



Matthew Friedman

CEO of The Mekong Club
Award-winning Public Speaker, Author,
Filmmaker & Philanthropist

*Helping Executives Find Greater Purpose by
Doing Good and Doing the Right Thing,
and Guiding Organisations to Stay on the
Right Side of their Moral Obligations*

Matthew Friedman

His work in Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking

Matthew Friedman is a **leading, internationally renowned global expert** on **modern slavery and human trafficking**. An **award-winning** public speaker, author, filmmaker, and philanthropist, Matthew regularly advises **heads of governments and intelligence agencies**. As the **founder and CEO** of The Mekong Club, Matthew is considered the **leading catalyst** of the anti-slavery movement in Asia's business sector by captains of industry.

From 2006 to 2012, Matt was the **Regional Project Manager** of the United Nations Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking (UNIAP) in Thailand, an inter-agency coordinating body that links the United Nations system with governments and civil society groups in China, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam.

From 1991-2006, Matt worked for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in Thailand, Bangladesh and Nepal. For over a decade, he worked passionately to **design** and **manage** both **domestic and regional human trafficking programs**. He also helped **establish** a counter-trafficking regional training centre, participated in resource mobilization, and produced two **award-winning** international films about sex trafficking.

Matt is a **technical advisor** to numerous **governments**. He is frequently cited in the news media, has been invited to speak at major conferences around the world, and is the **author of nine books**.



Matthew Friedman

About him

In 2017, Matthew received the prestigious “**Gold Standard Award For Communicator of the Year**” in Asia for giving more than **800** presentations to **80,000** people including **government leaders** and the **Vatican** on the topic of modern slavery within a five-year period in different countries. Matthew has a **unique** and **powerful speaking style** that **inspires people** to reach their fullest potential.

Each year he is cited at least 40 times in the news media (CNN, Bloomberg, Reuters, Associated Press, the Financial Times, the Economist, etc.) and invited to speak as a keynote at major international conferences around the world.

He has managed and directed **tens of millions of dollars** to major humanitarian portfolios **impacting millions of people** for the World Bank, the U.S. State Department, and the United Nations. His work over the last 30 years of pioneering and managing international anti-human trafficking projects from Nepal, Bangladesh, Thailand and Hong Kong has given him access to many influential networks in different countries throughout the world.



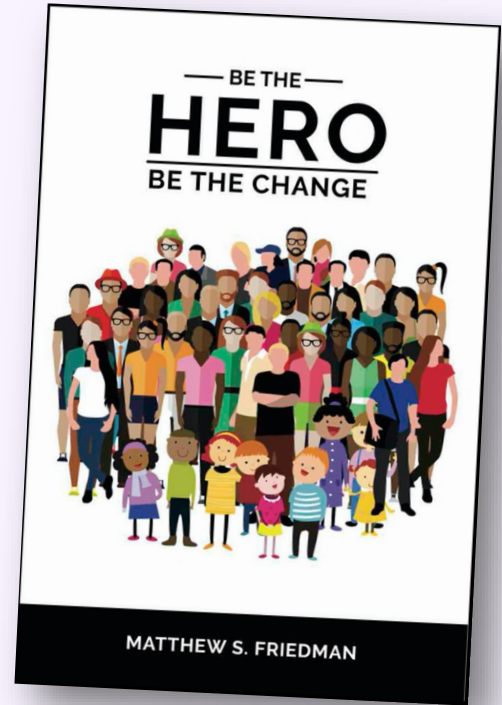
Matthew Friedman

His Latest Book

Help be the change in healing our world. Now more than ever with the Covid-19 pandemic, climate change, modern-day slavery, and other global issues that threaten the lives of millions of people, we need everyone to help.

Matt Friedman's book, ***Be the Hero: Be the Change***, will inspire and uplift readers with his stories of optimism, resilience, and redemption from over 30 years of frontline experience in Asia. In these times of hardship, this book offers a silver lining that each of us has the power to make a difference. Imagine when millions of small acts are multiplied – it could change our communities.

Friedman's call-to-action is this: **identify a cause** that you are passionate about, **accept responsibility** for it, surrender, and then **step-up** to get involved. This book will equip you to better understand the importance of these global issues and is a step-by-step guide to becoming an everyday hero.

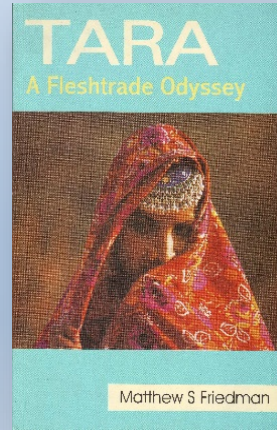
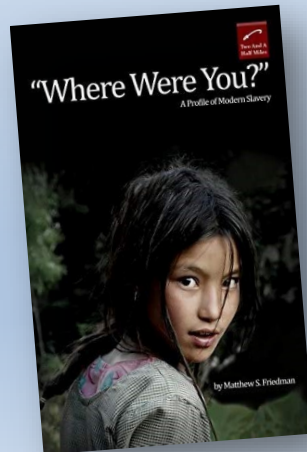


Matthew Friedman

His Other Books

Matt is the author of 12 books ranging from action novels, non-fiction accounts of his human rights work, to a book that outlines his unique philosophy of “time.”

A long-time supporter of film and the media arts, Matthew was an executive producer and advisor on four award-winning films, one of which was nominated for an Emmy and another executive produced by Emma Thompson.



Matthew Friedman

Keynote Topics

His speeches essentially help **"to find the hero in all of us"** and demonstrates how we can all **start the journey** to having a life and career with real **purpose**.

Matthew provides a range of **inspirational** keynote speeches to **teach, mentor and motivate** people from all walks of life **to step-up and take a stand** in life. He has **shifted the mindsets** of thousands of people, even the most resistant detractors.

He **advises executives** about the **cutting-edge trends** that companies need to be aware of so that they stay the right side of **ESG standards** held by customers, employees and shareholders. Managing what happens the **entire length of a company's supply chain** has never been so important.

"Addressing the significant issues of our time isn't someone else's responsibility – it belongs to us all. Until we all step-up as one, our world will continue to suffer."



Matthew Friedman

key facts

Currently ...

- CEO of The Mekong Club
- Filmmaker & Philanthropist
- Author of several well-respected books
- Award-winning speaker
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Formerly ...

- From 2006 to 2012, Matt was the Regional Project Manager, United Nations Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking (UNIAP) in Thailand
- From 1991-2006, Matt worked for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in Thailand, Bangladesh and Nepal
- Senior Reproductive Health Technical Advisor , USAID
- Deputy Technical Director (POPTECH Project), ISIT
- Master's Degree in Health Education, New York University
- Bachelor's degree, Biology and Psychology

Flies from Hong Kong



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Appointed Agency

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