

## Entrepreneurship Ecosystem Builders honoured as Asian Tech Heroes



**London [July 7, 2023]:** Ten entrepreneurship ecosystem builders were earlier this week honoured as Asian Tech heroes by equality charity Diversity UK, in association with law firm Eversheds Sutherland and Cambridge-based Biorbyt, one of Europe's largest bio-reagents supplier. The event took place in Central London on Wednesday 5 July 2023 and simultaneously saw the release of the Top 100 Asian Stars in UK Tech 2023 list. Now in its ninth year, the list celebrates the outstanding contribution made by British Asians to this country's digital economy.

### Tech faces new challenges, but we are there to support the ecosystem

The ten entrepreneurship ecosystem builders honoured are: **Dr Nadia Danhash**, Director of InnovationRCA; **Dr Riam Kansa**, Founder & CEO of Conception X; **Tram Anh Nguyen** and **Huy Nguyen Trieu**, Co-Founders of CFTE, Centre for Finance Technology & Entrepreneurship; **Jamie Qiu**, Managing Director and Founder, Studio Zao; **Manoj Ranaweera**, Founder & CEO of Manchester's Techcelerate; **Kamran Rashid**, Co-Founder & CEO of Impact Hub, Bradford; **Colin Tan**, Director of Operations at TusPark Holdings UK, based in Newcastle; **Nikita Thakrar**, Co-Founder & CEO of Included VC and **Kevin Withane**, Founder/Investor at Diversity X. The awards were presented by Ramesh Vala CBE, Deputy Chair of Diversity; Jon Gill, Partner at Eversheds Sutherland; Qun Yang, Co-Founder & Co-CEO of Biorbyt and Hanadi Jabado DL, Managing Director at Sana Capital and Chair of the Judging Panel at the launch of the ninth edition of the list, last night.



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**Hanadi Jabado DL**, Managing Director at Sana Capital and Chair of the judging panel for this year's list said, *"I am truly honoured to acknowledge and celebrate the exceptional achievements of these ten Asian Tech heroes. I have been truly inspired over the years to witness first-hand their relentless contribution to the entrepreneurship ecosystem in the UK, their passion and their dedication. The release of the Top 100 Asian Stars in UK Tech 2023 list further highlights the remarkable impact that British Asians continue to make, fostering diversity and driving the growth of our digital economy, these ten individuals have built a national platform to enable others who are recognised in the list every year, and I am delighted that we are recognising their contribution today.*

*On behalf of the panel, I extend my heartfelt congratulations and thanks to each and every one of the deserving recipients of this prestigious award, who have not only excelled in their respective fields but have also paved the way for the next generation of Asian talent in the tech industry."*

### **About the Asian Tech Pioneers**

The Asian Tech Pioneers Awards were introduced in 2019 to mark the fifth anniversary of the The Top 100 Asian Stars in UK Tech list and celebrate an elite group of individuals who have helped to build Britain's technology sector. 91 Asian Tech Pioneers, who have appeared on the list several times, have been recognised to date, with this year's entrepreneurial ecosystem builders joining 20 other awardees to bring that total to 121 - a very powerful number - the key to success, love, and happiness.

### **About the Top 100 Asian Stars in UK Tech list**

The Top 100 Asian Stars in UK Tech list, published by Diversity UK aims to highlight the business models, apps, funding and support networks being created by Asian digital entrepreneurs. The list addresses the perceived lack of diversity in the tech sector and showcases the wealth of talent that is currently helping the British tech scene grow. The Top 100 Asian Stars in UK Tech list and Diversity UK are the brainchild of the digital entrepreneur Lopa Patel MBE who has long been recognised as an evangelist for STEM and the tech industries in the UK.

### **Notes for Editors:**

#### **Images:**

Asian Tech Pioneers 2023 images: <https://bit.ly/44re0aQ>

For further details contact:

Lopa Patel, T: 0203 865 4037, Info [at] asiansintech.com

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### Asian Tech Pioneers - Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Builders

*Brief biographies in alphabetical order by last name.*

#### **Nadia Danhash**

**Director, InnovationRCA**

Dr Nadia Danhash is an investor and business developer who has spent over ten years at the Royal College of Art (RCA) developing enterprise and entrepreneurship programmes, supporting graduate and staff entrepreneurs and investing in their ventures.

#### **Riam Kanso**

**Founder & CEO - Conception X**

Dr Riam Kanso is the founder and CEO of Conception X, the UK's leading programme for PhD deeptech startups.

#### **Tram Anh Nguyen**

**Co-Founder - CFTE, Centre for Finance Technology & Entrepreneurship**

Tram Anh Nguyen, passionate entrepreneur, is the co-founder of CFTE, a global platform for education in Fintech and in Digital Finance for professionals to up-skill in a rapidly changing industry transformed by emerging technologies. CFTE is based in the UK, Asia and MENA.

#### **Huy Nguyen Trieu**

**Co-Founder - CFTE, Centre for Finance Technology & Entrepreneurship**

Huy Nguyen Trieu is co-founder of CFTE, Centre for Finance, Technology and Entrepreneurship, a global Fintech education platform based in London and Singapore.

