

AAEA 2025 SUMMIT

JOIN OUR JOURNEY

Saturday, June 21, 2025



<https://www.aaea.associates/AAEA-2025-SUMMIT>



The 2025 National Summit of the **Asian American Entrepreneur Association (AAEA)** will take place on June 21 at Columbia University in New York City. Under the theme “**Join Our Journey**”, the summit brings together visionary entrepreneurs, investors, and thought leaders to celebrate ambition, resilience, and the future of Asian American innovation.

Featured speakers include **Dr. Jeannette Wing**, Executive Vice President of Columbia University; **Lei Huang**, CEO of TradeUP Securities and US Tiger Securities; and **John Ling**, Managing Director of LinVest LLC and a recognized expert in U.S.–China investment and economic development.

Co-hosted by the **Columbia University Asian Faculty Association (CUAFA)**, the event will feature four high-impact panel discussions on startup growth, fundraising, scaling, IPO strategy, and corporate governance—offering practical insights and meaningful exchange across generations and industries.

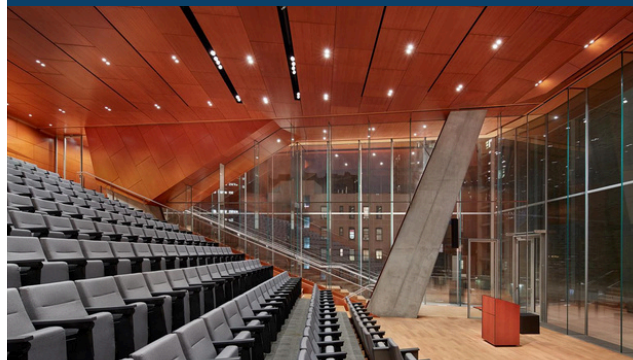
This is more than a summit—it’s a platform to connect, lead, and shape the next chapter of Asian American entrepreneurship.

Let’s make this journey extraordinary—TOGETHER!

Venue: VEC Building,
Columbia University Medical School
104 Haven Ave, New York, NY 10032

9:30 am to 6:00 pm

Dress Code: Business Casual



Online Registration Now Open!

**Due to local security protocols,
onsite registration will not be available.**



Join **AAEA Summit** on
June 21, 2025
at Columbia University

EVENT SCHEDULE

Event Host: Jianping Schoolman
Chief of Staff, Office of the AAEA President

9:30 AM – 10:30 AM	REGISTRATION & MORNING REFRESHMENTS	Check-in and enjoy a light coffee reception
10:30 AM – 10:40 AM	WELCOME REMARKS Navigating the Journey Ahead: A Columbia Welcome to the AAEA Summit	Dr. Jeannette Wing, Executive Vice President for Research, Columbia University
10:40 AM – 11:00 AM	OPENING REMARKS	Dr. Anil K. Lalwani, President, CUAFA; Professor, Columbia University Dr. Ian YanbinPan, President, AAEA
11:00 AM – 11:30 AM	KEYNOTE ADDRESS Navigating Change: Startups and Stock Markets in a New Era of Innovation	Lei Huang CEO, TradeUP Securities and US Tiger Securities
11:30 AM – 12:10 PM	PANEL 1: FROM 0 TO 1 - BUILDING THE FOUNDATION	Moderator: Dr. Shaorui Li, Founder and CEO, Lismikro Inc. Dr. Zhou (Jo) Yu, Professor of Computer Science, Columbia University; Founder, Arklex.ai Jie Li, VC & Accelerator, Lair East Labs Dr. Rein Wu, Cofounder of ClearEye
12:10 PM – 1:30 PM	NETWORKING LUNCH & VENDOR SHOW	
1:30 PM – 2:10 PM	PANEL 2: FROM 1 TO MANY - SCALING UP SMARTLY	Moderator: Dr. Honghai Song, Founder and CEO, Canyon Magnet Energy Dr. Ran He, Founder, THC Lawyers Raya Arbiol, MBA, Partner, New York Life; Founder, Thrive Consulting Nannan (Natalie) Zhang, Chief Compliance Officer at CICC US
2:10 PM – 2:50 PM	PANEL 3: ON THE BRINK - PREPARING FOR IPO	Moderator: Dr. Aurora Maher, Founder & CEO, AMFA Capital Management Naveen Rikhy, Managing Director, Deal Advisory, KPMG Bill Wang, Chief Executive Officer, Amergy Solar Inc. Richard Yang, President, Sonablate Corporation
2:50 PM – 3:30 PM	PANEL 4: BEYOND THE BELL - LIFE AFTER IPO	Moderator: Henny Sender, Consultant and Advisor to CEO of BlackRock (Laurence Fink) Violet Byun, Senior Foreign Fixed Income Portfolio Manager, Samsung Asset Management Kewa Luo, Vice President & Head of Public Relations, NASDAQ: KNDI Emma Carroll, Director, Deal Advisory, KPMG
3:30 PM – 4:00 PM	KEYNOTE ADDRESS Navigating Opportunity: Chinese Capital and the Revival of American Manufacturing	John Ling Managing Director, LinVest LLC
4:00 PM – 4:10 PM	SPONSOR REMARKS	
4:10 PM – 4:20 PM	CLOSING REMARKS Navigating Together: From Inspiration to Action	Dr. Ian Yanbin Pan, President, AAEA
4:20 PM – 6:00 PM	NETWORKING RECEPTION & VENDOR SHOW	

