

SCHEDULE

08:00-09:00	Registration
09:00-09:15	Pōwhiri by Tainui
09:15-09:20	Emcee Housekeeping
09:20-09:25	Opening remarks Hon Priyanca Radhakrishnan Minister for Diversity, Inclusion and Ethnic Communities
09:25-10:00	Sofa session: Diversity Grow - Our Identity & Sense of Belonging
10:00-10:30	Morning tea
10:30-10:45	Cultural Performance
10:50-11:00	Guest Speaker Hon Michael Wood Minister for Auckland
11:00-11:55	Plenary 1: Rise Up
12:00-13:00	Lunch and Exhibition Stalls
13:00-13:15	Cultural Performance
13:20-14:10	Breakout Sessions 1 Home and Away Being Culturally Competent in Bi-Cultural Aotearoa Rainbow Voices
14:15-15:05	Plenary 2: The Economic Contribution of Ethnic Communities
15:10-16:00	Breakout Sessions 2 Coming of Age in the Current Climate Serving on Public Sector Boards and Committees Funding Tips and Tricks
16:05-16:10	Closing remarks Mervin Singham Chief Executive Ministry for Ethnic Communities
16:10-16:15	Closing by Tainui
16:15-17:30	Stalls remain open until 5:30pm

Thank you for joining our Auckland Ethnic Advantage Conference!



Katja Phutaraksa Neef
Artist-in-Residence, ICAAD

Katja Phutaraksa Neef is currently an Artist-in-Residence at ICAAD and works at UnionAID as a programme coordinator for the Indonesia Young Leaders programme. Katja is active in her community, having previously worked for Auckland Council as a Community Climate Catalyst and is a youth leader for the New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO. Her academic research and advocacy interests include issues concerning Indigenous rights, forced migration and displacement, and climate justice.



Nurain Janah
Professional Director, Consultant, Executive Coach

Nurain is currently Executive Vice Chair at Hotels Resorts Construction Pvt Ltd, an award-winning contractor providing turnkey resort construction services. She is Founder of Rehendhi Consulting, a global social enterprise innovating leadership coaching. Nurain also founded Authenticity Aotearoa, a charity empowering women of colour. With 10 years' experience as a director, Nurain serves as Trustee of Foundation North, a philanthropic funder, and is a Member of the New Zealand National Advisory Council on the Employment of Women.



Zina Abu Ali
Vice President, Student Representative Council at AUT

Zina Abu Ali is a young queer Middle Eastern woman who researches the experiences of queer ethnic youth in Aotearoa New Zealand. She serves as the Vice President of the Student Representative Council at the Auckland University of Technology, advocating for ethnic queer rights with passion and dedication. Her work aims to raise awareness and promote inclusion for marginalized communities.



Craig Nicholson
Deputy Director, Latin America Centre of Asia Pacific Excellence

Craig is the Deputy Director, Latin America Centre of Asia Pacific Excellence. He is a leader in connecting and creating impact for New Zealanders, businesses and organisations with Latin America as part of trade diversification, indigenous to indigenous and people to people links. Spanish has been his home language for more than 25 years with his Chiwi (Chilean - Kiwi) family.



Ming-chun Wu
Chartered Director with the Institute of Directors

Ming-chun has over 16 years' experience in developing strategies and leading transformational changes to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of organisations. She currently holds public sector governance roles on the Pharmacy Council (Deputy Chair), Plumbers, Gasfitters, and Drainlayers' Board, Chinese Medicine Council and Network for Learning Limited, a state-owned enterprise.



Kat Poi
Co-Director, Courageous Conversation Aotearoa Foundation

Speaker, sovereign story-teller, and emotive intellectual, Kat Poi (Tainui; Te Arawa; Tonga) has led in higher education and prison education and training in Aotearoa New Zealand; and systemic racial equity transformation in Aotearoa New Zealand, Australia and the United States. She is a proponent of conversationalism, and this is foundational to her anti-racist praxis.



Pok Wei Heng
Climate & Sustainability Consultant, EY

Pok (he/him) is of Singaporean-Chinese descent, and currently engages on issues relating to modern slavery and sustainability strategies within his day job. Outside of work, he ponders on climate justice, the need for representation on climate issues, and how the lived experience of ethnic communities can help shape equitable climate solutions. He speaks widely on multiple high-level fora, recently at the Nobel Prize Dialogue and at Davos 2023 by the World Economic Forum.



Kenneth Leong
Director, Tiaki Capital

Kenneth has over 20 years' experience in corporate finance and international business. He serves on MEO, Skills Update, OmniTech Boards and the Ministerial Strategic Advisory Group on Trade. He was inducted by KEA as a World Class New Zealander in 2015 and has been a trustee of the Auckland Foundation since 2016.



Angela Hassan-Sharp
Divisional Manager, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Angela leads the United Nations and Human Rights teams in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs where she has worked, both on and offshore, for over 20 years.

**SATURDAY
13MAY2023**

ETHNIC ADVANTAGE CONFERENCE

Brought to you by
Ministry for Ethnic Communities
Te Tari Mātāwaka

**TĀMAKI MAKĀURAU
AUCKLAND**

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE


The Ministry for Ethnic Communities welcomes you to its new flagship conferences series, "The Ethnic Advantage Conferences"


This series reflects the type of relationships the Ministry continues to grow and expand on. On the one hand, how New Zealand's government and people are looking at ethnic diversity as an advantage to our society. And on the other, how the ethnic communities see themselves as a great asset and the value they bring to our country.


