Kingdom
- Greek Liberal Monitor, Greece
- Independent Entrepreneurship Group (Ineng), South Africa
- Instituto de Estudios de la Sociedad, Chile
- Instituto Liberal de São Paulo, Brazil
- Justitia, Denmark
- Linden – Taxpayers’ Association, Croatia
- Lodi Liberale, Italy
- Navarra Center for International Development, Spain
- New Zealand Taxpayers’ Union, New Zealand
- Niskanen Center, United States
- Principios Republicanos para una Sociedad Abierta, Argentina
- Prometheus – The Liberty Institute, Germany
- Radical Social Entrepreneurs, United States
- Red FloridaBlanca, Spain
- Southeast Asia Network for Development, Malaysia
- Spark Freedom, United States
- SuaraKebebasan.org, Indonesia
- Teach North Korean Refugees, South Korea
- Thailand Future Foundation, Thailand
- Think-In, Italy
- The Undercurrent, United States
- Visio Institut, Slovenia

New Atlas Network team members

Eric D. Dixon
Editor

Nicholas Miller
Development and Events Associate

Katherine Price
Development Associate

Clark Ruper
Director of Development

Mariana Zepeda
Research Associate and Assistant to the President
Atlas Network is pleased to welcome Charles Murray as its next Templeton Leadership Fellow. In this capacity, Murray will serve as the keynote speaker at Atlas Network’s gala 2015 Freedom Dinner and play key roles in other events and communications efforts. The renowned scholar’s latest book, *By the People* (2015), suggests a citizen-led approach to curbing the excesses of the regulatory state.

“It is a real honor for Atlas Network to welcome Dr. Murray as our new Templeton Leadership Fellow,” Atlas Network CEO Brad Lips said. “At their best, our think tank partners conduct solid research to illuminate public policy problems, and develop innovative solutions that aren’t bound by politics. Charles Murray provides a great example in both categories.”

Throughout his career, Murray has distinguished himself both as a social scientist and as a policy innovator. His first major book, *Losing Ground* (1984), is widely credited with laying the intellectual foundation for the Welfare Reform Act of 1996.

Since that time, he has proposed reforms to American higher education (*Real Education*, 2008), developed a quantifiable approach to measuring contributions to the arts and sciences (*Human Achievement*, 2003), suggested a minimum income policy to replace the welfare state (*In Our Hands*, 2006), outlined his own philosophy of liberty (*What It Means to Be a Libertarian*, 1996), and explored the causes and consequences of an increasing sociocultural divide in American society (*The Bell Curve*, 1994; and *Coming Apart*, 2012). Murray currently serves as the American Enterprise Institute’s W. H. Brady Scholar.

Templeton Leadership Fellow is an honorary position at Atlas Network that brings new ideas and new audiences to its partners in the worldwide think tank network. The position is funded via a generous grant from the Templeton Religion Trust. Previous Templeton Leadership Fellows have included Peruvian author Mario Vargas Llosa, who won the Nobel Prize in Literature shortly after accepting, and Russian chess champion and human rights activist Garry Kasparov.
Establish Your Legacy with a Planned Gift

We would like to thank the members of the Fisher Legacy Society, Atlas Network’s planned giving program:

Charles Albers
John* and Christine Blundell
Dorian Fisher*
Dan Grossman
Thor Halvorssen
Todd Hansen
George L. Hesse*
Bruce Jacobs*
David Keyston

Brad and Stephanie Lips
Ron Manners
Tom G. Palmer
George Pearson
Robert Poole
Vida Rihnikar*
Jan E.G. Smit*
William O. Sumner
Will Wohler

To learn more about the Fisher Legacy Society and plan your gift, contact Stephanie@AtlasNetwork.org or 202.449.8449.

*Deceased

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1201 L Street NW
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New York City | November 11-12 | Featuring Charles Murray + Randy Barnett

$25,000 Think Tank Shark Tank sponsored by the Rising Tide Foundation | $100,000 Templeton Freedom Award

Join us for the worldwide freedom movement’s most inspirational event of the year. RSVP: AtlasNetwork.org/LFFD15

Register online at AtlasNetwork.org/LFFD15

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