
Future-Ready Leadership: Inspire. Innovate. Transform.

Thursday 16th October 2025

Speaker Biographies

Ann Francke OBE CMgr CCMI, CEO, Chartered Management Institute

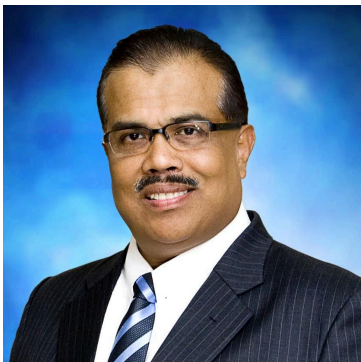


Ann Francke is Chief Executive of the Chartered Management Institute, the UK's leading professional body for management and leadership, with an international member community of over 200,000. She started her career at Procter & Gamble and has held senior executive positions at Mars, Boots, Yell, and BSI.

Ann is an expert in Management and Leadership in the workplace, and speaks frequently in the media and at conferences on this; she is a regular columnist for The London Times. In the New Year's Honours list 2020, she was awarded an OBE for services to Workplace Equality. Her book, 'Create a Gender-balanced Workplace,' was published by Penguin Business in 2019. Ann also authored the 'Financial Times Guide to Management' and has been named in the top 100 women to watch in the 2015 Female FTSE Cranfield report. She was awarded the inaugural MemCom award for outstanding leadership of a UK professional body in 2016.

Ann holds several Board positions and five Honorary Doctorates for her work in management and leadership. She is an ambassador for the 30% Club.

Prof. Dato' Seri Dr. Mohamed Mustafa Ishak CMgr CCMI, Chair, CMI Malaysia



Professor Dato' Seri Dr. Mohamed Mustafa Ishak started his professional career at Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM) as a Tutor in 1985. Over the years, through his diligent involvement in the progress of UUM and his determination to excel in whatever he did, he moved up the academic and administrative ladder till he reached the topmost rung and was appointed the Vice-Chancellor (VC) of UUM in June 2010.

He served as the VC of UUM for eight years, till August 2018. In his capacity as the VC of UUM, he was instrumental in redefining the role of UUM and marshalling its efforts towards becoming an Eminent Management University in Malaysia. Dr. Mohamed Mustafa Ishak played a key role in advancing UUM to become a 5-star university based on the SETARA and MYRA ratings. Additionally, he also successfully transformed UUM to be placed among the six best Malaysian public universities in the QS Asia and World Ranking.

Professor Dato' Seri Dr. Mohamed Mustafa Ishak was the first Malaysian to be appointed as a CMI Companion, the most senior grade of membership, which is awarded by invitation only. This rare honor had accorded him for his prodigious contribution, underscoring his tenacity of purpose, towards transforming UUM into the best management university in Malaysia. This prestigious position was conferred upon him in 2017 by the Chartered Management Institute (CMI), an accredited professional institution for management, based in London. He also sits on the Board of the Regional Chapter of CMI Malaysia. He has been a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport since his appointment to the post in December 2011. Professor Dato' Seri Dr. Mohamed Mustafa Ishak was appointed Chairman of the Malaysian Examinations Council in 2016 by His Majesty the Yang Di Pertuan Agong XIV, The King of Malaysia.

He spent almost one year in the Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia as the Director General. Upon retirement he served at City University Malaysia and Perdana University Malaysia as the Vice Chancellor. With 35 years of experience in both public and private universities and having held various management positions, Prof. Dato' Seri Dr. Mohamed Mustafa Ishak has vast experience in managing issues and challenges pertaining to higher education institutions at both local and international arenas. In July 2024 Prof. Emeritus Dato' Seri Dr. Mohamed Mustafa Bin Ishak was appointed as the Vice Chancellor/Rector of Innovative University College Malaysia.

Professor Dr. Ho Chin Kuan, Vice Chancellor, Asia Pacific University (APU)



Professor CK Ho currently holds the position of Vice Chancellor at the Asia Pacific University of Technology and Innovation. He is also a Fellow at the Yangtze Delta Region Institute of Tsinghua University in China. His research focuses on computational intelligence, machine learning, artificial intelligence, and responsible computing. He is passionate about using AI to

improve lives.

