
Impactful Personal Effectiveness

Thursday, 2 October 2025

Speaker Biographies

Patrick O'Brien CMgr FCMI, Council Member, CMI Singapore Board



Patrick is currently Managing Director of The Amanuenses Network Pte Ltd, a boutique company he founded in 2004 that focuses on the development of “Soft Skills”. Today Amanuenses continue to develop & facilitate emotionally intelligent Workshops. They afford others the skill & confidence to drive authentic personal & organisational change. Prior to this, he was COO & interim CEO of iDNS International Pte Ltd, a multilingual Domain Name Provider in Singapore. Before that, he was the Founding CEO of Domainz, the New Zealand Internet Registry. With a strong business and technology background, he has spoken extensively at numerous conferences across the globe.

He is qualified at Honours-level in IT, holds a Master's Degree in Marketing, and an MBA with a major in Finance. Professionally, he is active, being a Member of the NZ Institute of Directors, a Fellow of the Chartered Management Institute with Chartered Manager status, a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Marketing with Chartered Marketer status, and a Fellow of the Chartered Institute for IT with Chartered IT Professional status. He is also a member of British Mensa.

Dr. Christina SS Ooi FCMI, Board Member, CMI Malaysia Board



Dr Christina SS Ooi currently serves as a Board Member of the Regional Board of Malaysia for Chartered Management Institute (CMI), UK's only chartered professional body for manager accreditation. A criminal lawyer by training, this former Chief Procurement Officer (CPO) for Asia Pacific (APAC) with diverse industry experience is also a speaker, mentor, published author, thought leader, 2024 LinkedIn Top Voice for Career Management, People Management, Communications Management, Negotiation, Executive Management, and Leadership.

An acknowledged expert in her field, she brings with her 33 years of corporate senior management experience in key leadership positions across the APAC region, notably in procurement transformation. Her professional experience has been with two global organizations for 22 years, and 11 years in Government-linked companies of Corporate Malaysia. With her expertise in a diverse range of industries under her belt ranging from technology, telecommunications, aviation, agribusiness, to industrial gases, she and her teams won awards, accolades and esteemed recognition from procurement fraternities, both globally and in the APAC region.

Dr Christina was previously CPO, APAC of a world leader in gases, technologies and services for Industry and Health, based in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, for 14 countries. Prior to that, Dr Christina was Group Procurement Officer with one of the world's largest plantation companies and crude palm oil producer. Headhunted by Khazanah Nasional Berhad (sovereign wealth fund of Malaysia), she was handpicked as Group Head of Procurement to bring world-class procurement practices as part of the national airline recovery plan in Malaysia. She had returned to Malaysia to take on the role of Senior Vice President, Procurement Management with a Malaysian mobile communications company. Prior to that, she spent 18.5 years at a global technology company in both local and Asia Pacific roles in its Integrated Supply Chain organisation, including its managed business process outsourcing practice, where she was based in Singapore for seven years.

In the early years of Dr Christina's professional life, she worked in both advertising and legal where she practised criminal law in her family law firm in Malaysia. Her penchant for writing saw her contribution to legal research in alternative dispute resolution (mediation) with many of her works published in local and international legal journals. Dr Christina has been an active speaker over the last 14 years in major Asia Pacific and international conferences on talent management, leadership, management, procurement and supply chain, and sits on judging panels of procurement awards. She previously served on the Asia Advisory Board of International Institute for Advanced Purchasing & Supply (IIAPS), Advisory Board Member of ProcureCon Asia, and Judging Panel of CIPS Excellence in Procurement Awards Asia. Dr. Christina is an Ordinary Member of the Institute of Corporate Directors Malaysia (ICDM), and a Director member of LeadWomen. She is currently a Cohort 10 Mentee with 30% Club Malaysia Board Mentoring Scheme, and a Member of the ESG Association of Malaysia. She is on the panel of mentors for Project Girls for Girls (Malaysia Chapter), and a volunteer mentor with Talent Corporation (TalentCorp) and Talentbank in Malaysia.

Dr Christina holds a Ph.D. in Law from University of Malaya, Master of Laws, and Master of Business Administration (MBA), and has two first degrees, in Law and in Communication. She is also a certified Advocate and Solicitor of the High Court of Malaya. A published author of her first book on talent management, Dr Christina is currently working on her second book. She is based in Kuala Lumpur.

Farhaz Farouk CMgr FCMI, Board Member, CMI Sri Lanka Board



Farhaz is a Fellow member of The Chartered Management Institute, United Kingdom and The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka and an Associate member of The Chartered Institute of Management Accountants, United Kingdom.

He holds a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Essex, United Kingdom, and an Advanced Diploma in Islamic Banking from the Bahrain Institute of Banking and Finance. He is certified by the Accounting and Auditing Organization for Islamic Financial Institutions (AAOIFI), Bahrain as a Certified Islamic Professional Accountant. In addition, Farhaz is certified as a Coach and Trainer.

He possesses over three decades of progressive and extensive work experience in audit & assurance, banking & finance, oil & gas sectors, and in training & development in Sri Lanka and Bahrain. Entrepreneurship in reputable journals, and to date, he has produced more than 50 postgraduate students. He obtained his Ph.D. and Master of Business Administration in 1995 and 1991, respectively, from the University of Sheffield, United Kingdom.

Dr. Paulina Chan CMgr CCMI, Immediate Past President, CMI Hong Kong Board



Dr Paulina Chan CMgr CCMI is a global citizen. Her expertise is innovative technology business development and cross-disciplinary collaborations. She is a strong advocator of STEM & M(Management), in particular for young professionals and women.

Paulina received PhD, DIC in EEE specialising in Communications at Imperial College London, MSc (Business) at Birkbeck College, University of London, and PhD (honoris causa) International Open University – WHO/UNICEF Alma-Ata Declaration. She is Principal and CEO of Global Mutual Innovation Consortium, a think-tank in

multiple countries. Her career includes Managing Directors and expatriates of AT&T/Lucent Technologies in the US, Asia/Pacific Region, and the EU; Project Director of Exxon/Mobil Corporation Headquarters, New York NY; China Regional General Manager and expatriate of ICO Global Communications London and Beijing; and Senior Adviser of the EU for Hungary.

Paulina is also Chair of the Collaboration and Engagement of the IEEE Board of Directors; Champion of the Industry Engagement; Former Chair, IEEE Public Visibility Committee and the IEEE Hong Kong; Former Ambassador of Imperial College London; and Champion, Imperial College Mentoring Programme.