

# Nikolai Leung

I like to solve problems. Big ones.

It started with a love of science and its theories, then the pragmatism of engineering, and sprinkled in between was a home education in macroeconomics from a father in the Philippine Government/IMF/World Bank, who at the end of his illustrious career, made it clear to me that, “Economics was not enough. Stay in science.”

After teaching at the university and finishing all but my dissertation defense in Electrical Engineering systems, I left academics to try to understand the workings of industry for a few years. I soon hypothesized that technology, science, economics, and business, by themselves – and even together – could not solve the biggest problems the world is facing. So alongside decades of developing wireless and multimedia communications technologies for 3G-4G-5G-6G in the cellular industry, I spent the next 30 years also working with various people outside the industry — professors, teachers, vice-principals, community organizers, labor organizers, activist, environmentalists, parents, and young people — trying to understand how to solve such problems.

I concluded that most effective is to enable as many people in the world to think more intelligently — about their individual selves, their health, their family, their friends, their community, their country, our world, including our natural environment. But intelligence — the ability to provide a fresh and accurate response to any situation — does not necessarily require more academic education. It requires a deeper understanding of the causes of human irrationality, on a global scale, and on an individual, and deeply personal, level.

A foundational piece to solving global problems requires many minds, not just the conventional “experts”, working and taking action on these issues. Enabling such movement requires eliminating the divisions society has knowingly, and often unknowingly, embedded between different groups. These divisions prevent all groups from seeing each other clearly and working together at the deepest levels needed to transform society.

This pursuit went from learning and working in decades of classes, workshops, and experiments on community building, ending racism, sexism, gay oppression, to Catholic-Protestant-Jewish collaboration on the Israel-Palestine conflict and anti-Muslim initiatives, to developing classless societies and new economic systems, to serving as a panelist on the “No Limits for Women” project and a delegate for the “United to End Racism” project at the 2015 US Social Forum. Teaching weekly leadership and community development online courses to people in the Philippines and other countries outside the US soon followed and continues to today.



In 2018, I served as a delegate and organizer at the Global Climate Action Summit held in the United States where I taught activists and environmentalists organizational and personal tools for helping tackle the climate crisis. I also founded and started leading the Gender Diversity Committee in 3GPP, a global cellular industry standards development organization of 700+ corporations, in Bruges, Busan, NewPort Beach, Wrocław, Athens, and Berlin. The committee has been growing in membership and successful at increasing female participation and leadership in a sector of the otherwise very male-dominated industry organization.

In 2021 I started leading a series of workshops in different corporations and industry groups in San Diego and the Bay Area on the topics of

- Challenges and lessons of the immigrant experience
- Sharpening intelligence and collaboration
- The importance of diversity in innovation – working with the Black, LatinX, and Women employee networks and the Company patent and licensing division
- Women leadership and why this matters to all
- Sharpening strategic thinking
- Setting long-term goals: challenges and exercises
- Parenting for our future society vs. guarding against our personal unresolved fears

In 2022 I received a “Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Global Champion Award” and an “Intellectual Property (Key Inventor) Achievement Award” for my company-wide and individual efforts in a corporation of 50,000+ employees. I have also been leading a climate-justice organization of 300+ employees focused on developing programs to minimize our company footprint and also enable others in the industry to do more than “clean their backyard” to tackle the climate emergency. I was also invited by the board of the Women’s Employee Network to serve as an ambassador for the Male Allies program in the company.

In 2023 I was invited to give talks to the company on “Asian & Pacific Islander Heritage: our identity and challenges” and “Macroeconomics, Global Politics, and the Climate Emergency: a perspective” which has generated a lot of interest and internal discussions. Most recently, starting this past May in Berlin, I kicked off and began leading a climate emergency task group in the cellular standards industry.

I look forward to sharing my understanding, perspective, and tools for eliminating any social or structural challenges in your organization in the hope of helping build a tighter connected community among your colleagues and setting the groundwork for a stronger organization.

A proposed outline for the workshop can be found here:

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1dj9gwPHk9C5iFoPKV3Ecd\\_xWY1hdcDEU4axTpz9Kovs/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1dj9gwPHk9C5iFoPKV3Ecd_xWY1hdcDEU4axTpz9Kovs/edit?usp=sharing)