Prof. Ho has been involved in bringing research into industrial practice for the past 15 years. His experience includes working with clients from various industries and government agencies, where he has taken a leading role in the design, development and delivery of solutions in areas of AI systems, network fault analysis, data analytics, policy and regulatory framework for ICT, and talent development. He has provided training and coaching to senior leadership of both the public and private sectors.

Prof. Ho won the Outstanding Contribution to Education Award in the 2015 Asia's Education Excellence Award. He won the Gold Medal and the Semi Grand Prize Winner at Canada's 2020 International Invention Innovation Competition. Prof. Ho has been the general chair of numerous major AI conferences around the world.

Dato' Dr. Munirah Looi, Regional CEO - SEA and Director, BlueOnion



Munirah Looi is a visionary leader in digital transformation, sustainability, and ecosystem building. She is the Regional CEO - SEA and Director of BlueOnion, a profit-for-purpose FinTech company driving sustainability best practices within the financial ecosystem. BlueOnion empowers financial institutions and companies with ESG data clarity, enabling transparent, responsible, and impactful investment decisions.

A recognized industry leader, Munirah was a Top Nominee for the EY Entrepreneur of the Year Award 2018 and has received multiple accolades, including the Master Entrepreneur Award 2021 (APEA Regional Edition) and 10 Best Inspiring CEOs 2020 (Industry-Era). In 2022, she was honored with the Distinguished Women Entrepreneur Lifetime Achievement Award by KSI Strategic Institute for Asia Pacific, and in 2023, she was conferred a Doctor of Laws honoris causa by the University of Nottingham for her contributions to industry and society.

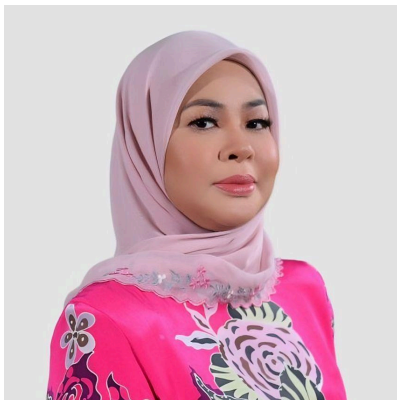
Prior to her role at BlueOnion, Munirah was the Founder & Strategic Advisor of Brandt Business Services, a digital transformation and customer experience (CX) outsourcing firm, which she successfully led for 21 years before exiting in January 2025.

Beyond corporate leadership, she plays a pivotal role in shaping Malaysia's digital economy. She serves as a Board Member - Director of MyDIGITAL Corporation, a strategic change management office responsible for implementing initiatives under the Malaysia Digital Economy Blueprint and the National 4IR Policy. Additionally, she is an EXCO Committee Member of Malaysia Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution (MYCentre4IR), which spearheads Malaysia's digital transformation and green energy transition.

She is also a Board of Trustee for the Tunku Abdul Rahman Foundation, focusing on youth empowerment, education, and leadership development.

Munirah is a recognized speaker, panelist, and moderator, frequently addressing topics on digital economy, entrepreneurship, women in tech, sustainability, and business transformation. Her thought leadership and ecosystem-building expertise have positioned her as an influential figure in Malaysia's digital economy and sustainability sectors.

Datin Dr. Leez Hassan, Director, ADLA Group Sdn. Bhd.



Dr. Leez Hassan is a Professional Learning Coach, Facilitator & Trainer with experience to upgrade the quality of life and to be happy and successful by mastering work-life balance. Dr. Leez is also an award-winning entrepreneur, an author, a transformational work-life balance coach, a keynote speaker, a Cherie Blaire Foundation Mentor, an Academy of Women Entrepreneur Mentor, Founder of ADLA Group Sdn. Bhd., Founder of International Work Life Balance Forum (IWLBF), Founder of Women Mentoring Network & Founder of SpreadLove, former Vice President of Peniagawati Malaysia, also a council member of Malaysian Institute of Management.

