







Life Lessons & Reflections



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## Life Lessons & Reflections

Prepared by: AHAM Capital

"She's one of one. She's number one. She's the only one." As Beyoncé fully asserts, we are ushering in a new Renaissance for women who dare to venture and claim their space in the world.

In AHAM Capital, we're proud to be constantly surrounded by strong, unique and fearless women who inspire us every day with their actions. With more than 54% of women holding management positions in the company, we remain steadfast in our journey to #EmbraceEquity and promote gender parity in the workforce.

In celebration of International Women's Day, we invited the women of AHAM Capital as well as some very special guests to share their life lessons and reflections. Whether it relates to leadership, authenticity or taking chances, we hope their words would inspire us to challenge ourselves and break the invisible barriers that hold us back.



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# Life Lessons & Reflections Special Guest

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## Emeritus Professor Datuk Dr Siti Zuraina Abdul Majid

#### Malaysia's 1st Archaeologist

In archaeology, as in several other disciplines, fieldwork is an important part of the job. To succeed, a woman needs support from ecosystems such as the home and workplace; family and friends; as well as superiors and colleagues. Their support is pivotal to her success.

## Cynthia Gabriel

#### Founding Director, Center to Combat Corruption and Cronyism (C4)

Being strong was a trait I never knew was a part of me until being strong was the only option available. The work of anti-corruption led me to unwittingly challenge the highest power. Holding them to account meant swimming against the tide and standing up against all odds.

I had to often prod myself not to let fear get to me...

Just walk the path of truth, for no matter how long and windy. I know I will never be walking it alone.





# Amy Zheng

#### CEO, Amazin' Graze

When faced with new challenges, we often overestimate the difficulty and underestimate our ability to surmount the challenge and quit way too early. Our fear is what's stopping us from doing great things.



## Raudhah Nazran

#### **CEO & Founder, Accelerate Global**

I remember the first week after I started my social enterprise, my grandfather sat me down and said: "Attitude, intelligence and hard work. Which one is important? Attitude is. Without it, you are nobody. You can be the most intelligent person in the room but if you do not have a good attitude, you won't be successful in the long run. If you work hard, but your attitude is drain-like, success will be limited. Attitude is everything".



I hold onto this advice till this day and it has become my life compass. I'd rather hire someone with exemplary manners than someone who's a genius. I'd rather befriend someone with exemplary manners and good attitude than someone who's famous and rich. Sometimes people think I've lost it, but to each their own. Value is not something I'd compromise on, ever.

## Sue Kay

#### Triathlete & National Certified Triathlon Coach

There will be bad days, training won't always go well and you won't win every race. You WILL fail. But it's important to realise failure is never the final destination. Tune out the noise and listen closely to your own. Don't let the naysayers and doubters get you down. If I ever find myself in a sink or swim situation



(sometimes literally), that's when I really get to test what I'm made of. After that, resilience becomes second nature. Self-reliance becomes default.

Accept that you will fail. But do not let that be the end of your journey. Having the courage to try again IS success in itself.



## 1da Thien

#### Acting Chief Executive Officer, Tunku Abdul Rahman Foundation (YTAR)

The biggest lesson that has come to humble me since doing the work I do is learning how much we have today has less to do with what we have achieved, and more to do with where we come from as well as who we know.

Knowing this has led me to 3 actions: One, to practice gratitude for the privilege, opportunities, and support system that I have. Two, to recognize and appreciate the individuals, especially women, before me who walked so that I could run. And three, to utilize my privilege so that I too could pave the way further for others to sprint further. This IWD, may all of us strive to raise a better, more equal society for all.



## Tehmina Kaoosji

Independent Broadcast Journalist; Partner & Communications Director, The Big Picture (TBP) Communications Sdn Bhd

Courage and community are the two things I'm most grateful for. Exactly a decade ago, I had a late start to my career in broadcast journalism due to Malaysia's unequal Citizenship Laws. The multiple marginalisations I



grew up with attuned me towards underrepresented issues in news media including media ethics, social justice and women's rights.

