



FINEX 50 BOOK WINS GLOBAL AWARD



SPOTLIGHT ON THE YFO COMMITTEE

FINEX FOCUS

HOW MILLENNIALS THRIVE THROUGH THE PANDEMIC



FINEX Annual Membership Meeting
Wednesday, June 16, 2021
Webinar via Zoom

**COMING OF AGE
DURING ONCE-IN-A-
CENTURY CRISIS**



EDITOR'S NOTE

By **J. Albert Gamboa**

INFUSING NEW BLOOD

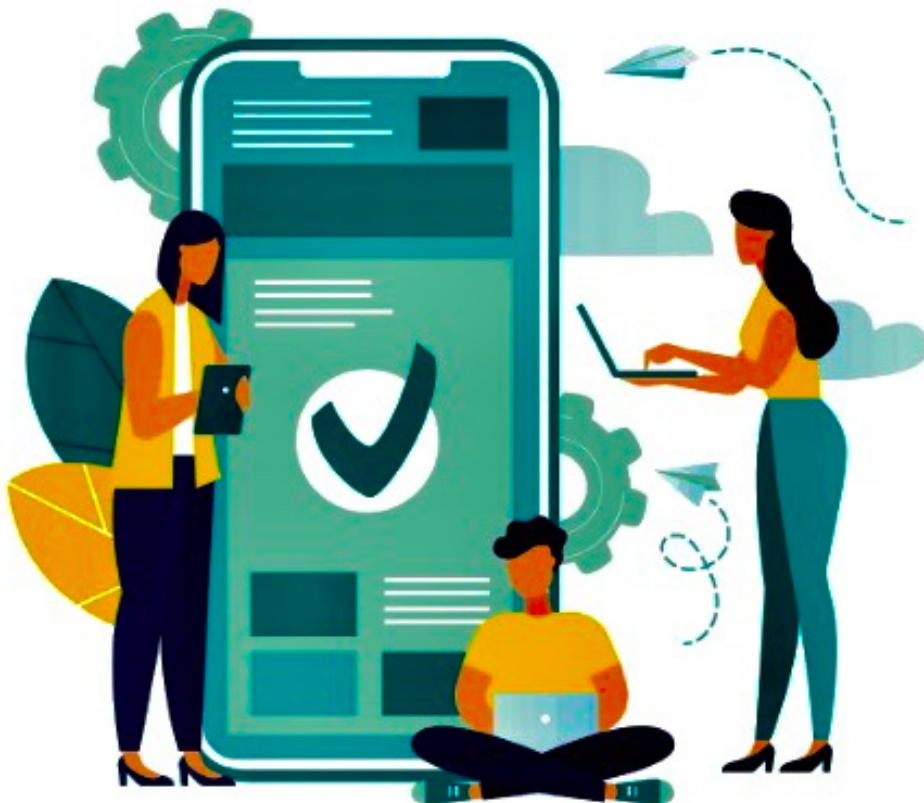
Several years ago, the average age of FINEX members was 56 years old. That was during the time when the total membership of our organization numbered more than 800.

Even prior to the pandemic and continuing up to the present day, the Life Members have comprised one-third of FINEX's membership matrix. Since they are exempt from annual dues, the fiscal health of FINEX is at risk of deterioration. The need to infuse new blood into the organization has thus become imperative.

The current board's aggressive recruitment effort has so far resulted in the induction of 58 new members year-to-date. Complementary to this drive is the novel membership category of Associate Member as provided in FINEX's amended Articles of Incorporation and By-laws that will be up for approval by the Securities and Exchange Commission some time this month.

Another recent development is the formation of the Young Finance Officers (YFO) Committee consisting of millennial FINEX members. This new committee aims to support the assimilation and professional growth of YFOs as value-adding members of FINEX. Today's GMM will serve as the debut of the YFO Committee, which is hosting the virtual event.

Such moves are anticipated to replenish our institution's dwindling coffers, reduce the median age, and lead to the eventual rejuvenation of the country's foremost finance organization.



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KEYNOTE SPEAKERS' PROFILES

CHRISTIAN GONZALEZ OF ICTSI

Christian Razón Gonzalez is the Executive Vice President of International Container Terminal Services, Inc. (ICTSI). He has over 20 years of experience in the port industry and oversees the ICTSI Group's operating terminals and business development in the region. Having been with ICTSI since 1997, he was appointed CEO of the Group's Madagascar operations in 2005 and led in redeveloping the terminal into one Africa's most efficient. He was also key in the acquisition and development of the Australian concession in Melbourne.

