

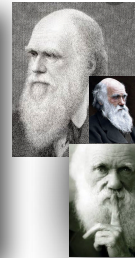


**INCLUSIVE
DISRUPTION:
ACHIEVING
SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT**



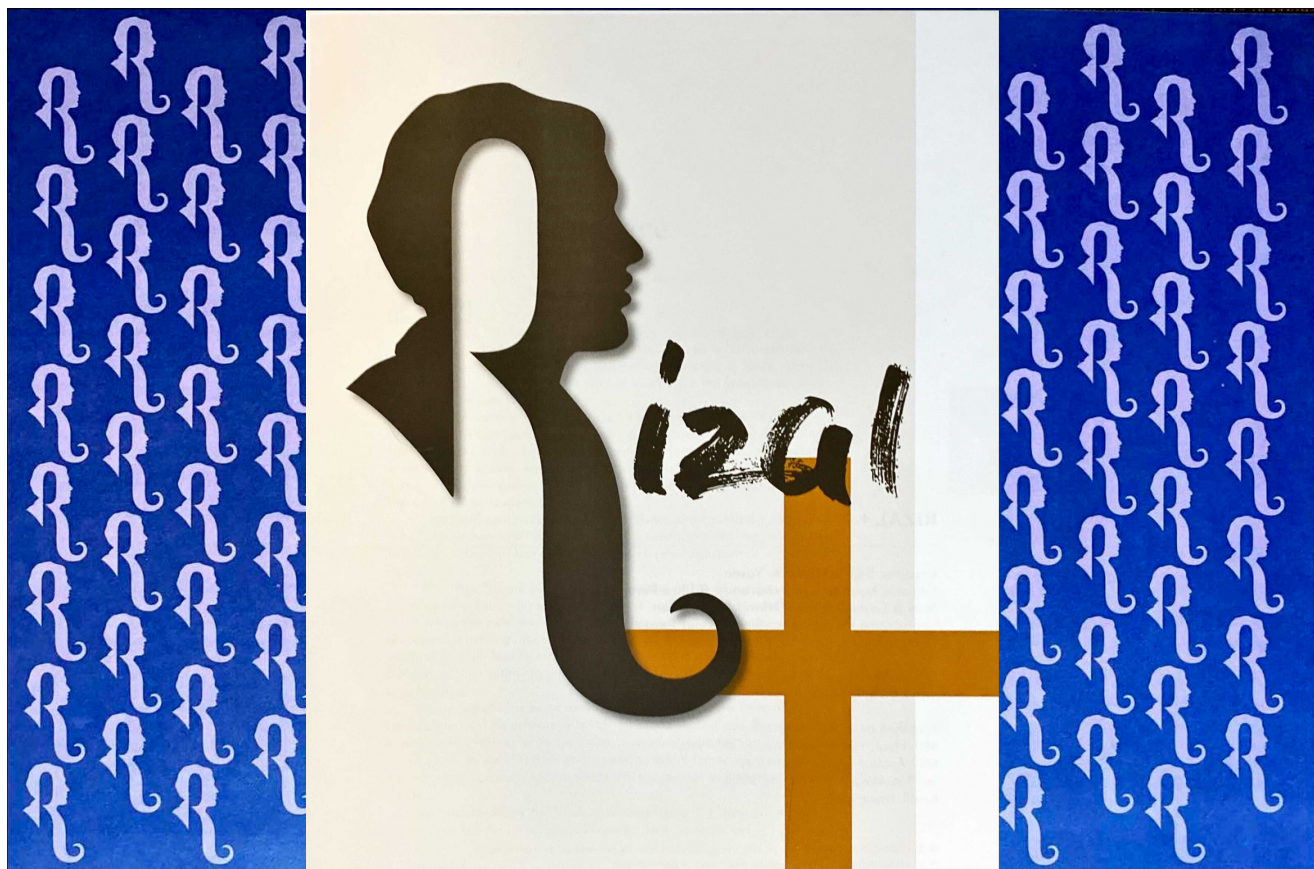
ANNUAL CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

**HOW TOURISM,
MANUFACTURING,
AND REAL ESTATE
STAYED AFLOAT IN
THE PANDEMIC**



SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST

FINEX FOCUS



FINEX Annual Membership Meeting
Wednesday, October 13, 2021
Webinar via Zoom

**RIZAL IN A TIME
OF BARRIERS**



EDITOR'S NOTE

By **J. Albert Gamboa**

ECONOMIC AGENDA 2022-2028

FINEX has partnered with the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry Inc. to host the 2022 Presidentiables and Vice Presidentiables Fora with the theme of "Economic Reforms in the New Frontier."

