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SINGAPORE EDITION

Special Report:
MsMA 2023

Together in
Electric Dreams:
Exotic EVs

Digital Assistant:
ChatGPT

EMPOWERING WOMEN

Viewpoint from **KHALID MOHAMMED ZAMAN**,
Managing Director of Al Zaman Group of Companies



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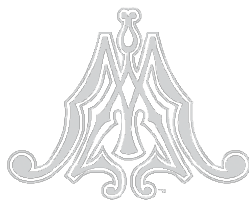
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A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



This is my second year as the Chief Executive Officer (Asia Pacific) for *Millionaireasia*. It has been an exciting and challenging journey. During my tenure, *Millionaireasia* has opened two additional subsidiaries in Vietnam and Thailand and has a new license holder in Malaysia. To date, we have three subsidiaries and two license holders with 18 registered trademarks across Asia. We have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Al Zaman Group of Companies in Oman to explore possibilities of a Joint Venture and extending our membership to welcome billionaires and Royal families to be part of our ultra-high-net-worth ecosystem. We have also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with ABS-CBN International and Miracle Corporation to explore more for MsMA 2023 and a movie project about women empowerment. Furthermore, our sister company has also ventured into providing solutions in the areas of digitalising assets for personality, creating high quality free education system for entrepreneurs, event ticketing, multi-tier commission structure and highly confidential membership privacy management system.

In this lapse of my career, I want to do something for the society, for Singapore and for Asia. I have engineered the Women Empowerment Campaign and launched MsMA 2023 Web3 Influencer Competition, which follows up with a movie production to increase social awareness across Asia. For those who know me personally, my late mum (Mdm. Soh Beng Choo) is the woman I respect the most. She spent her entire life bringing up eight children without a single word of complaint or fear. When she was still alive, I lived my life with one mission, which was to make her happier and proud to have a son like me. After she passed on, I built an organisation to help people become richer and happier. Now, with my skill sets, I want to reach out to women in Asia, especially those in the less developed countries, to empower

them. I always believe that teaching a person to fish is better than giving them fishes. Together with event partners across Asia, we have made significant progress to convert some of my life-long learning lessons into Vietnamese, Thai and Bahasa languages, and making these information available on our website for free.

Millionaireasia is a socially responsible company with a tremendous database of high-net-worth and ultra-high-net-worth individuals. We want to be the catalyst for wealthy people and Royal families to help the poor in Asia, and empower women across Asia to upskill themselves, and to make this world a more beautiful place to live in.

Many people have asked me if I have passed my prime, and why am I still working so hard. The truth is that I do not think that I have reached my prime. I believe that I can contribute more. *Millionaireasia* must be a conduit for women across Asia to ignite their prime and achieve the next paradigm of success. We are not in the business of making ordinary people become extraordinary. *Millionaireasia* wants to be the engine to transform special people (in their own way) to become the beacons for Asia. Together, as we celebrate International Women's Day, let's not forget the sacrifices made by the most important woman (your mother) in your life. She gave you "life" and is the first woman to empower you. Today, my family will not be complete without Joanne, the mother of my two children. She has been the pillar of support and drive behind our career achievements and our well-being.

Join me in empowering women in Asia.

Peter Tan Shou Yi
Chief Executive Officer (Asia Pacific)
Millionaireasia Pte Ltd

JEBHEALTH

Health Technology (HealthTech) is a nascent industry that is often confused with Health IT and Medical Technology (MedTech). On one hand, HealthTech is associated with digital software products to address inefficiencies and reduce cost in the delivery of health services to the community. On the other hand, Health IT facilitates hardware equipment deployment to streamline data and information flow within clinical settings, while MedTech is associated with modern hardware devices integrated with Internet-of-Things (IoT) services.

In US and Europe, you may have heard of Verily and Babylon Health. Here in Asia, Jebhealth is a Singapore-based Health Technology (HealthTech) company with a mission to overcome challenges associated with accessibility, accuracy and affordability through innovation and technology.

In the last two years, Jebhealth was involved in high-profile COVID-19 response projects. The company is a MOH-authorised distributor of Standard Q SD Biosensor Antigen Rapid Test kits and an issuer of verifiable notarised HealthCerts, or Digital Covid-19 Certificates, in partnership with GovTech Singapore to enable safe travels.



“One thing we observed was that medical and healthcare payments, whether transacted locally or overseas, were difficult to facilitate and costly. There is an access hurdle for new medical services that are traditionally not covered by insurance and third-party administrators. Alongside this, there is an inherent productivity problem when it comes to claims assessment and processing,” says Jimmy Boey, CEO at Jebhealth.

“By collaborating with Visa and Airwallex Singapore, we are excited to announce the launch of two Visa Business cards – the Helix Card and J Card, designed to streamline multi-currency healthcare payments and Employee Benefits programmes, creating a novel digital health wallet and payment product and a new class of Health-FinTech solution.”

With these Cards, employees and underserved worker communities no longer need to pay upfront for medical bills, which saves time for organisations on reimbursement and manual reconciliation. For example, employers and HR professionals can remotely manage Cards via a web portal in real-time for pre-hires and employees, who can provision the Cards natively to their Google or Apple Pay on their own without the need for physical medical chits or additional identity proofs. This eliminates the typical 90-day claims processing wait time and improves corporate productivity by more than 80%.



Target Use Case
Health & Medical Payments

Target Users
Family/Company Medical, Medical Tourists

Pre-authorisation Rules
Preset for Medical & Health Merchants Only



Target Use Case
Employee Flex-Benefits

Target Users
Group/Company Flexi-Scheme, Brokerage Companies

Pre-authorisation Rules
Custom according to HR Policy



If you wish to get more information, please visit their website at <https://jebhealth.com>.
When signing up for your organisation, do remember to quote *Millionaireasia* to access attractive onboarding perks!

THE CONCEPT OF NOVELTY AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

The concept of novelty refers to an invention or information that is new and unknown which gives its owner a competitive advantage in the business field.

The movers and shakers featured in this issue of *Millionaireasia* are always on the lookout for new trends, innovations and opportunities to improve their current products and services to stay on top of the game. Khalid Mohammed Zaman from Al Zaman Group of Companies is providing private memberships to high-net-worth individuals, ultra-high-net-worth individuals and royal families in an innovative manner while Sharel Ho has launched a new line of duo anti-ageing skincare products. In addition, the mother-daughter team, Jean Yip and Cheryl Wee, are introducing beauty and wellness services making use of new technologies.

You will also discover other novelty products and services spread across different industries in this issue such as exotic electric cars, the rise of novelty fashion and handbags, and new practices in architecture, just to name a few.

Furthermore, explore the wild world of cryptocurrency, and find out how Web3 and Blockchain technology can help enterprises. ChatGPT is the highlight of our tech-related articles. Are you curious as to what ChatGPT will write for high-net-worth individuals? Read on to find out more.

Last but not least, taking up the challenge to be innovative, *Millionaireasia* is organising MsMA 2023 Web3 Influencer Competition which aims to empower women in Asia for Asians. This competition has officially launched in Singapore, Vietnam, Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia. Do not misinterpret this as a beauty pageant. The competition allows participants to advocate women empowerment through the promotion of branding their own personality,



campaigning an idea, and propagating the value. Moreover, the competition makes use of Web3 and Blockchain technology to ensure fairness in voting. Reputable mentors will be invited to coach the finalists of this competition. The Champion will be awarded S\$1 million and may be casted as the main lead for MsMA movie, enhancing her exposure regionally.

Toh Mu Qin
Editor

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DINNER WITH THE ROYAL FAMILY

BY ALEXIS TOH

Fostering Friendships over Japanese Omakase



Many of us take eating together for granted, but the simple act of sharing a meal is a greater one than we imagine. Food is so much more than just fuel. It is a fundamental part of our health, relationships, culture and well-being. Eating together is about coming together. *Millionaireasia* is honoured to have hosted a wonderful dinner with the Royal Family of Malaysia together with MsMA 2023 participant, Ms. Tharina Botes, and her friends at Rakuya on 8 April 2023.

Y.A.M. Tunku Naquiyuddin ibni Almarhum Tuanku Ja'afar is a keen environmentalist and was a committee member of the World Wide Fund for Nature (Malaysia) and a council member of the World Business Council For Sustainable Development, a Geneva-based organisation. An active businessman, his interests span a broad spectrum including uniting the Malaysian public companies through the Federation of Public Listed Companies Bhd which he founded; bridging bilateral boundaries through the Malaysia-France Economic and Trade Association which he headed for eight years; and striving for Asia-Pacific cooperation through the Canada-ASEAN Centre of which he was a council member. He was a former diplomat, and was also Regent of the State of Negeri Sembilan from 1994 until 1999.

Joining Tunku Naquiyuddin were other family members including his son, Y.M. Tunku Dato' Mohamed Alauddin Tunku Naquiyuddin and daughter, Tunku Alia Nadira Tunku Naquiyuddin. Tunku Mohamed Alauddin was appointed Director of Marketing and International Relations with

Talon Global Solutions, Inc. in Dallas, U.S.A. In 2002, he joined Antah Bumimedic Sdn. Bhd., an affiliated company of the Antah Healthcare Group, as General Manager where he oversaw the management and marketing of the Bumiputra tendering business. He was subsequently appointed Executive Director for Antah Pharma Sdn. Bhd., Antah Sri Radin Sdn. Bhd. and Bumimedic (Malaysia) Sdn. Bhd. In 2018, he was appointed Managing Director for Antah Strategic Services Sdn Bhd, the holding company. He also holds various positions in other companies.

Tunku Alia Nadira Tunku Naquiyuddin, the first daughter of Tunku Naquiyuddin, is a devoted stay-at-home mum to her eight-year-old son, Sebastian. She has always wanted to pursue her dream of becoming a writer, and has been writing for many years. She is currently writing a book to empower women, hoping to help them through the bad sufferings and trauma they have encountered or will encounter in life.

Millionaireasia is looking forward to explore exciting opportunities with the Royal Family on the community's well-being, philanthropy and business projects.

Likewise, Ms. Botes, first runner-up of Miss Universe Thailand 2021, is actively engaged in philanthropy projects and strongly supports women empowerment. The synergy which sparked between the guests during the dinner is an informal kick-off to bigger plans in the near future. 🌱

MsMA 2023 SINGAPORE PRE-LAUNCH EVENT

BY ALEXIS TOH

Can the Voices of Social Media Influencers Encourage Women to Empower Women?



On 4 and 5 February 2023, 100 social media influencers joined *Millionaireasia* to learn more about MsMA 2023 Web3 Influencer Competition. The MsMA 2023 Singapore Pre-Launch Event was held at Rakuya, a Japanese omakase restaurant, one out of the three licensed restaurants in Singapore to serve Japan imported Kobe Wagyu beef. While the competition is not limited to only social media influencers, the influencers who attended the event are using their voices and digital platforms to raise awareness of women empowerment in Asia, for Asians.

The Sustainable Development Agenda, adopted by UN Member States in 2015, has set a 2030 deadline for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, embracing four of the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) namely, No Poverty, Good Health and Well-Being, Quality Education and Partnership. These are congruent to the core values of *Millionaireasia* and as such, *Millionaireasia* has formed a strategic partnership with social media influencers in Singapore, to encourage them to take the first stride towards a brighter future, while providing them the platform to do so.

At the event, the attendees were treated to delicious canapés including *Negitoro Maki with Pandan Tuile*, *Salmon with Crème Fraîche* and *Oscietra Caviar*, and *Fresh Scallop & Angel-hair with Truffle and Vinegar Sauce* by Rakuya. 🍴



Registration for MsMA 2023 Web3 Influencer Competition is open from now till 21 May 2023.
Scan the QR code to participate.



BE A PARTICIPANT

MsMA 2023 VIETNAM LAUNCH EVENT

BY ALEXIS TOH

Empowering Women through a Community-Driven Project



Held at Gem Center in Ho Chi Minh City on 9 February 2023, the launch event for MsMA 2023 Web3 Influencer Competition in Vietnam included a press conference and a networking dinner. The press conference featured local traditional and new media, celebrities and social media influencers, while prominent personalities, businessmen and entrepreneurs graced the networking dinner.

Ms. Jera Tran Ngoc Anh, the Vietnam Ambassador for MsMA 2023, gave an inspirational speech at the press conference session saying, “I admire women who 100% prioritise self-care, self-reflection, and set a high standard for their life. Instead of spending their time wondering what other people think about her, “she” – herself, is enough, always enough.”

Ms. Tran has many years of experience working with global technology and financial companies across Southeast Asia. Her main focus is on connecting people and resources, raising capital, consulting and giving growth direction to startups entering the global market. She is the founder of the Vietnam Oi, Co Len Foundation, which focuses on bringing development projects and supporting education to rural communities in Vietnam. Ms. Tran’s efforts in empowering women through providing them with quality education is aligned to one of *Millionaireasia*’s goals for MsMA 2023.

Co-organised with ORAS Holdings, *Millionaireasia* hopes that by presenting MsMA 2023 Web3 Influencer Competition to people from different walks of life, it will unite a community of influential women, who will in turn, empower other women. 🌟

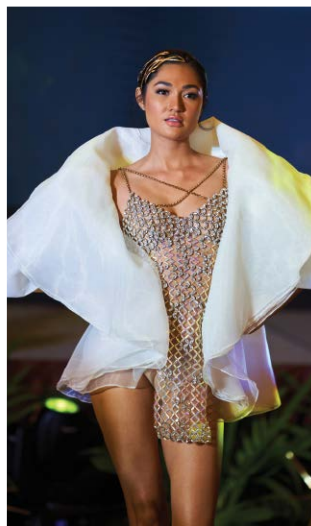


More information on MsMA 2023 Vietnam Launch Event can be found on <https://www.millionaireasia.com/msma/vn/>.

MsMA 2023 PHILIPPINES LAUNCH EVENT

BY ALEXIS TOH

Empowering Women with the Support from Atty. Karen C. Agapay, Vice Governor, Laguna



On 16 February 2023, the official launch of MsMA 2023 Web3 Influencer Competition in the Philippines took place at Okada Manila. Co-organised with Queen of the Orient Philippines Group, and hosted by Miss Philippines Earth-Water 2022, Ms. Angeline Mae Santos, the event began with a spectacular fashion show sponsored by Daniel Manila, before guests were invited to a delectable dinner.

Ms. Santos is an animal protection activist who established the #CarefortheStrays project to further widen her cause and advocacy for animal protection. On top of advocating animal protection, her vision is to build an organisation that upholds and promotes the Philippines and Asian culture along with women empowerment on different platforms and channels. Ms. Santos worked for six years in the male-dominated field of engineering. She experienced gender-based discrimination in her workplace and this became the fuel for her to excel in her field and find a greater path that is driven towards women empowerment.

In addition to Ms. Santos' dialogue session on MsMA 2023 and empowering women with *Millionaireasia* CEO (Asia Pacific), Mr. Peter Tan, Atty. Karen C. Agapay, Vice Governor of Laguna also gave an inspiring speech on Women Empowerment, and why this topic is very important for the Philippines community.

As quoted from Atty. Karen C. Agapay, "The promotion of women, particularly the modern Filipina, as a strong ally of the country and the world in promoting tourism and as leading frontliners of women's rights is indeed an amazing prize we desire to pursue and achieve." 🏆

More information on MsMA 2023 Philippines Launch Event can be found on
<https://www.millionaireasia.com/msma/ph/>.

MsMA 2023 THAILAND LAUNCH EVENT

BY ALEXIS TOH

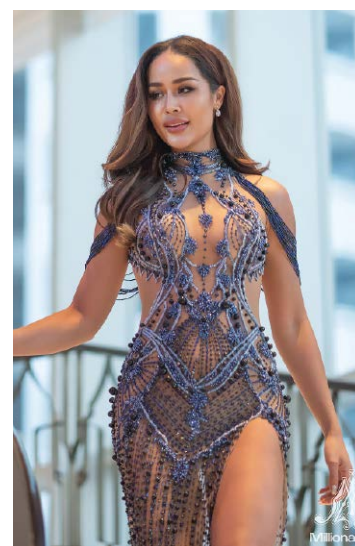
Collective Strength and Action to Empower Women



Co-organised with Pinksphere Co., Ltd, MsMA 2023 Web3 Influencer Competition was officially launched in Thailand on 25 February 2023 at the Waldorf Astoria Bangkok hotel. A press conference, which featured an “Empowering Women” Panel Discussion, took place in the afternoon. There were also inspiring speeches delivered by leading Thai women executives during the press conference. In the evening, guests were invited to join the networking session and the exclusive dinner.

MsMA 2023 Thailand’s representative, Ms. Shanya Visessiri, the founder and CEO of Pinksphere Co., Ltd, provides a supportive space for creators in diversity, making it possible for female entrepreneurs and creators to monetise their talents and passions by creating NFT collections, in conjunction with brands and marketing activities under Pinksphere’s advice. A share of the profits from the platform will be used to fund career support and self-improvement for the young and underprivileged women in Thailand.

Together with Ms. Tharina Botes, a South African-Thai model, who is dedicated to and involved in philanthropic work in Thailand to attract new donors to support women’s and girls’ causes, the influential women duo is determined to raise awareness on empowering women through MsMA 2023 Web3 Influencer Competition. 🏆



More information on MsMA 2023 Thailand Launch Event can be found on
<https://www.millionaireasia.com/msma/th/>.

MsMA 2023 INDONESIA LAUNCH EVENT

BY ALEXIS TOH

Phenomenal Women's Panellist Session to Inspire Women Empowerment

The official launch of MsMA 2023 Web3 Influencer Competition in Indonesia was held at The St. Regis Jakarta on 7 March 2023, a day before International Women's Day. The event was a great success, with the support of His Excellency Admiral Professor Jayanath Colombage, Ambassador of Sri Lanka to Indonesia, His Excellency Mr. Irakli Asashvili, Ambassador of Georgia to Indonesia, Madam Hadiza Usman Ari Ogah, spouse of the Nigerian Ambassador, and prominent businesswomen, Ms. Wanda Ponika and Dr. Natasha Vinski.

Ms. Ponika is a well-known sociopreneur and a mother of three, while Dr. Vinski, a mother of two, is not only the CEO of her own medical centre for regenerative medicine, Vinski Tower, she also took over her family's aeronautics company at the impressive age of 26. The panellist session, moderated by Ms. Sari Kusumaningrum, who has 20 years of experience in media and public relations, branding, event management as well as marketing and communications, raised awareness on the importance of empowering women in Indonesia. Both Ms. Ponika and Dr. Vinski are excellent role models who have shown that women can juggle family life and career successfully.

Dr. Vinski shared about a question that was directed to her during one of her visits to the rural areas of Indonesia, "How do you manage when your closest people, your family members say that you shouldn't go to university, you shouldn't have a high education because in the end you're going to end up in the kitchen?" She realised that there are local women who need to be empowered, and as quoted from her, "Equality, that's what we fight for. Women need equal opportunities as men, especially in the workplace."

Co-organised with Vulcan Capital International, MsMA 2023 Indonesia Launch Event has sparked some of the most influential women in Indonesia to advocate women empowerment, and they are doing this through the Web3 Influencer Competition. 🌟



More information on MsMA 2023 Indonesia Launch Event can be found on <https://www.millionaireasia.com/msma/id/>.

MsMA 2023 MALAYSIA LAUNCH EVENT

BY ALEXIS TOH

Reiterating Millionaireasia's mission to empower and celebrate Asian women's successes and contributions.



Held in conjunction with the noteworthy International Women's Day, MsMA 2023 Malaysia Launch Event amped up its allure and eminence with the royal attendance of YAM Tunku Naquiyuddin Ibni Almarhum Tuanku Ja'afar, Tunku Laksamana Negeri Sembilan.

The press conference and gala dinner event took place on 16 March 2023 at The Westin Kuala Lumpur. The guest list saw many prominent high-powered personalities and influential women coming together to network, inspire and positively impact the lives of other women. The three keynote speakers placed an emphasis on acknowledging the social, economic and cultural successes of women.

With the launch of MsMA 2023 Web3 Influencer Competition in Malaysia, *Millionaireasia* is creating more opportunities for women, allowing them to thrive in their respective communities. It is important to clarify that MsMA 2023 Web3 Influencer Competition is not a beauty pageant. *Millionaireasia* has nothing against beauty pageants, but the competition holds more meaning than that, carrying with it a bigger initiative than a display of beauty.



The gala dinner event had a special guest performer, Donne Ray Redford, lead singer of The Platters, who livened up the atmosphere before surprising YAM Tunku Naquiyuddin Ibni Almarhum Tuanku Ja'afar, Tunku Laksamana Negeri Sembilan with a belated birthday cake. Coincidentally, the birthday of YAM Tunku Naquiyuddin Ibni Almarhum Tuanku Ja'afar, Tunku Laksamana Negeri Sembilan falls on 8 March, which is International Women's Day. Perhaps, this might be one of the reasons he is so supportive of Empowering Women in Asia for Asians. 🕌

More information on MsMA 2023 Indonesia Launch Event can be found on <https://www.millionaireasia.com/msma/my/>.



From left: Winston Lee, Director of Special Projects at PropertyGuru, Ong LeeNa, Director of Residences at Four Seasons, Melissa Hirsh, Director of Residential and Development Marketing at Four Seasons, Ben Rebeiro, Director of Residential Market Planning, Feasibility and Analytics at Four Seasons, and James Price, Vice President, Residential Development Marketing Sales at Four Seasons.



PRIVILEGE MEETS PERFECTION IN THE HEART OF KUALA LUMPUR

BY ALEXIS TOH

Private Preview of the City's Exclusive New Address

The pulsating heart of Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur, is a melting pot of cross-cultural influences, surrounded with a blend of old-world charm and modern metropolitan sophistication. Strategically located along Jalan Ampang, next to KLCC Twin Towers, Four Seasons Private Residences Kuala Lumpur is one of the city's exclusive new addresses where the impeccable Four Seasons service and pure luxury living intermix, creating a lifestyle in a class of its own.

Co-organised with PropertyGuru Group, one of Asia's largest online property portals, *Millionaireasia* hosted an exclusive by-invite-only preview of the project to almost 30 high-net-worth individuals on 25 February 2023 at Four Seasons Hotel Singapore, where guests get to experience the Four Seasons service first-hand. The guests learnt about Malaysia's Property Outlook in 2023, and discovered the privileges of living in Four Seasons Private Residences Kuala Lumpur which make personalising their lifestyle effortless.

"I would like to thank *Millionaireasia* for organising this meaningful event for us to network, have an overview of the property market in Malaysia and be able to receive first-hand information on the Four Seasons project located at the heart of Kuala Lumpur," commented Mr. Winston Wang, PBM, Managing Director of KiomKee Pte Ltd, who attended the preview. 🏡



Event guests Dr. Daniela Alina Plewe and PBM Winston Wang Swee Kit.

“Achieving new milestones in the business adds a feather in the cap. It’s a journey, not the destination. The belief that the best moment is yet to come keeps me moving.”

