

# ASHOKA

## PHILIPPINES

**Identifying and Supporting the  
Country's Leading Social Innovators**

# What is Ashoka?

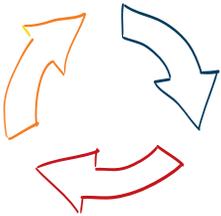
Founded in 1980, Ashoka is a pioneer global organization that supports social innovation to transform the citizen sector. We are committed to building a society where everyone is a changemaker with the confidence and ability to solve their community's challenges. We do this by:



## IDENTIFYING & SUPPORTING SOCIAL INNOVATORS

The Ashoka Fellowship is the world's largest association of leading social entrepreneurs -- a network of social innovators who are creatively solving some of the world's most pressing social challenges. Once elected into the Fellowship, Ashoka Fellows receive strategic support to scale their ideas, access to a powerful global community of peers, and connections to financial support.

In the Philippines, we are building the local fellowship of social innovators and connecting them to Ashoka's global platform.



## ENABLING A CULTURE OF CHANGEMAKING

In today's world, the pace of change is accelerating. People, businesses, organizations, and communities will need to think and act differently to respond to our communities' challenges. Instead of relying on others to solve their problems, changemakers see themselves as agents of change. They are able to respond to problems quickly with resilience, creativity and empathy. Ashoka works closely with companies, schools, and policymakers to help strengthen the local culture of changemaking.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Once elected into the Fellowship, what are Ashoka Fellows required to do?

The Ashoka Fellowship is not a leadership award or an academic fellowship. It is an active community of leading social entrepreneurs who collaborate and support each others' lifetime commitment to social change. Once elected into the Fellowship, all the Fellow needs to do is to continue his or her systems-changing work.

### Is Ashoka a charity or a grant-giving institution?

Ashoka is not a charity or welfare organization. We are looking to support the most promising social innovations in the country and help them reach the next level of social impact. Although Fellows are eligible for a small three-year living stipend, the main benefit of the Fellowship is the powerful global network, the visibility, and the professional support that Ashoka provides. In fact, many of our Fellows choose not to receive a stipend.

### Does Ashoka invest in social enterprises?

Ashoka does not invest in projects, it invests in people. The Ashoka Fellowship provides personal and professional support to individuals with systems-changing solutions to a social problem. Candidates with both for-profit and non-profit models may apply granted that social impact is the primary objective of the idea. Candidates must demonstrate how their approach is different from what currently exists in the field.

### Beyond the Ashoka Fellowship, are there other Ashoka initiatives?

Yes. Beyond building a fellowship of social entrepreneurs, Ashoka's goal is to help create a world where everyone is a changemaker. We have built a wide range of programs to engage all aspects of society -- from business and schools to journalists and policymakers.

For more information, please visit [www.ashoka.org](http://www.ashoka.org) and [philippines.ashoka.org](http://philippines.ashoka.org).

# Ashoka Fellow Criteria: Who are we looking for?



## THE NEW IDEA

Ashoka is looking for individuals with a clear pattern-changing idea – a fresh new proposition for how society can address a certain social problem. We are looking to support social innovators who see the big picture and are developing a long-term systematic approach to addressing the root causes of a problem. We are looking for innovations in any field of social change, from health and education to human rights and the environment.

Although the idea is new, Ashoka expects the social entrepreneur to have already spent a significant period of time developing extensive knowledge and experience in the system that he or she is trying to change. Ashoka seeks to support social innovators who have tested their new idea and are poised to move to the next level of social impact.



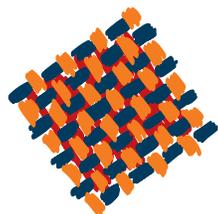
## SOCIAL IMPACT

Beyond one-off initiatives, the social entrepreneur seeks to change the system as a whole. Ashoka evaluates the innovation based on its potential to eventually have nationwide impact. Ashoka Fellows are not obsessed with a particular solution. Instead, they are obsessed with improving the lives of their communities and solving specific social problems.



## CREATIVITY

If a social entrepreneur is building a truly innovative solution, each day will bring a new set of challenges and opportunities. Ashoka is looking for highly creative individuals. They have a history of approaching problems and defining goals with ingenuity and imagination.



## ENTREPRENEURIAL QUALITY

Ashoka is not looking for entrepreneurs in the commercial sense. Rather, we are looking for individuals who are fully committed to realizing a new vision and have the practical ability to build and implement this new idea. They are practical visionaries willing to work full-time towards building solutions that will bring about systemic, structural changes in society. Undaunted by unforeseen challenges, they adapt quickly to change.



## ETHICAL FIBER

Ashoka Fellows must have unquestionable ethical fiber. Social entrepreneurs introducing major structural changes to society must ask a lot of people to change how they do things. If the entrepreneur is not trusted, the likelihood of success is significantly reduced. The quality of Ashoka's global lifelong fellowship depends highly on the members' ability to trust one another. Ashoka dedicates a significant amount of time and resources in the selection process towards evaluating candidates for this quality.

# Ashoka Fellow Selection Process: How does it work?

All Ashoka Fellows around the world have gone through the same rigorous selection process. The full process takes several months and includes both local and international evaluations.

## 1. NOMINATION

Local Ashoka team actively sources candidates and receives nominations. Self-nominations are also welcome.

## 2. FIRST OPINION REVIEW

Extensive interviews and due diligence by local team to identify systemic innovation and candidate's criteria fit.

## 3. SECOND OPINION REVIEW

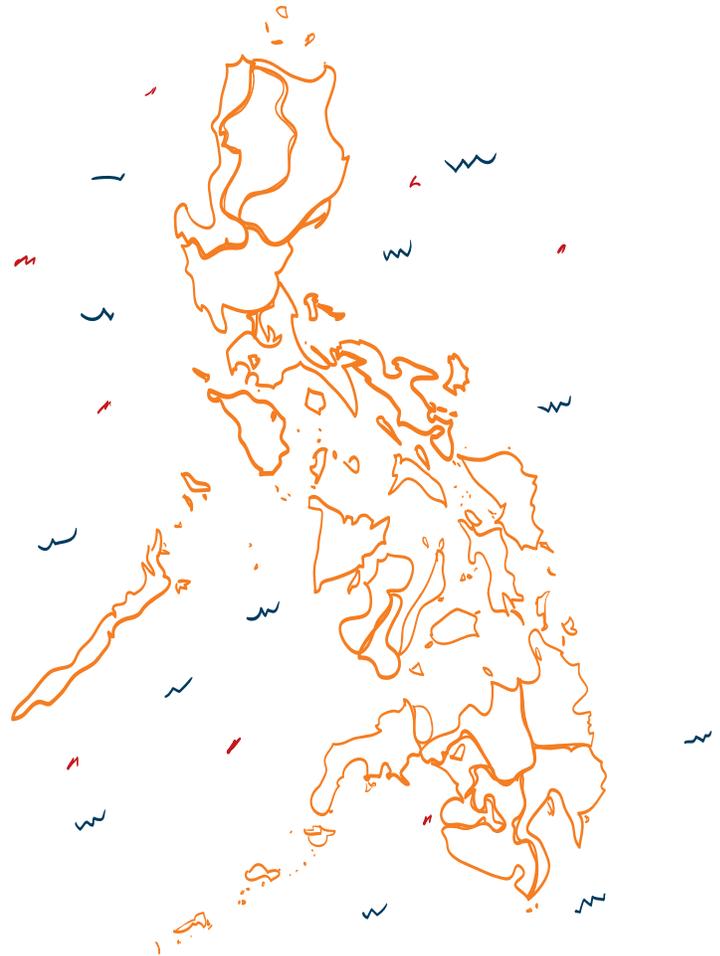
Senior Ashoka representative from outside the region interviews and evaluates the candidate based on a global perspective.

## 4. SELECTION PANEL

Candidate is evaluated by a panel consisting of 3 to 4 top local social and business entrepreneurs with expertise relevant to the candidate's field of work.

## 5. INTERNATIONAL BOARD APPROVAL

Ashoka's international Board of Directors reviews the candidate's profile and makes the final election decision.



## Nominate an Ashoka Fellow: Help us find the Philippines' leading social innovators

Do you know someone who you believe will help change Filipino society? Does this person have a fresh new approach to a pressing social problem?

To nominate an Ashoka Fellow, go to: [philippines.ashoka.org/nominate](https://philippines.ashoka.org/nominate)  
Please visit [philippines.ashoka.org](https://philippines.ashoka.org) for selection updates and upcoming deadlines.  
For more information, please contact us at [philippines@ashoka.org](mailto:philippines@ashoka.org).

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