

The background image shows a large conference hall with many people seated at round tables, facing a stage. On the stage, a woman is speaking at a podium. Behind her is a large screen displaying the event title and various sponsor logos including Visa, Google, Twitter, and Adecco.

ASIAN WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

17th May, 2017, Singapore

POST-EVENT REPORT

Sponsors



Knowledge Partners



Industry Partners



Non-Industry Partners



Media Partners



Special Thanks to



ASIAN WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP SUMMIT 2017: #acceleratingchange

After a fabulous inaugural event in October 2016, Quest Conferences organised the 2nd Asian Women in Leadership Summit on 17th May 2017 at The Fullerton Hotel.

The second edition saw higher response with over 325 delegates attending from over 130 organisations mostly into senior and executive roles. Visa was the Platinum Sponsor and Supporting Sponsors included Telstra, Google, Twitter, Adecco and Facebook. Deloitte and INSEAD EMI were the knowledge partners for the Summit.

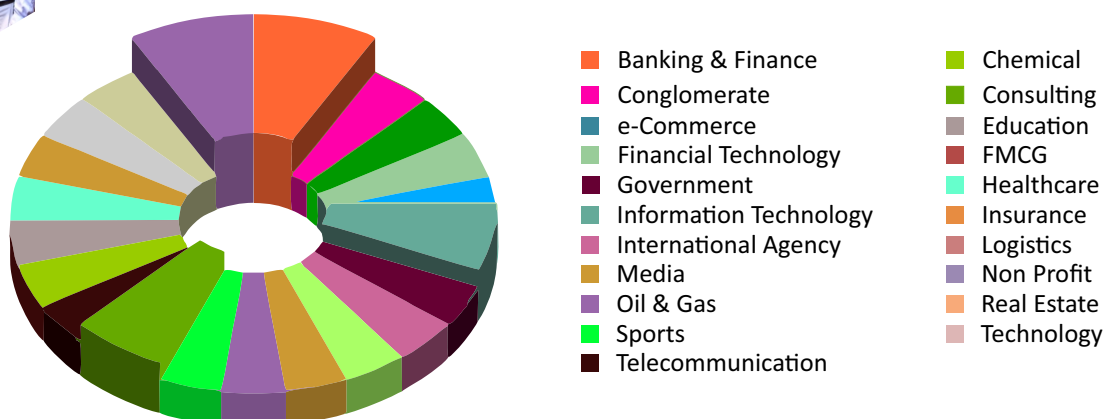
The event started with honouring and ribbon cutting by Ms. Chng Seok Tin – Singaporean and a cultural medallionist, who lost her eyesight after near-death surgeries to treat brain infection and later became a celebrated Artist. She freely uses different art forms in her artworks that are reflections on nature and the human condition. During her speech she mentioned about what does it means to be rich. She recalled that in 1984 she met her professor in University of Iowa and referring to the mind the professor mentioned that if you are in rich here, you are rich. She then said that the same applies to the definition of success.

The presentation of Deloitte, followed the opening ceremony and Juliet Bourke from Deloitte delivered an insightful presentation. She highlighted that presently only 25% of the decision makers are women, and we need 50-50 position to be filled by men & women. Earlier she mentioned that there should be 5-8 number of people to have different set of opinions and thinking about a problem and should include women.

Ms. Ooi Huey Tyng from Visa delivered the opening Keynote and gave an inspirational speech for women aspiring for the leadership positions. In her views, one has to step out of her comfort zone – as we only learn in our discomfort zones. Further, giving a valuable piece of thought she said, “How we respond to adversity will determine how far we go in life.” For the family system, she was of the view that, it is essential to have equal participation of fathers in the family rearing system.

Ms. Vinika Rao from INSEAD EMI shared some insightful statistics. According to her, while climbing up the hierarchy, women drop out more and are less likely to be present in the higher positions. Further, the more senior positions, the more drop off. In her views, women usually outshine men in all areas but one – 'Vision'.