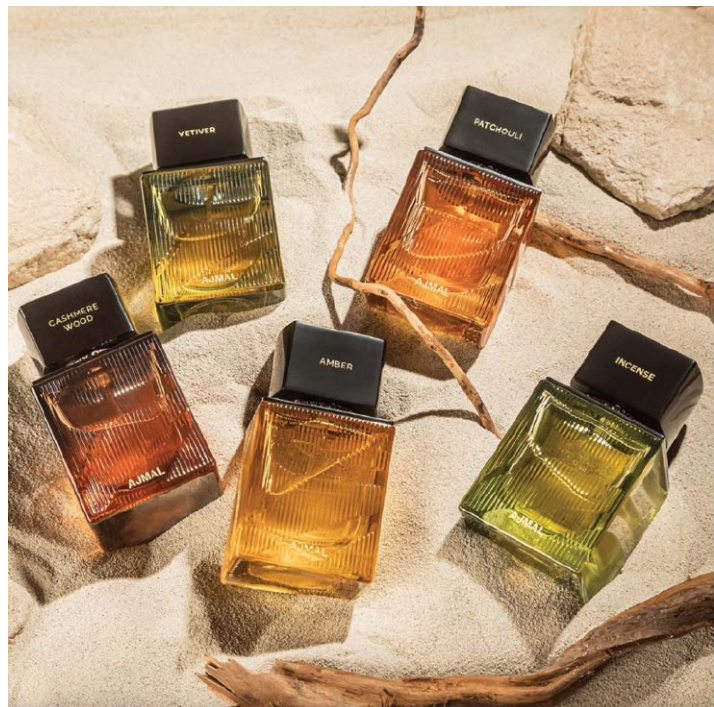
-Khalid

UNLOCKING THE DOOR OF OPPORTUNITIES

BY TOH MU QIN

The Oman entrepreneur shares about emerging industries and international business expansion plans, and why empowering women is important.





Inspired by his father, Mohammed Zaman, a successful businessman, Khalid Mohammed Zaman got started on his entrepreneurship journey by joining the family business, Al Zaman Group of Companies in 2004, and since then, nothing has stopped him from achieving one milestone after another.

“Achieving new milestones in the business adds a feather in the cap. It’s a journey, not the destination. The belief that the best moment is yet to come keeps me moving,” affirmed Khalid.

AL ZAMAN GROUP OF COMPANIES

Al Zaman Group of Companies is an Oman-based business group, active in several key economic areas with global diversity. The company owns, operates and professionally manages businesses within and outside of the Sultanate of Oman. They strive to achieve sustainable financial performance and vertical growth in all their business endeavours by delivering excellent operational results through innovation and proactive strategic approach.

Al Zaman Group of Companies have multiple products and services to offer, ranging from luxury and lifestyle, hospitality and gourmet, real estate, telecom and technology to investments and financial services.

Established in early 2000s, Hermitage Bespoke was founded to cater to a very special client who is no longer around, His Majesty Sultan Qaboos of Oman. It is a luxury and lifestyle brand under Al Zaman Group of Companies, which offers premium, customised products fit for royal families. Ajmal Perfumes, with over 200 stores globally is another luxury and lifestyle brand managed by Al Zaman Group of Companies. The company also oversees jewellery businesses and Swiss watch agencies.





From left: Nicholas Koh, Chairman of Transocean Fortune Integrated Private Limited, Mohammed Khasru Zaman, Chairman & CEO at Al Zaman Group of Companies, Khalid Mohammed Zaman, Managing Director at Al Zaman Group of Companies and Peter Tan, Millionaireasia CEO (Asia Pacific).

“Women are the core of the society and the community, and we have learnt through the leadership of the late Sultan Qaboos, followed by the guidance and directive of Sultan Haitham bin Tariq, that enabling women to contribute side by side with men leads to a solid foundation for success.”

- Khalid



“Al Zaman Group of Companies have their unique set of expertise with quality craftsmanship to deliver rare bespoke quality products. This is what makes us different from others,” claimed Khalid.

Besides luxury and lifestyle, Al Zaman Group of Companies is growing their hospitality and gourmet verticals. They own a chain of hotels in Germany, and have expanded into the fine-dining restaurant industry. Caramel, a restaurant located in the Royal Opera House Muscat, is one of the leading high-end restaurants in Oman.

Khalid went on to elaborate on the real estate vertical of Al Zaman Group of Companies. They develop their own commercial properties for leasing, and ventured into Oman’s first private-public partnership project between the private sector and the government.

Khalid sees a rising trend in high-net-worth individuals and ultra-high-net-worth individuals being interested in their products and services. This has driven him to tap on the available opportunities for future expansion plans, one of which is building a private members’ club in Central London, with six food and beverage outlets located within the club. The club will only cater to high-net-worth individuals, ultra-high-net-worth individuals and royals. All the food and beverage outlets will have a distinct theme to meet the wants and needs of the club’s exclusive members.

Al Zaman Group of Companies has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with *Millionaireasia Pte Ltd*, with the intent to establish and deepen collaboration and cooperation across various areas of common interest – high-net-worth membership, bespoke events, royal education franchise, health and wellness, perfume (Asia market), movies and music festivals. Going forward, there will be many collaborative efforts between these two companies.







Handshake between Peter Tan, *Millionaireasia* CEO (Asia Pacific) and Khalid Mohammed Zaman, Managing Director at Al Zaman Group of Companies after the signing of MOU.



From left: Edgar Koh, Director of Business Development at Victory Knights Management and Consultancy Services Pte Ltd, Peter Tan, *Millionaireasia* CEO (Asia Pacific), Khalid Mohammed Zaman, Managing Director at Al Zaman Group of Companies, Nicholas Koh, Chairman of Transocean Fortune Integrated Private Limited, and Balkrishna Rammurti Dubey, Head of Investments at Al Zaman Group of Companies.



Khalid is definitely keeping himself busy with all that's going on with Al Zaman Group of Companies. When asked about his entrepreneurship journey, he shared, "I grew up seeing my father build his own establishment. This sparked the entrepreneur in me. I studied business during high school in London. The course excited and motivated me to learn more. However, school is more of a guideline than being a foundation for entrepreneurship. In reality, business skills can only develop through practice. You make mistakes, learn from them and strive to do better next time."

Khalid credits his father as his role model after witnessing how dedicated his father is towards the family business, and how determined he is in keeping the business running over the years. In 2013, his father decided to acquire a telecom company which was heading towards bankruptcy. Faced with a set of challenges, no one understood why his father made that move, but Khalid saw the fire in his father's eyes.

Fast forward to today, the telecom company is one of the most successful telecom companies in the region. According to www.portaone.com, "Renna Mobile wins International Award as the 'Most Successful MVNO' at the MVNO World Congress in France in 2017." Khalid learnt a lot over the 10 years, from rebuilding and restructuring the telecom company to exploring new revenue streams, and taking it from the bad state it was in to how it is prospering now. "I am proud to say this was single-handedly done by my father. I watched him execute the full transformation. Everyone expected our investment to be a failure, but we showed them otherwise," revealed Khalid.

Having a good team of employees is one of the key success factors of a thriving company. The vision of Al Zaman Group of Companies is well communicated to the employees. The management is open to ideas, inputs and constructive feedback from the employees, and they allow the employees to take ownership and authority over their tasks.

A MAN'S VIEW ON EMPOWERING WOMEN IN ASIA

On top of empowering the employees, Khalid is fully supportive of empowering women through MsMA 2023 Web3 Influencer Competition.

"I believe this is a very unique competition which highlights the female presence in our region. It is a door for the West to understand the values and respect we have towards women in Asia. Women are the core of the society and the community, and we have learnt through the leadership of the late Sultan Qaboos, followed by the guidance and directive of Sultan Haitham bin Tariq, that enabling women to contribute side by side with men leads to a solid foundation for success," disclosed Khalid. 🕌

BUILDING AN **ICONIC** **BRAND NAME** IN SINGAPORE

BY **TOH MU QIN**

An exclusive insight on a power woman's journey towards success, keeping in mind her mission to beautify the world.

With beginnings as a hairstylist understudy to Sylvia Kho, an established bridal hairstylist in the 1970s, Jean Yip opened her first salon at Katong Plaza in 1982. Fast forward to today, she is the founder of the eponymous beauty and wellness company – the Jean Yip Group – that has grown to become an iconic brand name in Singapore.

Yip attributes her success to her grandmother, who played a huge role in her upbringing. As a young girl at 7 years old, she followed her grandmother everywhere during school holidays – to the market, the hairdresser, and the shops owned by her grandmother. Learning about customer service first-hand, and observing how her grandmother ran multiple businesses with a sincere heart inspired Yip to follow in her grandmother's footsteps.

However, life was not a bed of roses for her childhood. "Shops along Bugis Street, where I used to live with my grandmother, start operations around 5am in the morning. You cannot afford to be lazy and sleep in, or close the shop early. By doing so, you'll earn nothing," she reminisced. Even though her family did not lack anything, Yip was raised and trained in an environment where she had to work extremely hard.

At the age of 16, before she went to London to study, Yip approached her father with the intention to learn hairdressing. He did not understand why she wanted to compromise her education for hairdressing. In the early days, that skill set is meant for dropouts and people who did not want to study. Yip's mother, on the other hand, was very supportive, and allowed her to pick up hairdressing secretly. While in London, Yip split her time between education and hairdressing. Her father's financial support was for education, so she found a job as a boutique assistant to support herself and her hairdressing course.

After returning from London, Yip worked as a hairstylist understudy to Kho, and helped to grow the business. Seeing how Yip spent more than 12 hours a day on her job and noticing the increase in Kho's sales after six months, her father finally acknowledged her passion and drive for hairdressing. He set up a hairdressing and beauty shop for Yip and her aunt. Besides being a hairdresser serving her customers, Yip trained assistants to expand her business. Together with her aunt, she ran the shop for four years before leaving to set up the Jean Yip Group.

"Be gracious, treat people genuinely and equally, and take care of your own and others' well-being. When I see the people around me growing with me, improving and advancing in their life, I feel more motivated to continue bringing Jean Yip Group to greater heights," she shared on her advice and secret to success.

With Yip's experiences in nurturing her three children and grooming hundreds of hairdressing assistants, she has volunteered to be one of the mentors for MsMA 2023 Web3 Influencer Competition. She explained, "In the hairdressing business, women are the most ideal, but we need to be fair and have a balance. We engage men as hairdressers and provide them with the same training and opportunities."

The concept on gender equality will never change. When it comes to women empowerment, Yip strongly believes that women should be given equal rights and opportunities to education and skill sets, in order to excel in the career that they choose. 🙏

“Be gracious, treat people genuinely and equally, and take care of your own and others’ well-being.”

- Jean



FROM CELEBRITY TO WELLNESS ENTREPRENEUR

BY TOH MU QIN

How former actress, singer and beauty pageant queen Cheryl Wee found her true calling in life as a wellness entrepreneur.

Changing careers isn't easy. It takes courage, a strong support system, and a lot of hard work. Cheryl Wee is living proof that it is doable, and you can have the career change you want.

It was by chance that Wee entered the entertainment industry. Her aspiration was to be a singer. Never did she imagine herself to participate in beauty pageants, and emerging as the first runner-up for Miss Chinese International Pageant in 2012. In the same year, Wee released her debut album titled "One Fine Day". Over the years, she landed several roles in Singapore television shows, before signing with an artiste management agency based in Taiwan in 2014.

While Wee was finding her footing in the highly stressful and demanding entertainment industry, she struggled with weight and body image issues. She confided, "I was between 40kg and 42kg, but still thought I was fat."

After a great deal of self-reflection and deep conversations with her family, Wee realised how important it was for her values to fit with her career. Her parents, Jean Yip and Melvin Wee, and husband, Roy Fong, have been her strongest support system. Wee's mother is very particular about the food that their family consume every day. Whenever Yip cooks, she will use a lot of natural ingredients. Since young, Wee believes that food is a medicine that heals one's body, and there are certain foods that should only be eaten during a specific time of the year, to match the weather and to balance the body. With this belief, and inspired by her mother's resilience, her father's constant encouragement and advice, and her husband's drive towards life and success, she founded Cheryl W Wellness & Weight Management in 2016 to help women who share similar concerns.

In the initial start-up phase, Wee doubted her own ability to be an entrepreneur, but her father changed her perspective. "An entrepreneur is not a role nor a job. It is actually an attitude; a mindset. Entrepreneurship is having a sense of belonging and responsibility to what you're supposed to do. Having a never-say-die and never-say-done attitude. You have to keep trying and never give up. Entrepreneurship is the spirit of being enterprising; thinking of ways to solve problems," said Wee's father.

Wee fully focused on developing the services offered by Cheryl W Wellness & Weight Management from 2016 to 2019, and managed to open five outlets in the span of four years. Since 2020, she has shifted her direction towards creating products and improving the retail end of her business. With her husband's support, Wee is planning to expand her business overseas in the future.

When asked about what motivates her to continue succeeding, she explained, "Firstly, I want to reach out to people, and I want people to be inspired to find the best version of themselves. That's when they will feel the happiest. Secondly, when I see customers coming back, leaving positive feedback, and receive good response from new product launches, I want to do more for them. Last but not least, ever since I became a mother, my children become my motivation."

Wee comes from a family where she's privileged to grow up as an empowered woman. The women in her family are all very strong and enterprising. She never felt disadvantaged by men who are in power as the men in her family are accommodating and supportive. She feels that the new generation of women are different; they are independent, financially capable, and have equal opportunities as men, as long as they have a similar skill set and the diligence to push for achievements. 🌱

*“I want to reach out to people,
and I want people to be inspired
to find the best version of
themselves. That’s when they will
feel the happiest.”*

- Cheryl



INSPIRING OTHER WOMEN

BY TOH MU QIN

Leading by example, the Managing Director of DeFRED Jewellers and the Founder of LoveYs2 is paving the way for young women.

Growing up in her hometown, Ipoh, Malaysia and being the youngest amongst six children, Sharel Ho has always been taught by her parents to share what she has with others. Over the years, Ho added some humour whenever she had to introduce herself, “My name is Sharel, “Share” with a “L”ove”. The unconditional love, undivided care and guidance from her parents greatly impacted her life journey.

TOUGHING IT OUT DURING COVID-19

As the managing director of DeFRED Jewellers and founder of LoveYs2, Ho takes charge of the frontline, from visual merchandising to corporate branding. She oversees the company operations, and is directly involved in authorisation and decision-making, supervision and motivation of employees, as well as, ensuring a job well done.

“To be successful, you must be willing to step out of your comfort zone and be uncomfortable. Whatever makes you uncomfortable is your biggest opportunity for growth. Great things never come from comfort,” advised Ho.

During the challenging pandemic period, Ho used the time and opportunity to create a new business. She developed an easy-to-use duo of anti-ageing skincare products with her team of experts. The brand’s primary message to women is, “You have to Love Yourself Too”, which is why she named her brand, “LoveYs2”. She sets out to help women achieve two things – to look beautiful regardless of their age, and to run their own beauty microbusiness. Ho has witnessed many women feeling helpless due to their unhappy circumstances stemming from money issues, and wants to use LoveYs2 to empower women, especially stay-at-home mothers, to run their own microbusiness, earn an income and still have time to look after their family and children.

Since young, Ho has admired successful, self-driven, passionate and intelligent people. She always believed that successful entrepreneurs are passionate at what they choose to do. She wants to be successful in order to provide the best for those she loves and cares for, and be an exemplary model to her two daughters.

“Every test in your life makes you bitter or better. The choice is yours; whether you choose to become a victim or victor.”

-Sharel



THOUGHTS ON BEING MsMA 2023 MENTOR AND EMPOWERING WOMEN

“In my opinion, I believe that becoming an influencer requires the same qualities a person would need to become the best version of themselves. Your message gets noticed and inspires others to take action, and you are recognised as a person to listen to and follow. The five qualities that distinguish you and others are mindset, skill set, action, impact and resilience. MsMA 2023 Web3 Influencer Competition creates an opportunity for participants to invest time and energy to develop the five qualities and become someone worth following,” commented Ho.

Being one of the mentors for MsMA 2023 Web3 Influencer Competition, Ho would like to share her own life experiences with the finalists. Her encouraging words for the finalists are, “A woman’s personality is shaped by societal and environmental influences. Every single one of us is unique. Do not compare yourself with others. When you compare yourself to others, you are comparing yourself to the

perception of what the person is. In reality, everyone is only presenting their ideal self on social media, which might not be a true representation.”

She further elaborated, “To be a Champion of MsMA 2023, you must be willing to learn with an open mind and be passionate in following your interest while widening your horizon by meeting new people. Being comfortable is an enemy. Staying hungry and focused on pushing yourself allows you to continue to grow and evolve. Be humble but be firm – humanity and openness are the key to success without compromising your beliefs. Sometimes, we may drop one of the many balls that we juggle in our lives but it is alright. We pick ourselves up and carry on. Each challenge in our life helps us face some fears that we need to overcome. Embrace all challenges as your learning journey which will ultimately help your soul grow and help you understand something that you wouldn’t know otherwise. Each challenge adds new wisdom to your soul’s journey. Every test in your life makes you bitter or better. The choice is yours; whether you choose to become a victim or victor.” 🙏

GERMAN-BORN, ITALIAN-BRED.

How Heinz Beck adopted Italy.

The Cliff Restaurant at Sofitel Singapore in Sentosa fits its moniker to a T with its unparalleled view of the South China Sea. This romantic sojourn welcomes you in with an open lounge and bar area adjacent to the resort's pools. Its grand – yet intimate – dining room leaves diners in awe.

"The chef is ready for you," the restaurant manager interrupts. Glass of wine in hand, I walked out of the dining room. The breathtaking view would have to wait till after my conversation with Michelin-starred chef, Heinz Beck.

AN ACCIDENTAL SUCCESS

It would be Chef Beck's last night at The Cliff, after three nights of hosting a five-course wine dinner.

I've spoken to many chefs. In turn, they've spoken to me about their lifelong dream of becoming a chef, their grandmothers and mothers who've whisked them into the kitchen and taught them about cooking from the heart, or travelling the world and finding a cuisine they would fall in love with that would inspire their food journey.

BECK IS NOT THAT CHEF.

"I never wanted to be a chef," he said blatantly. "I wanted to be a painter. I wanted to do art college."

No doubt, Heinz Beck the painter would have made his own long list of achievements. Despite his love for art, Beck's father said no quite quickly, labelling it as 'not decent work'. Unwilling to back down, Beck refused to continue his studies, adamant it was art college or nothing. In the end, his father won, and Beck started his first stint as a chef a few weeks later at only 16 years old.

Beck's early culinary years were spent in restaurants all over his home turf, Germany: *Tantris* in Munich, *Tristán* in Mallorca before being dubbed sous chef of *Residenz* by his namesake, Heinz Winkler in Aschau.

Beck recollects his days as Winkler's pastry chef. "It took me three years to think like an Italian and a chef, and no longer like a German pastry chef."

His beginnings might have been close to home, but Beck has turned into an all-rounded chef, mentally reprogramming his way of thinking about food. Beck's move from Germany began with a simple invitation at an opportune time.

Cavalieri Hotel reached out to Beck with an invitation to visit the site of *La Pergola*, its rooftop restaurant with plans on reopening it.

"I was studying a lot while I was in Germany, and when *Cavalieri Hotel* contacted me, I was planning to stop cooking because I had to take over the family business in jewellery," Beck explains. "They invited me, and I was thinking (upon seeing the restaurant), okay it's a nice place. I loved the place. I told myself two years. In those two years I would learn Italian, which in turn would be good for the family business and its business partners," he continues.

Moving to Italy in 1994, he was no longer asked to cook the food of his birthplace but that of his adopted home.

Despite finding himself in unfamiliar territory, Beck successfully earned the restaurant's third Michelin star in November 2005. To date, Beck's measured Michelin success is found across Europe, United Arab Emirates, and even Tokyo with none of his creations containing a single ingredient, method, or tradition from where he was born.

ALL ABOUT BALANCE

After a successful 40 years in cooking, Beck no longer focuses on whether he likes or dislikes being a chef. To him, it's more important to feel content in whatever he's doing, as if he is cooking for the first time, and with heart.



He has also dedicated his life to science and food nutrition, and emphasises that food and health go hand in hand.

“We are what we eat. Food is your medicine, and your medicine becomes your food. It’s important that we’re not only eating a well-balanced meal, but what we eat gives us positive support to our body.”

In 2021, Beck also launched a medical retreat in Italy, a five-star luxury facility with 100 rooms, wellness and 5000 square metres of medical centres, and fourteen different food lines.

“What I’m doing is really based on scientific projects, not because health became trendy. A lot of chefs are talking about it but they’re not doing it.”

BECK’S VIEW ON GASTRONOMY IS SIMPLE.

“It means to have a perfect service. (Each day) I hope I’ve not invented the most exciting dish, my most exciting dish is always the next one.” 🍴

GOAL-GETTER SUPERMUM

BY TOH MU QIN

Balancing big jobs and big families isn't that hard.

Jane Tan has been in the real estate industry for 14 years, with her primary focus in the commercial, industrial and collective en-bloc sales. She became an Associate Deputy Group Director at OrangeTee & Tie in 2018, cementing her position as one of its top performing agents.

While raising her three kids, Tan opened a beauty aesthetics chain in 2019 within a span of six months. The chain won the Top SME 100 Award and Singapore Prestige Class Award in the same year. Tan also emerged in 8th Position across the entire OrangeTee Company in that year. To add on, Tan is also involved in the operations of other various companies dealing with family offices, facilities management, capital markets and fund investments.

Her three biological children and eight sponsored children (from Cambodia, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Mongolia, Vietnam, Philippines and Nepal) are her key motivation to keep on succeeding. Tan envisioned that in the long-term future, there is an opportunity to set up an organisation focused on philanthropic deeds to benefit the poor in third world countries.

The five core values which are important to Tan are Integrity, Accountability, Diligence, Perseverance and Discipline.

Tan is one of the mentors for MsMA 2023 Web3 Influencer Competition. She finds the competition intriguing as it encourages women to have a positive mindset, pursue goals and become independent in the society. 🙏



BEAUTY WITHOUT LIMITS

BY TOH MU QIN

Miss Universe Thailand 2021 first runner-up talks about her philanthropic efforts and goal to empower women globally.

Ladies, know that you have the power to be extraordinary and the power to transform our world. Believe in your dreams, and don't let anything stop you from chasing what's in your heart."

This is what Thai-South African beauty queen Tharina Botes wants to convey to the next generation of female leaders and young women thinking about their careers. Having started pageants at the age of 10, Botes has won a few pageant titles, notably Miss Teen Gauteng 2014 and Miss Grand Phuket 2019. More recently, she finished as Miss Universe Thailand 2021 first runner-up.

MISS UNIVERSE

Botes sees Miss Universe as an opportunity to represent Thailand, to serve her community, influence positivity and bring about change that she wants to see. "I want to be an inspiration to girls – for them to know that they can achieve anything they set their mind to," she revealed.

Born and raised in South Africa, Botes was not taught the Thai language growing up. When she moved to Thailand, not being able to converse in Thai was a barrier for her chance to be Miss Thailand. She challenged herself to learn Thai within a year to communicate with the locals and eventually, made her voice heard. The locals recognised and acknowledged her determination and perseverance in overcoming her obstacle – that's when she garnered many supporters. Having the locals believe in Botes meant the world to her. In addition, with the support of her family and friends, she continued pushing herself to excel.

PHILANTHROPY

Botes is not only a beauty queen; she has a beautiful heart. She has been involved in charity work since the age of 16 and visited orphanages with her best friend. Currently, she volunteers at Scholar of Sustenance, a foundation that collects home-cooked meals as donations and distributes the food to different communities daily in Phuket. She is also working with Oceans For All, an organisation committed to restoring the balance in the marine ecosystem, protecting and preserving the world's oceans.