Today as I look back, I've discovered through my journey that having courage in what we do can feel lonely & isolating at first, but it's precisely this courage which helps build community-the friendships & deeply meaningful relationships which come to nurture & sustain us.

So, if you feel compelled to speak about an issue-don't doubt yourself! You may just find that it leads you to a bigger purpose than you could have ever imagined.







# Life Lessons & Reflections Women of **AHAM** Capital



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## **Chris Beh**

#### Head of Client Experience

"If you are faithful in little things, you will be faithful in large ones. But if you are dishonest in little things, you won't be honest with greater responsibilities." In our careers as well as life, we are constantly tested. This Bible verse is one of my life guiding principles. If we are humble with ourselves and treat every responsibility with great care and diligence, we will

be entrusted with greater tasks and be given greater responsibilities.

Do well in each tasks no matter how small and don't take them for granted. Do it with a good attitude and take every task as an opportunity to learn. Soon, enough we will find ourselves rewarded with bigger and better things.

## Zuraidah Yahya

#### **Director of Public Sector Business**

When one follows their passion, success will follow. This must be imbued with humility and gratitude to realise how far we've come and what we have.



## Wong Chooi Har

### Head of Fund Operations

My life lesson is to lead by example. A leader should always be generous and share selflessly from the heart. This can come in the form of solutions, guidance and knowledge to resolve issues and achieve the desired results.



But more importantly, a leader should also seek to

motivate and inspire passion within the team to take pride in their profession and themselves to be the best version they can be. Positive leadership and affirmative actions will drive growth and benefit everyone, whether it's in an organisation or personal setting.



## Elaine Teo

#### Director, Institution, Corporate & HNWI Business

Life is a long journey and women have multiple layers like family, career and friendship. As we continue to contribute to life's layers, I hope women everywhere, myself included, continue to do what we love and nourish our souls. As we strive to be the best versions of us, let us be humble and grateful too. Happy International Women's Day.







## **Puah Ser Sze**

#### Head, Client Development & Relationship

Women have to work harder to prove themselves. Every so often, we would see women's contributions and abilities being doubted.

The female qualities of honesty, modesty, integrity, inclusiveness, diplomacy, etc. do not always translate to qualities that are recognised in the workplace. Speaking

your mind sometimes comes with being labeled a b\*\*\*\*, but for men they are self-assured and results oriented. It's important not to give in or hold back even if the outcome isn't certain. Just like in the investment realm, few things are absolute; it's about taking a measured approach towards risk and probabilities

So, don't hold back and give as good as you get!



## Karen Wan

#### **Director of Credit Research**

A woman's role in society should not be measured by her worldly achievements, but rather by the decisions she makes as a mother, a daughter, a sister, a wife, an aunty, a friend, a co-worker, a boss. Quite often, we feel like we are being pulled in many different directions, and achieving the perfect balance seems out of reach. It is in these moments that we must pause and define what is truly important in our lives.





## Adelene Low

#### Head of Investments, Bintang Capital Partners

As women, we play multiple roles both at work and at home.

There will be inevitable challenges that you will face almost every day. By staying focused, motivated and persistent, you will then be able to build your inner strength and resilience to overcome them.

But it's important to also cultivate self-compassion by recognising the limits of your time and energy, learning to say 'no' and having the courage to ask for help. Afford yourself choices and options that can align both your career and life goals. Nothing will feel like 'work' and you can define success on your own terms.

## Kelly Tan

#### Team Manager, Personal Wealth Business

Focusing on what you don't have = focusing on your limitations.

You will then just restrict yourself and your perspective.

Perhaps some detours aren't detours at all.

Perhaps they are paths you were meant to take.

Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement.

Nothing can be done without hope and confidence.









## Clarissa Tan

### Assistant Portfolio Manager, Fixed Income

When in doubt, ask. If you want something, ask. Don't expect people to read your mind because 90% of the time it might not be what they think it is.

Even in modern times, where women are advocating for #girlpower and #equality, to a certain extent we still lack confidence and sometimes doubt ourselves (myself included!).

Ask and you shall receive, but be realistic. Even if you don't get what you want, at least you've tried. No regrets and you get an A for effort. But try not to overshare!

