

Executive Biography



Lavanya Wadgaonkar, PhD

Global Vice President, Communications
Global DEI champion
Nissan Motor CO. Ltd.

As Global Vice President for communications, Lavanya is responsible for strategic communications & campaigns, knowledge dissemination and outreach to the key audiences that Nissan seeks to influence with an aim to build reputation, earn trust and ensure consistent authentic experiences. She is also the global champion for DEI responsible for actively promoting a diverse, supportive, and inclusive workplace.

She is a core member of global sustainability steering committee, global environmental council and brand steering committee and chairs global motorshow committee and communications leadership council.

With over 27 years of international experience in strategic communications, public affairs, brand management and sustainability, she has led multinational teams to deliver impact-driven, multi-stakeholder integrated communication strategies across various industries spanning automotive, manufacturing, life sciences, infrastructure and technology domains.

Lavanya joined Nissan in 2012 and since then held various leadership roles in India, Asia, Oceania and Japan. Earlier, she held a number of leadership roles in multinational organizations like Eaton, Reliance Industries and Lexmark.

She is currently on the international advisory board of Mody Women's University and volunteers as mentor for Global Women in PR. Lavanya has sat on the jury for several awards in the field of communications, marketing and CSR including PR Awards Asia, The Spark Awards for Media excellence, IPRCCA, and Campaign Asia. She has been speaker at many forums like Women's Forum Singapore, Bloomberg ASEAN summit, CAS speaking on a range of topics from women's empowerment to future of mobility to role of strategic communication

Lavanya is a multi-faceted individual who has won two national awards from the Prime Minister of India for her radio documentaries as producer and script writer. She was a co-publisher of a book of stories in translation on women empowerment and has several academic papers to her credit on the language of visual art and cinematic narration. She has contributed reviews and articles to major publications as a freelancer.

Lavanya holds a PhD and MPhil from Osmania University, India, with specific focus on the language of cinema in India and its effectiveness in representing socio-economic issues.