HONORABLE SPEAKERS



Dr. Jeannette Wing

Executive Vice President for Research, Columbia University

Dr. Jeannette Wing is a renowned computer scientist and former Director of Columbia University's Data Science Institute. She is widely recognized for her pioneering work in trustworthy AI and for popularizing the concept of "computational thinking." Dr. Wing has held leadership positions at Microsoft Research and Carnegie Mellon University, and is a Fellow of several prestigious academies. She holds three degrees from MIT.



Dr. Anil K. Lalwani

President, Columbia University Asian Faculty Association (CUAFA); Professor, Columbia University

Dr. Anil K. Lalwani is a leading otolaryngologist specializing in neurotology and cochlear implantation. Based at Columbia University Irving Medical Center, he is known for his surgical expertise in treating both pediatric and adult ear disorders. Dr. Lalwani's distinguished career includes leadership roles at UCSF, NYU School of Medicine, and Columbia, with significant contributions to clinical research and patient care.



Dr. Ian Yanbin Pan

President, Asian American Entrepreneur Association (AAEA)

Dr. Ian Y. Pan is a distinguished medicinal chemist and pharmaceutical executive with over two decades of experience in oncology and antiviral drug discovery. He has founded and led two international CDMO companies specializing in pre-clinical R&D. Currently, Dr. Pan focuses on investments in biotech and AI applications, leveraging his expertise in health product innovation and executive leadership.



Lei Huang

CEO, TradeUP Securities and US Tiger Securities

Lei Huang is a seasoned financial executive with over 20 years of leadership experience across global financial institutions and fintech ventures. As CEO of US Tiger Securities and TradeUP Securities, he has played a key role in advancing digital finance and regulatory strategy. Huang's prior roles include senior leadership positions at Morgan Stanley, Barclays, CICC US Securities, and Haitong Securities USA.



John Ling

Managing Director, LinVest LLC

John Ling is a seasoned economic development executive with over 20 years of experience fostering U.S.-China trade and investment partnerships. As Managing Director of LinVest LLC, he has led nearly \$3 billion in Chinese investment projects across the U.S. Ling previously directed South Carolina's China office in Shanghai and led investment initiatives for Georgia's Department of Economic Development. He is also co-founder of the Council of American States in China.



Jianping Schoolman

Chief of Staff, Office of the AAEA President | Event Host

Jianping Schoolman is an educator committed to advancing Asian American culture, art, and business. She previously directed the Wharton/Lauder MBA/MA China Immersion Program. Schoolman plays a leading role in shaping AAEA's signature programs by curating its annual summits and producing the Entrepreneur Forum and Branding & Marketing Forum.



Dr. Shaorui Li

Founder and CEO, Lismikro Inc.

Dr. Shaorui Li is a visionary in integrated circuit design, with over 20 years of experience in consumer electronics, medical imaging, and quantum computing. She holds a Ph.D. from Columbia University and leads ASIC innovations at Lismikro, supported by grants from the U.S. Department of Energy and NASA.



Dr. Zhou (Jo) Yu

Professor of Computer Science, Columbia University; Founder, Arklex.ai

Dr. Zhou Yu is a leading expert in conversational AI, with a Ph.D. from Carnegie Mellon University. Named to Forbes 30 Under 30, she has received multiple best paper awards. Dr. Yu's AI systems—including an Amazon Alexa Prize-winning project—have had significant real-world impact. At Arklex.ai, she leads the development of advanced AI agents.



Jie Li

Venture Capitalist & Accelerator, Lair East Labs

Jie Li is a startup ecosystem builder with over 8 years of experience in venture investment and business development. He has advised more than 60 startups, led international expansion strategies, and mentored entrepreneurs at top innovation hubs. Li's research background includes quantum optics and fluorescent hydrogel technologies.



