



Tariq H. Cheema

PHYSICIAN
PHILANTHROPIST
IMPACT ENTREPRENEUR

Tariq H. Cheema

Tariq Cheema is a philanthropist and impact entrepreneur, best known for founding the World Congress of Muslim Philanthropists and the Global Donors Forum. Opting to leave behind a promising surgical career in 1997 to address global disparities, he has since established himself as a social innovator and strategist, specializing in public, private, and corporate giving programs. Dr. Cheema has led numerous development initiatives, adeptly managed substantial grant portfolios, and designed strategic philanthropy and impact investing frameworks. Embodying a visionary approach to advancing equitable economic and social progress, he seamlessly integrates the forces of philanthropy, business acumen, and political influence. On the entrepreneurial front, he is the director of Southeast Business Group, a U.S.-based family holding active in technology, healthcare, and investment in emerging economies. His pioneering work in modernizing and institutionalizing Muslim philanthropy globally has earned him international acclaim. Dr. Cheema ranks among the top 500 most influential Muslims shaping our world today.

RECOGNITIONS

The Muslim 500 | 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015

Ukraine, Chernivtsi Oblast Commendation | 2022

Governor of Punjab Commendation | 2021, 2022

Pride of Pakistan – Hall of Fame | 2018

UNAOC Global Expert | 2013

Louis T. Delgado “Social Justice in Philanthropy” Award | 2010

APPNA Presidential Award | 2009

United States Congressional Commendation | 2007

Asian American Community Service Award | 2005

Northwestern University, Kellogg Entrepreneur Mentor Award | 2004

Indo-Pak Peace Building Award | 2003

ASSIGNMENTS

ALIGHT [Formerly American Refugee Committee]
Executive Director, Pakistan-Afghanistan | 2013 – Present

National Disaster Management Authority, Pakistan |
Isolation Hospital & Infection Treatment Center IHITC,
Islamabad
Project Director | 2020 – 2021

EAA-Educating One Million Out-of-School Children Project, Pakistan
Chief of Party | 2018 – 2021

Association of Pakistani Physicians of North America (APPNA), United States
Executive Director | 2006 – 2010

Nonprofit Empowerment Group, United States
President | 2003 – 2006

Doctors Worldwide, United States
Founding Executive Director | 2000 – 2003

WHO-Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC), Switzerland
Civil Society Advocacy Coordinator | 1999 – 2000

Islamic Medical Association of North America (IMANA), United States
Associate Director | 1997 – 1999

Karachi Chamber of Commerce Hospital
Project Director | 1995 – 1996

Southeast Business Group, United States
Principal Shareholder | 1992 – Present

FELLOWSHIPS

Indiana University, Lilly Family School for Philanthropy-MPI, United States
Senior Philanthropy Leadership Fellow | 2023

Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE)
Visiting Senior Fellow | 2021

El-Hibri Foundation, United States
Adaptive Leadership Fellow | 2022
Public Narrative Fellow | 2019

Salzburg Global Seminar, Austria
Philanthropy Studies Fellow | 2012

The Bellagio Initiative, Italy
Philanthropy & Development Fellow | 2012

Madinah Institute of Leadership & Entrepreneurship, Saudi Arabia
Advanced Leadership & Management Fellow | 2011

Rockefeller Foundation, United States
Next Generation Leadership Fellow | 2001-2003

ACADEMICS

Indiana University, Lilly Family School of Philanthropy, United States

Certificate in Fundraising Management | 2012

The University of Illinois at Chicago, United States

Executive Education, International Health Leadership
2006

Loyola University Chicago, United States

Graduate Certificate, Advanced Study in Philanthropy |
2000 - 2001

American College of Physician Executives (ACPE)

Member | 1995

İstanbul Üniversitesi-Cerrahpaşa Tıp Fakültesi, Türkiye

Doctor of Medicine | 1987 - 1993

Ankara Üniversitesi-TÖMER, Türkiye

Diploma in the Turkish Language | 1983 - 1984

Forman Christian College, Lahore, Pakistan

Higher Secondary Education | 1980 - 1982

PUBLICATIONS

Global Solutions Journal [THINK20]

Global Solutions Summit Edition 2021- Contributor

Global Best Practices for CSO, NGO, and Other Nonprofit Boards

BoardSource, Wiley, 2018 - Co-Author

Alliance Magazine: Special Feature on Muslim Philanthropy

September 2018 - Guest Editor

Journal of Muslim Philanthropy & Civil Society

Lilly Family School of Philanthropy, IUPUI

Member, Editorial Board, since 2018

Global Fundraising: How the World is Changing the Rules of Philanthropy

Wiley, John & Sons, 2013 - Co-Author

Global Philanthropy: The Past and Present

Mercator Fund, 2010 - Co-Author

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Gaza - Relief Mission | 2023

Türkiye - Syria Earthquake | 2023

Pakistan Floods | 2022-2023

Ukraine-Russia Conflict | 2022

Afghan Refugee Crisis | 2022

The Covid-19 Pandemic | 2020-2021

Pakistan FATA IDPs Crisis | 2015

Pakistan Floods | 2010-2011

Pakistan Swat IDPs Crisis | 2009

Pakistan Earthquake | 2005

Hurricane Katrina | 2005

Indian Ocean Earthquake & Tsunami | 2004

Kosovo Medical Mission | 2000

Turkey Izmit Earthquake | 1999

Chechen-Russia Conflict | 1999

Bosnia & Herzegovina Medical Mission | 1997-1998

Turkey Erzincan Earthquake | 1992

AFFILIATIONS (past and present)

Founder

World Congress of Muslim Philanthropists (MuslimFunders) | Global Donors Forum (GDF) | US National Network of Diaspora Giving | Medical Tourism Association of Pakistan | Pakistan Alliance for Girls Education (PAGE)

Co-founder

OrthoPak | Diversity Forums | Doctors Worldwide | Academy of Philanthropy | Policy and Research Institute of Zakat Economics (PRIZE) | Pakistan Philanthropy Forum | Pakistan Action Consortium for Education (PACE) | Health For All Collective (HFAC)

Trustee

Islamic Medical Association of North America | Momina Cheema Foundation | Doctors Worldwide Trust Hospital | Taaleem Foundation | Pakistan Children Heart Foundation | Kashmir Education Foundation | Food Security & Agriculture Center of Excellence (FACE)

Advisor

International Organization for Migration IOM, Geneva | Lingshan World Philanthropy Forum, China | International Zakat Organization, Malaysia | Finocracy, UAE | Ali Vural Ak Center for Global Islamic Studies at George Mason University, US | AFG College, Qatar | American Islamic College, US | Nonprofit Empowerment Group, US | Zakat Foundation Institution, US | Shifa International Hospital, Pakistan | IU Muslim Philanthropy Initiative, US | Development Strategies, Pakistan | Chicago Clerkships, US

Member

APPNA | Hayat Sağlık Vakfı | IMANA | Lahore Gymkhana | Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry | Istanbul University Alumni | Loyola University Chicago Alumni | Forman Christian College Alumni

PRESS COVERAGE

AlJazeera | Alliance Magazine | Anadolu Ajans | Arab News | Associated Press | BBC | Chicago Tribune | Chronicle of Philanthropy | Daily Sabah | Dawn | Financial Times | Global Citizen | Gulf News | Independent | Khaleej Times | Los Angeles Times | New York Times | NPR | Philanthropy Age | Saudi Gazette | The Express Tribune | The National | The News International | The Star | TRT World | Voice of America