This is the second time that FINEX is organizing such an event. The first was held in 2003 with the theme, "In Search of a Servant Leader." What is common between both editions is the format: not a debate, but a presentation of candidates' platforms. The big difference is that this time it will be virtual via multiple online platforms unlike 18 years ago when it was face-to-face at a hotel venue.

Invited guests for the Vice Presidentiables Forum on October 23, 2021 are Lito Atienza, Bong Go, Willie Ong, Kiko Pangilinan, and Tito Sotto. It will be the turn of Bato Dela Rosa, Ping Lacson, Bongbong Marcos, Isko Moreno, Manny Pacquiao, and Leni Robredo during the Presidentiables Forum on October 30, 2021. They will present their economic platforms including the reforms that they plan to implement should they win in the May 9, 2022 elections.

Veteran journalists Tony Lopez and Mike Toledo will serve as forum moderators, while emcees are The Manila Times President Dante Ang II and Philippine Star columnist Wilson Lee Flores. Sponsoring the events are the W Group, United Auctioneers, and Grab Philippines as part of their respective voter's education programs.

Both will be aired on Saturdays starting at 7:30 PM with live streaming on Facebook, YouTube, and Daily Motion. For the first time during the 2022 electoral season, Filipino voters shall witness how each candidate intends to address the challenges of the worst economic crisis in the country's post-war history.

Don't miss these two events brought to you by the FINEX Week Committee – fresh from its successful hosting of the 53rd Annual Conference.



FINEX FOCUS Vol. 16 No. 5

PUBLISHER

Media Affairs Committee

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KEYNOTE SPEAKER'S PROFILE

DEPUTY SPEAKER LOREN LEGARDA

HIGHLIGHTS OF CURRICULUM VITAE

CONCURRENT POSITIONS

House of Representatives Deputy Speaker
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Chair, New Normal Sub-Committee of the Defeat COVID-19
Ad Hoc Committee
UNDRR Global Champion for Resilience
UNFCCC National Adaptation Plan Champion
Commissioner, Global Commission on Adaptation
Climate Vulnerable Forum Ambassador for Parliaments
Women Political Leaders Global Ambassador for Disaster
Risk Reduction, Climate Change, and Environment



PAST POSITIONS

Senator, Republic of the Philippines (three terms: 1998-2004, 2007-2013, 2013-2019)
Chair, Senate Committees on Finance, Climate Change, Foreign Relations, Agriculture and Food,
Health and Demography, Cultural Communities, Economic Affairs, Tourism, Social Justice
and Rural Development, Environment and Natural Resources
Chair, Senate Oversight Committees on the Visiting Forces Agreement, Agriculture and Fisheries
Modernization, Climate Change
First and only female Majority Leader and concurrent Chair, Senate Committee on Rules

EDUCATION & ACCREDITATION

Doctor of Laws (Honoris Causa), University of the Philippines Diliman
Command and General Staff Course, Armed Forces of the Philippines Command and General
Staff College (promoted to Full Colonel)
Master in National Security Administration, National Defense College of the Philippines
(graduated with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and the class topnotcher)
Bachelor of Arts, Major in Broadcast Communications (Cum Laude), UP Diliman

SOCIAL AFFILIATIONS

Alternate Member, Green Climate Fund Governing Board
Member, Women in Parliaments Global Forum Executive Board
Co-Chair, Global Legislators Organization for a Balanced Environment Philippines
Senior Advisor, Ocean Security International
Founding Member, Global Advisory Group of Parliamentarians on Disaster Risk Reduction
Founding Chair, Asia Pacific Institute for Green Development
Founder, Luntiang Pilipinas
Founder, Libro ni Loren Foundation
Member, Phi Kappa Phi International Honor Society



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Francis Ed. Lim

It seemed like yesterday when the 2021 FINEX Board and I were inducted into office by Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Benjamin E. Diokno on January 15, 2021 which coincided with the 53rd anniversary of our organization. For the first time in our organization's history, the Induction Ceremony was held virtually. Since then, we have not had a single in-person event to ensure everyone's safety.