Dr. Rein Wu

Cofounder, ClearEye

Dr. Rein Wu is an AI researcher and fintech innovator with a background as a research scientist at VISA. He has authored over 30 papers and patents in artificial intelligence and has founded multiple fintech startups. At ClearEye, Dr. Wu develops real-time risk detection systems for stablecoin ecosystems using advanced AI techniques.



Dr. Honghai Song

Founder and CEO, Canyon Magnet Energy

Dr. Honghai Song is an expert in high-temperature superconducting (HTS) magnets with 60+ journal publications, a recent winner of the Spring 2025 Stony Brook Venture Challenge! His company is backed by SOSV/HAX, focusing on scalable applications for fusion energy and quantum infrastructure. Dr. Song holds a Ph.D. from Florida State University – National MagLab and has worked at Brookhaven National Laboratory/Stony Brook University.



Dr. Ran He

Founder, THC Lawyers

Dr. Ran He is a U.S. and Canadian-licensed attorney specializing in commercial law, finance, and intellectual property. He holds a Ph.D. in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and advises biomedical, IT, and AI companies. Dr. He has represented global pharmaceutical firms and NASDAQ-listed companies in complex cross-border legal matters.



Raya Arbiol

Partner, New York Life; Founder, Thrive Consulting

Raya Arbiol is a U.S. Navy veteran and financial services leader at New York Life, where she helps professionals build independent practices supported by a Fortune 100 firm. She is the founder of Thrive Consulting, an advocate for inclusion and civic engagement, and is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Management at Walden University.



Nannan Natalie Zhang

Chief Compliance Officer, CICC US

Nannan Natalie Zhang is a financial services executive specializing in cross-border payments and regulatory compliance. Formerly President and CEO of XTransfer Inc. (U.S. and Canada), she successfully scaled the company's U.S. operations. Zhang holds a J.D. from Washington University and an LL.M. from the University of Amsterdam.



Dr. Aurora Maher

Founder & CEO, AMFA Capital Management

Dr. Aurora Maher is a financial executive with expertise in asset management and quantitative strategy. She began her career at Merrill Lynch, later worked at the McKinsey Investment Office, and co-founded Hedera Capital. She now leads AMFA Capital. Dr. Maher holds a Ph.D. in Statistics from Carnegie Mellon University.



Naveen Rikhy

Managing Director, Deal Advisory, KPMG

Naveen Rikhy is a capital markets specialist focused on SEC reporting, IPO advisory, and cross-border transactions. He advises senior executives on public offerings, M&A deals, and complex financial transformations.



Bill Wang

Chief Executive Officer, Amergy Solar Inc.

Bill Wang is a clean energy executive with more than 15 years of experience in commercial and industrial solar solutions. As CEO of Amergy Solar, he has overseen more than 200 MW of projects, driving innovation and sustainability in the solar energy sector.



Richard Yang

President, Sonablate Corporation

Richard Yang is President of Sonablate Corporation, a global leader in AI-driven HIFU technology for prostate treatment, with products in 60+ countries and a planned NYSE IPO in 2026. He also leads Golden Coast Real Estate and advises North Carolina on China affairs.



Henny Sender

Consultant and Advisor to the CEO, BlackRock (Laurence Fink)

Henny Sender is a strategic advisor focused on Asian investment opportunities, with deep expertise in private equity, venture capital, and sustainability. Formerly a managing director at BlackRock, she has shaped regional investment strategies through strong relationships with sovereign wealth funds, central banks, and pension institutions.



Emma Carroll

Director, Deal Advisory, KPMG

Emma Carroll is a capital markets advisor with expertise in financial reporting, SEC compliance, and business combinations. She supports IPO and M&A transactions for clients in the technology, media, and telecommunications sectors.



Violet Byun

Senior Foreign Fixed Income Portfolio Manager, Samsung Asset Management

Violet Byun is a portfolio manager overseeing an \$8 billion portfolio of U.S. investment-grade bonds. Previously, she managed a \$16 billion global portfolio of high-grade SSAs and corporate bonds in Seoul, ranking among Korea's top three portfolio managers. She holds a bachelor's degree in economics from Yonsei University.



Kewa Luo

Vice President and Head of Public Relations, Kandi Technologies Group (Nasdaq: KNDI)

Kewa Luo is a corporate communications and investor relations strategist in the electric vehicle sector. At Kandi Technologies, she has secured major media exposure and led engagements with top financial institutions. Luo holds degrees from Duquesne University and previously served as President of the Asian Financial Society.

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