These conferences aim to create another two-way communication channel with our communities, strengthen our relationships with them, celebrate their successes, grow their knowledge and ensure that their concerns are well-considered in government policies and actions.

This will be an annual conference where we all meet to **connect, inform and grow** together.

The conferences will be organised with an overarching nationwide vision to discuss the issues on the ethnic communities' agenda on the national level. However, to acknowledge the local distinctiveness of each region, some sessions will be regionally tailored.

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SPEAKERS & GUESTS



Hon Priyanca Radhakrishnan
Minister of Diversity, Inclusion and Ethnic Communities

Hon Priyanca Radhakrishnan is the Minister for Diversity, Inclusion and Ethnic Communities. She is the first person of Indian origin to become a Minister in New Zealand and was appointed in November 2020. She has spent her work life advocating on behalf of people whose voices are often unheard – survivors of domestic violence, and migrant workers who have been exploited. She strongly believes that everyone has the right to live with dignity.



Mervin Singham
Chief Executive, Ministry for Ethnic Communities

Mervin is a vastly experienced public servant and previously led the Office of Ethnic Affairs. Prior to becoming the new ministry's first chief executive, he was the executive director at the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Historical Abuse in State Care and in the Care of Faith-based Institutions.



Pancha Narayanan
National President, Multicultural NZ

Pancha was born in Malaysia and has now called New Zealand home for 31 years. He is the current national president of Multicultural NZ, whose passion and commitment to achieving better settlement outcomes for migrants. He is paving the way for a Tiriti-based Multicultural Aotearoa. Well-known by leaders around the motu, Pancha champions the whakaaro that unity is the key to community safety. He is a Justice of the Peace and was awarded Queens Service Medal in 2010 for his community work with immigrants.



Ziena Jalil
Emcee; Business and Public Sector Leader

Ziena is focused on deepening New Zealand's engagement with the Asia Pacific, and improving outcomes for those with diverse cultures, abilities and experiences. She holds senior leadership and governance roles across public, private and not-for-profit sectors, and is a keynote speaker on Asia business, leadership, and diversity, equity and inclusion.



Kelly Feng
Chief Executive, Asian Family Services
Kelly, MNZM, is the Chief Executive for Asian Family Services. Kelly was a medical doctor in China before registering as a New Zealand social worker since 2005. Kelly worked in the mental health and addiction sector and other social sectors for over a decade, advocating for Asians in New Zealand to develop more culturally appropriate services to meet community needs.



Vishal Rishi
National Director, The Asian Network Incorporated

Vishal leads TANI, a well-recognized national service provider improving health and well-being outcomes for Asians. A social entrepreneur at heart, he has held various governance roles and is currently the Chair of the Ethnic Health Collective. His strong community networks proved critical during Covid 19 and the recent cyclones and floods.



Meredith Stewart | JassNoor Kaur Khalsa
Ethnic Community Connector, Tairāwhiti Multicultural Council

Meredith is a Sikh New Zealander and in 2020 was blessed to become Amritdhari at Sri Harmandir Sahib (Golden Temple), Amritsar. Her current Ethnic Community Connector role involves support for covid, cyclone Gabrielle, advocacy working with agencies and building cultural understanding, reducing barriers/assumptions for the wider community.



Matthew Nichols
Director – Strategic Engagement & Partnerships

Matthew is based in Ōtautahi Christchurch. Matt and his team engage and partner with ethnic communities across the South Island and Greater Wellington. Matt's former roles span central and local government, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Ministry of Defence and Christchurch City Council.



Helen Clarke
Engagement Team Lead, Foundation North

Helen joined Foundation North in October 2018, is of Ngāpuhi descent and was raised in Hokianga engaged in her culture, local traditions, Marae and community. She brings a wealth of experience from her previous roles in the not-for-profit sector – including education, health and community development.



Vinod Bal
Co-Founder, Adhikaar Aotearoa

Vinod Bal (he/him) is the co-founder and advocacy lead of Adhikaar Aotearoa, a New Zealand-national charity that advocates for LGBT+ people of colour both in Aotearoa and overseas. Through this role, he has worked with various domestic organisations and government departments on LGBT+ social, policy and legal matters.



Michelle Huang
Chair & Interim-GM, Multiethnic Young Leaders NZ

Michelle is a 1.5-generation Chinese-New Zealander raised and based in Tāmaki Makaurau (Auckland). She is the Chair and interim-GM of Multiethnic Young Leaders NZ and a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) professional. She sits on the Ministry for Ethnic Communities' Ethnic Communities Development Fund (ECDF) panel.



Rahman Bashir
Senior Parks Planner, Auckland Council

Rahman is a Senior Parks and Open Space Planner working in Auckland Council. He has a background in Urban Planning and Urban Design with a particular focus in Spatial Justice and the impacts of urban development on people of colour. Throughout his community endeavours, he believes in the connection of lived experience and its intersection with policy outcome.



Fiona Thomson
Director of Analytics, Monitoring and Evaluation, Ministry for Ethnic Communities

Fiona is passionate about using data and analytics to support people's wellbeing. Prior to joining the Ministry, Fiona was the Chief Data Officer at the Social Wellbeing Agency. Fiona has 20+ years' experience in Data and Analytics across public, private sectors and has volunteered for community organisations.



Matthew Farry
Executive Director, Courageous Conversation South Pacific Institute

Mathew has worked as a leader, educator and researcher in migration, settlement, intercultural relations, anti-racism, equity and inclusion in organisational development. South Pacific Institute offers personal, professional, and organisational development in racial equity, anti-racism and cultural responsiveness.