Christian is also the President of ICTSI Foundation Inc., the Group's corporate social responsibility arm. He takes the lead in sponsoring and implementing programs for the youth, social development, and the environment in areas where ICTSI has a business presence even as he oversees the general welfare of Group employees. Outside of ICTSI, he is a Director of Bloomberry Resorts Corp., owner and developer of the Solaire Resort and Casino in Paranaque City. He is also a Director of Pilipinas Golf Tournaments Inc. which stages Southeast Asia's largest national circuit, the Philippine Golf Tour, and the region's growing Asian PGT circuit.



EVELYN NG OF P&G

Evelyn Chua Ng is the Regional Comptroller for P&G Asia Pacific, Middle East & Africa, and Greater China. She also serves as Tax Operations Vice President for P&G Asia Pacific. Evelyn joined P&G in 2001 and is based in Manila. Prior to her current role, she was previously the CFO of P&G Philippines and was previously assigned in Guangzhou where she served as the CFO for the Baby Care Business Unit of the Greater China region that spans China, Hong Kong and Taiwan. She has also worked as an analyst for P&G's operations in ASEAN, Australia, and India.

Evelyn attained her Bachelor of Science degree, Major in Business Administration and Accountancy, at the University of the Philippines, graduating as the University Valedictorian and Summa Cum Laude. She also proceeded to top the October 2000 Accountancy board exams before proceeding to join P&G Philippines.



KRISTINE ROMANO OF MCKINSEY

Kristine Romano is the Managing Partner of McKinsey & Co.'s Philippines office. She is the first Filipina to be elected partner in the firm globally. Kristine helps public- and private-sector entities in the Philippines transform operations, improve performance, and unlock growth. Increasingly, her client work involves digital strategy. She works across industries, including financial services, healthcare, education, infrastructure, transportation, consumer goods, and the public sector.

Some of Kristine's recent work in the country includes helping a leading Filipino firm shape its retail and commercial growth strategy, as well as crafting a market-entry strategy for a multinational consumer goods company. Across the region, she also helps to improve the fiscal health of governments and state-owned enterprises. Kristine holds an MPA in International Development from Harvard Kennedy School of Government and a BS degree in Business Administration and Accountancy from the University of the Philippines.





PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Francis Ed. Lim

We have a very special general membership meeting today. As you may be aware, this year, we created a new Committee in FINEX, the Young Finance Officers Committee (YFOC), which aims to support the assimilation and professional growth of young finance officers as value-adding members of FINEX.

Our YFOC, together with the Programs and Meetings Committee (PMC), present today's GMM featuring young and innovative leaders from global companies. On behalf of FINEX, I would like to personally thank our speakers for taking time out of their busy schedules to be with us today. Also, my sincerest thanks to the YFOC headed by its Chair Rey Abilo and LD Mike Guarin and PMC led by Chair Nnette de Jesus, Vice-Chair Tonyboy Ongsiako, and LD Edith Dychiao for today's exciting session.

FINEX continues to be at the forefront of national issues affecting business and the economy. On June 12, FINEX joined 20 business and professional organizations and foreign chambers in the MBC-led position paper on the various House bills on Freedom of Information (FOI). The business community strongly supports the passage of the FOI Act.

I informed everyone that FINEX will support Eleksyon 2022 Koalisyon to promote voters' registration and education in my last report. In the previous Board meeting, your Board approved P500,000 for this program. Our Good Governance Committee (GGC) was tasked to take the lead on this project. GGC will also launch its fund-raising campaign to support the objectives of the coalition. I thank project lead Quiel Lampa, GGC Chair Rod Franco, and LD Bing Matoto for spearheading this campaign.

We have a lineup of succeeding projects for the coming months. The following are the details of these activities:

- June 17 – Balancing Act: Family, Work, and Advocacy by Women in Finance Committee
- June 18 – A Taste of Philippine History by the Arts Committee
- June 22 – “Its OK not to be OK” Mental and emotional wellness in the midst of the pandemic by the LIFE Members Sub-Committee
- June 23 – 4th Virtual Fireside Chat with TG Limcaoco by the Membership Recruitment and Retention Sub-Committee
- June 25 - AMLA and Anti-Terrorism Financing Webinar by the Professional Development Committee, sponsored by Thomson Reuters
- June 28 – Revised Corporation Code: Latest Updates on Corporate Governance by Good Governance and Tax and Legal Committees
- June 29 – Network and Chill episode 6 for Affiliates by the Affiliates Committee
- July 6 – Digital Media and Ethical Issues Webinar by the Media Affairs Committee
- August 16 – Networking Session with the Canadian Chamber of Commerce by the Affiliates Committee

During our May GMM, the Search for this year's ING FINEX CFO of the Year was officially launched. Our CFOs served as one of the pillars of our business organizations. And with the pandemic, their work became extra challenging. This is the best time to recognize them. Nominate your CFOs now! The deadline for nomination is on August 15, 2021. I thank ING Bank Philippines for continually supporting this annual Search, especially now that we are in the midst of the pandemic. I also would like to send my gratitude to the CFO of the Year Committee headed by its Chair Jet Pampolina and LD Flor Tarriela.

