



Aradhna Dayal
Founder & CEO
Access Alts Asia

Dear Judges,

It feels reasonably strange to nominate myself for an award but I am delighted to share my life story in the hope that it will inspire many young women from small towns or working in highly male dominated areas to have the courage to dream big, have the conviction and resilience to go after their dreams “like a man”, have the courage to speak up, breaking the glass ceiling and combine it with a happy family life (often seen at odds with having a successful career).

Two years back, I started Access Alts as a global investment club focused on Asia. This members-only club has seen astronomical growth in the past 12 months, putting Asia on the global investing map and attracting some of the world’s largest business families and institutional investors with over US\$2 trillion in represented assets. We have actively backed women-led funds as well as Asian ventures.

I am also proud to say that in this short span of two years, we have led delegations to Dubai, China, New York and have just been invited to Warren Buffet’s AGM in May. I have also been acknowledged and invited to speak alongside founders of PayTM, FlipCart as well as global leaders such as Madeline Albright, Tony Blair, Al Gore etc.

While many in the industry look at Access Alts Asia and marvel at its rapid global adoption, I feel that there is no secret sauce to it. It really is the culmination of my 25 years of hard work, pioneering spirit and relationships building.

My career has seen several firsts. I ran one of the earliest family offices investing in Asian Alternative funds, in what was a highly male bankers-dominated world at that time, and really had to earn my stripes and respect from all through my hard work and knowledge. To prove my credentials, I built the first platform that brought together the then nascent Asian hedge funds industry, tracking over 700 funds. I also conceptualized the first international-style “Sunshine Funds” database for China, as well as pioneered the first international China-Global Alternative Summits at the invitation of the Shanghai Mayor in 2013, facilitating the China government’s landmark QDLP Investments Program for global alternative funds.

I now sit on several committees/ board of directors in Asia and was the first Asian and Woman to serve on the Euromoney Institutional Investor Board of Directors. My journey to these Boards was not easy at a time when all directors used to be 70+ year-old men who, after a full day of deliberations, preferred to take all decisions in the evening nursing whiskey at their favourite club, while I went home to my babies. I slowly realized that the best way to prove my point was to prove by action (my investments constantly beat global returns) and have the conviction to speak up, however difficult the situation.

I also learnt the value of building deep bonds and relationships, having the right mentors and choosing the right team, primarily from people who valued meritocracy. I also learnt to spend the right amount of time

nurturing my family and now encourage husbands and families to support the women that want to compete and succeed in their chosen field.

With my network and experience, I now passionately advocate Greater Women Representation on senior roles/company boards, and both recommend and mentor meritorious young woman for the same.

Apart from that, I am passionate about philanthropy (education, healthcare and children), serving on the committees of Teach for China, Child Cancer, Youth Diabetes Association and most importantly, our family charity, Move4Migrants, where I am ably assisted by my children.

Move4Migrants (www.move4migrants.com) is a platform that provides targeted aid to children from the ethnic minority and migrant background in Hong Kong in areas of language, health, sports and career counselling. I am proud to say that we have reached 24 schools and over 5,000 kids.

But perhaps my most delightful role is that of the mother of two feisty teenagers, and when not sparring with them, I am a frequent guest speaker at international events. I have read Global Strategic Management at Harvard Business School.

Aradhna Dayal

Founder & CEO

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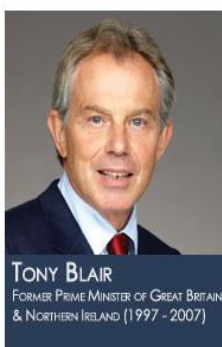
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SPEAKERS



ACCESS ALTS ASIA DELEGATION IN DUBAI



MOVE4MIGRANTS

