

NOBEL PRIZES

What do blue LEDs, a therapy against Malaria and conductive polymers have in common? All of them were found or invented by Asian Nobel laureates. To this date, more than 50 Asians have been honored with a Nobel Prize, roughly half of them from Japan. The high number of Nobel Peace Prizes reflects Asia's turbulent recent history.



MALALA YOUSAFZAI
2014, Pakistan

KAILASH SATYARTH
2014, India

Yousafzai, who narrowly survived an assassination attempt by the Taliban, and Satyarthi, a children's rights activist, were honored "for their struggle against the suppression of children and young people and for the right of all children to education." Aged 17, Yousafzai became the youngest Nobel laureate in history.



LIU XIAOBO
2010, China

Through hundreds of essays, Xiaobo advocated for political reform in China. While in prison, he was honored "for his long and non-violent struggle for fundamental human rights."



MUHAMMAD YUNUS
2006, Bangladesh

Yunus, an economics professor, established the system of micro-credits granted to poor people. He and Grameen, the bank he founded, were honored "for their efforts to create economic and social development from below."



AUNG SAN SUU KYI
1991, Myanmar

As an opposition leader in exile and, after her return, under house arrest, Aung San Suu Kyi campaigned against the military junta in Myanmar. She was honored "for her non-violent struggle for democracy and human rights."



THE 14TH DALAI LAMA
1989, China

While in exile in India, the religious and political leader of the Tibetans was honored for advocating for "peaceful solutions based upon tolerance and mutual respect in order to preserve the historical and cultural heritage of his people."



EISAKU SATO
1974, Japan

As prime minister, Sato signed the nuclear arms Non-Proliferation Treaty in 1970. Sharing his Nobel Prize with Sean MacBride of Ireland, he was honored for his work "for limitation of nuclear weapons and for international conciliation."



LE DUC THO
1973, Vietnam (declined)

Le Duc Tho, chief negotiator for Vietnam in the war, and Henry Kissinger, his US-American counterpart, were honored for their efforts to end a "gruesome war." This Nobel Peace Prize remains one of the most controversial in history.



KIM DAE-JUNG
2000, South Korea

The President of South Korea was honored "for his work for democracy and human rights in South Korea and in East Asia in general, and for peace and reconciliation with North Korea in particular".



CARLOS F. X. BELO
1996, East Timor

Belo, a bishop and head of the Catholic church in East Timor, and Ramos-Horta, a resistance leader and diplomat, were honored "for their work towards a just and peaceful solution to the conflict in East Timor."



JOSÉ RAMOS-HORTA
1996, East Timor

The 54 laureates by country and category*:

● Chemistry ● Physics ● Physiology or Medicine ● Peace ● Literature ● Economic Sciences

Total of 27 = 11 (7) 5 (3) 1 JAPAN

9 = 4 (2) 2 (1) CHINA

8 = 2 (2) 1 (1) 1 (1) 1 (1) INDIA

2 EAST TIMOR

1 (1) PAKISTAN

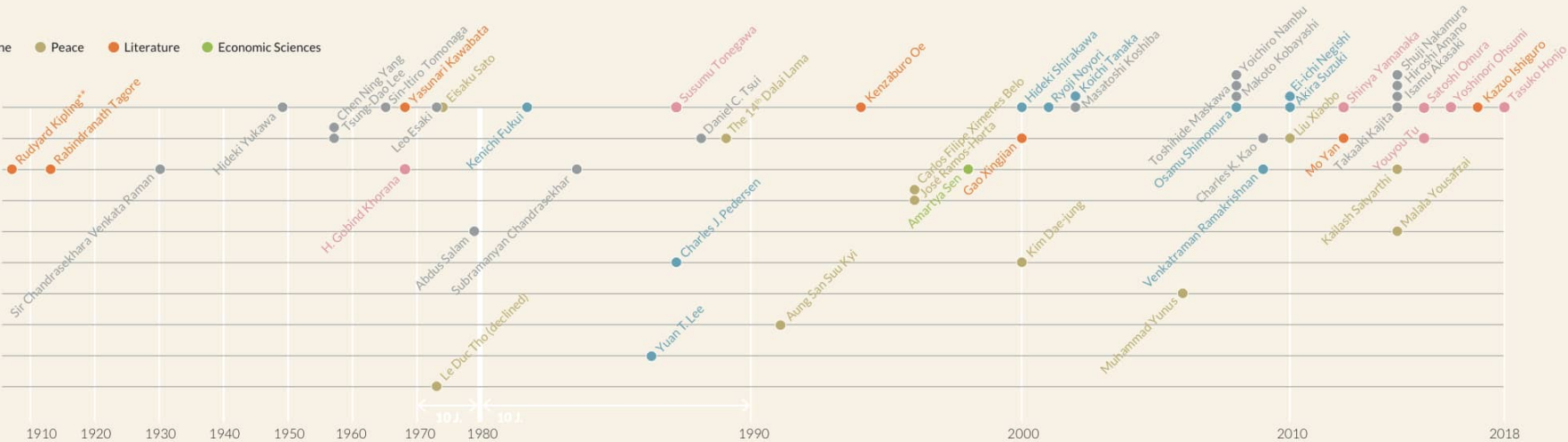
1 (1) SOUTH KOREA

1 BANGLADESH

1 MYANMAR

1 TAIWAN

1 VIETNAM



* While many scientific breakthroughs have been achieved overseas, particularly in the United States, this list includes laureates with Asian roots, regardless of their academic affiliation or citizenship at the time of the award.

** Kipling was a British citizen who was born and lived in (British) India.