



ASIAN-AUSTRALIAN
LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

**40 UNDER 40 MOST INFLUENTIAL ASIAN-AUSTRALIAN AWARDS SEEK TO RESHAPE THE DEBATE
AND CONFRONT AUSTRALIA'S "BAMBOO CEILING" – THE UNDERREPRESENTATION OF
ASIAN-AUSTRALIAN IN LEADERSHIP POSITIONS.**

Vietnamese-Australian community worker, legal-aid and solicitor, **Mrs Nguyen-Tu Le** has been named the overall winner of the **2022 40 Under 40 Most Influential Asian-Australian Awards**, for her powerful contributions to the Asian-Australian Community. Her inspiring journey in the community legal sector assisting victim-survivors of domestic, family and sexual violence deserves significant recognition for her contributions to the Asian-Australian community. She is committed to advocating for greater diversity and justice in Australian society and politics and was featured as one of 21 Inspirational Women of 2021 in Vogue Australia.

Amongst the 40 awardees this year are vocalist, producer and multidisciplinary artist, **Rainbow Chan**, through her multi-faceted practice, she strives to raise awareness of Asian-Australian art & culture and celebrate Australia's diverse cultural heritage; a biomaterials engineer, Academic Fellow, and Deputy Head of School (Education) at the School of Biomedical Engineering at the University of Sydney, **Dr Young Jung No**, who has been active in mentoring Asian students through unique challenges during university, and seeks contribution from First Nations peoples to increase engagement with engineering; and the three-time TEDx speaker, Founder and Speaker of Breathe **Mr Jahin Tanvir**, as a first generation migrant, his vision is to empower people from diverse backgrounds in decision-making and to be a role model to show that young multicultural voices matter and should be given importance.

"Significant bias, discrimination and racism exists against Asian-Australians in both work and non-work situations. To date, there is a lack of focus by senior leaders on leveraging Asian-Australian talent. At a time when everybody is complaining about the lack of talent, the Awards put Asian-Australians under the limelight by celebrating their journey in reaching such an awe-inspiring milestone" says Martine Letts, CEO of Asialink Group.

2022 marks the second year of our new category: **The Under 25 Rising Star** namely **Miss Asha Clementi**, **Angelina Inthavong**, **Mr Jahin Tanvir** and **Alinta Furnell** in response to their great initiatives in multicultural youth advocacy.

"It is crucial for us to recognize the challenges posed upon the Asian-Australian community, in particular; the intensified discriminations they face at work in the post-pandemic world. It is an economic imperative for Australia to leverage its Asian-Australian talent for its future sustainability" says Marina Go, Adore Beauty (ASX: ABY) Chair and keynote speaker.

Asian-Australians account for about 13 percent of our population, but hold under four percent of senior leadership positions. "Chronic under-representation will have an adverse impact on Australia's future success. The Awards aim to broaden the diversity subject and foster contributions of Asian-Australians to our society" says Jieh-Yung Lo, Director ANU Center for Asian-Australian Leadership and co-convener of the Awards.

The Awards – now in their fourth year – are an initiative to seek to reshape the debate and confront Australia's "bamboo ceiling" – the underrepresentation of Asian-Australians in

leadership positions. The Awards were held at the Ivy Ballroom in Sydney on Tuesday 4 October. On behalf of **Johnson Partners, Asialink** at the University of Melbourne, and the centre for **Asian-Australian Leadership at Australian National University**, now is the moment for all of us to recognise the significant contribution made by Asian-Australians to the nation, and engage with communities, corporations, and government to rethink and reshape leadership for the post-pandemic work.

“These awards shine the light on the extraordinary pipeline of Asian-Australian talent with a view to ensuring that the boards and leadership teams of Australia’s most significant organisations are more reflective of our diverse population” says Jason Johnson, founder and Managing Partner of Johnson Partners and co-convenor of the Awards

The full list of awardees of this year’s 40 Under 40 Most Influential Asian-Australian Awards can be found [here](#).

For media enquiries and request to interview co-convenors or award-winners please contact
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For more information about the Asian-Australian Leadership Summit and the 40 Under 40 Most Influential Asian-Australian Awards visit www.asianaustrianleadership.com.au

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(ENDS)

The 40 Under 40 Most Influential Asian-Australians Category Winners:

OVERALL WINNER

Mrs Nguyen-Tu Le - works in the community legal sector assisting victim-survivors of domestic, family and sexual violence and coordinating capacity-building and community legal education programs. She serves as Board director of Addison Road Community Organisation (charity which elevates human rights, arts, culture and sustainability), Deputy-Chair of Asian Women at Work (organisation working to empower migrant women in low paid and precarious employment), Ambassador of Zen Tea Lounge (grassroots charity supporting the empowerment of those affected by domestic violence, abuse and isolation), and Executive member of the Vietnamese Australian Lawyer’s Association (non-profit organisation that raises awareness of human rights, legal rights and obligations of the community). She also served as the General Secretary of the Vietnamese Community in Australia (NSW) from 2015-2017. In 2019, she co-founded YCollab, working with government, business and community organisations to provide opportunities for young people in South-West Sydney to create positive social impact in their local communities through grass-roots youth-led initiatives. In 2021, she co-founded the Vietnamese Australian Forum which acts as a collective to advance Australian society by advocating for political, economic and cultural progress and promoting diverse Vietnamese Australian perspectives.

