

Presenter Mitchell Pham

Title Leadership in Action

Abstract

An account of an incredible personal journey and leadership lessons from a Vietnamese refugee who arrived to settle in New Zealand at the age of 13. After high-school and university education in NZ, Mitchell co-founded the Augen Software Group in 1993. His work includes significant involvement in the Health, Disability and Social Services sector. He has also been a board member of Refugee Services Aotearoa NZ, and has numerous roles and recognitions for leadership in New Zealand and the Asia-Pacific community. Mitchell will share his story as well as experience and perspective on personal leadership and social innovation.

Biography

Mitchell is a Vietnamese-Kiwi business & social entrepreneur, who originally came to NZ as a refugee at the age of 13. He is a Co-Founder, Director and Business Development Manager of the successful Augen Software Group, with its companies in NZ and Asia. The group provides software development capacity, scalability and speed-to-market capability for innovating companies.

Within the Augen group, Mitchell also leads its Benecura business. Since 1995, his team has been working to support the Health, Disability and Social Services sector to Develop, Innovate and Succeed in the delivery of positive community outcomes. Their Benecura information management platform to support NGO innovation has been recognised at the Computerworld Excellence Awards in the Not-For-Profit category.

In 2011, Augen won the prestigious international Red Herring Top 100 Award for business innovation. In the same year, Mitchell was honoured by the World Economic Forum as a Young Global Leader. He is also an Asia 21 Fellow of the Asia Society, and a member of the Action Asia Advisory Group at the Asia:NZ Foundation.

Outside of his companies, Mitchell is actively involved in public service. He served on the Board of Refugee Services Aotearoa NZ (RSA), and is a Co-founder and Trustee of the Auckland Refugee Family Trust (ARFT) and the Foundation for Social Responsibility NZ (FOStR-NZ). In early 2013, Mitchell's passion, knowledge, experience and leadership in entrepreneurship and innovation also led to his ministerial appointment to serve on an advisory group at the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE).