

## **Rep. Honda Statement on awarding the Congressional Gold Medal to Dr. Muhammad Yunus**

Written by Mike Honda

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As Chairman of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC), I would like to personally recognize the effect of his work in the distressed areas of his home country Bangladesh and in countries across Asia. He has had an especially immense impact on improving the economic livelihoods of women, who disproportionately shoulder the burden of poverty, but are statistically more likely than men to devote earnings to their families. Dr. Yunus's commitment to helping women and in turn their families is highlighted by the Grameen Bank's lending practices: 95 percent of microcredit borrowers are women.

Dr. Muhammaed Yunus is a Bangladeshi banker, economist and Nobel Peace Price recipient. He is credited with developing the concept of microfinance and has loaned over eight billion dollars to the poor through microcredit models at the Grameen Bank. In addition to receiving the Nobel Peace Prize, he has been awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the World Food Prize, the Sydney peace Prize and the Ecuadorian Peace prize.

The world has benefited greatly from Dr. Yunus's committed advocacy and leadership on grassroots development. He has given a voice to the world's most vulnerable populations and provided a path to self-empowerment that only the entrepreneurial spirit can provide. I am proud to say I share Dr. Yunus's passion and look forward to future opportunities for collaboration to improve the lives of people everywhere.