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## **Skoll Foundation Announces 2015 Skoll Awards for Social Entrepreneurship EDUCATE GIRLS among Four Global Winners**

**OXFORD, April 13, 2015**— At the 12th Annual Skoll World Forum this week, the Skoll Foundation today announced the four recipients of the 2015 Skoll Award for Social Entrepreneurship – Educate Girls being one of the four recipients.

Each Awardee receives a \$1.25 million, three-year core support investment to scale their work and increase their impact. They also gain leverage through their long-term participation in a global community of visionary leaders and innovators dedicated to solving the world’s most pressing problems.

The Skoll Awards distinguish transformative leaders who are disrupting the status quo, driving large-scale change, and are poised to make an even greater impact on the world.

“Social entrepreneurs dare to change the world,” said Jeff Skoll, Founder and Chairman of the Skoll Foundation. “Within every social entrepreneur is an unwavering belief that big, seemingly intractable problems offer unsurpassed opportunities. By instigating seismic change in our society where it is desperately needed—in the education of girls and the protection of resources like our air, oceans, and public lands—these four entrepreneurs are giving us good reason to believe in a radically better future.”

The Skoll Award recognizes social entrepreneurs whose innovations have already had significant, proven impact on some of the world’s most pressing problems, and invests directly in the promise of even greater impact at scale. By investing in organizations when an innovation is ripe for accelerated and scaled adoption, the Skoll Awards help unleash the full global potential and reach of social entrepreneurs.

“Our 2015 Skoll Award recipients are rare individuals who don’t just see that something is amiss in the world,” said Sally Osberg, President and CEO of the Skoll Foundation. “They are stepping forward to stand for an end to inequality, violence and injustice, and for an end to overexploitation and poisoning of the Earth’s resources. They’re navigating new territory—fashioning new channels and new expectations of leaders from the private and public sectors alike.”

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This year's four Awardees – *Educate Girls*, *Blue Ventures*, *Institute of Public and Environmental Affairs* and *Foundation for Ecological Security* are social entrepreneurs developing new solutions to help preserve the world's most precious resources by investing in the promise of girls, building sustainable coastal communities; expanding transparency to fight pollution; and securing a better future for the rural poor.

Watch these remarkable social entrepreneurs accept their awards at the Skoll World Forum's Awards Ceremony on Thursday, April 16, 2015 at 5:30-7:00 PM (GMT + 1), LIVE!

#### About the Skoll Awards:

The Skoll Foundation presents the Skoll Awards for Social Entrepreneurship each year to a select group of social entrepreneurs whose proven innovations are disrupting an unjust and unsustainable status quo and have demonstrated impact on solving some of the world's most pressing problems. The Skoll Award recognizes organizations that have the potential to scale their success and also to drive large scale, systems change.

#### About the Skoll Foundation:

Jeff Skoll created the Skoll Foundation in 1999 to pursue his vision of a sustainable world of peace and prosperity. Led by CEO Sally Osberg since 2001, our mission is to drive large-scale change by investing in, connecting, and celebrating social entrepreneurs and the innovators who help them solve the world's most pressing problems. Social entrepreneurs are society's change agents, creators of innovations that disrupt the status quo and transform our world for the better. By identifying the people and programs already bringing positive change around the world, we empower them to extend their reach, deepen their impact, and fundamentally improve society.

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#### **List of 2015 Winners:**

##### **Safeena Husain**

##### **Educate Girls**

##### ***Investing in the promise of girls***

Investing in the promise of girls, In recent years, India has enacted policies and invested in girls' education, resulting in dramatic gains in access to education. However, in many areas, community expectations and accountability for educating girls remain low—a majority of girls do not complete their primary education. Safeena Husain founded Educate Girls to ensure that girls in India's most marginalized rural communities are able to achieve their full potential. Educate Girls partners with public schools, trains local champions for girls' education, and mobilizes communities to create their own action plans to make education more accessible and accountable to girls. Since 2007, Educate

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Girls has grown from a 50-school pilot project into a large-scale effort reaching 1 million children in 7,500 schools. With plans to achieve even greater scale over the next few years, Educate Girls is preparing a generation of young women to enter the formal economy and help lift their families out of poverty.

[www.educategirls.in](http://www.educategirls.in)

**Alasdair Harris**

*Blue Ventures*

*Building sustainable coastal communities*

**Ma Jun**

*Institute of Public and Environmental Affairs*

*Lifting the veil on pollution*

**Jagdeesh Rao**

*Puppala Foundation for Ecological Security*

*Securing common land ensures a better future for the rural poor*

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