Speaker's Profile by Industry



37 Speakers



6 Sponsors



3 Keynote Addresses

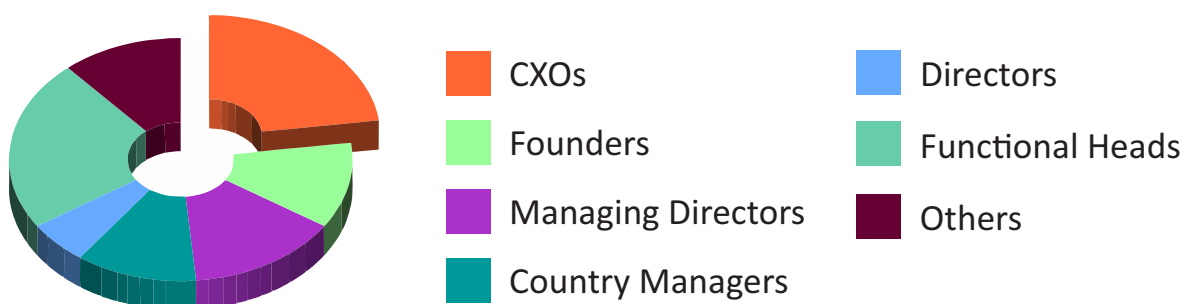
Following her presentation, she moderated the panel with Yuko Nakahira, Managing Director, 3M Singapore, Shinta Widjaja Kamdani, CEO, Sintesa Group Indonesia, Beth Boswell, Head, Communications-Alcon, John Buckley, Chief Risk Officer, J P Morgan, and Jan Anne Schelling, Vice President HR Asia, DSM. While Yuko mentioned that KPIs are essential & women need to know the benefits of moving up the ladder, Shinta was of the view that mentoring is essential while funding & investing in startups and women entrepreneurs. Jan Anne touched upon Sexual Harassment which obstructs women to climb up the ladder and prevents them to reach higher position in corporate. Beth agreed to Jan and recalled how a women had to move laterally rather vertically in order to avoid the ugly situations. John Buckley mentioned that in banking industry due to cultural transition and zero tolerance, such incidences are limited but he admitted that they do happen. However in JP Morgan, these are dealt strictly and swiftly.

Following the morning coffee break the interesting session on Working Couples and Leadership Roles was led by Catherine Feldhausen, Director, Strategy and Marketing Asia, Microsoft. The couple in same organisation was the first in line. Nitin Gajria, Country Manager for Vietnam / Cambodia / Laos, Google and his wife Carissa Dizon, Regional Head, Hardware & Retail Marketing in Google shared their experiences. According to them, women often suffer from imposter syndrome, but the correct way to view this is that at work it is ok that you are learning from others as much as you are contributing.

The second couple worked in senior roles in different organisations. Hari V Krishnan, CEO, Property Guru Group and his wife Maya Hari, Managing Director, Twitter Singapore, had insightful stories to share. According to them, dinner time is essential for the family. While Hari learnt that multitasking at home has helped to open up the dimension of multi tasking at office, Maya had carved the time at home to spend and maximize the quality time with children.

Post lunch, Sarita Peng, APAC Head of Staffing, Facebook facilitated the Fatherhood and Workplaces discussion with Ian Martin, CEO, HSBC Insurance Singapore, Raman Sidhu, Global Head of Learning, Global Commercial-Shell and Pierre-Emmanuel Brard, CIO, AXA Singapore. The panel struck multiple chords. While, Raman Sidhu talked about how he copes as a father in a blended family environment and that "Inclusivity is far more powerful than diversity" i.e. allowing people to speak without fear, not always to do with gender; Ian Martin stressed that "Career is not the end game, its family." He also mentioned that fatherhood starts from being a good husband and role modelling of fatherhood is essential. He encouraged parents at office to be available for family. Pierre said that being father may need you to change your work and fathers as role models to their kids are essential.