With over 30 years of experience garnered through professional development and entrepreneurship, her mission is to give the community the clarity, courage, and tools to achieve the ultimate balance. Her entrepreneurial achievements have led to a string of awards, the most recent of she received the People Empowerment Awards by ASEAN HR Awards (Malaysia Category) 2019, Women Leadership Award by CMO Asia & World Women Leadership Congress (2019), the Entrepreneur of Excellence Award by Binary University of Management & Entrepreneurship (2018) and the Women Icons Awards Malaysia 2018 by Business Excellent & Research Group Pte Ltd (BERG) and Anugerah Personaliti Industri & Usahawan Malaysia by Niaga Times.

Dr Leez holds a Master of Psychology in Industrial Organizational Psychology from the Open University Malaya (OUM) MBA, and a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and Accounting from California State University, and a doctorate in Philosophy (PHD) in Business Management from Warnborough College, Ireland. A passionate leader and persistent advocate of entrepreneurship as a lifestyle career choice with a focus on work-life balance. She introduces " 7 Pillars of Priority In Life"- Prioritizing relationship with Creator, unconditional love to family, working towards self-development continuously, expanding business through a holistic approach, maintaining health & wellness, and keeping the personal relationship in great shape, and continues to share with the community.

Dato' Najmuddin Abdullah, Adjunct Professor, University Teknologi MARA



Dato' Najmuddin Abdullah started his career at Malaysian Resources Corporation Berhad in 1997 before joining ntv7 as Head of News Department & Managing Editor in 2001. He served as Head of Marketing at TH Properties Sdn Bhd (2006), Vice President of Corporate Communications at Celcom Axiata Berhad (2008), Chief Executive Officer at Kontena Nasional Global Logistics Sdn Bhd (2010), and then Senior Vice President of Strategic Communications at Malaysia Airlines (2013).

He was the Director of Strategic Communications & Stakeholder Relations at Mass Rapid Transit Corporation Sdn Bhd (2015), Group Chief Strategic Communications Officer at FGV Holdings Berhad (2020), Chief Consumer Communications & Marketing Officer at Pharmaniaga Berhad (2022) before taking up the position of Vice President of Strategic Communications at TM (2023 - 2025).

Dato' Najmuddin graduated with a Diploma in Public Administration from Universiti Teknologi MARA (1993). He then continued his studies in the United States for a Bachelor's Degree in Economics (1995) and a Master's Degree in Economics (1996) at the University of Toledo, Ohio, the Program for High Potential Leaders at The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania (2017) as well as the Advanced Management Program at Columbia Business School, New York (2022).

Alex Liew, Chairman, PIKOM (The National Tech Association of Malaysia)



Alex Liew is the Co-Founder and Executive Director of Glocomp Systems, leading the private sector sales team, channels, and

partnerships. With over 25 years of industry expertise, his strategic direction has played a crucial role in establishing and nurturing Glocomp Systems' success in Malaysia's private sector marketplace. Under his leadership, the team has secured major ICT projects across diverse industry verticals.

Alex holds the esteemed position within The National Tech Association of Malaysia (PIKOM), serving as Chairman since 2024. His extensive engagement across government, utilities, FSI, and education sectors significantly contributes to industry-wide growth. Alex represents PIKOM in engagements with key government leaders including Ministers and senior officials to advocate the industry concerns and issues. This has resulted in strong collaborations between PIKOM and the government that has been pivotal in fortifying the industry's landscape.

Additionally, Alex serves as a Council Member and Chairman of the ICT, Automation, and Robotics Committee at the Master Builders Association of Malaysia, to provide strategic guidance and actively promote the integration of technology within the construction industry. Munirah is deeply passionate about ethical investing, sustainability, and ecosystem building. Her expertise lies in bridging technology, finance, and sustainability to drive long-term economic growth and environmental responsibility.

Dickson Woo, Country General Manager & Technology Leader, IBM Malaysia



Dickson Woo was appointed as Country General Manager and Technology Leader for IBM Malaysia in April 2024. In this role, he is responsible for all strategic and operational decisions related to IBM's sales, services, and delivery operations in Malaysia.

As part of his mission, Dickson leads the Malaysia team to help key stakeholders and clients leverage hybrid cloud and AI technologies to help them further accelerate their digital transformation journey.