I continue to reiterate my invitation to all and block your calendars on October 4 to 8 for this year's annual conference with the theme, “Disruptive Inclusion: Achieving a Sustainable Future in the New Frontier.” This year's conference will still be virtual. Same as last year, a series of webinars will be held throughout the week. We have already confirmed three keynote speakers, including BSP Governor Benjamin Diokno, Shell Royal Dutch Global Senior Economist and Policy Adviser Mallika Ishwaran, and Netflix Engineer and Director of Video Algorithms Anne Aaron. The FINEX Week Committee, led by Co-Chairs Brian Edang and Albert Gamboa and Liaison Director Mike Guarin, is inviting international speakers, experts, and world leaders to be keynote speakers. We will make sure that this year's conference will be a remarkable one. Make sure to mark your calendar!

Our membership drive is proceeding quite well. We project to exceed the highest number of inducted new members in the past 15 years despite the pandemic. With today's inductees, we already have 58 new members. Your Board approved an Incentive Program for all the members. Your active involvement in our activities and projects and recruitment of members will entitle you to discounts for your next year's membership fee. With the increasing number of life members, we hope to recruit more new members this year for our organization's sustainability. May I take this opportunity to remind the committees of their quota of five new members each.

I am pleased to inform you that KPMG R.G. Manabat & Co., our partner for this project, has started the works. We hope to receive your active involvement and cooperation on this project, especially if you have been identified as a respondent. The result of the study will undoubtedly be beneficial to all finance executives.

As you may be aware, FINEX, as a pure service to our members, is one of the consolidators for the purchase of the Moderna vaccine by the private sector. More than 100 of our members and/or their member companies responded to this and coursed their orders through us. We have been coordinating with ICTSI on this matter, particularly on the vaccine administration.

This month, we expect to receive our SEC-approved Amended Articles of Incorporation and By-laws. One of the significant amendments in our charter is the acceptance of Associate Members to our roster. We will soon announce the guidelines for the acceptance of this new category of membership. We hope that the Associate Members will be the future of our organization.

Internally, we will review and draft our new accounting, treasury and investment manuals, operations and corporate governance manuals, and Secretariat organizational structure. Special thanks to Treasurer Wilson Tan and VP for Internal Affairs Mike Guarin for leading this project. We will continue to update you on our upcoming programs, particularly on the developments of our significant thrusts for this year, and we fervently hope to receive your continuing support. Thank you at Mabuhay ang FINEX.



LOCKDOWN DIARIES

By Mark Nicdao

HOW MILLENNIALS THRIVE THROUGH THE PANDEMIC



Filipino millennials or Filennials (born between 1981 and 1996) make up about half of our country's working population. I am part of this generation, although being born in the early '80s, I have an affinity to Generation X and would often refer to myself as a "Xennial" (Gen X + Millennial). I believe I benefit from the slower-paced, resourceful, pragmatic, and gritty approach of the Gen X and from the tech-savvy, ambitious, multitasking, and opportunistic outlook of the Millennial Generation. This, in my opinion, shows how I try to thrive during this pandemic of uncertainty.

If we look at different studies and surveys, one group would say that millennials feel more stressed, are suffering from mental health issues, experience loneliness and anxiety because of job-related issues, loss of loved ones, feeling isolated, just to name a few. On the other end of the spectrum, other literature point to the general slowdown of life, the opportunity to spend more time with family, and the elimination of daily commutes, which have led to a dip in stress levels and a more happy disposition amidst COVID-19.

Being individuals, each has his or her own response to stimuli. I am writing today to share with you how I believe I have thrived through this pandemic. Upon reflection, I have lived by these three key tenets: Meaningful Relationships; Health Inside and Out; Feed the Mind, Heart and Soul.

When we were suddenly obliged to go into seclusion last March 2020 due to community quarantine, most of our connections were altered. Gone were the board meetings, town halls, dinner with friends, the weekly basketball games, and even date nights.

