

## **2025 Global Outstanding Overseas Compatriot Alumni 【Business and Enterprise Award】**

### **Mr. Yan Lee**

From startup partner to capital enabler, Yan Lee is a driving force in Taiwan's AI innovation and a vital bridge between Southeast Asia and Silicon Valley. In his early thirties, he has already made his mark across internet technology, big data, and venture capital - and is one of the rare Taiwanese overseas students to have founded a Nasdaq-listed company. As he puts it, "I want to invest in a more future-oriented Asia." His name has become synonymous with cross-disciplinary vision, foresight, and progress.

Born in 1982 in Singapore, Yan Lee was raised in a multicultural, multilingual environment and shaped by traditional Chinese values that instilled self-discipline and a strong work ethic. With an early passion for problem-solving and entrepreneurship, he chose to pursue higher education in Taiwan after high school. At National Chengchi University (NCCU), he earned dual bachelor's degrees in Advertising and Business Administration, laying a solid foundation for interdisciplinary integration. During his time at NCCU, Yan Lee set his sights on "turning creativity into real-world business success." He actively participated in innovation competitions and student organizations, and frequently represented the university in business simulations and marketing strategy contests. Deeply influenced by Taiwan's education system - known for its freedom, flexibility, and emphasis on creative thinking - he believes this formative period laid the groundwork for his later ability to integrate across entrepreneurship, management, and technology. After graduation, he pursued an MBA at China Europe International Business School (CEIBS), completing the program in 2009.

Yan Lee is one of the youngest Taiwanese overseas alumni to bridge entrepreneurship and capital markets in East Asia.  
As an Entrepreneur (2009-2019):

In 2009, he founded Buzzinate and bShare - among the earliest social data and content distribution platforms for Chinese-speaking communities in Asia. These ventures quickly became one of the largest data networks in the Chinese market. In 2015, the companies merged with iClick, and in 2017, successfully went public on NASDAQ. At just 35 years old, Yan became one of the few Taiwanese overseas students to have founded a publicly listed company.

As a Venture Capitalist (2019 - present):

In 2019, he founded Hive Ventures, focusing on investing in cutting-edge tech startups across Taiwan and Southeast Asia in fields like AI, IoT, big data, 5G, and SaaS. In just five years, Hive has grown to manage over NT\$3 billion in assets and invested in more than 50 startups. Beyond capital, he offers comprehensive support in branding, operations, fundraising, and talent strategy - actively cultivating the local startup ecosystem.

Industry and Global Recognition:

- 2012: Named to “Forbes” 30 Under 30 Outstanding Entrepreneurs
- 2015: Awarded “Red Herring” Top 100 Asia and Global Innovators
- 2018: Selected for “Campaign Asia’s” 40 Under 40 Game Changers

He is also a frequent speaker, advisor, and judge for government innovation bodies - shaping policy, academia, and industry alike.

Through capital, technology, and networks, Yan helps Asian startups break into the global stage. He is also a driving force behind the “Taiwan Startups to ASEAN(臺灣新創進東協)” initiative, facilitating the entry of Taiwanese startups into Singapore and Malaysia, while strengthening youth entrepreneurship through competitions and talent development programs. Looking ahead, he aims to make Hive Ventures one of the most influential seed-stage venture capital firms in Asia.