Dickson is a seasoned technology veteran with over three decades of experience in regional and global settings. Dickson has brought his rich experience at the country level by providing advice and thought leadership to help and enable clients to innovate and succeed. Dickson is no stranger to IBM. His stint with leadership roles in the IT Industry began at IBM as Country Manager of System Technology Group, IBM Malaysia in 1994. He has also held various management roles at Oracle, EMC, Microsoft, NTT, and Fortinet.

Throughout his career, Dickson has been consistently recognized as the key leader in the IT industry. Among others, in 2022, Dickson was recognised as World Digital Economy Distinguished Country Manager Lifetime Achievement Award by KSI Strategic Institute for Asia Pacific. In 2023, he was recognised as the World Digital Icon Leadership Award by KSI Strategic Institute for Asia Pacific.

Dickson is also a frequent speaker at industry events across the region on a wide range of topics and an active voice in both leading local and international media. He regularly shares insights on digital transformation, AI, cybersecurity, and automation, driving thought leadership across the innovation landscape and translating complex technologies into meaningful business impact.

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



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.

Dr. Guna Seelan Rethinam CMgr FCMI, Events Lead, CMI Malaysia



Dr. Guna Rethinam, a distinguished member of the Malaysia Regional CMI Board of Directors, is acclaimed for his compelling communication and exceptional leadership spanning diverse business realms. Demonstrating a proven aptitude for multitasking, Dr. Guna adeptly formulates strategic plans, prioritizes tasks, and deftly manages intricate projects within strict timelines. His continual exploration of groundbreaking work methodologies

underscores his commitment to ensuring an organization's enduring success.

Dr Guna brings extensive expertise in global strategic HR and organizational design, has steered numerous impactful digital transformation initiatives, and successfully orchestrated organizational change programs. Armed with a Ph.D. in Human Resource Development and a Master's in Organizational Communication, along with certifications in agile project management and digital business transformation. Dr. Guna's career trajectory reflects an unwavering dedication to driving transformative change and fostering innovative, employee-centric strategies across diverse industries.

Professor. Ts. Dr. Murali Raman, Deputy Vice Chancellor and Post Graduate and Continuous Education Director, APU



Professor Dr. Murali Raman: Obtained his Doctorate in Management Information Systems from Claremont Graduate University, California in 2005. He is currently a Professor at the Management Faculty at Multimedia University, Cyberjaya. Prof. Murali Raman also holds an MSC in Human Resource Management (London School of Economics, UK) and an MBA (Imperial College, London, UK). He is a first class honours degree holders in Bachelors of Business Administration, University Malaya. He has worked in the corporate sector with Maybank Bhd (1994-1996) and Accenture Consulting (1997-2001),

before joining MMU. With Accenture, he managed and led more than 9 different IT projects in Malaysia and Singapore, mainly in the area of IT and Systems integration.

Professor Murali Raman's work in Design Thinking led him to winning several Internal and local awards as an outstanding educationist in the field of IT Management in general.

Examples of these awards are:

- National Outstanding Education Award for Youth Empowerment – Private Higher Education 2025,

- Gold Medallist—Sri Lanka Investors Commission, Ministry of Science, Technology and Research, Sri Lanka—for his project called Design Thinking Process for 21st Century Teaching and Learning.
- Gold Medallist for TELS—Sri Lanka Investors Commission, Ministry of Science, Technology and Research, Sri Lanka—for another project The Elitez Learning System.
- Winner of the European Knowledge Management and Intellectual Capital Excellence Award, by ACPI, in Lisbon, Portugal—for his teaching and research in the field of IT Management – focussing on use of Knowledge Management Systems in Support of Disaster Management
- Gold Medallist at the International Invention Innovation Competition in Canada, iCAN 2019—for a project called Gamified Teaching Strategies for the 21st Century
- Special Mention in both the Star and News Straits Times, for an education project called Suara Pendidik2—where he trained teachers under the National Union of Teaching Profession (NUTP), using Design Thinking for 21st Century Learning.
- The above project was also a nominee for the Anugerah AKRI, 2019.
- Two of his papers were published by Leadernomics, for his taught leadership on Design Thinking and its impact in cultivating learning and a growth mind-set.
- As the Director of MMU Business School, over the last 3 years he has been playing a vital role as an educator in the field of Design Thinking—serving corporate, public and in his capacity as a social worker. Examples of these contributions are:
 - Receiving an award of mention by Malaysia Airlines Berhad for program planning and delivery of a Professional Certificate in Leadership & Management (training for 700 staff).
 - Use of Design Thinking for a Social Innovation Project—Gerak Gempur UPSR for SJK(T) Batu Arang, Selangor.
 - Appointed as a member for the Technical Working Group (TWG) in preparing for the Ministry's 12th Malaysian Plan document preparation.
 - In 2019 alone, trained more than 500 people in Corporate Malaysian in 4th IR and Design Thinking—examples which are for the likes of the TM Group, UOB Bank Malaysia, MaGIC Malaysia, Government of Brunei and Government of Malaysia