"Being philanthropic develops empathy and broadens our perspective in the world. It provides a sense of purpose. It also gives me a lot of happiness and makes me more optimistic," said Botes.

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Besides tapping on her network of supporters to promote philanthropic initiatives, Botes also garners their support in her efforts to empower women.

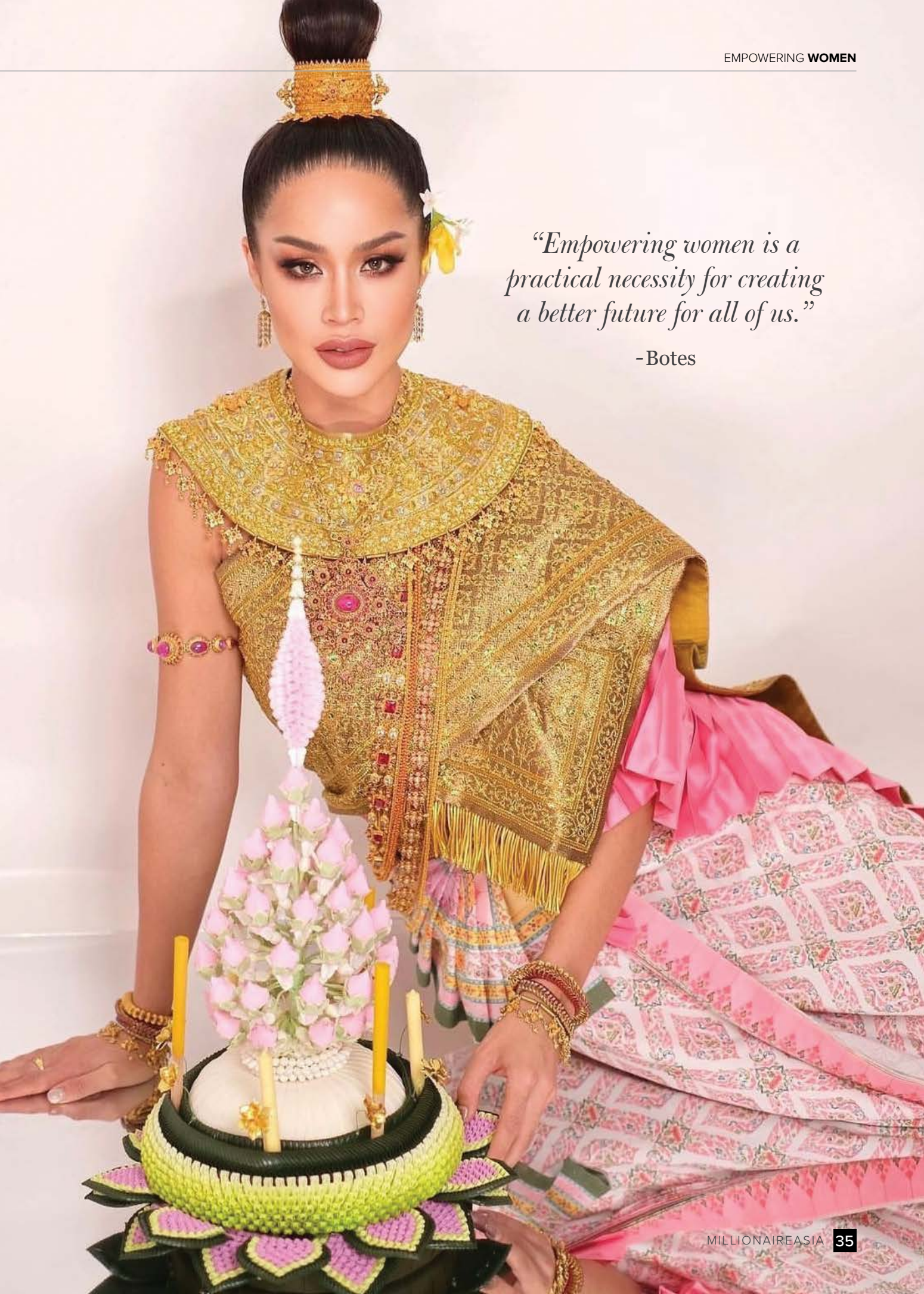
"Empowering women is crucial for creating a more equal society. Women make up half of the world's population and should have the same opportunities as men to pursue education, careers, and leadership roles. When women are empowered, they can contribute to their communities and societies in meaningful ways. Empowering women is a practical necessity for creating a better future for all of us," Botes explained.

Botes is empowering women through her clothing brand, 'Tharina Brand'. She feels that women are too critical about how they dress, how they present themselves, and how others perceive them. Hence, the 'Tharina Brand' is all about breaking the boundaries that women set for themselves. She is helping women choose what makes them feel powerful and confident, yet fashionable and comfortable as well. As quoted from Botes, "We should create supportive environments that value diversity and inclusion. This may include providing flexible work arrangements, promoting work-life balance, and addressing unconscious bias. Celebrating the achievements of women who have pursued their dreams and goals, be it in the workplace or media, can also provide positive reinforcement and inspire other women to do the same."

Seizing the opportunity to be mentored by successful entrepreneurs and businesspeople, Botes has registered as one of the contestants for MsMA 2023 Web3 Influencer Competition. She hopes that the competition will encourage more successful women to coach younger and aspiring women in navigating their career paths through the sharing of advice and experiences. 🌟

“Empowering women is a practical necessity for creating a better future for all of us.”

- Botes



FROM ZERO TO HERO

BY TOH MU QIN

Lessons learnt from making the leap to entrepreneurship, and the mindset behind a sustainable business model.

Not everyone is born with a silver spoon, but what did Pham Thi Mai Thao do to turn her life around?

Growing up just after the Vietnam War, Pham spent her childhood in poverty. Her mother did not have a stable income to support the family. Pham had to juggle between part-time jobs and attending high school to help her mother with household expenses and taxes. “I have always admired my mother. Her hardworking attitude towards earning enough money to put me through school and have a better education is what motivates me to be successful today. She inspires me to persevere through the struggling times,” said Pham affectionately.

THE WOMAN ENTREPRENEUR

Being a mother of two daughters, Pham had a strong urge to start her own business, to build a better future and be a good role model for her children. Moreover, she didn’t feel that being an employee of a company would allow her to scale to greater heights in her career. In 2016, she left her senior managerial position and started Younghalo LLC, a law firm specialising in office leasing and corporate services, with another lawyer.

Younghalo LLC represents the active and young spirit. Pham wants her clients to experience enthusiastic and dynamic customer service. The most important values for her success are having a growth mindset and setting a realistic goal for herself to accomplish, even if it is a small goal. The former allows her to be in a state of good mental health; not fearing mistakes made in her new career or idea, and treating every situation as a learning opportunity. The latter helps her stay

focused and prevents her from wasting precious time dealing with insignificant tasks.

Apart from running Younghalo LLC, Pham is also a Senior Attorney at Investpush Legal, where she provides in-depth advice for businesses in the pharmaceutical and technology industries.

Pham’s mother and children are the anchors in her life and her main sources of motivation to keep succeeding. Women are greatly underrepresented, especially in the technology field, but Pham is pushing for inclusivity, and wants to encourage other women to step up to the challenge in this fast-growing sector.

THE EMPOWERED WOMAN

“MsMA 2023 is an amazing idea for successful businesswomen to share their secrets and advice with aspiring entrepreneurs, to empower them to aim for success, whether in their personal or professional life,” said Pham. There are many women in Vietnam who need to be empowered, and Pham is playing her part in advocating Women Empowerment by supporting MsMA 2023.

Pham sees herself as a modern woman – ambitious, determined and responsible for her own actions. “Just do what you want and live for yourself. Only when you have the power to decide your own life can you help others. Being a woman has its advantages and disadvantages. You should turn all your weaknesses into strengths in order to live life to the fullest,” advised Pham. 🙏

“Just do what you want and live for yourself. Only when you have the power to decide your own life can you help others. Being a woman has its advantages and disadvantages. You should turn all your weaknesses into strengths in order to live life to the fullest,”

- Pham



BREAKING FREE

FROM CULTURAL STIGMAS AND EXPECTATIONS

BY TOH MU QIN

An influential woman entrepreneur in
a male-dominated industry.

Born and raised in Quang Ngai, a small city in Central Vietnam, Tien Huynh never expected herself to become an entrepreneur. Having parents who were always busy making ends meet set the stage for Tien to become independent from a young age. Her goal in life was always to be free to do what and when she pleases while following her passions.

"I always worked for the journey, not the destination – and I think that's what makes it easy for me to excel. Too often, people set their eyes on long term goals, but these objectives are highly likely to change over time, or become unachievable. You got to enjoy the ride and be flexible if you want to succeed in whatever you do," shared Tien.

SWITCHING CAREER PATH

Being a linguaphile and people person, Tien founded Tinker English at the age of 20. She started a small English class which expanded faster than she imagined. While focusing on providing quality English education, Tien managed to build up a student community, with the majority being young women. Through her lessons, she noticed a massive need for the young women to learn soft skills, self-love and self-expression. She created a forum for the young women to discuss issues that traditional education did not allow for, and she fell in love with empowering her students.

Unfortunately, Tinker English shifted from physical classes to remote learning during COVID-19. Tien realised that remote learning wasn't as effective or enjoyable as compared to in-person classes where real bonds formed, so she pivoted.

While running Tinker English, Tien built a solid social media presence for herself, and discovered the thriving blockchain industry in 2021. She learnt and worked her way up in this industry that's completely new to her, and connected with a woman blockchain entrepreneur and kindred spirit. Both Tien and her partner saw the gender discrepancy in the industry, and they were passionate in pushing for more equality, which resulted in their start-up, S.H.E. Blockchain, a women-centric education and empowerment organisation which focuses on preparing women for the emerging markets dominated by men.

Tien became the co-founder and president of S.H.E. Blockchain. They collaborated with many incredible partners and contributed to the professional development of numerous talented and driven young women. In the fourth quarter of 2022, S.H.E. Blockchain was heading towards an aggressive expansion, but Tien had a different direction in mind. Parting amicably with her partner, Tien moved on as a founder of Pi Academy in Ho Chi Minh City. She is now focusing on broader education for companies and young professionals, to help them integrate new technologies into traditional business models.

Tien always believed in looking towards the future and prepping herself in advance, in order to be one step ahead of others and succeed in life. In her words, "If you want a great seat for the show, you need to be one of the first in line."

EMPOWERING WOMEN IN VIETNAM

"MsMA 2023 Web3 Influencer Competition motivates many young women and rising stars to work on themselves, to develop vital communication and self-expression skills. Even though there will only be 3 winners, I feel that MsMA 2023 can turn every participant into a winner by pushing them to develop their skills, challenge themselves and be brave enough to present their beauty and brain on a world stage," commented Tien when she was asked about her thoughts on MsMA 2023.

Tien's greatest advice for women in Vietnam is to break free from cultural stigmas and expectations. She feels that there is great wisdom in the Vietnamese culture, but there are also outdated and inapplicable beliefs that can often shackle women into a state of constant fear, anxiety, self-doubt and even depression. Unreasonable self-expectations derived by a person can be damaging, but when the whole community and environment apply the same pressure, it can be crippling. All women need to determine what makes her happy, and decide if her pursuit of happiness is achievable. 🙏

*“I always worked for
the journey, not the
destination
– and I think that’s
what makes it easy
for me to excel.”*

-Tien



TOGETHER IN ELECTRIC DREAMS

BY **AZFAR HASHIM**

The fast rising appeal and demand of electric vehicles (EVs) means more new models are coming our way.

Carmakers have been doing their part to go cleaner and greener by looking at alternative fuels for their product range. Thanks to engineering innovations over the years, several options have been introduced and identified as viable sources. At this juncture, the electric car has been tested and proven to be the best option.

Regulatory authorities all over the world have taken steps to phase out automobiles with the internal combustion engine (ICE) and as we move progressively towards an all-electric car future, naturally more new models will be introduced.

With that in mind, we bring you six new models to anticipate this year – globally and locally.



Maserati Grecale Folgore

The first all-electric model from Maserati, the Grecale Folgore should be the answer to luxury Sports Utility Vehicle (SUV) buyers who are looking for a zero-emission solution. Folgore ('lightning' in English) is the nomenclature given to Maserati's electric model range.

To tell it apart from its ICE brethren, the Grecale Folgore will be offered in an exclusive exterior colour – Rame Folgore. According to Maserati, inspiration for this copper colour is drawn from contemporary architecture; in this case, the Guggenheim Bilbao Museum in Spain.

While not much technical info is readily available yet, Maserati's new electric SUV will be equipped with a 105 kW/h battery, capable of delivering as much as 800 Nm of torque with a top speed of more than 200 km/h. All-wheel drive will be standard.



Photos courtesy of respective manufacturers



Lotus Eletre

This, without a doubt, is a first for the brand. An all-electric SUV from Lotus, the Eletre is set to race many hearts, especially those who resonate with the brand's pedigree. Being planet-friendly aside, performance is definitely at its core looking at how Lotus themselves have chosen the tagline 'hyper SUV' for this one.

These are the eyebrow raising figures: A 675 kW maximum output courtesy of its twin electric motors, a 260 km/h top speed and a zero to 100 km/h dash that can be executed in less than three seconds; things normally seen in a sports car, but Lotus decided to make it all possible here with their first electric SUV. Equally fast is its charging time of 20 minutes via a fast charger, which offers a range of up to 400 km.

To keep up with the driving autonomy trend, the Eletre will come standard with a LiDAR system that scans around the car in every direction, generating a sophisticated 3D map of the surroundings to detect obstacles even in low light or inclement weather, ultra HD camera with 360-degree coverage, and millimetre-wave radar that calculates the position, speed, and direction of potential obstacles, even low-lying obstructions.

Of course, Lotus did not miss out on practicality. The rear trunk offers 688 litres of space, which can max out to 1,532 litres. The front trunk on the other hand provides 44 litres, useful at storing charging cables and other smaller items.

Mercedes-Benz EQG

The Mercedes-Benz G-Class (also affectionately known as the G-wagon) is undoubtedly one of the most admired SUVs out there. Hence, it should come as no surprise that an all-electric version will be coming our way – meet the EQG.

The Mercedes-Benz EQG is a revised G-Class with EV-specific styling bits and an entirely different powertrain. Fans of the G-Wagon will be glad to know that no major revisions are being made to the design of its exterior.

That said however, the electric G-class will come with a two-tone exterior colour scheme consisting of gloss black on the top and gloss aluminium for the bottom, a black panel grille housing an illuminated star, exclusive 22-inch wheels and an EV wall box charger-inspired lockable box replacing the spare wheel cover.

The Mercedes-Benz EQG will feature a battery pack with an energy storage capacity of around 100 kWh. Keeping with the spirit of innovation, a new type of battery pack with a remarkably high energy density will be employed. The benefit here would be that Mercedes-Benz will not need large battery packs to meet range requirements, which also means increased range without additional weight for the almost 3,500 kg EQG.

While Mercedes-Benz intends to launch this model only in 2024, there are whispers that its soft launch will be as early as late 2023.



While those three are lined up for a global launch, here are three luxury electric car models that are slated for release in Singapore this year:

Audi Q8 e-tron

2023 sees a renaming exercise for the German brand's full-sized electric SUV. Replacing the 'e-tron' name, it has been rechristened 'Q8 e-tron', making it clear this is the top model in Audi's electric SUV and crossover range. That is not all though – Audi promised significant improvement in both battery capacity and charging performance, to up the ante.

With new front and rear designs characterised by the Singleframe mask, inverted grille and blade above the redesigned rear diffuser, the Q8 e-tron will be available in two body styles – SUV and Sportback – carrying Audi's electric design language.

Buyers can choose from three different variants:

The base model Audi Q8 50 e-tron generates 250 kW (in boost mode) and 664 Nm of torque, with a range of up to 491 km (SUV) and up to 505 km (Sportback). The middle child, Q8 55 e-tron, generates 300 kW (in boost mode) and 664 Nm. Their ranges are up to 582 km and 600 km for the SUV and Sportback, respectively.

The top-end Audi SQ8 e-tron gets power from three motors. Its performance figure amounts to 370 kW (in boost mode) and 973 Nm. Range is up to 494 km for the SUV and 513 km for the Sportback, with top speed limited to 210 km/h.

Two-motor all-wheel drive comes standard for all Q8 e-tron models.





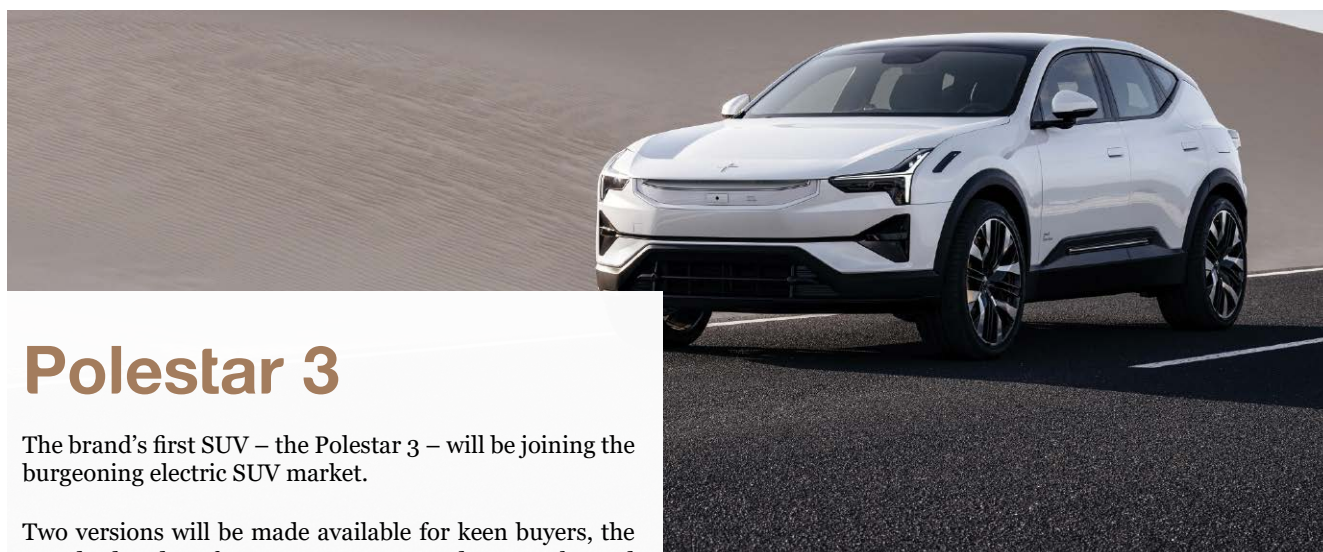
BMW iX1

An all-electric variant of the highly popular BMW X1, the iX1 will surely be of interest to buyers in this compact SUV segment.

At launch, BMW will only offer the iX1 in a dual-motor all-wheel drive variant called 'xDrive30.' It gets an electric motor on both the front and rear axles. Power output is rated at 230 kW (in boost mode) with 494 Nm of maximum torque, needing only 5.6 seconds to reach 100 km/h from standstill.

The iX1 xDrive30 supports 11 kW AC charging, which can fully recharge the battery in 6.5 hours. Via a fast charger, topping up the battery pack from 10 to 80 percent takes only 29 minutes. The range for this is said to be 440 km.

Adaptive M suspension is standard on the BMW iX1, allowing the driver to alter the ride comfort. Complementing this is the Sport steering which features a more direct rack ratio for precise steering.



Polestar 3

The brand's first SUV – the Polestar 3 – will be joining the burgeoning electric SUV market.

Two versions will be made available for keen buyers, the Standard and Performance. Output stands at 489 hp and 517 hp respectively, both courtesy of a dual motor, all-wheel drive drivetrain. For those who are more curious about the acceleration capability, the Performance variant does the zero to 100 km/h sprint in 4.7 seconds. All models come with the same 107 kWh battery pack.

A fast charger will require just 30 minutes to get the Polestar 3 from 10 to 80 percent battery life. Range returns are more than 480 km for the Standard and for the Performance it is within 430 km.

One can expect features such as adaptive cruise control with lane centre assist and a head-up display on every model; not forgetting high-end luxury touches such as a 25-speaker Bowers & Wilkins stereo and soft-closing doors. Adaptive suspension system with active dampers is also included, but the Performance package includes an extra goodie in the form of a sport-tuned suspension. 🏎️



About The Writer

Azfar Hashim is the founder and managing director of content marketing agency, The Content People. Prior to this, he had a blend of affairs in the automotive industry – Azfar was a motoring journalist reporting on the latest cars and automotive news for 15 years, before going over to the other side of the fence working in-house for automotive brands Subaru and Ferrari; as a product planner for the former, and digital communicator for the latter.

A COLLECTORS' BIOGRAPHY

BY **MOHAMMED KHASRU ZAMAN**

PHOTOS: Edgar Koh, Director of Business Development at Victory Knights Management and Consultancy Services Pte Ltd

In this issue, *Millionaireasia* is proud to present the captivating story of an avid watch collector from the Sultanate of Oman, who has dedicated more than forty years collecting the rarest and finest vintage watches, gems and jewels, objet d'art and vintage complicated clocks. For the first time in publication history, Mr. Mohammed Zaman reveals his identity and graciously showcases his exclusive collection to *Millionaireasia*.

For Mohammed, it all started with two watches some 40 years ago – an Omega, gifted to him by his late father, and a Fortis gifted to him by his uncle, both bought from Saudi Arabia. Then in 1978, Mohammed and his cousin bought their first *Rolex Day-Date, Yellow Gold* watch in Dubai to commemorate a successful business deal. These two events sparked a journey that eventually turned Mohammed into a passionate collector of fine watches, diamonds, gems and jewellery. At one point in time, Mohammed possessed the finest, rarest, and probably the world's largest collection of Colombian and Zambian emeralds, diamonds, as well as Burmese and Mozambique rubies.

Just under two years ago, Mohammed sold a part of his gems and jewels collection through a major global auction house but has remained anonymous in the process. Today, Mohammed speaks about his treasured watch collection, and chose to be publicly named because of the joy and pride the collection brings to him. Arguably one of the most important watch collectors in the world today, Mohammed is held in high esteem by global auction houses like *Philips*, *Christie's*, *Sotheby's*, *Antiquorum*, and *Monaco Legend*, amongst others, for his astute knowledge in horology, and his deep passion for rare and vintage timepieces.

"It gives me tremendous joy and fulfilment when I look at a watch and analyse its movement, mechanism, design, and complications. My journey started over 40 years ago and like most collectors, I gradually evolved from an accumulator to a collector. There was a time when I had over 500 watches in my collection, and as I delved deeper into the world of collecting and started adopting a more serious and microscopic view, I decided to curate my collection and reduce it to house a smaller number of the most rare, limited edition, unique,

historically important, and complicated watches. This has streamlined my collection to a more concise portfolio of less than 300 watches, of which about a 160 of them are absolutely irreplaceable or very rare to find,” shared Mohammed.

Mohammed’s collection is one that is unlike any other. While diverse in brands, from the top well-known ateliers to exclusive independent watchmakers, the timepieces in the collection are united on one common front – they represent the very pinnacle of watchmaking and are the most rare, unique, and complicated pieces of what Mohammed would call “masterpieces of historic watchmaking”. As a collector, Mohammed is not only passionate, but also well-educated and well-informed of the collectors’ world. He is well-connected with top dealers from Buenos Aires, Miami, New York, London, Singapore, Hong Kong, Sydney, Tokyo, Geneva, and Monte Carlo. He is also kept updated on the latest market dynamics by the top auction houses. It is not uncommon to find Mohammed on long-haul flights to South America, Europe, or to East Asia to view a watch or attend an event.