Speaker's Profile by Job Level

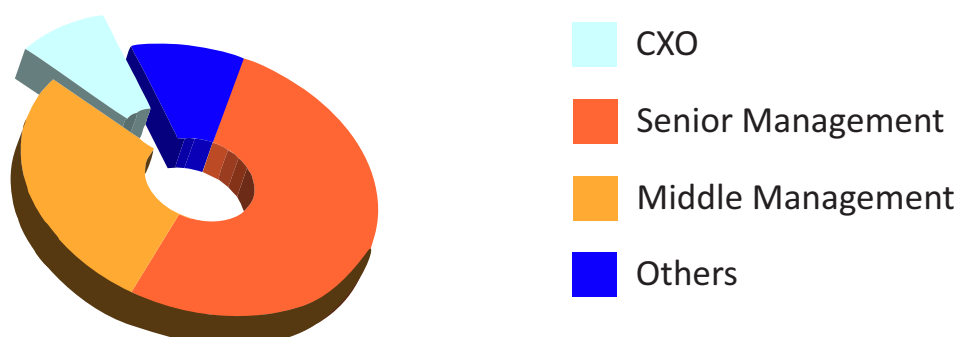




The next panel on the Importance of Sponsorship & Mentorship was moderated by Rana Karadsheh-Haddad, Country Manager, International Finance Corporation, Singapore and included Tan Su Shan, Managing Director, DBS, Michael Mingee, Senior Director of Compliance, Visa, Charles Brewer, CEO, DHL eCommerce, Jessica Tan, Member of Parliament, Singapore and Devadas Krishnadas, CEO, Future-Moves Group as panellists. Tan Su Shan said that Mentees & Mentorship and sponsorship are essential, and coaching women is essential to speak up for their own thoughts. While Michael Mingee said that wives need to demand more, demand more of your man, Jessica Tan was of the view that efficient child care system, paternity leaves help women leaders to succeed. Charles Brewer shared that it is impossible to recruit women in Middle East and in his recruitment drive in Africa, not a single female applied. According to Devadas, the management should help people to strengthen what they are good at and he shared how he managed to retain his female employee even when she moved continents.

The session on Successful Entrepreneurs was led by Kathy Zaleska, VP, Strategic Projects, Lazada where every panellist shared her story. Grace Park of DocDoc shared how her daughter's illness pushed her to start her own and her husband is supporting her, while Jessica Cheam of Eco-Business frustration to see media business on paper pushed her to start her own media agency. Sabrina Tan of SkinInc wanted to solve the problem of skin care and wanted it to be digitalized & customized and hence started her own, while Ayesha of ADDO AI saw a huge gap between technology and artificial intelligence and tried to fill that vacuum.

Attendee Profile by Job Position



Attendee Profile by Industry





The last panel of the day was led by Asha Hemrajani, Member of Board of Directors, ICANN, with Marjet Andriess, Head of Enterprise- Asia, Telstra, Femke Hellemons, Country Manager, Adecco, Singapore, Theresa Goh, Paralympian, Junie Foo, Head, Global Subsidiary Banking, Asia Oceania, Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ and Sophie Guerin, Head of Diversity & Inclusion APAC, Dell. Theresa Goh initiated the discussion mentioning a documentary Miss Representation, which motivates her a lot. Junie Foo recalled that how her mother gave good education. It informed her in a sense that she is a leader. She feels that everyone has leadership qualities; important is how and when we show it. Femke pointed out that she ignored the obstacles; while she wanted to be young female leader; not only to benefit her but other people. Marjet mentioned that even in Netherlands, the higher positions are dominated by males and hence much more is needed everywhere. Sophie said that she had to leave the job after 6 months as people did not recognise her work and then started her own.

Asian Women in Leadership Summit 2017 closed with remarks of Avanya Rao, a grade 11 student at Singapore American School and poised to become President of UN Women's youth chapter in Singapore in the next academic year. She connected the efforts of older generations with her generation, focussing on the need for education to all girls. She read the pledge to promote gender parity and stand against unconscious biases against women. All the participants also affixed their signatures on to the Pledge Cards which will hopefully serve as a reminder for personal and action.