In my case, it allowed me to spend quality time with my wife Abby and my kids, Margaux and Marenzo. We forged new family traditions – our nightly Rosary, movie nights, and game nights. It allowed me to see my kids grow and to literally have a hand in raising them up 24/7. I am now sending sweet text messages to my wife, who is just a few meters from me. Outside my immediate family, I felt that I got to see and talk to my parents and siblings more often. I reach out to my high school friends and have gotten in touch with people I have not spoken to in years.

Since April 2020, a handful of high school friends and I started our Zoom CrossFit sessions in lieu of our regular basketball games. We were fortunate that one of our friends was a CrossFit champion (Metcon Group PH) who agreed to train "Filennial Uncles" such as us. After a year, my friends and I are now doing 100+ burpees, sit-ups, push-ups, squats and more every session. I do jump rope and run around the village weekly to get to experience nature. Every day, my wife and I do yoga before sleeping. I also practice meditation to keep myself centered.

In feeding my mind and heart, my wife and kids have taken up new hobbies. We have officially become plantitos and plantitas. My wife and I have trained our kids to wash the car, vacuum our floors, make their own beds, wash the dishes and build relevant life skills. We have reading time where we read books to our kids and where my wife and I read new books (I highly recommend *A Ride of a Lifetime* by Disney CEO Robert Iger, *Shoe Dog* by Phil Knight, and *The Archer* by Paulo Coelho).

In all of these, I'm thankful that I'm able to have a deeper connection with the Lord. The Sunday Masses of Fr. Orbos has allowed us to hear God's Word weekly and to stay hopeful amidst everything. His weekly Masses – complete with entertaining mnemonics and harana at the end, help me remember that God is alive, is faithful and is always in control.

Sources:

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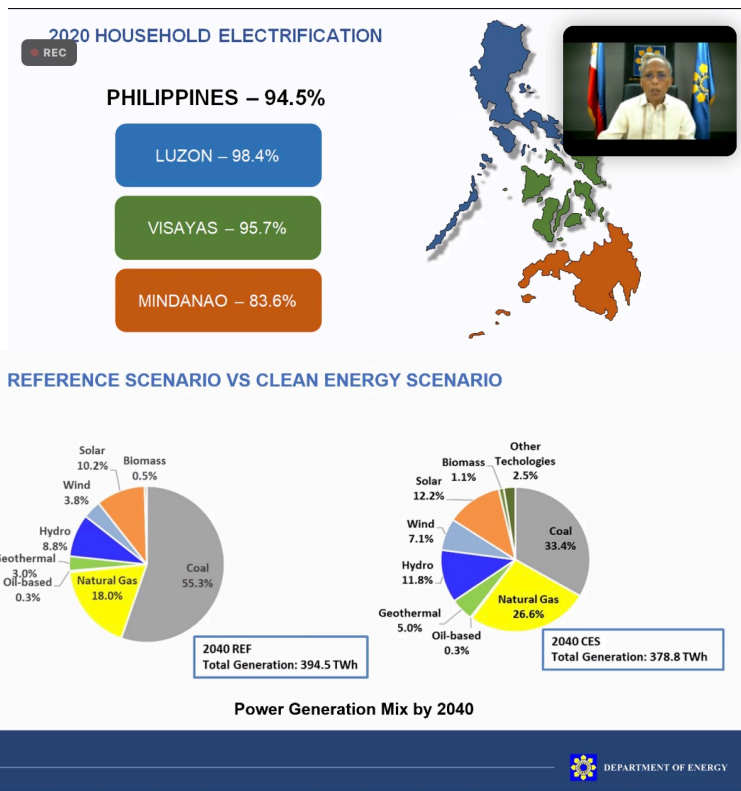
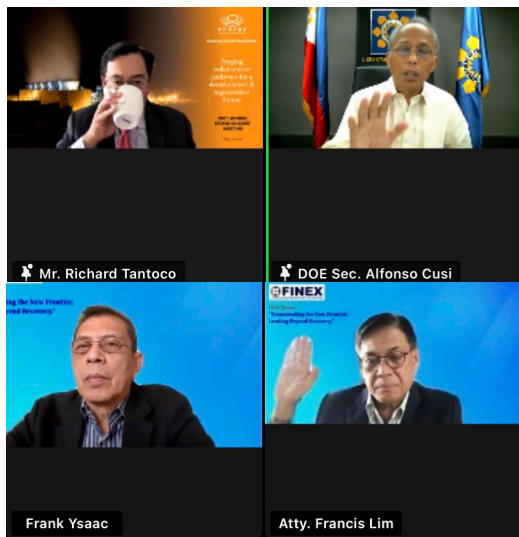
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Editor's Note: Mark Brian Nicdao is the Corporate Audit and Assurance Manager of Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. and a member of the Young Finance Officers (YFO) Committee, the newest committee of FINEX.



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