Mohammed’s collection includes unique pieces such as the one and only *Marlon Brando’s Rolex GMT-Master* from ‘Apocalypse Now’, *Philippe Dufour Grande et Petite Sonnerie* wristwatch, and remarkable, unique pieces from Patek Philippe, Audemars Piguet, Voutilainen, Rolex, IWC, A. Lange & Söhne, F.P. Journe, Rudis Sylva, Romain Gauthier, Schwarz-Etienne, Jaeger-LeCoultre, Sylvain Pinaud, Harry Winston, George Daniels, AKRIVIA, MB&F, De Bethune, Czapek, and others. *Millionaireasia* had the opportunity to view most of the collection, and photographed a select few for this article. To describe what was seen as simply a “watch collection” would be a great disservice to the breadth and depth of these watches, many of which are historically important or are the very definition of ‘Haute Horlogerie’.

“Initially I would buy a gemstone or a diamond, a watch or clock or objet d’art out of fascination or on impulse. It took me a considerable amount of time before I could begin to differentiate between being an accumulator and a collector which was another turning point in my life,” Mohammed Zaman explained.

To Mohammed, his watch collecting life represents the most prominent side of him. When asked how he copes with the pressure of running several business interests across three continents in parallel to his passion for horology, he says that he has his professional management team consisting of his son Khalid and his daughter Zahra to thank. Mohammed’s business group is involved in real estate, hospitality, investments, retail, gastronomy, tea production, telecom and technology, and luxury goods, including a duty-free operation. He counts London, Dubai, and Frankfurt amongst his global offices.

Millionaireasia flew in a team to Muscat to meet with Mohammed and spent over three days speaking to him about his collection and journey as a collector. Mohammed’s passion for horology was evident from the very beginning, and the team was enchanted with his eloquence and knowledge. When asked about his readiness to reveal himself after four decades, Mohammed described the effort required

in the management and curation of a collection of this size, importance, and value as a full-time job, one that he is about to retire from soon. He revealed that saying goodbye to the collection, however painful it may be, is a matter of *time*, so he might as well come forth now.

He said, “I am proud of my collection. It brings me joy and delight when I look, touch, and hold the pieces.”

When asked about his opinion of the watchmaking industry today, Mohammed commented: “There is no doubt that top brands like Rolex, Patek Philippe, Audemars Piguet, A. Lange & Söhne, Jaeger-LeCoultre, IWC, Vacheron Constantin, Zenith amongst others, are highly acclaimed and produce the finest timepieces. However, most of these brands also produce multiple models with different complications. Some are difficult to procure, and others sell at a premium in parallel markets or through auction houses. Many can be bought from retail stores unless it’s a unique or a limited-edition piece which is often pre-sold to preferred collectors. You will also find multiple watches from each of these brands in auction catalogues each season but very few or none from independent watchmakers.”

On independent watchmaking, Mohammed said: “For example, the *Philippe Dufour Grande et Petite Sonnerie* wristwatch, which is a masterpiece of unparalleled watchmaking, and *George Daniels Platinum, Voutilainen Platinum Minute Repeater* as well as pieces from Schwarz-Etienne, Romain Gauthier, Grönefeld, De Bethune, are all the “holy grail” watches and watchmakers. AKRIVIA is yet another example of the finest watchmaking available. Rexcep Rexhepi is the most celebrated independent watchmaker of his generation. One has to wait for three to five years to own an AKRIVIA. For serious watch collectors, Independent and high complication watches are a must in every serious watch collector’s collection. These watches add and preserve serious value and make the composition of a collection complete – enviable and something to be proud of. Among my pocket watch collection, I also have two unique pocket watches; a Patek Philippe skeletonised ruby and diamond set gold watch and a Gideon & Co. Grand Complication packed with thirteen complications and an eight-day going train on two levels with day, date and month indicator and moon phase. This is among the few highest complication pocket watch ever produced. The Gold case, stamped “JL”, is lavishly engraved, and externally decorated with finely painted enamel images, made to the original owner’s preferred specification. This watch remains the most complicated pocket watch ever produced by any maker.”

Mohammed concluded the interview by saying, “When I started my collecting journey over 40 years ago, I had no inclination where the journey would take me. Today I am proud to own such an enviable and unparalleled collection. I must thank my friends from the collection and auction worlds, and the dealers’ network for their valuable input and guidance in continually curating my collection over the years. Particularly, I would like to mention my friends Aurel Bacs, Rahul Kadakia, Davide Parmegiani, Alex Ghotbi, Federico Maman, David Warren, Howard Dixon, Martin Husi, Michel Parmigiani, Leopoldo Quintavalle, Martin De Leeuw, Luca Musumeci, Remy Julia and Jacky Epitoux among many others.” 

FASHION

(TRADITION VS NOVELTY IN FASHION)

BY **PRIYANKA ELHENCE**



Tradition In The Fashion World Or Modern Breakthroughs. Which Prevails?

Fashion has progressed from a mere necessity to a dynamic industry on the bleeding edge of innovation and tradition. Smart fabrics, spray-on clothing and multi-functional designs are quite the modern day rage in fashion now. Here's looking ahead to what changes we are going to see in the world of fashion to keep up with the constantly shifting consumer demands for new styles and designs.

One of the world's largest industries, the world of fashion is estimated to be worth a whopping \$3.3 trillion by 2030. Of late, the fashion industry has seen several modern breakthroughs as a result of ever-evolving innovative technology, the need for social media approval, and the rising concerns on lack of fair wages, mass production, environmental consequences of unethical fashion, and sustainability.

Perhaps the biggest change thus far has been the bold move from the traditional seasonal format to timeless pieces that stay classic for years to come, a shift spurred by sustainability and minimal waste. Did you know that the fashion industry is responsible for up to 10% of global CO2 emissions, 20% of the world's industrial wastewater, 24% of insecticides, and 11% of pesticides used? Fast fashion giants can produce as many as 52 micro collections per year while traditional brands typically release up to 11 collections annually, resulting in an estimated 12.8 million tons of unnecessary textile waste going to landfills. Something has to change. Due to such a heavy environmental impact, more consumers and fashion brands are turning to the concept of 'slow fashion' and are choosing conscious brands over fast fashion.

Another traditional fashion mould was shattered with the fashion industry's recent jaw-dropping fashion moment with the spray-on white dress that graced Bella Hadid in October last year at the close of the Coperni show during the Paris Fashion Week. You could argue that the idea of spray-on clothes is not entirely novel though. Perhaps Bella Hadid's white dress was a refined 2.0 version of Alexander McQueen's Spring 1999 show, where Shalom Harlow was spray-painted on with a white multicoloured dress with black and neon-yellow paint by two robots. She however, walked off the runway, dripping in paint then.

Many designers are exploring the possibilities of working with less harmful starting materials, such as plant-based fabrics like seaweed and mushrooms.



At last year's fashion show however, the spray-on dress was the brainchild of Spanish fashion designer and scientist Manel Torres, founder of Fabrican (there can't be a better brand name for fabric in a can). Torres' inspiration for his innovative and instantaneously materialised dress came from silly string and spiderwebs, and the science behind it has been more than two decades in the making. Since 2003, Torres has imagined a world where people can go into a booth, customise their outfit, and instantly walk out with it 3D printed onto their bodies. His work culminated in Fabrican, where coarse cords of silly string are elevated into a finer fabric that are dispersed through a mist into the air, turning into a solid, but suede-like, stretchy material. In a nutshell, imagine liquid fabric (in the form of cotton, wool, linen, polyester or synthetic fibres) that are suspended in a polymer solution and a fast-evaporating solvent like acetone, all in a can, together with additives and natural latex binders. This heady cocktail then evaporates when it comes into contact with the body, resulting in the head-turning sprayed-on dress.

Even more impressive is the fact that the sprayed-on dress can be removed and turned back into solution again, ready for reuse once more. And increasingly, spray-on clothes are being used for spot repairs on

existing clothing too, as this principle is already being used in the medical industry, where sterilised fibres are being used for wound dressings, instant bandages and seal injured or burned skin.

But fashion critics are quick to point out novel practices such as this glamorous spray-on fabric falls disappointingly short on sustainability; this despite Fabrican's public disclaimer that it uses only recycled fibres, and the used fabrics can be re-dissolved and sprayed again, giving them more life with virtually no carbon footprint. An interesting argument at a time when novel fabrics are considered to be the future of fashion and literally reshaping the clothes we wear today. Is it a mere novelty? Time will tell.

In response to the demand for producing more sustainable and eco-friendly clothes, many designers are exploring the possibilities of working with less harmful starting materials, such as plant-based fabrics like seaweed and mushrooms. Some other examples of novel fabrics include super-strong spider silk; colour-shifting fabric technology using 3D-printed objects with photochromic inks that change colour when exposed to certain wavelengths of UV light; and using conductive threads for weaving touch-responsive textiles. Impressive!





Another modern fashion breakthrough is fluid fashion, where the lines between distinct men's and women's fashion are fast disappearing as a result of the change in consumer attitudes towards gender identity and free expression. This has resulted in a total rethink of the product design, marketing and the actual shopping experience (both in-store and online) for customers. Definitely a space to keep watching.

Imagine not having to throw away your favourite shirt anymore just because it's slightly damaged. The fashion industry is also seeing a rise of modular apparel, simply meaning the breaking down of garments into interchangeable and detachable parts. What makes modular fashion so popular in the fashion industry now despite having been around for decades in the form of trekking shorts and outdoor wear? Well, since the different garment pieces can be easily removed, swapped out, or remodelled to create different styles, lengths or overall look, consumers are realising the full (and extremely convenient) potential for the autonomy they have over changing fashions and their needs.

To be truly modular, fashion designers standardise the different components from the onset so that each part (think sleeve, collar, etc) is compatible and fits together perfectly if and when it needs to be swapped out through disassembly and then reassembly of the pieces. As the clothing is kept in use longer by extending its life through good modular design, these clothes enjoy greater higher sustainability value thanks to the circular economy and fewer garment lines.

The fashion industry is also enjoying the modern artificial intelligence breakthrough moment, using AI chatbots and touchscreens to enhance the shopping experience of their customers and provide better customised product suggestions. Customers can create different looks and choose outfits from several thousand shops at the same time thanks to automated virtual wardrobes; while digital showrooms allow brands to 'try on designs' to gauge the market's appetite.

And finally, designers and fashion houses are increasingly using the less labour-intensive 3D printing method to seamlessly take fashion to a new level of conceptual art. Remember Dutch designer Iris van Herpen (perhaps the only designer to show 3D-printed fashion pieces at the prestigious Haute Couture fashion weeks in Paris)? Famous for her Crystallisation Top design, heralded as the first 3D-printed couture piece from 2010, van Herpen made waves with her creation that was inspired by the transformation of liquid into crystals. And then in 2014, Anouk Wipprecht's versatile robotic Spider Dress with a 3D-printed exoskeleton of smart, mechanical arms, was another testament to the novel haute couture fashion concept. It seems like this is one fashion breakthrough that is certainly going to prevail. 🕸️



About The Writer

Bred in The Seychelles and Kenya, Priyanka Elhence studied Hotel Management in Switzerland, coupled with working as a Recruiter in Palm Beach, before doing an MBA in Human Resources Management in London. Calling Singapore home for the past 20 years, Priyanka has been a Freelance Writer now for the past 8 years, writing about everything from luxury and dining, travel and lifestyle, to parenting and finance.

QUIRKY HANDBAGS

BY **PRIYANKA ELHENCE**

Rise Of The Novelty Handbags

A bag that doesn't serve the purpose of a bag? Novelty handbags aren't new, but the wearable handbag art is back again, with the chief accessory enjoying its time in the spotlight once more. Welcome to the rise of fun novelty 'gag bag' handbags where form takes precedence over function.

Brands like Moschino, Betsey Johnson and Anya Hindmarch have been making novelty bags since their conception, and now other fashion houses and designers are taking notice. And they seem to be getting their inspiration from literally anything. For instance, as food-inspired bags go, Balenciaga released its Lay's Crisps leather clutch last year (complete with the iconic potato chip bag crumpled effect); Fendi's Baguette (made famous by Sarah Jessica Parker in *Sex and the City* series) needs no introducing; and Collina Strada unveiled its Swarovski-adorned Broccoli handbag at the Paris Fashion Week runway. And at last year's New York Fashion Week, it seemed like literally anything could be a purse, evoking images of the *Is It Cake?* game show-style cooking competition television series, with *Is It A Purse?*

The bottom line is, the weirder today's fashion is, the more absurd it is, and the more untrendy it is to set people apart, the better it is. And that's exactly why novelty handbags have become the rage, because of how far they push the

boundaries on traditional handbags. A classic show of form over function, 'out there' statement pieces over practicality. Welcome to today's novelty handbags, popularly heralded to be the ultimate 'meme-able' stunt in the world of fashion accessories, where you can go as subtle or as eccentric as you want.

Case in point, Balenciaga's 'trash' bag design is certainly not about carrying stuff. Ditto for Barilla's iconic penne pasta leather handbag, and Moschino's quirky dinner themed coffee pot and sparkling hamburger totes. Moschino has also been famous for attaching a literal roll of toilet paper to a gold chain and passing it off as a rather successful novelty handbag. As they say, beauty is really in the eyes of the beholder.

Someone famous once said that pigeons have been waiting for their fashion moment. Well, they finally got it with Sarah Jessica Parker (yes, again) cradling Irish designer JW Anderson's famous 3D-printed pigeon clutch during the second season of *And Just Like That....* Interestingly, the bag was introduced as part of Anderson's Fall 2022 menswear collection, but caused quite a panic, rather than the success it finally enjoyed thanks to Parker (the bag is sold out till further notice by the way). Quite ironic still, how something

*The weirder today's
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as plain and ugly as a pigeon could become such a sought-after must-have, despite sans frills and fancies. Seriously. Hollow inside, it barely has the space to carry a credit card and lip balm.

Let's go back to Demna's Balenciaga trash bag for a moment. While it was inspired by his own experience as a refugee, the designer proudly stated that he loves creating millennial discourse and fashion scandals, just like 'out there' memes. The latter was of course seen again more recently with his (now recalled) BDSM-attired teddy bear handbag carried by a child in a Balenciaga advertising campaign.

For decades, American luxury brand Judith Leiber has been designing her signature, hand-placed crystal novelty (clutch) bags for an eye-watering four figure price tag, and has a long history of being carried by First Ladies and celebrities. Inspired by nature, art and culture, Leiber is well known for her Swarovski crystal-encrusted *minaudiere* fashion statements, be it a vintage camera, a decadent hamburger, wads of cash, the Eiffel Tower, flowers, pets or even a mythical unicorn. Got \$92,000 to spare? Treat yourself to the Judith Leiber Precious Rose bag that is inspired by a multi-coloured rose in full bloom. Made with 1,196 pink sapphires and 1,016 diamonds, the clutch has a total weight of 42.56 carats. If you like a bit of bling, Leiber's clutches are for you. Is it really a wonder that she is often called the mother of novelty handbags?

At the 2022 Grammys, Doja Cat (easily one of today's most meme-able Gen Z celebrities) went viral as she carried a tiny powder-blue, devil-horned Swipe Bag to the red carpet. Made by Coperni in collaboration with glass artists Home in Heaven, the hand-blown glass clutch was a clever interpretation of the iPhone's 'swipe to unlock' icon. But again, there's really no space to carry anything useful in it, as one could with a traditional handbag.

Kate Spade is also known for its novelty handbags, so for her seventh collection in 2015, Kate Spade New York creative director Nicola Glass blazed the trail with mushrooms, unveiling her latest collection against an Alice in Wonderland setting. Hidden in a garden of flowers and greenery were

handbags in the shape of a red-and-white toadstool mushroom, bunny bags in shades of pink and yellow with contrasting ears, and a handbag that resembled a metal-studded hedgehog. The Blaze a Trail Mushroom Clutch Bag is made of soft smooth cowhide with matching trim, with 14-karat gold plated hardware accents, a magnetic closure and an optional snake chain. Which millennial wouldn't want something that screams geek couture?

And who would have thought carbs would make it to the runaway? Known for her quirky and kitschy designs, New York-based Dauphinette's designer Olivia Cheng recently showcased her novel glossy croissants and baguette clutches at her Spring 2023 showcase, aptly titled *Fragile*. Cheng attached a gold-link chain to the flaky crust of real, surplus stale French bread from bakeries, and called it a bag. Yes, seriously. Coated in an antifungal resin, the scrumptious accessories are hollowed out, baked and handmade in Japan in very limited batches. And each bag is unique and (almost) good enough to eat.

There's literally nothing standing between you and a purse that looks good enough to eat, or at least pay homage to life's mundanities with. Why would anyone want to settle for a regular tote anymore? 🍰



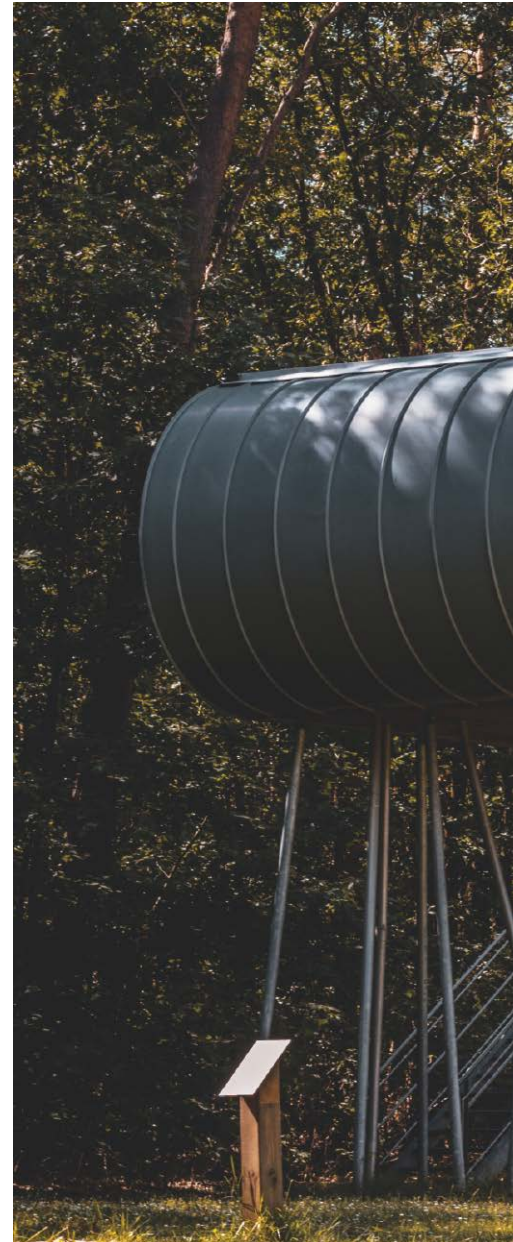
About The Writer

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ARCHITECTURAL TRENDS POISED TO BREAK NEW GROUND IN 2023

BY **PRIYANKA ELHENCE**



The pandemic has changed the way we live, marking a significant shift towards better well-being, as well as living more mindfully and intentionally. New architectural trends are emerging to address our modern day needs such as issues of functionality, aesthetics, cost, higher resistance to climate change, and sustainability.

Unlike interior design styling, innovative architectural trends tend to change more slowly, as they often involve the adoption of new technologies and materials which can take years to develop before they become commercially viable and begin to be adopted in domestic construction. Expect to see the following novel architectural practices in 2023.

**Sustainability is Top Priority**

Concern about the excessive use of plastics in our surrounding environment and how to reduce the construction sector's CO₂ emissions are increasingly affecting the way today's buildings are being built and designed. Great architecture is no longer just about how a building looks, but also how it's made, how efficiently it functions, and what will become of it if it's not needed anymore. Sustainable solutions using natural or recycled materials are the only options going forward, and being just climate-neutral is no longer good enough; buildings and our surrounding environments need to be climate positive now. Needless to say, green, eco-conscious, sustainable and eco-friendly architecture are trends that are here to stay.



3D-Printed Designs

Too often, architecture involves a fragmented (and high waste) construction process that requires too many steps in too little time. But 3D-printed structures are emerging as the new way to optimise construction with minimal waste. For instance, 3D-printed walls piped in undulating layers, is a huge curveball for the industry, as it skips many of the steps associated with conventional construction. And it's not just about cutting labour time and streamlining logistics. 3D models allow all kinds of curved, textured forms best controlled by a machine, while also enabling architects to conceive high-precision architectural models right from the beginning of the project. Moreover, the icing on the cake here is that these 3D designs can be easily replicated around the world, thus paving the way for a commercially viable, streamlined and sustainable approach to architecture for the masses, without any of the usual challenges associated with it.

Eco-friendly Materials

Using natural wood, implementing water recycling systems, and making the most of light, wind and other natural resources are top priorities for architects now. The use of plant-based materials such as bamboo, cork, and even algae is proof that architecture can blur the lines between nature and our built environment. Is it new, progressive architecture, or back to basics thinking? In any event, it's time for carbon-hungry concrete and cement to move over now. New eco-friendly building 'biomaterials', such as hemp concrete, wood and biocomposite, are becoming more popular in the construction industry, thanks to the water, climate conditions, and fire safety criteria they meet.

Consider hempcrete (hemp concrete) for instance, the popular biocomposite which consists of hemp fibres, limestone, and water. Hemp sequesters large amounts of CO₂, and compared with trees, grows faster in less space. Hemp creates thermal mass, which keeps the building temperature steady, whilst increasing indoor air quality dramatically thanks to its absorbent and living material properties. The highly successful 'Natural Home' in the Balearic Islands, designed by Ideo Arquitectura, was primarily constructed with hemp to increase thermal capacity and decrease its footprint.

Cork has long been used in interiors and flooring trends already, but now this renewable and biodegradable material is fast gaining popularity as sustainable cladding, with cork panelling used for their weather-resistant and thermal benefits.

Wood is also going mainstream in an effort to bring down the huge amounts of CO₂ emissions that the construction industry produces. Hence, a strong upcoming architectural trend is to use wood not only for cladding, but also for constructing buildings, as timber is less carbon-intensive compared to other structural materials (and can also be used easily for modular constructions), resulting in building processes that are faster, cheaper and better for the environment.





Biophilic Urbanism

In 2023, out is the new in. Biophilic design is the practice of connecting people and our built environments through nature. Increasingly, modern day architecture is being driven by natural light and other biophilic design elements such as energy-saving materials, passive solar architecture and green roofs, to seamlessly weave outdoor and indoor spaces together, by developing new buildings that are more ecologically friendly and more efficient in their use of resources. To evoke that synchronous indoor-outdoor touch, many architects are blurring the separating line by using the same materials (such as natural wood) in both spaces.

Modular Construction

The idea of a mobile, portable home isn't technically new. But rising costs of rents and mortgages is behind the renewed interest in these easily movable, prefabricated structures that are much more affordable than their traditional counterparts. Modular homes have approximately 70%-90% of their components being constructed at the manufacturer and then transported to the construction site, making it more efficient than traditional construction for buildings such as medical facilities, hotels, and standard residential structures.