UNDER 25 RISING STAR*

Angelina Inthavong - as the 2020 and 2021 Youth Member for Bonney in Queensland Youth Parliament, Angelina established the first youth advisory committee to an MP on the Gold Coast (GC) as a platform to advocate for equality and champion the voices of diverse young people. In 2021, Angelina was elected as Queensland’s Youth Health Minister where she led the passing of Youth Bill to provide free menstrual products in all toilets which was presented to different Ministers in Queensland’s actual Parliament. Angelina has been a 2021 GC Women in Business Award Young Achievers Finalist, 2021 GC International Women’s Day Youth Leadership Awardee, 2022 recipient of the C.A.S. Hawker Scholarship and 2022 GC Young Australian of the Year Finalist.

SCIENCE AND MEDICINE

Dr Rona Chandrawati - an Associate Professor and NHMRC Emerging Leadership Fellow at the University of New South Wales (UNSW Sydney). After her PhD, she was awarded a Marie Curie Fellowship to pursue research at Imperial College London, UK. She is the country's leading researcher in colorimetric food sensor technology (SciVal analysis rank #1 in Australia). Her patented colorimetric sensors attached to food packaging enable consumers to monitor food quality and identify food spoilage in real time. Her food sensor technology was recently featured on BBC News, ABC, SBS, and FoodNavigator-Asia. In 2018, Dr Chandrawati was named in the World Economic Forum's 40 Young Scientists Under 40, one of Australia's Most Innovative Engineers by Engineers Australia in 2020, and NSW Early Career Researcher of the Year (Physical Sciences) 2021 as part of the NSW Premier's Prizes for Science & Engineering.

COMMUNITY & ADVOCACY / NOT FOR PROFIT

Angelique Wan - professional background is in accounting and finance, starting her career in banking at Macquarie Group in 2018. Angelique is Consent Labs (a youth-led not-for-profit that delivers consent and respectful relationships education) full-time CEO, and has grown the organisation to a reach of 20,000 participants across Australia. Angelique is the 2022 NSW Young Woman of the Year, 2021 Women of the Future and listed by Instagram as a Top 25 female entrepreneur.

Dr Joyce Yu - a doctor working in Sydney, and the Co-Founder and Director of Consent Labs (a youth-led not-for-profit that delivers consent and respectful relationships education). Her passion was born out of lived experiences during university, where there was a clear need for greater awareness of consent, sexual harassment and assault. Joyce is a passionate advocate for gender equity, diversity and inclusion in all spaces that she works. Within medicine, she is currently involved in researching the impacts of pregnancy and parenthood on surgical training in Australia and ANZ.

ARTS & CULTURE

Michelle Law - works in print, screen and stage. Her highly acclaimed play *Single Asian Female*, commissioned by La Boite, transferred to a sold-out season at Belvoir in 2018, followed by the Arts Centre Melbourne in 2019. Auckland Theatre Company staged an original production of the work in 2021 and Theatre Company South Australia will stage an original production in 2022. Michelle is a writer for the upcoming drama series *Safe Home* for SBS and Kindling Pictures. Michelle is also an advocate for social causes and has presented a TEDx talk, as well as being a prolific speaker about issues concerning intersectional feminism, cultural identity and race. In 2016, Michelle won the Queensland Premier's Young Publishers and Writers Award. She is a widely published freelance writer, her work featuring in numerous books, magazines, broadsheet newspapers and literary journals. Her book, *'Asian Girls Are Going Places'*, was published through Hardie Grant in 2022.

CORPORATE SECTOR

Miss Mahjabeen Zaman - is presently the Head of FX Research at ANZ. She is an influencer and subject matter expert, regularly appearing on Bloomberg, Sky news, SBS, & ABC and a contributor to articles published in Australian Financial Review (AFR) and Sydney Morning Herald. As an avid financial market commentator she , was selected as one of twelve women in Australia for the prestigious Bloomberg New Voices Programme 2020. She is a non-executive director at the Future2 Foundation, a not-for-profit program supporting low-income individuals, achieve financial literacy. As a subject matter expert in ESG & Sustainability, Mahjabeen lectures at Macquarie University, sharing her passion for Sustainability and Finance with future leaders in finance.