Testimonials

“ A forum for women and men to be aware of the challenges women face at the workplaces & how some of the successful women overcome these issues.
Celine Yap | AXA

“ The diversity of the speakers and the aura of the audience/participants was amazing.
Rae Amarrullah | Schneider Electric

“ Diversity of panelists and speakers was very inspiring. There were stories that can taken back and told.
Lam Sok Jih | Microsoft

“ The panel discussions were particularly "real", which is fantastic. There was none of that fluff which people sometimes associate with D&I
Serene Yeo | VISA

“ Personal stories of panelists was inspiring. Got plenty of time for networking. Really liked the Google couple.
Amanda Vannaken | Caterpillar

“ Real life stories and topics presented was most valuable about the conference.
Zareena Alwee | Innoxcell

“ Statistics about women diversity in the workplace was eye opening. Different ways of navigating to the board table was awesome.
Cora Scheiern | Johnson & Johnson

“ Liked opening address by Chng Seok Tin and Keynote by Juliet Bourke.
Kerryl Howarth | Australian International School

“ Good to see and meet people from different industries.
Vidya Parthasarathy | DBS

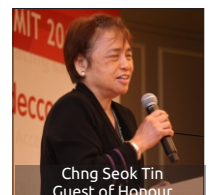
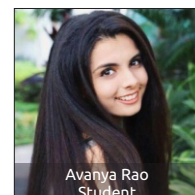
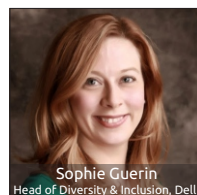
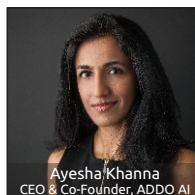
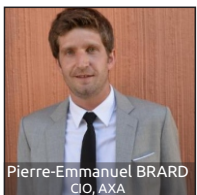
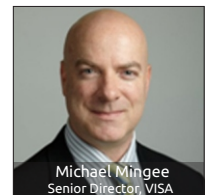
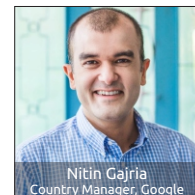
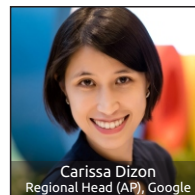
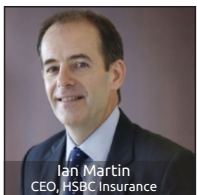
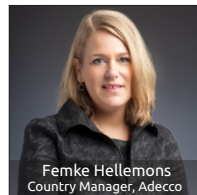
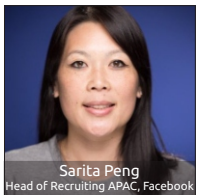
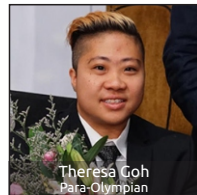
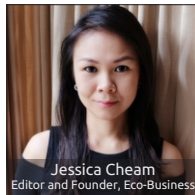
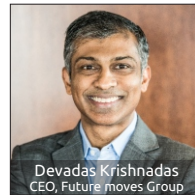
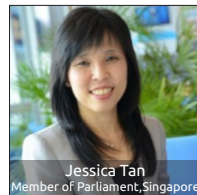
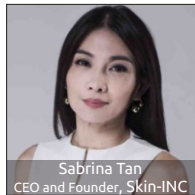
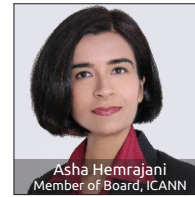
“ Exposure to challenges that other folks experienced. It was a good learning for my own growth.
Irene Yap | VISA

“ Keynote speaker was authentic as she shared about her experiences. One of my favorite quotes was "Leadership is measured in your absence"
Shirley Zhang | Thomson Reuters

“ Good schedule (Speech, panel discussion, spotlight, coffee break,..) made the conference very enjoyable.
Audrey Cochet | Airbus Asia

“ Discussions were amazing. Panelists like Tan Su Shan, Jessica Tan and Keynote Speakers- Ooi Huey Tyng and Juliet Bourke were inspiring.
Eileen Yi | Acelity

Our Distinguished Speakers



Thanks to All our Attendees, Sponsors & Partners for making AWLS 2017 a Big Success!





#accelerating**change** together