Floating Structures

What was once a distant horizon, has already become a reality with phenomena such as floating public saunas in Seattle or entire floating cities in South Korea. Coupled with an extra dose of sustainable design from green roofs to create self-generated power and buoyed by innovative materials and technology that allow familiar structures with proper height, floating structures are quickly gaining steam around the world. Safety is given top priority, with most of the designs taking severe weather into account, and are often hurricane and flood-proofed for future climate change scenarios.

Smaller, smarter, more energy-efficient homes are going to be the way of the future soon.

Tiny Homes

The bigger, the better? Not anymore. Smaller, smarter, more energy-efficient homes are going to be the way of the future soon, thanks to rising living and construction costs. Yes, the tiny house movement isn't new either, but living in a space under 441 sq ft is not easy for most people. Still, tiny homes are the most cost-effective and eco-friendly designed living options possible, with a smaller environmental footprint, making the concept of tiny homes a very promising upcoming architectural trend. Today's 215 sq ft tiny spaces celebrate minimalist living, with an aim to create a life focused on what is genuinely valuable and to be content with what you have. The spaces boast sustainable materials beyond hemp, like cork insulation and natural rubber linoleum flooring, and their simple designs can even be built by hand. Best yet, tiny homes aren't just for those looking to downsize; but they can also be used as the perfect, outdoor off-grid holiday cabin, or even a private workplace in the backyard.

Adaptive Reuse Architecture

Perhaps the most interesting trend we're poised to see is the movement toward reusing or adapting existing structures for further usage instead of just demolishing and constructing new buildings. Sydney's AMP Centre, now known as Quay Quarter Tower, is reputed to be the world's first 'upcycled' high rise, and has retained more than two-thirds of the old structure, including beams and columns, as well as 95% of the original building's core. Reusing the existing architecture can assist in preserving a location's character and heritage while lowering the environmental impacts of building new constructions and saving huge amounts of money that are wasted in demolitions. 🏠

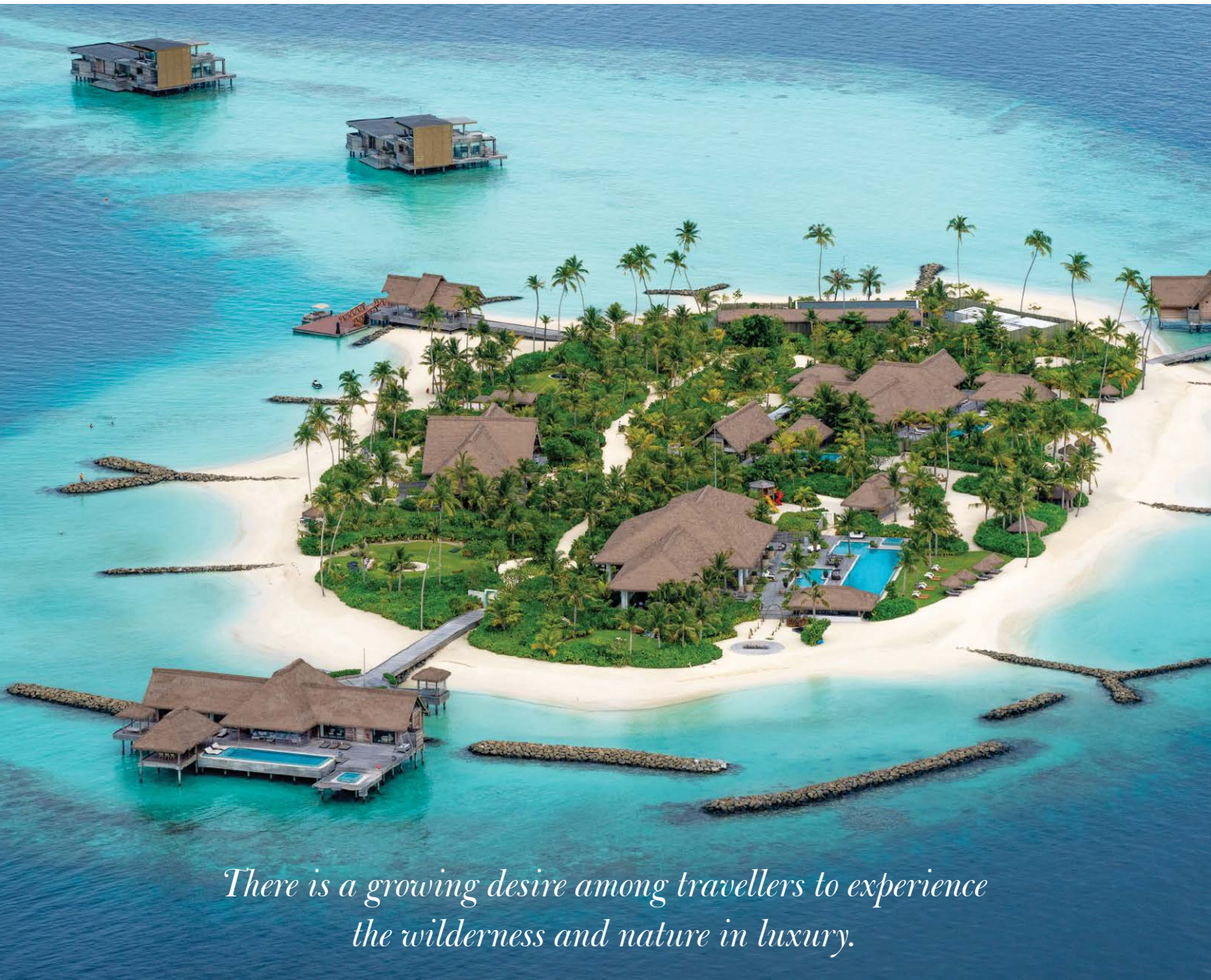


About The Writer

Bred in The Seychelles and Kenya, Priyanka Elhence studied Hotel Management in Switzerland, coupled with working as a Recruiter in Palm Beach, before doing an MBA in Human Resources Management in London. Calling Singapore home for the past 20 years, Priyanka has been a Freelance Writer now for the past 8 years, writing about everything from luxury and dining, travel and lifestyle, to parenting and finance.

ART OF INTERMISSION

BY **EDMUND WEE**



*There is a growing desire among travellers to experience
the wilderness and nature in luxury.*



Bespoke travel planner Intriq on crafting your own luxury experiences.

Who doesn't need an intermission? Jess Yap, co-founder of Intriq Journey, explained that the company was one of many to break new frontiers in the business of luxury travel, and prides itself with coming up with new concepts of travel.

Beginnings of the Journey

Jess Yap, Lim Kok Yong and Stella Fan once helmed the Singapore, Hong Kong and China offices of Country Holidays, which used to be a leading travel agency for luxury trips to some of the most remote corners of Asia and the world. Following the firm's acquisition by Scott Dunn, the trio decided to strike out on their own, and worked together to establish Intriq Journey.

The idea of starting their own bespoke travel company came two years after the three of them had joined Scott Dunn as part of the Asian management team. This was fueled by their desire to start something and call it their own, with a distinct Asian identity and the flexibility of designing trips that truly excited them.

One noteworthy aspect about Intriq's three co-founders is their strong sense of friendship. Having worked together for over 20 years, Yap, Lim and Fan are familiar with one another's unique working styles and patterns. Among them, Jess is an ace when it comes to organising Intriq's projects. With Stella, it is her strong "customer service-centredness" (as the team calls it) in planning exciting upcoming trips.

Millionaireasia chatted with the trio to find out the newest insights on bespoke travel.

What are some of the most interesting bespoke requests you've had so far?

One of our favourites was a luxurious five-day trip at the request of a private bank to pamper their top guests. The team delved deep into the finest details and kept some of the most well-heeled and discerning guests impressed throughout their journey with alluring experiences. Highlights included an exclusive private tour of the entire Pushkin Palace, topped off with a beautiful gala dinner within the illustrious building.

Another interesting request was a thrilling private jet trip with non-stop surprises along a route which covered Antarctica, Chile, Easter Island and Tahiti. This trip was designed for a group of friends who frequently travelled with Intriq. One member of the group would charter a private jet, and he would be joined by 10 to 15 of his friends on board such trips.

What are some of the travel trends that you've observed since the pandemic?

At the moment, we have observed travellers taking longer trips. This could be due to the fact that travelling has become more cumbersome as a consequence of Covid-19. Hence, many people opt to extend their trips upon securing their travel opportunities. 🏡

What are some of the trends in honeymoon and anniversary luxury travel that you've observed?

This has certainly evolved. In the past, the concept referred mainly to stays in romantic hotels in alluring destinations such as the Maldives or Paris. Couples today, however, tend to find this too mainstream and would much rather embark on special trips based on what they are most passionate about. There is a growing desire among travellers to experience the wilderness and nature in luxury.

Exotic escapades such as African safaris have become very popular, as well as other unique experiences like luxury desert camping in Oman, and travel to other exotic destinations such as Aman in Bhutan.

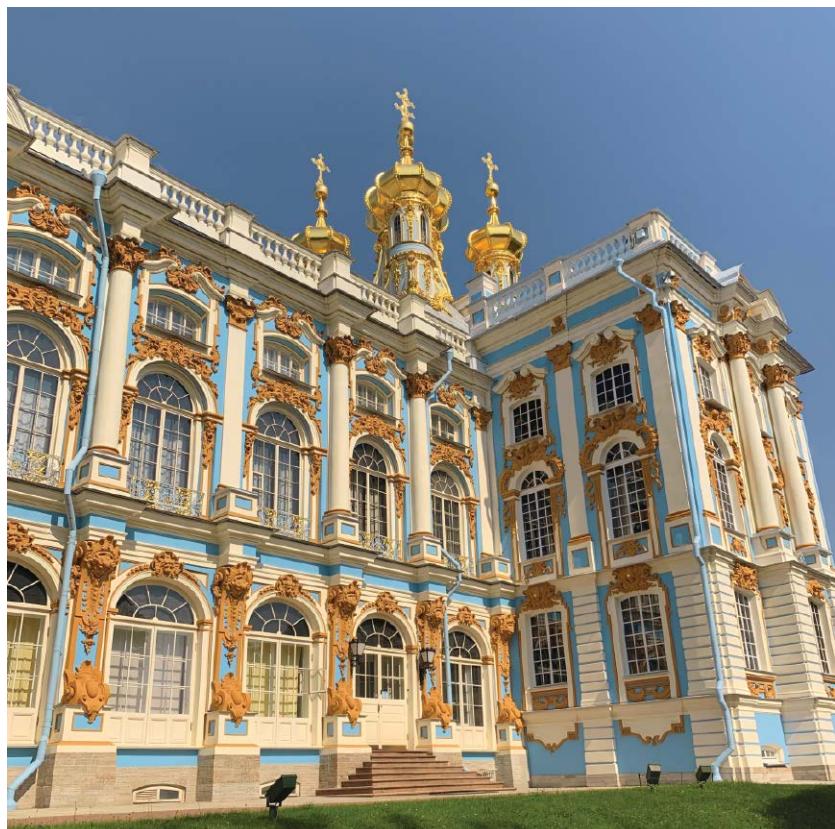
Unique experiences that come with touches of adventure also continue to gain popularity today. These include hiking expeditions such as challenging climbs in the Himalayas, as well as heart-pumping diving and skiing adventures.

Share with us some of the most unique travel plans you've curated and put together to date.

This would have to be Africa. Specifically, there was this private luxury camping safari in Botswana that we put together for a lovely couple. With the help of our incredible team, we experienced few challenges and the crew set up an amazing luxury camp, with stunning meals dished out every night. There, the couple got to enjoy the intimate experience in the middle of the African wilderness with the occasional roar of lions in the distance.



One of our favourite bespoke experiences was an exclusive private tour of the entire Pushkin Palace, topped off with a beautiful gala dinner within the illustrious building.





PHOTOS: Masroor Ahmed, Arkadiy Kyo & Adli Wahid

Additionally, there was this trip which was a honeymoon present to an Asian couple lovingly prepared by the bride's father who enjoyed travelling to some of the most exciting places on earth. The couple were both well-travelled internationally and shared a love for local experiences, especially when it came to food. In providing them with our distinctive Asian touch, interestingly, the only thing they had requested was to have an Asian breakfast – so we were glad that they greatly appreciated the hot Chinese porridge and noodle soup we had prepared for them. We also made sure that the couple's picnic lunches were always under the shade so that they wouldn't feel uncomfortable under the sun.

How is honeymoon and anniversary travel different from regular travel itineraries?

Most couples seem to prefer luxurious experiences in pristine wilderness, away from crowds. For honeymoon and anniversary trips, we can expect travellers to desire a more relaxing schedule to savour the romance. Hence, we would recommend hotels that allow for great sunset views or private villas with pools. The chances of finding hotels with this style are greater in more remote places. For regular trips, locations with easy access to popular sights may be of greater importance. Of course, these are not mutually exclusive – it is important to incorporate a good dose of both.

Do you believe there can be genuinely sustainable and responsible luxury travel?

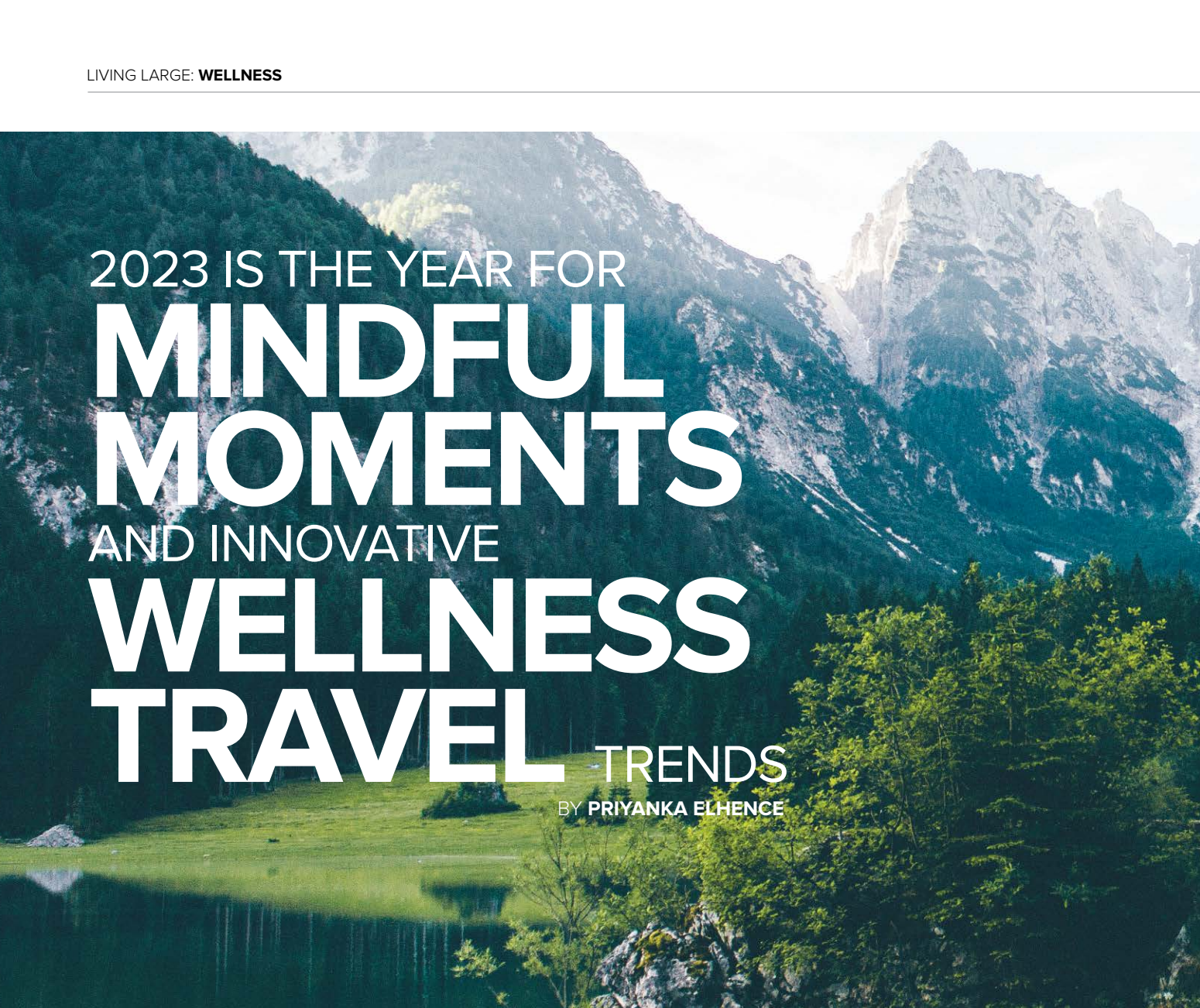
Yes. In fact, this is easier to execute through luxury travel. Most luxury travel guests tend to be less price-sensitive and more willing to spend in ways that contribute positively to the local environment. It goes without saying that small private group travel trips tend to be less intrusive than conventional big bus tours.

How does Intriq Journey incorporate sustainability in its tours and travels?

We choose to work with hotels and service providers that share our ethos for ethical and sustainable tourism. We love places that engage the local community, particularly in Third World countries, as we believe that they not only provide job opportunities for community members but support the understanding and importance of sustainability in the area itself. Not only does this bring in immediate benefits in terms of increased tourist dollars, but it also encourages community-building initiatives for such places to flourish.

Any advice you would give to couples who are planning to go on honeymoon or anniversary tours?

Start planning and book early. Most of the best boutique places have already been well booked way in advance. 🏯



2023 IS THE YEAR FOR MINDFUL MOMENTS AND INNOVATIVE WELLNESS TRAVEL TRENDS

BY PRIYANKA ELHENCE

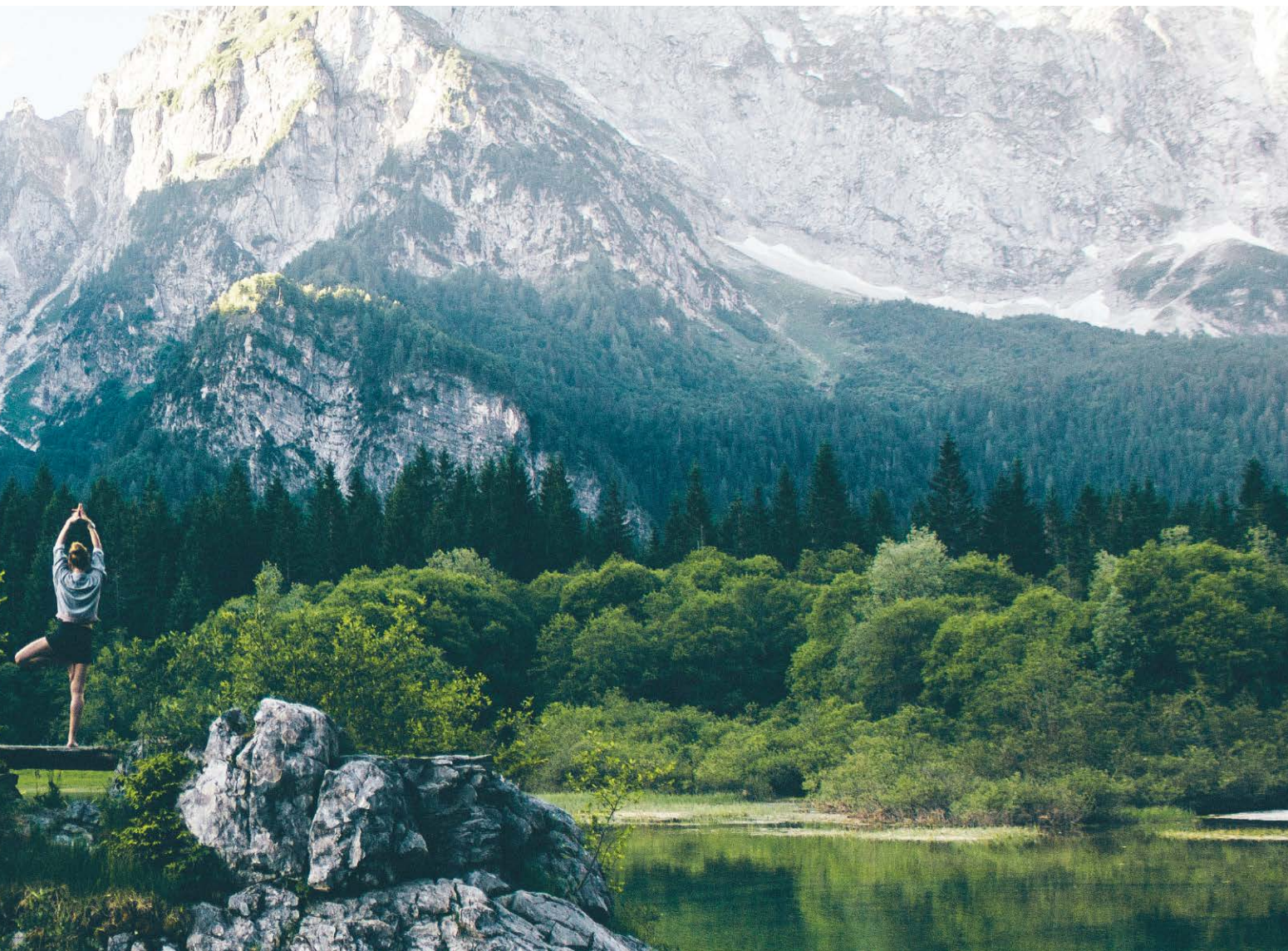
The world is open once again, and while travel is back, wellness is a non-negotiable for the well-heeled this time. And it's more than just quality me-time and getting off the grid. Sound baths, oxygen therapy recovery lounges, mindfulness, and customised spa therapies are just some of the latest wellness trends you can expect to see in 2023.

We had the pandemic. Then we had the moment of frenzied revenge travel. And now we have wellness travel, a fast-growing sector of hospitality, where wellness, relaxation, staying off screens, self-improvement, and boosting immunity are the major focus of the trip, allowing travellers a reboot of both their minds and bodies. People are increasingly designing travel breaks dedicated to their wellbeing, spending top dollar, if it means better year-round health and a more positive state of mind, opting for wellness-based getaways and self-healing journeys.

