



Ms. Belkis Leong-Hong



As the founder, president and CEO of Knowledge Advantage Inc., Bel Leong-Hong guides her company's work in information technology (IT) and knowledge management solutions, strategic planning, policy and program analysis, strategic business initiatives, leadership development, change management, workforce modernization, and program management support to government agencies, Fortune 100 companies, and small IT companies.

Prior to forming her business in 1999, she spent 30 years in public service, moving into the private sector from the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD). During her tenure at DOD, Leong-Hong held a number of high-level positions, including Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Command, Control, Communications, and Intelligence (C3I), where she oversaw a portfolio of C3I programs with budget in excess of \$50B; Principal Deputy Director and CIO of the Defense Security Service (DSS), where she was responsible for a staff of more than 2600; Deputy Commander of the Joint Interoperability and Engineering Organization; Director Center for Information Management; and Director of Information Engineering at the Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA). Leong-Hong led highly innovative and transformational programs. She established and ran the first department-wide Data Administration function for the DOD and created the first Center of Software Excellence in DISA.

Her active community and professional involvement includes serving as a member of the Maryland Federal Facility Board, the Governor's Workforce Investment Board, the University of Maryland Medical System Board, Military Academy Admission Review Board, University of MD's Clark School of Engineering's Board of Visitors, past president of the Northern Virginia Chapter of the Armed Forces Communications & Electronics Association, co-founder of the Asian American Government Executives Network, and past president of the Organization of Chinese Americans (OCA). A mathematician and computer scientist by training, she holds degrees from Hunter College and American University, and certificates from The Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, and the Maxwell School at Syracuse University. Leong-Hong has published extensively in the areas of data dictionary/directory systems, data administration, software engineering, and leadership development. She is the recipient of numerous awards including the very prestigious Presidential Rank Meritorious Service Award, the DOD Distinguished Service Medal, the DOD Meritorious Service Medals, Oak Leaf clusters, the GSA Excellence in Management and Administration, the Professional Woman of the Year Award from NAPAW, the Governor of Maryland's Citation for Outstanding Service, the AFCEA International Leadership Award, AAGEN's Stan Suyat Leadership Award, and AAGEN Sustaining Corporate Leadership Award.