Prof. Murali has published more than 100 papers in International Journals, Conferences, and book Chapters and has written/edited several books in the area of Information Management in general. He currently trains and consults with several leading companies in Malaysia.

Dr. Raman is (probably) the only Malaysian who is both a Rhodes Scholar and Fulbright fellow.

He has conducted training and consulting (on various topics pertaining to management, Innovation at the workplace, design thinking and ICT) in Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, Australia, and in the US for the following corporations, among others: TM – Innovative Leadership and Workplace Innovation, RHB Bank, Keppel Bank Singapore, TelBru Brunei, Tabung Amanah Islam Brunei (TAIB), Brunei e-Government Center, OUM International Malaysia- Program for Senior Government Officials, Government of India, Maybank – IBBM Program, Australian Logistics Center for Supply Chain Systems, Australia, MAKPEM – Ministry of Welfare, IPA Brunei, MILE Madinah, etc.

Dr. Murali's research has led him to obtaining numerous national grants and awards. Some of these include the Gold Medal at PECITPA 2013, Silver Medal in ITEXT 2014, and a top-ten finalist of the National Innovation Award 2013. Dr. Murali serves as an editorial member for several leading journals in the area of KM and IT Management – among others Journal of Cases & Research in IT, International Journal of Knowledge Management, Knowledge Management and E-Learning, Industrial Management and Data Systems etc.

With his research team, Dr. Murali and his team has secured close to RM1.5 Million in grant funding over the last five years. He is currently affiliated to Stanford's Technology Venture Program as a Faculty Fellow- where he has had and continue to discuss issues surrounding creating a vibrant entrepreneurship ecosystem and application of innovative thinking via D-Principles in Malaysia. He is a Stanford certified Design Thinker.

Prof Murali Raman is also certified in Neuro Linguistic Programming (NLP) – 2016 as a NLP Certified Practitioner. He is also a Certified Trainer in Colored Brain Communication

and Emotional Drivers based on Directive Communication Psychology. He is also a Fellow with the Malaysian Institute of Management (MIM).

His other certifications are:

- Certified Communication Specialist (DCI)
- PSBM Certified Trainer
- Design Thinking – Stanford dSchool certified

He is currently the Deputy Vice Chancellor and Post Graduate and Continuous Education Director at Asia Pacific University (APU)– focusing on Executive Training and Consultancy. His niche training areas include among others:

- Design Thinking
- Colored Brain Communication and Emotional Drivers
- Digital Economy
- Crafting Digital Strategies
- Mindset change

Throughout his career in the corporate and academic sector, Prof. Murali has managed, led and directed numerous programmes. With Accenture Consulting he managed a total of nine [9] projects of which three were in Singapore with Tier 1 clients. As the Dean of the Faculty of Management (MMU)—with staff strength of 135 people, he has led and directed numerous academic and executive development programme. These include among others, MMU's MBA, DBA, EMBA, Distance Learning, MBA Offshore, and Prestige Leadership Programme (TM).

In addition, he also has a vast project management experience working with international and local researchers for grant projects funded valued more than RM1.5 million. In recognition of his leadership Prof Murali has received several accolades at the International level. Examples are:

- o World Innovation Award ICAN Canada, 2024
 - Outstanding Academic Leadership Award in Malaysia – 2016
EDUCOOP
 - World Innovation Award – Seoul, Korea – 2015
 - Augerah Pecipta Negara – Gold Medal

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- Golden Globe Tiger Awards – For Outstanding Academic Leadership