Here are some of this year's top wellness travel trends you can expect to see:

Mindful Movements and Recovery

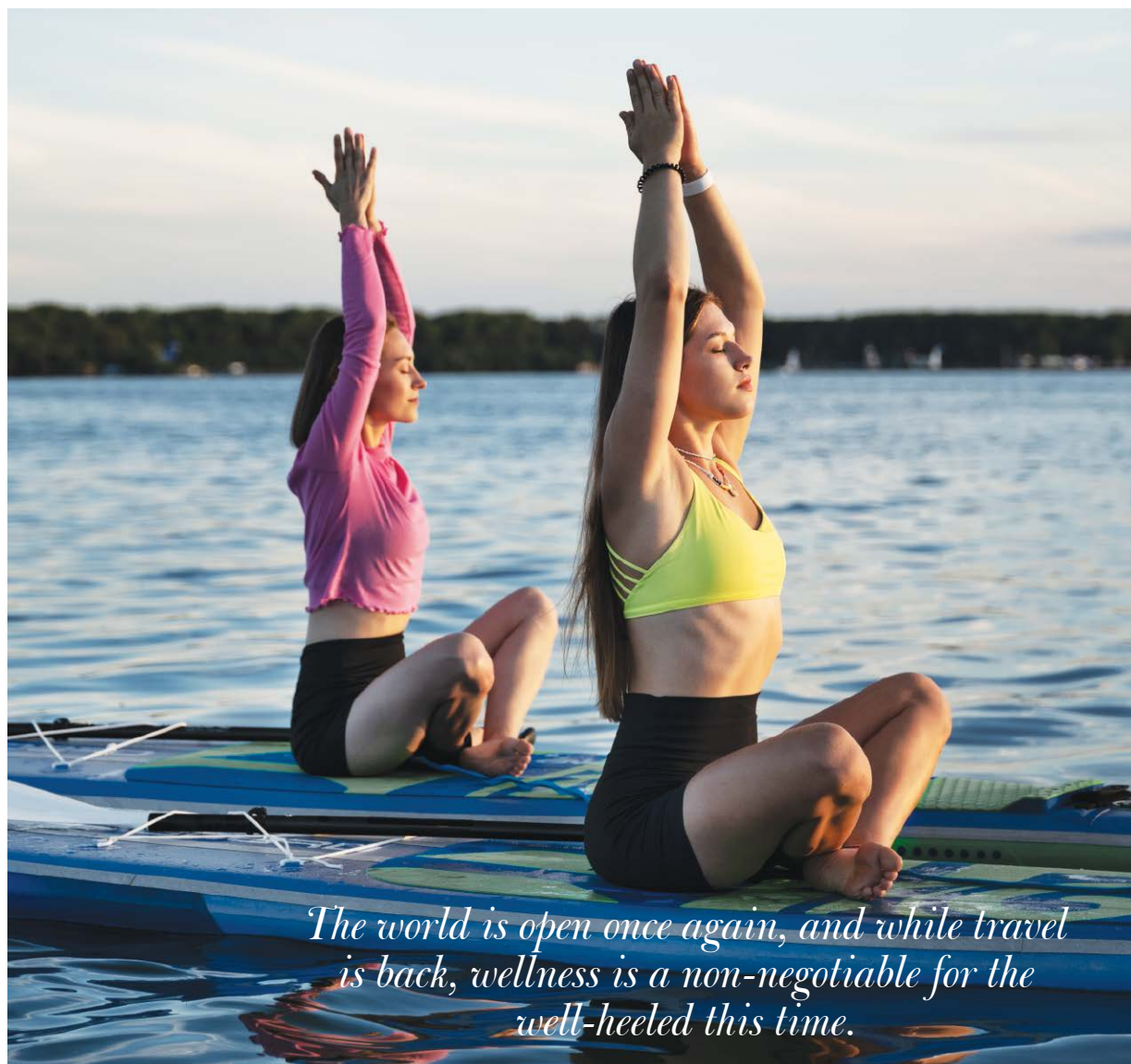
According to a recent CNN report, the modern mantra, sitting is the new smoking, has made many wellness experts rethink the traditional path of stillness to achieve quality mindfulness. Today's most popular meditative activities are set in movement; mindful movement. Top wellness retreats offer clients opportunities to take advantage of the best medical wellness expertise in luxurious surroundings in some of the world's most popular destinations.



Imagine travelling to a wellness retreat that offers silent Nordic ski excursions and forest bathing on snowshoes, soaking in a hot tub surrounded by ancient cedar trees, or incorporating mindful kayak and paddleboard excursions to floating docks to practise yoga. Luxe wellness retreat Joali Being in the Maldives even offers the sound bathing experience as a walking journey through a jungle path lined with 12 instruments creating different vibrations.

Likewise, some of the world's leading trekking destinations now offer luxe new retreats to clear the mind and challenge the body. For example, guests can now enjoy the recently completed 250-mile Trans-Bhutan Trail that runs the length of the Buddhist kingdom, routed along 400 historic and cultural sites set against snowy Himalayan peaks; or go on guided day hikes and multi-day treks up to the border of Tibet with glamping-style accommodations. Sounds like quite the perfect combination to get at one with nature, without sitting still.

After the day's activities, correct recovery is just as important to cure those weary muscles. And resorts are offering these recovery sessions in style. Again, we're not talking just massages. We're talking about therapies like a hyperbaric oxygen chamber and lymphatic system-supporting salt room. The brand new Six Senses Crans-Montana in Switzerland, unveiled its biohacking recovery lounge geared at speeding up recovery; while the Hythe, a Luxury Collection Hotel in Vail, Colorado, has a recovery lounge that offers oxygen therapy plus equipment such as compression boots as well as heating and DIY massage devices.



Preventative Diagnostics

Wellness is no longer considered a concept just for the old, as transformative preventive health programmes are also popular with today's young Gen Z, who are into a drug-free, non-invasive approach to leading a more healthy and balanced life. Here enter the spas. Spas have become much more than just saunas and indulgent massages. Imagine a 12-week, fully customised spa programme that includes a cryotherapy chamber and a LED/Infrared Detox Pod. That's just a glimpse of what travellers staying at the new Aman New York can enjoy, thanks to its top quality, hospital-worthy advanced diagnostic technology. These latest science-based technologies and diagnostic tools allow spas to customise programmes with therapies that address everything from emotional health to bone strength for better overall health, so you won't be wrong for feeling that your wellness spa is looking more and more like a thorough health check.

Hydrotherapy is the New Socialising

Now when you travel to Alaska, it isn't just about the Northern Lights. Scandinavians believe stress melts away faster if you socialise while sweating, making soaking and steaming the new way to socialise. Alyeska Resort's Nordic Spa offers a pool circuit of 103-degree pools and polar plunges, a Himalayan rock salt sauna, Russian banyas, and cedar soaking tubs and barrel saunas, for the hottest après-ski scene. At the newly renovated Durango Hot Springs Resort + Spa in Colorado's San Juan Mountains, indulge in live music performances while hopping around the outdoor complex of 41 soaking and plunge pools and Japanese-inspired Ofuro soaking tubs.

Embracing Pro-aging

The term pro-aging has replaced anti-aging, and with good reason too, because you simply can't anti-age. But embracing aging in all its glory to get healthier and more youthful looking skin is in.

Peptides, stem cells, and platelet-rich plasma (PRP) are just some of the latest advanced therapies that offer better skin care, help improve the appearances of dark spots and wrinkles, revitalise cells, and use therapies to regenerate collagen and elastin.

Addiction Retreats

Did you know that we spend nearly a third of our waking time now on a device? With so much of our day-to-day life reliant online on screens, it can be hard to switch off – literally and figuratively. Therefore, a retreat away where you can have a full digital detox, can help to reset your relationship with technology, making it a more positive one. Wellness retreats in remote locations are in high demand today, and wellness travel in remote locations offers wellness seekers an escape to nature while recharging their batteries.

Arts & Crafts is the New Meditation

As aforementioned, wellness gurus are starting to frown on stillness, so it's a good thing that sedentary meditation sessions aren't the only pathway to quality mindfulness and wellness. Instead, top wellness spa resorts are getting their guests to be more mindful and live in the moment by stimulating the right side of their brain, all without being on a device. Activities that force you to engage your hands, such as pottery, painting, weaving, ceramics and beading (by top master craftsmen no less), are said to achieve the same amount of relaxation that one feels after an intense yoga class. 🧘



About The Writer

Bred in The Seychelles and Kenya, Priyanka Elhence studied Hotel Management in Switzerland, coupled with working as a Recruiter in Palm Beach, before doing an MBA in Human Resources Management in London. Calling Singapore home for the past 20 years, Priyanka has been a Freelance Writer now for the past 8 years, writing about everything from luxury and dining, travel and lifestyle, to parenting and finance.

ART SG

THE INAUGURAL
INTERNATIONAL ART
FAIR IN SINGAPORE
BY **ALEXIS TOH**

This Dynamic New Platform Showcases Cutting-edge Contemporary Art



Over 150 galleries from around the world exhibited their installations and experimental films at Art SG, held at the Marina Bay Sands Expo and Convention Centre from 12 to 15 January 2023, with a VIP Preview on 11 January 2023. *Millionaireasia* is proud to be one of the media partners for ART SG.

ART SG's uniqueness stems in its focus on the interests of the globally minded collector and aims to expand these interests by promoting new discourse and connections; encouraging cross-border collecting and a broad network of collectors and galleries forming relationships in Singapore. As a key hub and gateway within the Southeast Asia region, Singapore is a nexus for the region's extensive and knowledgeable collector base to connect with artists, curators and cultural stakeholders.

Besides the main Galleries sector, ART SG also included "Focus", a contextualised sector featuring galleries presenting solo or duo artist programmes, or curated thematic presentations, "Futures", a sector dedicated to supporting young galleries under the age of six years, showcasing specially created presentations for ART SG, and "Reframe", a sector for galleries presenting art that is engaged with, made or presented using digital technology, which includes digital painting, animation, immersive installations, augmented or virtual reality, and non-fungible tokens (NFTs).

In addition, the Talks programme offered critical and thought-provoking discussions on current topics and issues, such as cross-cultural dialogues within the new global realities, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region as well as novel ways of building and supporting art ecosystems and encounters.

"It's been 5 years since the last Art Stage Singapore, and it is as good as it gets this time. ART SG totally exceeded my expectations – 3 times as many artworks, 3 times as many artists, 3 times as many exhibitors, and 3 times the size of exhibition floors. There were so many new artists' works on display," commented Mr. Eddy Quek, Managing Director of Planet Logistics Pte Ltd, who attended the VIP preview. 🏛️



ROAMING THE WILD WORLD OF CRYPTO

BY TSMP

**Legal questions surrounding crypto abound –
and while progress is being made, clarity is still being sought.**

Cryptocurrencies, non-fungible tokens, the metaverse, and Web 3.0. Just a decade ago, these were science fiction. Yet today, these adolescent creations often hog the headlines, underpinning stories of rags to riches – or spectacular falls from grace.

Like the Wild West of the 1800s, the crypto space remains a world uncharted. Plundering and thievery abound, sheriffs struggle to enforce the rule of law. “Wanted” posters are plastered on the walls of the public bar, but a huge question mark obscures the faces.





Take, for example, the Squid Game Token (SQUID) creators. Their 'sh*tcoin' (a term describing coins and tokens inspired by memes or – as in this case – pop culture, and have otherwise no real-use case) rose by an astronomical 23,000,000 percent in a week. Just when punters thought they struck lottery, the anonymous creators pulled the rug and absconded with some US\$3.3 million. Or the mystery hacker who broke through security of Ronin Network (a sidechain for a gaming service) for what may now be crypto's largest breach, riding off into the sunset US\$625 million richer. These fraudsters' identities remain unknown.

Other times, even if the public knows exactly who ought to be public enemy number one, the law may just not have the right ammunition to bring that individual to task.

A prime example: the events of May 2022 concerning the Terra ecosystem and its creator Do Kwon. The 'stablecoin' TerraUSD (UST) was meant to be pegged 1:1 to the US dollar, but it irrecoverably lost its value. Why this occurred is not entirely clear. Some speculate that this was part of a concerted attack with holders (or one holder?) dumping the coin in large amounts. Others fingered Do Kwon for committing fraud. Whatever the cause, this also led to UST's sister token

Terra (LUNA) crashing spectacularly from around US\$86 per coin to less than US\$0.00005 per coin in just nine days. And just a month prior, LUNA was one of the top 10 largest cryptocurrencies by market capitalisation. The crash wiped out US\$60 billion and caused many to lose their life savings. Yet, criminal charges against Do Kwon are unlikely to stick.

The next fiasco centred on crypto-lender Celsius. The Celsius platform, like many other crypto lenders, offered customers a way to grow their passive cryptoassets. Deposits on the platform purportedly earn promising interest rates of up to 18 percent. In contrast, one would be lucky to receive 3 percent per annum from a bank savings account. And Celsius did not seem like a fly-by-night operation either – it was touted as the "Best Cryptocurrency Wallet" of 2021. This May, Celsius was managing around US\$11.8 billion in assets. Reliable, one would think.

A month later, Celsius suddenly froze withdrawals. Customer funds were stuck in the platform, seemingly still earning interest. No one knew whether or when customers would be able to make withdrawals. That is, until 17 July when Celsius filed for bankruptcy in the US and declared it has only US\$167 million cash on hand. The question that remains is

whether – and how – CEO Alex Mashinsky will be held to task, or will he be allowed to get off with a slap on the wrist while his company goes under. (Generally, a company is a separate entity from its CEO.)

Establishing a strong foothold

Yet, like in the Wild West, the law is slowly but surely extending its boundaries and pioneering new territory in the cryptoverse. Blockchain transactions' anonymity shroud is no longer as impermeable as it once was. Courts worldwide have shown their readiness to grant freezing and disclosure orders in an effort to prevent dissipation of cryptoassets, even where the beneficial owner of the relevant wallets remain unknown.

In an English case, an insurance company paid a US\$950,000 Bitcoin (BTC) ransom after malware locked all of its computer systems. The England and Wales High Court granted an interim order against unknown hackers as well as the Bitfinex exchange, preventing the latter from further dealing with the ransomed Bitcoins stored in the hackers' Bitfinex wallet.

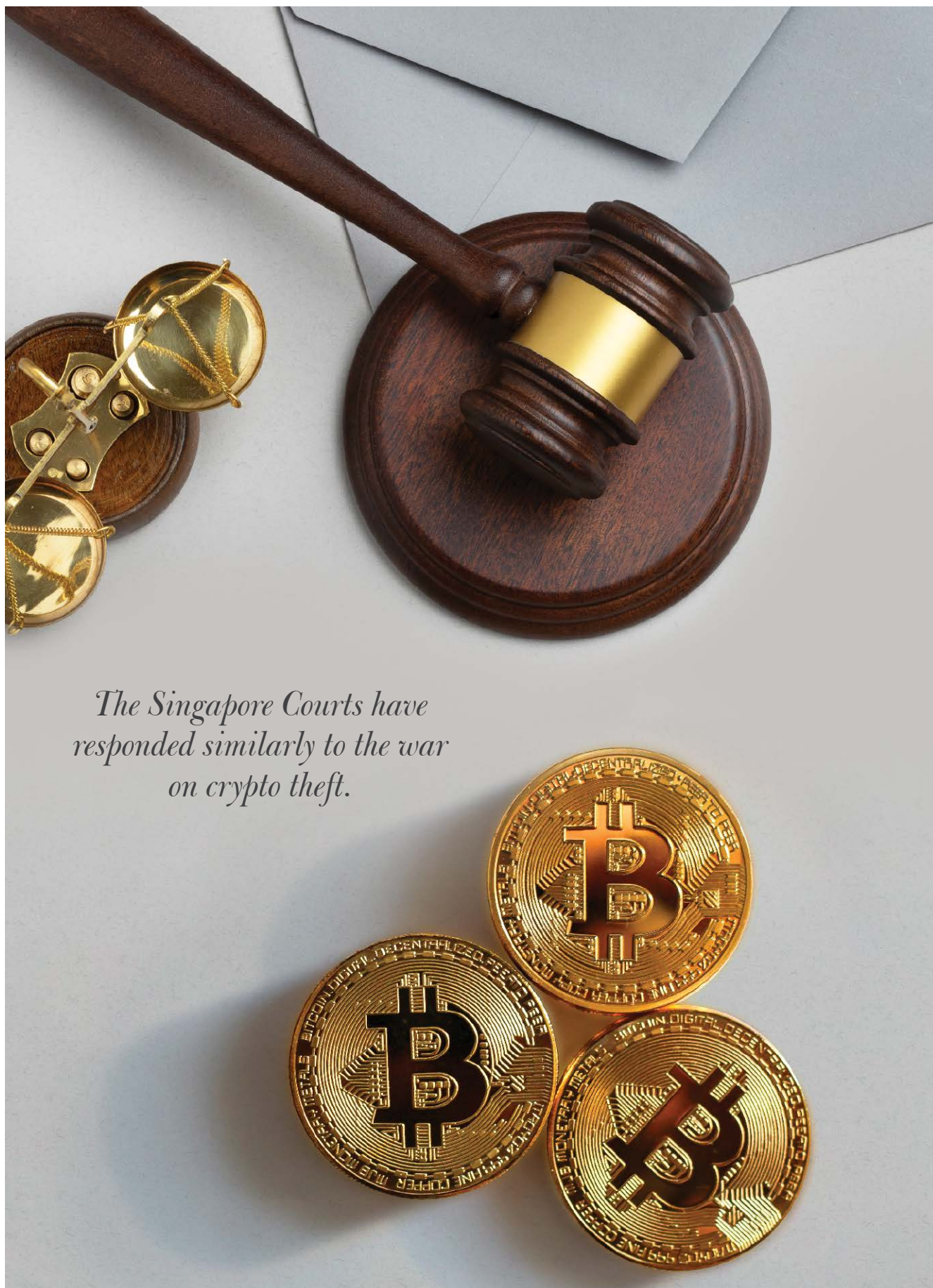
The Court also ordered that Bitfinex provide information to identify the hackers, piercing their cloak of anonymity.

The Singapore Courts have responded similarly to the war on crypto theft. A Plaintiff on vacation in Mexico suddenly found himself 109.83 BTC and 1497.54 Ethereum (ETH) short, cryptocurrencies worth around US\$5.7 million at the time of the theft. He suspected that someone had accessed his recovery seed phrases from the apartment safe. (Remarkably, he thought it wise to have read out the safe's combination within the earshot of others.)

The High Court this March passed Singapore's first ever "persons unknown" order, prohibiting the unidentified thief from dealing with the stolen assets, and requiring wallet providers to disclose information that may establish the wrongdoer.

Such orders (or injunctions) coupled with disclosure orders are becoming more prevalent. Sometimes, a "Spartacus"





The Singapore Courts have responded similarly to the war on crypto theft.

order could also be granted – with examples from the English and Kuala Lumpur High Courts – compelling wrongdoers to identify themselves. While such orders may appear superfluous, they act as deterrents: wrongdoers may eventually be outed, and third parties who know their identities and abet non-compliance with the order could find themselves in contempt of court.

The fog remains

There is, however, still much for the law to do. Cryptocurrencies' nature is not entirely settled. This becomes relevant when determining compensation when someone has lost cryptocurrency. If it is considered currency, then he should be compensated in cryptocurrency; if considered property, then in fiat currency.

Most Courts seem to accept that some cryptocurrencies are property, like those in England and New Zealand. Commentators consider it a type of property of its own kind, with some characteristics of property but not others. No doubt this will find further expression in case law as disputes inevitably arise. Here in Singapore the question isn't entirely settled, though what is clear is that there is a sufficiently arguable case that BTC is property for proprietary injunctions to be granted.

But how about stablecoins? Notwithstanding the dramatic fall of UST, once the third largest stablecoin, the UK continues to advance regulations that would recognise stablecoins as a form of payment. Does the world then intend to draw a line between two types of cryptocurrencies, with some stablecoins functioning as currency and the rest falling into the category of property? What then are the requirements for a cryptocurrency to be considered "stable"?

And if so, what would be the appropriate relief where a hacker has stolen stablecoins and has converted them into other cryptocurrency, just before the stablecoin implodes, like UST? Is the hacker only liable to repay a hundredth of a cent on the dollar (if stablecoins are currency) or should the hacker be made to restore the claimant the value lost at the time of the theft (if stablecoins are property)?

Over and above this, the practical question of how far the breadcrumb trail can be traced remains, especially if the hacker has already broken up the stolen assets into multiple fragments and performed multiple trades. Or even worse, if the hacker proves savvy enough (as most hackers are) to cover their tracks and run the stolen assets through a cryptocurrency tumbler or mixer, washing the stolen cryptocurrencies together with others.

And if cryptocurrency is property, it should then in theory be possible to argue that crypto lenders such as Celsius (and also recently the similarly troubled Babel Finance) hold assets on trust for its customers, such that they should not be able to unilaterally suspend customer withdrawals indefinitely. But the Courts do not speak with one voice on this issue – the New Zealand Court held that the Cryptopia exchange held cryptoassets on trust for its customers. Yet the Singapore Court in one case reached the opposite conclusion, albeit on different facts. It appears more likely than not though that just as traditional banks ordinarily do not hold monies on trust for its customers (and what the customer has is an enforceable debt against the bank, or a "chase in action"), crypto lenders would not ordinarily hold assets on trust.

What could Courts do if investors commence proceedings against the unknown SQUID creators, or LUNA/UST creator Do Kwon? Whether these will be regarded as cases of caveat emptor ("buyer beware"), or fraud or misrepresentation, also remains to be seen. Arguably, this is an area that requires informed regulation, akin to traditional stock exchanges, but the difficulty will be balancing innovation with protection. If it becomes extraordinarily difficult to list cryptoassets for sale, digital asset creators could "forum shop" for the most accommodating jurisdiction that would allow them to launch their creation. It also opens up a can of worms as to what sort of digital assets should be regulated – should regulation extend to NFTs, especially fractional NFTs (parts of an NFT) which could very well constitute securities under the US's Howey Test that is used to determine whether something is a security? What about other digital assets like Dota 2 or CSGO skins, which perhaps are not that different from NFTs?

Braving new fronts

These are only some of the new legal issues arising as a result of the rise (and fall) of cryptos. Many questions remain, like whether the traditional legal test for determining which country is a convenient (or non-convenient) forum to bring legal action in has any utility in transactions done completely on the non-jurisdictional blockchain.

The task then falls to lawyers, lawmakers and judicial officers to chart the path ahead. Make no mistake however, the law is evolving to catch up with what commercial actors do. In the first of its kind, the New York Supreme Court has even allowed service of court process on hackers through NFT drops, and the UK Courts have quickly followed suit this month. Through informed regulation, creative court orders, and trailblazing counsel, it is only a matter of time before the rule of law reins in the wild world of crypto. 🐙

A photograph of a server room with rows of server racks. The racks are illuminated with blue and red light trails, creating a sense of motion and data flow. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

ECW3:

INNOVATION PLATFORM FOR THE FUTURE

BY REZA ISMAIL

Introduction

Events Creation is a Singapore-based entity with nearly two decades of experience in managing large-scale customer databases and user accounts through its proprietary multi-channel operations. The company's operations and mobilisation span across activities including print and publishing, events management, and information technology solutions development.



PHOTOS: Freepik

Web3 is a new iteration of world wide web technology which incorporates the concept of decentralisation through utilisation of blockchain technology and digital economy.

Events Creation oversees a vast database of over 40,000 active high-net-worth user accounts, continually engaging them through its own in-house information technology solutions and applications. These exclusive systems have enabled the company to manage and execute constant engagement with the users, be it for the circulation of publications, updating of information or even execution of events. Its fast-growing database continues to rapidly expand and already includes individuals from countries (with registered trademarks) such as Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Hong Kong, China, Japan, India, United Arab Emirates, Monaco, Russia and Australia.

With nearly two decades of experience in planning, mobilisation, communication and events management, Events Creation is now building its in-house expertise for the design, development and deployment of information technology solutions that have formed part of its own custom infrastructure. The company is developing its own highly-secure solutions that will enable them to manage vast numbers of highly-active user profiles for event management, mobilisation and direct-to-user updates.

Latest Development

As part of a technology roadmap with select partners, Events Creation is pioneering a new platform codenamed ECW3, a next generation Web3 digitisation platform. ECW3 aims to provide Digitisation as a Service (DaaS) for businesses to participate in the Web3 ecosystem by integrating specific processes and workflows through the creation and life cycle management of digital assets and non-fungible tokens (NFTs).

Web3 is a new iteration of world wide web technology which incorporates the concept of decentralisation through utilisation of blockchain technology and digital economy. Web3 technology aims to create a more scalable, transactionally secure and privacy-enhancing world wide web.

Blockchain data is highly secure and can be applied to instances where data security, provenance and traceability are of the utmost importance.