EDUCATION SECTOR

Xiaoxiao Li (Sabrina Li) – is an Educational Leader, International Student Coordinator and Senior Chinese Language teacher at St Margaret's Berwick Grammar School. Sabrina is also the Director of a federal granted educational startup. Sabrina is a passionate, intelligent and dynamic leader committed to building strategic cross-cultural networks to engage people in education, languages and business fields in Australia and Asia. Currently, Sabrina is participating in Asialink Leadership Program and Casey Council Leadership Program to gain skills that could widely promote diversity and global citizenship in the local community and ultimately reflect her commitment towards building best practice in bridging cross-cultural gaps and sustaining bilateral relationships.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Belinda Bentley – is a leading property and construction professional and the Co-Founding Director of 9Springs, an independent property investment and advisory group. Belinda holds the 2021 National Association for Women in Construction (NAWIC) NSW Business Woman of Year Award, the 2021 Urban Development Institute of Australia's (UDIA) National Women in Leadership Excellence Award and the 2020 UDIA NSW Women in Leadership Excellence Award. Belinda is also the first recipient of the UDIA National and NSW Women in Leadership Excellence Award of Asian heritage since it commenced in 2010. Belinda is the youngest Non-Executive Director of Link Wentworth Housing's board, one of Australia's largest Community Housing Providers. Belinda is also the only appointed Australian representative to the ULI Asia Pacific Executive Council Leadership Committee, responsible for strengthening the built environment's dialogue, collaboration and engagement on topics such as capital markets, technology and ESG best practice across the region. Belinda has successfully co-led 9Springs over 50% average year-on-year growth, providing strategic property advisory and development management services that are trusted by leading organisations including Anglicare, Uniting, St Vincent De Paul Society, Fresh Hope, Bingo Industries, Health Infrastructure NSW, Sunnyfield, Australia Post and Liverpool City Council.

PUBLIC / GOVERNMENT SECTOR

Cr Joseph Haweil – is serving as a municipal councillor in Hume City, one of Australia's most diverse municipalities. First elected in 2016 (as the first person of Assyrian ancestry ever elected to public office in Victoria), Joseph served as Mayor between 2020-2021. Joseph's ministerial appointments have included the Local Government Mayoral Advisory Panel and the Broadmeadows Revitalisation Board 4.0. Joseph also sits on the Board of the Municipal Association of Victoria and serve as a non-executive Director of LanguageLoop (Victorian Government Business Enterprise), a leading full service language services business, providing critical services to people from culturally diverse backgrounds. During the peak of the Covid-19 pandemic, Joseph was the face of Hume City's advocacy campaign and response. Leading Victoria's most Covid impacted and least vaccinated municipality, I lead efforts to engineer a turnaround, taking Hume's double vaccination rate from 35.1% to 80% within 1 month.

MEDIA

Mr Drew Ambrose - has worked across the Indo-Pacific region as a foreign correspondent, investigative journalist and filmmaker for the past 17 years. Drew has been a digital lead on numerous interactive, virtual reality and online projects that have been internationally acclaimed for their innovative approach. Drew is one of Al Jazeera English's most widely travelled broadcasters and has produced news documentaries in 38 nations. His intrepid investigative reporting on human rights abuses has won a raft of accolades including the 2021 One World Media International Journalist of the Year, 3 Walkley Awards, a Venice TV Award, the Sigma Award, 6 New York Festival Gold Medals, the Wincott Award and 3 Human Right Press Awards. Drew's work has also been recognized by the Foreign Press Association, Melbourne Press Club, Online News Association, Overseas Press Club of America and the Orwell Foundation.

LEGAL & PROFESSIONAL:

Mr Matthew Joseph Floro – is a senior environmental, planning and administrative lawyer specialising in climate change litigation. Matthew has advised on the environmental laws of all Australian jurisdictions and advised Federal and State government departments, private companies, community groups and individuals. As National Vice-President of the Asian Australian Lawyers Association, Matthew advances cultural diversity in the legal profession. Matthew also serves as National President of the National Environmental Law Association and National Rapporteur for the Columbia Law School Sabin Center for Climate Change Law. Matthew has led the Australian Law Students' Association, Out for Australia Victoria, and the University of Queensland Law Society.

The 40 Under 40 Most Influential Asian-Australian Awards winners were selected with the help of leading executive search firm, Johnson Partners, and [panel of judges](#). That included **Diana Nguyen** - overall winner of the 40 under 40 Most Influential Asian-Australian Awards 2021. **Gavin Fang** - head gathering network and news at ABC. **Geraldine Chin Moody** - Advisory Board member of the ANU's Centre for Asian-Australian Leadership. **Yasmin Poole** - Youth Influencer 2021 named by Martin Luther King Jr Centre. **Anna Lee** - #1 in Ragtrader's Tech20 2019. **Dr Vu Tran** - CGO and co-founder at G01. **Sophie Oh** - co-founder of the Susan McKinnon Foundation. **Brian Ritchie** - curator MONA FOMA. **Dr Nasim Amiralian** - researcher in the field of nanomaterials engineering. **Elizabeth Lee MLA** - Leader of the Canberra Liberals and the Liberal Member for Kurrajong in the ACT Legislative Assembly. **Martine Letts** - CEO of the Asialink Group. **Jason Johnson** - Founding Partner of Kabo Lawyers and CEO at Aksara Group. Applicants need to identify as Asian-Australian and be under the age of 40 to be considered for the awards.



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