## Nico Poon

#### Executive, Sales Campaign & PRS

A woman takes on multiple roles in life and that leads to multiple responsibilities. We often strive for perfection in all of them which inevitably leads to burnout. Being a woman isn't easy.

But I've learned that giving to ourselves is just as important as giving to others. This Women's Day, I hope all women be generous to their own wellbeing and give themselves the same love, compassion and kindness that is so often reserved for others.





## Jayanthy Tuthirapathy

### **Client Experience**

I've learnt that no matter how others judge or belittle you, do not despair. Life is more beautiful and to be grateful for.

Difficult times are like ocean waves. When the tides are rough, it really hits you hard. But sooner or later the tides will calm.



Always give your full sincerity in everything you do. You will be acknowledged for your genuineness and above all people see and accept you as you are.

Embrace what is in front of you, speak in kindness and be humble always. Embrace Life Unconditionally.



## Celine Tan

## ESG Analyst, Investment

To embracing challenges with open arms. I am fortunate to be working in a team that plays a dynamic role and with that we face many hurdles along the way. When you accept challenges even when in doubt, the experience weighs far more than the outcome, and you might surprise yourself in what you can achieve!







#### **Corporate & Community Relations**

Celebrate all women.

In a post-feminist world, it is tempting for women to label a stay-at-home mom as 'unambitious'. Or snub a high-flying single career woman as 'just another Girlboss'.

But with each judgement passed, we remain chained to the archaic rules that women for centuries have sought to overcome.

Every woman's life is as complex and beautiful as our own. So, lend a hand, an ear, or a kind word and celebrate their hopes and dreams.

Every dream is worthy. You are worthy.

## Ho Min

#### Senior Product Specialist, Product Development & Management

Being a cheerleader for the past 10 years has instilled in me the importance of hard work and dedication in any undertakings. I started as only a reserve in my school team. Fast forward to today, I am a part of the national cheerleading team. Looking back, the 15-year-old me would have been so proud of how far I've come.



Through hard work and perseverance, all goals are possible. With determination and grit, dreams can come true.

"A dream will always be a dream until you wake up, and make it happen."



## Tung Yi Yuan

#### **Corporate Strategy**

"She's too short, she's too tall"; "she's too skinny, she's too fat"; "she's too loud, she's too quiet"

There are always going to be judgements from people that know you or even from those that do not know you at all. They can be crude or subtle.



But everyone is unique in their own ways, and there is no need to judge others nor try to seek their approval other than your own.

Challenge yourselves to try everything to your best abilities, but most importantly be unapologetically you!

## Yap Huoy Yan

#### **Business Process**

Take chances and make your own decisions.

Always, strive for the best and have no regrets. Do not be afraid to make mistakes because that is how you grow as a person.

Extend the same generosity to others and take the time to help them. Because even small acts of kindess can make a difference.





Be yourself, love yourself.





## Zaida Ayu Ibrahim

#### Manager, Institution, Corporate & HNWI Business

You can't have it all and that is OKAY. Life is about the choices we make, how we prioritise things and finding the right balance that fits you.

Everyone has different ambitions and life goals, so don't compare. Instead, be the best version of you.

Always appreciate & celebrate the small wins in life and work, because those small wins will lead you to your ultimate goals.

## Fadhliah Muda

#### Senior Manager, Fund Operations

When the day ends, tell this to yourself.

You have faced hardships with bravery and resilience.

You have disarmed your problems through your smile.

You have concealed your worries in your heart.



Because, "You think like a queen. And a queen is not afraid to fail. Failure is just another stepping stone to greatness." Oprah Winfrey



## Ng Poh Lin

#### **CEO Office, AllMAN Asset Management**

In life, nothing can defeat you. No matter how low a point you are at, you will rebound.

How excruciating the pain is, you will heal; how challenging the path ahead of you seems, you will reach it.



DON'T GIVE UP! Keep moving, always believe that where there is a will, there is a way.



#### Vice President, Head of Portfolio Management and Investor Relations

As the saying goes, "You miss 100% of the shots you don't take." Be adventurous, go all out and enjoy the journey in between.

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