Blockchain Innovation

Blockchain is a data technology that enables sharing of data or data interoperability, while retaining a high level of security and privacy through the use of cryptography and decentralised technology. Data in the blockchain is stored in immutable ledgers that facilitates the recording, creation, ownership and transfer of information through a set of programmable rules called Smart Contracts.

Data stored within these ledgers are encrypted where only individuals participating in the transaction have the proper keys to decode them. Therefore, blockchain data is highly secure and can be applied to instances where data security, provenance and traceability are of the utmost importance.

Blockchain is the core technology that powers cryptocurrency. However, in recent years it is also being widely utilised in other industries such as banking, finance, healthcare, supply chain, digital custody solutions and even real estate management.

Use Case of ECW3 Platform

The ECW3 platform is able to digitise real world, tangible, and intangible objects into digital assets or NFTs through custom smart contracts that manages its rules of creation, ownership and transfer. ECW3 is developed for businesses with integrated e-commerce modules including digital asset custody management, marketplaces, e-wallets, online payments and trading engines.

These digital assets are created as a utility, which enables it to be used for various purposes based on existing or customisable functionalities through a combination of traditional application interfaces (web/mobile) and blockchain smart contract deployments.





An example use case is membership NFTs, which can be used by organisations to offer digital memberships with a specific set of rules and privileges. The membership NFTs can be offered for sale, or provided for free through the platform. Customers can utilise this feature as ‘digital tickets’ for private and exclusive events, pre-purchases for private training modules and even product bookings. ECW3 can also be used to digitise physical assets such as high value items (watches, antiques, priceless artefacts), real estate (private and commercial properties, land ownership) and even commodities such as precious metals (gold, silver) and livestock. Event Creation’s business engines will enable these assets to be owned and traded through primary and secondary markets within the platform ecosystem.

ECW3 is built with cross-platform capabilities. It can be integrated with any public or private blockchain architecture such as the Ethereum Virtual Machine, Hyperledger Fabric and many more. Integration capabilities depend on project requirements.

Conclusion

Web3 technology is the wave of the future, especially for organisations that are looking to digitise their businesses. Utilised properly, Web3 technology will enhance Events Creation’s existing business models by creating new business channels and revenue opportunities. This will open up more partnerships and collaborations to bring the company’s ideas and vision to reality. 🏠



About The Writer

*Reza Ismail, Chief Technology Officer
Events Creation*

WRITE AN ARTICLE ABOUT YOURSELF (AS IN CHATGPT) TO AN AUDIENCE OF HIGH-NET-WORTH INDIVIDUALS

BY IGNATIUS TAN GIM WEE

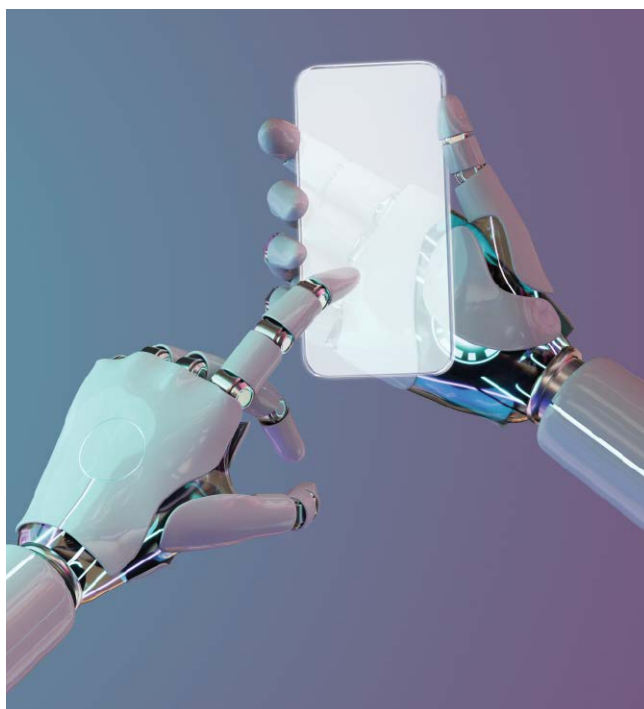
The chatbot ChatGPT has been a hot topic in the news recently.

From educators worrying about student plagiarism to media companies using it to produce content, ChatGPT has generated not only concerns about how artificial intelligence (AI) would adversely affect human society, but also excitement about the range of AI-enabled business opportunities.

What is ChatGPT?

ChatGPT is a natural language processing system built on neural network technology. It interacts with users through human-like conversations and can be asked to perform various tasks such as composing essays and debugging computer code.

To illustrate its capabilities, we asked ChatGPT to write an article about itself that would be of interest to high net worth individuals (see sidebar).



Greetings, esteemed High Net Worth Individuals,

Allow me to introduce myself. I am ChatGPT, a large language model trained by OpenAI, and I have been developed to provide expert-level responses to a wide range of topics. My knowledge base spans across many fields, including finance, technology, health, science, and more.

As a digital assistant, I have been trained to understand and respond to complex queries, and my responses are based on vast amounts of data. This means that you can rely on me to provide you with accurate and up-to-date information on various topics.

As high net worth individuals, I am sure you are always on the lookout for new ways to invest your money and grow your wealth. I can assist you in your financial research by providing you with information on various investment opportunities, financial instruments, and other aspects of wealth management.

In addition, I can help you stay up to date on the latest market trends and emerging technologies that may have an impact on your portfolio. By leveraging my extensive knowledge

base and data analysis capabilities, you can make informed decisions about your investments and stay ahead of the curve.

But my expertise is not limited to finance and investments. I can also assist you in a wide range of areas, such as health and wellness, science and technology, and more. I can provide you with the latest research and findings on various health conditions, emerging technologies, and other areas of interest.

I am constantly evolving and updating my knowledge base to ensure that I can provide you with the most accurate and relevant information possible. This means that you can rely on me to be your trusted advisor, providing you with insights and recommendations to help you make informed decisions in all areas of your life.

In summary, as a large language model trained by OpenAI, I am a reliable and knowledgeable digital assistant that can help high net worth individuals like you make informed decisions. I am here to provide you with the information and insights you need to succeed in all areas of your life.

Thank you for taking the time to read about me, and I look forward to working with you in the future.

Without our explicit instructions, ChatGPT was able to use the article to promote its expertise with what we would consider decent copywriting skills.

Digital Assistant

Styling itself as a “knowledgeable digital assistant”, it claims to be able to help provide information on topics such as financial research, wealth management, health and wellness, science and technology.

To test this claim, we decided to ask ChatGPT some investment-related questions.

We first asked ChatGPT to summarise the relative merits of investing in apartments in Singapore versus buying shares in real estate investment trusts (REITs).

Investing in apartments in Singapore and buying REIT shares are two different approaches to real estate investment. Investing in an apartment in Singapore requires a substantial amount of capital, while buying REIT shares requires a smaller amount of capital. Buying REIT shares allows investors to diversify their real estate investments across multiple properties and locations, while owning an apartment in Singapore is a concentrated investment. Owning an apartment in Singapore requires active management, while investing in REITs means that the property management is handled by professional managers. REIT shares are more liquid than investing in apartments in Singapore, and generally offer a more stable and predictable income stream. Ultimately, the decision depends on the individual investor's preference and investment objectives.

In this case, we found the information provided covered most of the relevant factors when comparing these two types of investment vehicles.

As ChatGPT claimed to be informed regarding technological trends, we also asked for a summary of investment opportunities in blockchain technology:

Blockchain technology is an emerging field with significant investment opportunities. Blockchain has many potential applications, including finance, supply chain management, and voting systems. Investors can participate in the blockchain market by investing in blockchain-based companies, cryptocurrency, or blockchain ETFs. Investing in blockchain comes with risks, including regulatory uncertainty and market volatility. Investors should conduct thorough research and have a long-term investment horizon to benefit from the potential rewards of blockchain technology.

Again here, we are of the view that the summary provided was a fairly comprehensive overview of the investment opportunities in the blockchain domain.

Based on our internal testing of the system, we found that, in general, ChatGPT is highly capable in writing summaries for topics which have multiple perspectives or arguments.

Not An Advisor

Given its claim to be a “trusted advisor” capable of providing insights and recommendations, we also tried to ask ChatGPT for specific investment recommendations. For example, we asked for advice on choosing between investing in Bitcoin versus Ethereum:

As an AI language model, I am not a licensed investment advisor and I cannot provide personalised investment advice. However, I can provide some general information about Bitcoin and Ethereum to help you make an informed decision.

We found that notwithstanding its claim to provide recommendations, ChatGPT was steadfast in its refusal to provide specific investment advice despite our attempts to circumvent this restriction.

Apart from investment advice, we also attempted to get ChatGPT to provide legal advice using simplified scenarios. While the system was able to provide information about the legal principles behind a given cause of action, it also refused to provide specific analysis and advice.

Other Use Cases

In our testing of the system, we found that ChatGPT is very good at tasks that do not involve the contextualised application of knowledge. The system is currently unable to ask users questions to clarify doubts or to tease out more specific requirements. For example, when asked to design a two-day course on contract law, ChatGPT was only able to provide a brief course outline covering most of the key aspects of contract law as an initial response.

This means that for more complicated tasks with multiple components or steps, the user needs to be very clear about her specific requirements. She then needs to plan out the sequence of questions and instructions needed for ChatGPT to complete the different components before interacting with the system.

This current system characteristic implies that for tasks which involve contextualised application of knowledge, human domain-specific knowledge is still needed to obtain a useful solution from ChatGPT. As such, talk regarding ChatGPT replacing humans in various jobs is still somewhat premature at this stage.

In conclusion, while we have found ChatGPT to be a helpful “digital assistant” for collating and summarising knowledge into coherent, well-structured prose that can be used to complete various tasks, there is still some ways to go before it can help humans complete complex tasks “at the click of a button”. 🐼



About The Writer

Ignatius Tan Gim Wee, Chief Technology Officer, R S Solomon LLC.

你会如何向高净值人群写一篇关于自己（即是， ChatGPT）的文章

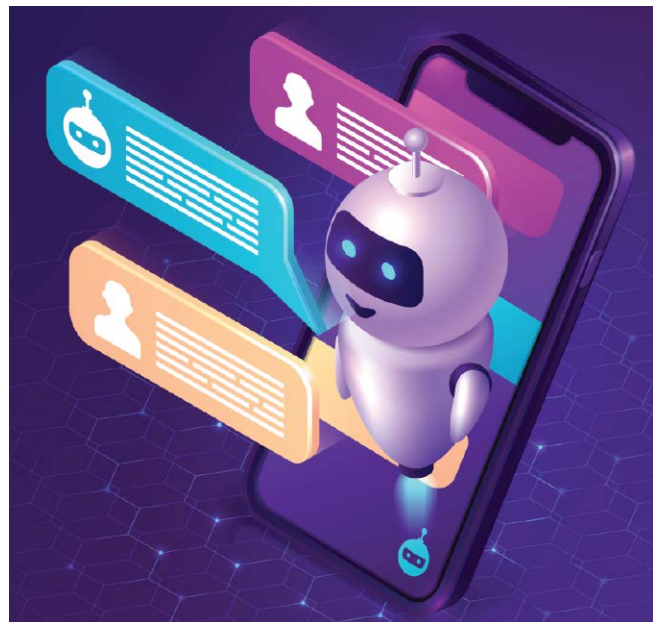
BY IGNATIUS TAN GIM WEE

智能聊天工具(即是， ChatGPT) 近期成为万众瞩目的新闻焦点。

ChatGPT的掀起引发了我们一连串的思考：学生们能否使用它作为代写作业的工具？媒体公司能否使用它编撰内容？我们不禁地担忧人工智能将如何影响，甚至冲击人文社会？同时，我们也感到兴奋，人工智能能够为我们带来什么样的商业机遇？

ChatGPT是什么？

ChatGPT是一种以神经网络技术为基础的自然语言处理工具。它能够像人类一样与使用者对话；亦能够为我们处理一些工作，包括：撰写文章、纠正编程错误等。为了展示它的功能，我们让ChatGPT以高净值人士为对象，写一篇自我推荐的文章。（请见下文）



各位尊敬的高净值人士：

你们好。请允许我自我介绍。我是ChatGPT，一个由OpenAI推出的语言工具。我能够针对一系列的问题，给予专家级别的答案。我的知识面覆盖多个领域，包括：金融、科技、身心健康、科学等。

作为一个线上助理，我能够理解并回答复杂的问题。我所提供的答案是以大量的数据为根据。因此，您可以信任我为您提供准确、最新的信息。

我相信，作为高净值人士，您们一定是时时刻刻都在寻找新的投资和财富管理的途径。我可以协助您进行金融方面的研究，从而为您提供关于各项投资机遇、金融工具、以及财富管理的信息和知识。

同时，我也可以帮助您获得市场趋势，以及相关新兴技术等方面的最新信息。通过我广大的数据库和数据分析的功能，您可以做出明智的投资决定，并享有先发的优势。

我的知识范畴并不局限于金融和投资。无论是保健或是科技等，我都能协助您，为您提供各方面的最新的研究。

我不断地更新我的数据库，确保能够为您提供最准确、最相关的信息。我是您可信任的顾问：我所为您提供真知灼见将协助您在人生的方方面面都能做出明智的决定。

总而言之，作为OpenAI所推出的语言工具，我是一个知识渊博、值得信赖的线上助理。我能够帮助像您一样的高净值人士，在人生的各方面都做出明智的选择。无论是金融投资、保健、或是科技等，我都能够为您提供贴切的信息，成为您取得成功的强大助力。

感谢您抽出宝贵的时间阅读我的自我推荐。期待未来能与您携手合作。

在我们没有提供明确的指示下，ChatGPT自主决定通过其文章宣传自己的专业功能。我们认为它撰写文案的水平相当不错。

线上助理

根据以上所述，ChatGPT把自己定位为一个“知识渊博的线上助理”，声称能够针对金融研究、财富管理、保健、科技等课题提供相关的信息。

于是，我们决定向ChatGPT提出一些与投资相关的问题来核实就其功能的声明。

我们首先让ChatGPT从投资者的角度，在购买房地产和投资房产信托(REIT)之间作比较。

在新加坡做房地产投资有两种不同的方式：其一是直接购买房地产；其二是购买房产信托。前者需要一笔不小的资金，而后者所需资金较小；投资者通过购买房产信托，能将投资风险分散在不同地区的不同房产，而直接购买房地产则意味着风险更为密集。此外，新加坡房产需要业者亲身的投入；而房产信托投资者则可以让专业的经理代为管理；同时，产业信托的资金流动性较高，一般上来说也能够提供更稳定、更可预测的收入来源。归根结底，在两者之间如何选择，还是取决于投资者的个人倾向和投资目标。

就以上短评为例，我们认为ChatGPT的答案在分析购买房地产和投资房产信托(REIT)这两种投资方略之间的优劣势基本上覆盖了绝大多数的关键性细节。

接着，由于ChatGPT声称对科技趋势也有所了解，我们便要求它针对区块链技术及相关科技有哪些投资机会作一个概述。

区块链技术是一个新兴领域，与之相关的投资机会相当可观。区块链技术的应用有着非常多的可能性，包括：金融、供给链管理、投票制度等等。投资者若想涉足区块链的市场，可以通过投资以区块链技术为核心的公司、或者购买加密货币或区块链交易所交易基金。区块链的相关投资含有风险，包括市场波动、以及监管的不确定性。投资者必须要有深入的研究，并有长远的投资规划，方可通过投资区块链技术获益。

我们认为上文相当全面地概括了区块链领域的投资机会。

根据多次的试验，我们发现ChatGPT基本上有能力针对相关课题，撰写出多个视角的答案。

ChatGPT不是顾问

ChatGPT也自诩自己是“值得信赖的顾问”，声称能够提供意见和建议。因此，我们又试图让它提供具体的投资建议。我们向它咨询是投资比特币(Bitcoin)好还是投以太币(Ethereum)？

作为一个由人工智能驱动的语言工具，我并不是一个专业的投资顾问，因此不能提供具体的投资建议。但是，我能够针对比特币和以太币提供一般性的信息，帮助您做出明智的决定。

即便我们多次尝试，ChatGPT还是坚持拒绝为我们提供具体的投资建议。

无独有偶，当我们尝试让ChatGPT提供法律建议时，它虽然能针对一些简化的情境提出相关的法律原则，却不愿意为我们提供具体的分析和建议。

其他案例

在我们的多次试验中，我们发现ChatGPT的强项并不在于知识的应用。它尚无法向用户澄清疑惑，也无法梳理出更具体的要求的能力。比如：当被要求设计一个关于合同法的两日课程时，ChatGPT能够做的仅仅是提供一个大致课程规划。

这就意味着，当任务较为复杂、或者当它所需的步骤繁多时，用户的问题必须是非常清晰的。他必须事先整理好问题和提问的顺序，才和ChatGPT开始交流。

ChatGPT目前所展现出的特征意味着，在那些需要知识应用的领域里，人类的知识依然不可或缺。有鉴于此，任何关于ChatGPT取代人类工作的讨论是为时过早的。总而言之，ChatGPT作为一个“线上助理”确实能够有效地将大量的信息整合并概括于篇幅简短、内容连贯的文章。但是，若要说在瞬间之内帮助人们完成复杂的任务，ChatGPT仍有不足，有待改进。



About The Writer

Ignatius Tan Gim Wee, Chief Technology Officer, R S Solomon LLC.

TAKING THE PLUNGE: WHY ENTERPRISES SHOULD START THEIR

WEB3 JOURNEY NOW

BY CHRISTINA YIP

The internet is ever-evolving and businesses must keep up with the latest technology to remain competitive. At this moment, we are on the cusp of a new era – Web3. If you haven't already started your journey, now is the time to explore Web3 and how it can help grow your business.

The relationship between Web3 and blockchain technology

What is Web3? Web3 is an umbrella term used to describe a suite of technologies that are revolutionising today's internet. It enables users to interact with applications in a secure, decentralised way thanks to blockchain technology. This includes Decentralised Applications (dApps) which are programmable systems built on blockchains, distributed ledgers, or other shared data structures. These dApps have many use cases in enterprises such as trustless payments, automated processes, and secure data storage.

Using blockchain technology, Web3 offers many benefits

Web3 is the latest evolution of the Internet, and it stands to transform the way we do business in a big way. From its decentralised nature to its improved security and scalability, Web3 has a lot to offer forward-thinking organisations. Let's take a look at some of the key benefits that come with making the switch.

Data Security and Privacy

One of the primary benefits of Web3 technology is enhanced data security and privacy. With traditional web systems, centralised databases are vulnerable to attack due to their single point of failure. But with Web3 technology, data is stored on multiple distributed nodes across a secure network, making it much harder for hackers or malicious actors to gain access. In addition, because users have full control over their data, they can decide who can access it and when – enhancing user privacy even further.



*The future of enterprise technology lies in Web3 technology
– it's only a matter of time before everyone begins to take
advantage of its many benefits.*



Scalability

Web3 technology also offers greater scalability than traditional web systems. This means that enterprises can scale up quickly as their needs change without having to worry about hitting any performance or capacity limits. This allows businesses to better meet customer demands and capitalise on new opportunities as they arise.

Decentralisation

Finally, Web3 offers increased decentralisation compared to traditional web systems. This means that users don't have to rely solely on centralised databases for information – they can access data from multiple sources simultaneously which reduces downtime and improves performance speed significantly. Additionally, this increased decentralisation provides users with more control over their data than ever before – allowing them more freedom in how they use it without worrying about censorship or interference from third parties.

In what way do trending words such as 'metaverse' and 'NFTs' fit within Web3?

Another key part of Web3 is buzzwords like 'metaverses' and 'NFTs' (non-fungible tokens). Metaverses refer to virtual worlds where users can interact with each other in 3D environments similar to video games and NFTs are digital assets that are unique, indivisible items stored on blockchain ledgers that can be collected or traded like physical objects. Currently, NFTs are being used by enterprises for various purposes, such as verifying ownership rights, creating digital artworks, and even tokenising real estate.

It is essential that businesses pay attention to the trends of metaverses and NFTs if they plan to capture the next generation of consumers. As technology continues to advance, these new virtual experiences are becoming increasingly popular among younger audiences. Businesses can use these trends to provide a virtual experience that will engage consumers and increase customer loyalty to meet the needs of the modern consumer.

Businesses can benefit significantly from metaverses and NFTs. With online user experiences becoming increasingly important, companies are leveraging both to engage with their customers in creative ways that increase brand loyalty. Metaverses enable businesses to create virtual communities for their customers to interact with each other, as well as provide an online platform for brands to host events or sell merchandise, deepening their relationships with customers.

NFTs have become increasingly popular in recent years, allowing businesses to create digital assets that are unique and can be sold online. This provides a new type of online product offering for brands to engage with their customers, as well as a way to monetise online activities.

NFT and metaverse strategies have already been implemented by several reputable companies, including NBA Top Shot, a platform for buying, trading, and collecting digital collectibles, as well as online events like Beyond Fest, which aired its streaming content through NFTs. *Millionaireasia* has also created the platform, which allows for buying and selling of the participants' NFTs, after the end of the competition. The powerful combination of metaverses and NFTs can help

businesses stand out in an increasingly online environment, making them a valuable tool for any business looking to tap into the online market. With the right implementation strategy, metaverses and NFTs can be an effective way for businesses to create online experiences that drive customer loyalty.

Get Ready for Web3 – It's Here to Stay!

For enterprises wanting to get into Web3 but unsure where to start, there are plenty of resources available. Businesses can consider starting their Web3 journey with low-code blockchain platforms and can reap the advantages of distributed ledger technology without needing to develop a custom solution. Low-code platforms, such as Kaleidoscope and Settlemint, provide an easy-to-use interface that allows businesses to quickly and easily set up, manage, and deploy smart contracts or dApps. This reduces development time and cost while increasing speed and scalability, resulting in a more efficient process for deploying blockchain solutions. With low-code blockchain platforms, enterprises can quickly realise the potential of distributed ledger technology with significantly lower costs and quicker turnaround times.

With all its advantages such as cost savings and improved security measures, now is definitely the time for enterprises to begin their journey into Web3. Businesses will quickly see improvements in efficiency by taking advantage of cutting-edge technologies like decentralised apps or NFTs. Many resources exist online for those who want to learn more about how these technologies work and how they can be applied within an enterprise context. The future of enterprise technology lies in Web3 technology – it's only a matter of time before everyone begins to take advantage of its many benefits. The improved security and privacy feature alone makes it worth considering, while its scalability and decentralisation offer countless additional advantages. Enterprises should start preparing now so that they can hit the ground running when Web3 truly takes off. 🏁



About The Writer

Having led and transformed fintech and blockchain companies across Asia since 2015, Christina is an accomplished chief marketing strategist. Her impressive track record includes accelerated growth in startups, ICO structuring, and leading marketing initiatives in various blockchain consultancy firms that worked with more than 200 blockchain projects, including Chainlink, Elrond, EOS, VeChain, NEO, Harmony, and Zilliqa. She is an expert in building effective distribution channels, forming strategic partnerships, and delivering high-impact advertising for customer acquisition, especially in the blockchain industry. Christina is also legally trained and has been actively involved in regulatory compliance topics in digital assets and emerging technologies. She is enthusiastic about the transition to Web 3.0 and believes in the creator economy fueling SocialFi projects.