#### **Jamie Qiu**

**Managing Director and Founder, Studio Zao**

Jamie is a business and innovation leader with over 14 years of international experience as a founder, consultant and intrapreneur. He is the Managing Director and Founder of Studio Zao, an innovation consulting firm specialised in helping organisations increase the productivity and ROI of innovation investments.

#### **Manoj Ranaweera**

**Founder & CEO - Techcelerate**

Manoj Ranaweera is the man who built Manchester's tech startup ecosystem from 2006 to 2013. He is the Founder & CEO of Techcelerate which grew into a community of 2300 tech entrepreneurs, senior managers, investors, deal makers and service providers who were all united in building an ecosystem for technology companies in the North, especially in Manchester and the North West during the period of 2006 to 2013.

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**Kamran Rashid**  
**Co-Founder & CEO - Impact Hub, Bradford**

Kamran Rashid is the Co-Founder & CEO of Impact Hub, Bradford, a hub for social innovation in the city, offering programmes, community and workspace to the city's innovators.

**Colin Tan**  
**Director of Operations - TusPark Holdings UK**

Colin Tan is the Director of Operations for TusPark Holdings UK, China's largest innovation ecosystem of over 300 bases in every major city in China. He works with TUS's partners in the UK to help businesses, universities and governments to enter and scale-up in the Chinese market.

**Nikita Thakrar**  
**Co-Founder & CEO of Included VC**

Nikita is the Co-Founder & CEO of Included VC, an organisation dedicated to creating opportunities for underrepresented individuals in venture capital, with a focus on sustainable, long-term change.

**Kevin Withane**  
**Founder/Investor - Diversity X**

Kevin Withane is the Founder of Diversity X, a community, venture capital fund and ecosystem focused on supporting under-estimated founders who are trying to make a positive impact on the world.

*\* Images available for those highlighted*

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**Images:**

Asian Tech Pioneers 2023 images: <https://bit.ly/44re0aQ>

**Social Media:**

@asiansintech @diversityuk @lopapatel @biorbyt @qunyang8 @ESTMTIaw  
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For further details contact:  
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### About the sponsors of the Top 100 Asian Stars in UK Tech list

#### About Biorbyt

Biorbyt dares to do things differently. Based in Cambridge, one of Europe's largest bioscience hubs, Biorbyt has a simple yet challenging mission: to provide the best service to the global scientific community.

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T: +44 (0)1223 859 353      E: info [at] biorbyt.com

#### About Diversity UK

Diversity UK is an equality and inclusion charity that researches, advocates and promotes ideas for improving diversity in Britain. Diversity UK delivers its charitable objectives by undertaking research, facilitating debates, hosting roundtable meetings, producing white papers and publishing a monthly newsletter focusing on contemporary equality issues. Diversity UK is a registered charity (No: 1155189) in England & Wales.

Diversity UK has long promoted inclusion in the tech sector. It has:

- ❖ Co-hosted the Diversity Tech Summit in 2016 and in 2022
- ❖ Published the Top 100 Asian Stars in UK Tech (AT100) for the past eight years
- ❖ Recognised more than 90 individuals as Asian Tech Pioneers
- ❖ Organised 5 Tech showcases for under-represented founders to pitch for funding
- ❖ Championed women founders with a series of 'Investing in Women Founders' events.

For further information [www.diversityuk.org](http://www.diversityuk.org) | [@diversityuk](https://www.facebook.com/diversityuk)





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### About Eversheds Sutherland

As a global top 10 law firm, Eversheds Sutherland provides legal services to a global client base. With more than 3,000 lawyers, Eversheds Sutherland operates in over 70 offices in more than 30 countries across Africa, Asia, Europe, the Middle East and the United States. In addition, a network of more than 200 related law firms, including formalised alliances in Latin America, Asia Pacific and Africa, provide support around the globe.

We recognise that having diverse talent across our business brings many benefits. We are committed to accessing a wide range of views, perspectives and thinking in all our teams and in this way, we are building a culture of inclusion, where each person feels able to be their true self at work and reach their full potential. We know that diverse and inclusive organisations are more productive, more innovative, perform better and have stronger levels of engagement from their people.

Diversity and Inclusion is fundamental to the firm's purpose of "helping our clients, our people and our communities to thrive", and 'Inclusive' is one of our five values. Our strategy encompasses a number of diversity dimensions including ethnicity; gender; disability; sexual orientation, gender identity and expression; parenting and caring; faith and social mobility.

By embracing diversity, we can better partner with our global and diverse client base, and be open and welcoming to all, across the communities we live and work in.

For further information, visit [www.eversheds-sutherland.com](http://www.eversheds-sutherland.com)

### About Asians in Tech

The Top 100 Asian Stars in UK Tech is the definitive list of Asians working in the digital and technology sectors in Britain. The aim of the list is to showcase diverse talent; from startup founders, technologists, venture capitalists and investors; to the game changers and digital influencers in business and social enterprise. [www.asiansintech.com](http://www.asiansintech.com) | [@asiansintech](https://twitter.com/asiansintech)

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The Top 100 Asian Stars in UK Tech list and Diversity UK are the brainchild of the digital entrepreneur Lopa Patel MBE, listed in Computer Weekly's Most Influential Women in UK Tech 2022 list, who has long been recognised as an evangelist for STEM and the tech industries in the UK.

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