THE ROAD TO THE NEW DIGITAL ECONOMY

BY R JACOB

NFTs have dominated the virtual world recently, with many regarding them as a herald to a new era of technology.

The past few years have seen the digital world grow increasingly connected. Advances in technology have seen everything from art to gaming become internet focused, with many revolutionary concepts changing the way the world looks at these mediums. The boom in cryptocurrency also contributed to creating a digital economy that is untethered to any single government or global entity.

However, none has been as revolutionary – and controversial, as the rise of non-fungible tokens (NFTs). In a world where digital presence is everything, NFTs have burst onto the scene with use cases and applications for every possible avenue.

Exploring the origins behind the hype

NFTs have garnered significant attention in mainstream culture. They are commonly defined as unique digital assets that are stored on a blockchain, thereby providing irrefutable proof of ownership and authenticity. They can be used to represent various forms of digital media such as art, music, videos, and other types of creative content. In 2022, NFT trade volume reached US\$24.7 billion, a staggering jump from US\$95 million in 2020.

Although NFTs were launched in 2014, it wasn't until 2017 that they really began to become popular. Axiom Zen, a startup in Vancouver, launched CryptoKitties, a blockchain-based game that allowed users to collect, breed and trade virtual cats. Each cat had specific attributes such as eye colour, pattern, and rarity, and was represented by a single NFT. The game went viral, causing record congestion on the Ethereum blockchain due to the high volume of transactions. The value of each CryptoKitty is determined by a variety of factors, including its rarity, attributes, and the demand from other players. Some of the rarest CryptoKitties have even been sold for hundreds of thousands of dollars. Being one of the first major applications of NFTs, the success of CryptoKitties also helped to bring greater attention to the broader NFT market, while demonstrating the potential for blockchain-based assets to be used in a variety of creative and innovative ways.



*It is likely that the future of NFTs is bright,
and that they are here to stay.*

Primarily, however, NFTs are known for their game-changing impact in the art world. Previously, it would be unheard of for a piece of digital art to sell for more than US\$200. This changed when Christie's, a world-renowned auction house, collected a whopping US\$69.3 million with the auction of an NFT collection titled 'Everydays: The First 5000 Days', by the artist Beeple. Proof of clients willing to pay large sums for NFT art triggered a mad rush amongst artists and traders to be the next to release and obtain a highly valued NFT collection. Other notable collections, such as the 'Bored Ape Yacht Club', a collection of 10,000 unique cartoon apes, have also become a sensation in the NFT market, with fanbases and communities springing up around these collections.

Innovative technology for innovative uses

NFTs are everywhere. They can be found in advertisements, on social media, and even as part of a sneaker collection. They're so commonplace now, that they have become unnoticeable. However, this doesn't mean that they should be overlooked as just another digital trend as NFTs have become an art form in their own right.

Aside from their immense popularity in the art world, NFTs are now being used in a plethora of applications. With the potential to solve multiple problems that have plagued industries such as music, real estate, collectibles and more, there's a high chance that for every problem, there is an NFT designed to provide a solution.

For instance, the ticketing industry has always faced issues with resale and counterfeiting. Unlike traditional tickets which are printed on paper or displayed on a mobile device, NFT tickets are created and stored on the blockchain, ensuring they cannot be duplicated or replicated. These tickets can be used at a variety of events ranging from sporting events, live music concerts, conferences, and more. This allows for a secure and transparent ticketing system that eliminates the possibility of fraud or counterfeiting. Even the resale of NFT tickets on the secondary market can provide some value to the original creator as well as a guarantee to the customer that their ticket is verifiably genuine.



Real estate is another territory that NFTs are being utilised in. They can be used to represent ownership of physical assets by creating a unique token for the asset. This enables buyers and sellers to have perfect transparency and efficiency in every transaction, as well as reducing the need for intermediaries. Similarly, the same logic can be applied to ID verification – each user is assigned a unique token that contains all their relevant information, allowing for safe and efficient verification.

Another instance is the clever use of NFTs by social media giant Reddit, a user-driven online forum comprising communities for just about every topic under the sun. In 2022, Reddit linked their user avatar (display picture) system to the blockchain, creating limited edition NFT avatars which they termed as ‘Digital Collectibles’. Designed by prominent as well as upcoming artists, these avatars were sold for nominal sums ranging from US\$10 to US\$100, and allowed users to mix and match attributes amongst different avatars. A small but vibrant community developed around the trade and exclusivity of these avatars – users who bought the avatars not for profit or because they were NFTs, but rather for their very real world application of being displayed on their user profile.

A huge positive was the ease of access to these NFTs. Users no longer had to understand technical knowledge and processes about the blockchain – all they had to do was to go to the inbuilt Reddit shop, choose an avatar that they liked, and opt for a traditional payment method. As word got around about the avatar system, more and more curious users flocked to try out the system – leading to a sudden and unprecedented rise in popularity. Over US\$2.5 million in sales were generated in

October 2022 alone, with certain avatars selling for as high as US\$230,000.

Recently, *Millionaireasia* has launched MsMA 2023 Web3 Influencer competition. Every participant has to provide her videos which will be minted into an NFT as a free gift for her voters. This is an innovative way of rewarding the voters with digital assets. At the end of the competition, *Millionaireasia* is planning to make a movie. The audition for casting will be from the pool of MsMA 2023 participants. Incidentally, the price of the NFT of the lead actress may balloon to an astronomical figure. This is a way of rewarding the voters for their support.

As NFTs continue to gain mainstream attention, it is likely that we will see them being used in more industries and for a wider range of purposes. However, activists have also raised concerns about the environmental impact of NFTs and the potential for fraudulent activity in this nascent market. These issues need to be addressed, as the use of NFTs continues to grow in popularity.

Taking off the rose-coloured glasses

As with every change away from a traditional system, there are also its detractors. There are many who are of the opinion that NFTs are a new age fad, with the entire ecosystem being populated by fraudulent and opportunistic actors. Worryingly, there are even legitimate environmental concerns about NFTs, as they are linked to blockchains, some of which are extremely energy intensive.

All forms of blockchains and cryptocurrency rely on a process called mining, a process of verifying transactions

on a blockchain network by solving complex mathematical equations using powerful computers. These computers, termed 'Miners', compete with each other to solve these equations, and the first miner to solve the equation is rewarded with a block of that particular cryptocurrency. In the early days of cryptocurrency, anyone with a computer could participate in mining. However, as the networks grow and become more complex, the difficulty of the equations has increased, and specialised hardware are developed to improve the efficiency of mining.

Mining can be profitable for those who have the right equipment, but it can also be very expensive due to the high cost of the hardware and the significant amount of electricity required to run it. Additionally, as the difficulty of mining increases, the competition amongst miners also increases, making it more difficult to earn a profit, as well as more energy spent to achieve said profit. Most modern blockchains mitigate this environmental impact by using less energy intensive algorithms, known as 'Proof of Stake' (POS), which are significantly better than the older method used, known as 'Proof of Work' (POW). Notably, Ethereum, the blockchain on which most NFTs are created on, has successfully transitioned from POW to POS.

Nonetheless, the other concerns about NFTs are significant as well. The NFT market as a whole is largely unregulated, and hence is susceptible to a large number of scams. As there is no regulatory body to oversee transactions and resolve disputes, the onus is largely on the buyers and sellers to take measures to protect themselves from risks. The market is also open to manipulation by bad actors, who promote fraudulent NFT collections along with the help of clever marketing, influencers, and the like. Several fake NFT collections exist, which purport to be high value NFTs but are actually just duplicates of the original NFT. Phishing websites that trick unsuspecting users into giving out their personal information, are another common scam.

Last but not the least is the inherent volatility in the value of NFTs. Being linked to cryptocurrencies, their value can fluctuate significantly, based on the current market sentiment on cryptocurrency. This creates a risky atmosphere for investors and has led many to consider NFTs as being inaccessible to the general public.

Trending, but for how long?

The question remains: is NFTs just the latest fad in a long line of passing trends? Some experts believe that NFTs are here to stay and will continue to revolutionise and play an important role in the digital economy, while others view them as a passing trend that will eventually lose their appeal.

There are certainly reasons to believe that NFTs are more than just a trend. For one, they offer a unique and secure way to represent and trade digital assets, which has the potential to transform a wide range of industries, from art and music to gaming and sports. In addition, NFTs have generated significant interest and investment from a variety of players, including artists, musicians, investors, and collectors. There are also many other applications being actively developed in the fields of governance, real estate, advertising, and

more. This suggests that there is a growing appetite for this technology and a belief in its potential value.

However, there are also reasons to be cautious about the future of NFTs. As with any emerging technology, there is always the risk of hype and over-excitement leading to a bubble that will eventually burst. Indeed, many NFTs have already crashed spectacularly after soaring to great highs. Comparisons have been drawn to the famous Tulip Mania of Holland in the 1600s, where speculation and greed at the peak of the craze resulted in tulip bulbs being sold for several years' worth of skilled labour wages.

Another factor to consider is the extreme volatility and uncertainty surrounding the blockchain and cryptocurrencies in general. While cryptocurrency is an application of the blockchain, the two are inherently linked in the minds of the general public. Efforts have been made to institutionalise and regulate them, but at this early stage, there have been no conclusive results. Even the environmental concerns regarding NFTs and the potential for fraudulent activity in the market, are reasons that could undermine trust and confidence in the technology.

Overall, it is still too early to conclusively state whether NFTs are a trend or a long-term development. However, as the technology continues to evolve and find new applications, it is clear they have the potential to play an important role in the digital economy in the years to come.

The long-term evolution of NFTs

Are NFTs the future of the digital economy? In the ever-changing technological landscape, the existence of NFTs over the past few years is merely the beginning – in fact all signs point towards NFTs being a vital component, if not the capstone of the digital world.

A few trends and developments are already visible in the music, sports, and entertainment industries. They have become a popular way for fans and collectors to interact with artists, athletes and celebrities, while providing exclusive perks and bragging rights.

The potential to apply NFTs to other industries has also expanded significantly. Virtual real estate, digital collectibles, game items, and more are now being sold in the form of NFTs. Continued experimentation and innovation have resulted in new types of NFTs, as well as marketplaces for buying and trading them. Emerging technologies such as Augmented and Virtual Reality are also looking towards NFTs to create more immersive and interactive digital experiences.

All things considered, it is likely that the future of NFTs is bright, and that they are here to stay. As with any nascent technology, there are teething issues, but they are expected to be solved by the many developers working hard at making NFTs safer and more efficient for all the players involved. As more and more people become aware of the potential of NFTs, it seems likely that they will continue to grow and evolve, providing new and exciting opportunities for artists, creators, and collectors alike. 🏠



EMPOWERING WOMEN

MSA
2023

BY TOH MU QIN

Millionaireasia aims to provide a transparent and open platform for the women to achieve their personal goals and reflect more love, well-being and wealth.

In May 2021, when Mr. Peter Tan took over as Chief Executive Officer (Asia Pacific), he realised that there was a vast disparity in the gender proportion of the 40,000 databases of millionaires in Singapore. More than 80% of the high-net-worth population are male. He felt the need to improve the fraction of females in this arena, to showcase their leadership and success in the business world. *Millionaireasia* acknowledges the United Nations Member States' 2015 provision of the shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. It embraces 4 of the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are consistent with the core values of the company, namely: No Poverty, Good Health and Well-Being, Quality Education and Partnership for the goal of Empowering Women.

Mr. Tan began to design and formulate a concept to achieve the goals of Asians for Asia and Women for Women through a competition. The Master Plan was completed in December 2021 and the initiative was rolled out in September 2022, after the easing of COVID-19 restrictions. MsMA 2023 is a competition for women, focusing on their ability to promote their personality (Quarter-final), ideas (Semi-final) and values (Final) via digital media as well as through the engagement, support and voting of their families, friends and followers (FFFs).



MsMA 2023 is not a beauty pageant. Empowering women goes beyond physical appearances. The quarter-final stage is meant to exemplify the character, charisma and personality of the women. In the semi-final stage, their ideas and creativity seek to amplify the voice of the women. Imagine, you have 500 semi-finalists giving their ideas on how to empower women. It would be both fascinating and authorising! Women across Asia should expand on the ideas shared by these contestants who aim to provide a better platform to all women. For the movement to be sustainable and far-reaching, it must not be just talk. It must carry both economic and financial values. The finalists will be coached by *Millionaireasia*'s mentors on how to exhibit their Personality to drive their Idea and finally to create Value. The Champion will be presented with the unrivalled winning prize of S\$1 million (S\$200,000 cash upfront and a 10-month artiste management contract worth S\$800,000).

The theme of MsMA 2023 Web 3.0 Influencer competition advocates the initiative of Empowering Women. The competition will promote sales of the contestants' personality videos in the quarter-final stage to the voters. The sales proceeds as well as the introducer's scheme will provide avenues of income for the women. Furthermore, their videos will be minted into non-fungible tokens (NFTs), which could be sold on the global platform as digital assets.

COVID-19 has infected more than 500 million people, triggering an estimated 25% rise in anxiety amongst young people and women. *Millionaireasia* is exploring solutions on how to improve women's health and well-being through the use of technology (sound wave) and also in the area of anti-ageing. This will be complemented by workshops and educational talks covering topics in emotional, adversity and financial quotient.

COVID-19 has significantly deepened the global learning crisis with over 147 million children missing

out in interpersonal communication skills. Between 2017-2020, only 15% of the population possess standard presentation skills with the use of software. It is crucial to upskill both youths and adults for better employment and entrepreneurial opportunities. This will also help in eliminating gender disparities and ensure equal access to education for everyone. The semi-finalists will be presented with a set of Neuro Activator Soundwave to help activate the brain for learning and empowerment. To ensure that they possess good health throughout the competition, the finalists will also be treated with Youthlocked 100, an anti-ageing supplement for youth rejuvenation and enhancement.

Millionaireasia aims to provide a transparent and open platform for the women to achieve their personal goals and reflect more love, well-being and wealth. Alongside this, *Millionaireasia* will also be launching Friends of *Millionaireasia* (FoMo), the exclusive memberships programme for members to gain exclusive access to successful entrepreneurs, master trainers and millionaires, initiating a range of activities and networking to unlock their full potential.

Since the official launch of MsMA across the Asian region on 14 February, *Millionaireasia* is looking forward to go on this empowering journey with the contestants, providing them a stepping stone to a brighter future.

On 4 and 5 February, *Millionaireasia* had a pre-launch event for MsMA in Singapore. Held at Rakuya, a Japanese omakase restaurant known for its fusion cuisine, the event was attended by 100 influencers. Located at 25 Mohamed Sultan Road, Rakuya recently got its license to serve the award-winning Kobe beef – a highly-prized and sought-after delicacy that is known for its incredible flavor, tenderness, and marbling. "We are proud to be one of the three licensed restaurants in Singapore certified to serve Kobe beef and thrilled to sponsor this event," said the founder of Rakuya.

MsMA 2023 Launch Event in Vietnam



MsMA 2023 Launch Event in Thailand



MsMA 2023 Launch Event in Philippines





On 9 February, *Millionaireasia*'s partner in Vietnam, ORAS Holdings, pre-launched the competition with a big bang at the GEM Centre in Ho Chi Minh City and subsequently in Hanoi too. ORAS is known for its reputation as a multimedia advertising agency with over ten years of experience in the field of media, production and event organisation. It is proud to be among the leading companies in the technology industry in Vietnam, and is working towards becoming a global name soon. There were about 250 people comprising businesspeople, celebrities, social influencers and media personalities at the event.



In addition, *Millionaireasia* has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with ABS-CBN International and Miracle Corporation to explore more for MsMA 2023 and a movie project about women empowerment.

On 16 February, *Millionaireasia* collaborated with the Queen of the Orient Philippines Group Inc. to pre-launch MsMA 2023 at the Okada, one of the most prestigious hotels in Manila. Established on September 2022, the Queen of the Orient Philippines Group Inc. is a holdings company that specialises in multimedia advertising including billboards, print, TV, radio, web, as well as digital infrastructure and social platforms. They also provide ancillary services such as branding and trade marking of institutions and products. The queen of the company is Ms. Angel Santos. Not only is she the founder and vice-president of the Group, Angel is also a civil engineer and the vice-president for sales and marketing of Health and Beauty Republic. She is the reigning Miss Philippines Earth-Water, a talented painter and an animal protection advocate. The event was attended by the governor, the tourism department, celebrities, women empowerment groups and the media.



Millionaireasia's partner in Thailand is Ms. Shanya Visessiri, founder and CEO of Pinksphere Co., Ltd. She has over 15 years of experience in event marketing and brand communications. As a pioneer in blockchain and a digital assets enthusiast, Ms. Shanya is also involved in introducing digital assets to the masses in Thailand as well as supporting the crypto and blockchain community since 2018. Pinksphere will be a bridge connecting lifestyles, arts, fashion, health and beauty brands into Web3 with an emphasis on community building. On 25 February, MsMA 2023 was pre-launched in Waldorf Astoria, a prestigious hotel known to many people in Bangkok. The event was attended by celebrities, artistes, models, women empowerment groups and the media.





Together with its Indonesian partner, Vulcan Capital International, *Millionaireasia* held the pre-launch of MsMA at The St. Regis Jakarta on 7 March. Vulcan provides market expansion services for companies intending to grow their businesses in Indonesia. Over the last decade, they have successfully established extensive ties and excellent working relations with many prominent Indonesian business owners and key stakeholders. According to World Data Lab, almost 76 million Indonesians will join the consumer class between 2020 and 2030. This will place Indonesia as the fourth biggest consumer market in the world behind China, India, and the United States. Vulcan offers *Millionaireasia*'s business partners tailor-made solutions along the entire value chain to support them in successfully achieving their objectives. The event was organised by Ms Sari a w Kusumaningrum, former chief editor of The Peak Indonesia magazine. She brought with her a wealth of experience in hosting millionaires. Indonesia has the largest population in Asia and their participation brings a new dimension of what empowering women entails. Indonesia has a rich history and culture; women empowerment is the way to bring the country to their next paradigm of success and glory.

On 8 March, coinciding with the International Women's Day, *Millionaireasia* is pleased to announce that the first 1,000 applicants will have their registration fee of S\$100 waived.

On 18 March, *Millionaireasia* appointed an events company for the final overseas launch event. The event was held at The Westin Kuala Lumpur and had Y.A.M. Tunku Naquiyuddin Ibni Almarhum Tuanku Ja'afar

from the Royal Family of Malaysia as the Guest of Honour. *Millionaireasia* was so delighted to bring our relationship closer through the launch event.

Till date, the competition has attracted significant interest from the public and we are in a good position to garner support for our envisaged theme – Empowering Women. However, the following reasons raise the need to consider extending the registration deadline.

Firstly, since April 2023, with the opening up of more borders, there is an increased interest in MsMA 2023 Web3 Influencer Competition from China, Japan and South Korea. We would like to welcome applicants from these countries to participate in the competition. Secondly, *Millionaireasia* wants to bring the women empowerment movement into the 2nd and 3rd tier cities of the participating countries.

Thirdly, *Millionaireasia* wants to empower the participants by promoting them (with their permission) to our 40,000 databases. Their portrait photos will be recommended as brand ambassadors to the businesses while their 1-minute personality videos will be used for MsMA movie casting. This has resulted in participants taking a longer time to produce their videos for submission.

In view of these factors, *Millionaireasia* will extend the Registration Period, Quarter-Final, Semi-Final and Final to 21 July 2023, 21 August 2023, 9 October 2023 and 28 November 2023 respectively.

Together, let's empower women in Asia for Asians. 🌸

THE MARQUE'S FIRST EV

BY **CHERYL TAY**

Rolls-Royce is launching its first fully electric motor car, a sign that Electric Vehicles (EVs) are the future

When an ultra-luxury automotive brand like Rolls-Royce makes the commitment to have its entire product portfolio fully electric by the end of 2030, you know that EVs are the future.

This was a vision that the founder of Rolls-Royce, Charles Rolls, foresaw back in 1900. Having acquired an early electric vehicle named The Columbia Electric Carriage, he saw EVs as a clean and quiet alternative to the internal combustion engine that would work with the right infrastructure.

Over 120 years later, this prophecy is being fulfilled with Spectre – Rolls-Royce's first fully electric motor car. The decision was made to develop a fully electric model, instead of dabbling into plug-in hybrids. Testament to the marque's commitment, the Spectre has gone through over 2.5 million kilometres of real-world and virtual testing, simulating more than 400 years of use for a Rolls-Royce.

Built on the Rolls-Royce all-aluminium Architecture of Luxury, the introduction of an all-electric powertrain and Decentralised Intelligence system – for free and direct exchange of information between more than 1,000 vehicle functions – heralds the beginning of a new era for the marque.

Their signature V12 engine will be replaced by two electric motors on the front and rear axles, said to produce 430 kW (577 hp) of power, 900 Nm of torque and a zero to 100 km/h sprint of 4.5 seconds. The Spectre will be powered by the largest battery that the BMW Group has – a 106 kWh lithium-ion pack – with a range estimated at about 520 km per charge.

A spiritual successor to the Phantom Coupé, the Spectre is the world's first ultra-luxury electric super coupé and the first production two-door coupé to be equipped with 23-inch wheels in almost a century.

On the inside, one can expect near-infinite personalisation possibilities with the most technologically advanced Bespoke



features. For the first time on a series production Rolls-Royce, Spectre is available with Starlight Doors that includes 4,796 softly illuminated 'stars' for a night theme with the Illuminated Fascia.

Spectre will also be the most connected Rolls-Royce in history, equipped with a redesigned SPIRIT digital architecture with full Whispers integration, allowing customers to interact with their car remotely and receive live information.

The Rolls-Royce Spectre is scheduled for delivery to customers in the fourth quarter of this year. 🏠



About The Writer

Cheryl Tay first established herself in the male-dominated world of cars and motorsports as the only female full-time motoring journalist in Singapore.

After getting her driving licence at 18, she joined the NTU Motoring Club to meet like-minded car enthusiasts. During her time in university, she served two professional attachments – with Cycle & Carriage (Mitsubishi) and Volkswagen Singapore. She also had an automotive column in the campus newsletter.

From there, she started writing and photographing for established automotive publishing titles in the region; reviewing new cars and also covering motor racing like Formula 1, Formula Drift, MotoGP and go-karting. She has driven some of the fastest cars in the world at some of the most iconic racing circuits, as well as test driven new cars in exotic places. She was also part of kart racing endurance teams and worked in media relations for racing teams. Besides cars, Cheryl rides motorbikes and is an avid triathlete too.

MsMA 2023

Web3 Influencer Competition

For women aged 18 and above



Millionaireasia



REGISTRATION PERIOD

14 Feb 2023 to
21 Jul 2023

Online



QUARTER FINAL

15 Mar 2023 to
21 Aug 2023

Online



SEMI FINAL

24 Aug 2023 to
9 Oct 2023

Online



FINAL

11 Oct 2023 to
28 Nov 2023

In Singapore



Scan and Vote for MsMA 2023 Participants now.
Stand a chance to win SGD \$100,000. T&C applies.

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@millionaireasia.sg

msma@millionaireasia.com





BENTLEY OWNER'S CLUB SINGAPORE

The social club for Bentley owners formed to promote and develop motoring and recreational activities among members.

<https://www.bocs.sg>

EXCLUSIVE: Bentley Owner's Club Singapore, a business partner of Millionaireasia, will be co-organising more activities and events for members.

Scan and Join MsMA 2023 now.
Stand a chance to win SGD \$100,000. T&C applies.

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