COVID-19 continues to put human beings' spirit to test – physically, emotionally, financially, psychologically, and socially. This year, the virus evolved into multiple strains. The most contagious Delta variant is now wreaking havoc on the country and the world. Governments have struggled to contain this lethal disease while balancing the lives and livelihoods of their citizens.

To say that our normal way of life has been disrupted is an understatement. Casual activities such as shopping, dining, seeing and hugging friends and family, and shaking hands with colleagues – all of which we took for granted – are now approached with extreme caution or avoided altogether. This year's approval of vaccines for emergency use against the virus gave us hope, but the rollout has been difficult. The high rate of vaccine hesitancy, the issue of limited supply, and the emergence of new variants all obstruct our goal of herd immunity.

Transcending the New Frontier. We must rise above or transcend the pandemic's punishing effects and look forward with optimism to the future. Despite its problems, the COVID-19 acted as a catalyst for businesses and the government to move toward digital, which was a foregone conclusion given the technological advancements occurring around us. This pandemic provided us with a clear understanding of what our businesses must do to survive and compete in today's world and in the years ahead. As the organization representing the country's top finance professionals, FINEX must embrace and support this digital transformation to ensure that we remain relevant in the years to come.

Leading Beyond Recovery. Without a doubt, we must recover from the pandemic's devastation. As finance executives, we are not only responsible for identifying short-term solutions, but also for developing long-term strategies to ensure sustainability. We must take the lead in finance in order to ensure our economy's survival. We need leverage the wisdom of our members, particularly our life members, which has been honed over years of experience, to assist our organization and country in moving beyond recovery.

Increasing the prominence of FINEX. This year, in response to our members' calls for FINEX to be more relevant, I committed to increasing our organization's national and international prominence. We endeavored to take a leadership role in business and economic issues. We made a concerted effort to be proactive and to position your organization as a force to be reckoned with when it comes to influencing and shaping national policies, particularly those affecting the national economy.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and our Committees and Sub-Committees and their chairs, vice-chairs, and members, allow me to present my interim report on FINEX's activities since the beginning of the year. But before I do it, may I express my gratitude to the Council of Past Presidents for providing sound and wise counsel to me and the 2021 FINEX Board during our meeting with them on January 13, 2021, during which I discussed the highlights of our various plans and programs. I am indebted to the Council of Past Presidents for their insightful observations and suggestions that helped shape and improve this year's plans and activities.

Membership

As of the end of September 2021, we have inducted 72 new FINEX members, the highest in the past 15 years, bringing our total to 692, a net increase of 55, prominent and respected finance professionals and practitioners. Although the pandemic is hampering our campaign, we continue to work for more new members during the year. Apart from strengthening our already robust membership base, our new members will contribute to our budget and assist us in implementing our programs. Hopefully, FINEX will continue to attract the best and most reputable finance professionals and practitioners in the coming months and years.

Understandably, some of our members were forced to resign due to the pandemic's economic impact on their businesses. Several have been delisted due to non-payment of membership dues. To entice our existing members to recruit new members, your Board of Directors approved the Membership Recruitment Incentive Program this year. The program incentives members with discounts for next year's membership fee based on their active involvement in FINEX activities number of recruited members.

To expand our membership base and to have a healthy pipeline of future regular members, we will soon be launching the guidelines for the acceptance and retention of the new category of Associate Membership (AM). These AMs are currently mid-level managers who have the future of becoming senior level executives one day. The inclusion of this new category was a result of the recommendation by the FINEX 2.0 Committee last year. The Securities and Exchange Commission has approved the amendments to our By-laws to include AMs in our roster. We hope you can join us in actively recruiting the future regular members of our association.

Advocacies

This year, FINEX became one of the most dynamic and influential business organizations in the country. FINEX has been very active in the national forefront, issuing statements and position papers or co-sign joint statements on issues that



will affect business, finance, and the economy. Through the Good Governance and Junior FINEX Committees, we held the National Economic Recovery Forum with NEDA Acting Secretary Karl Kendrick Chua, which was attended by FINEX members and students from our JFINEX-partner schools with almost 1,000 Zoom attendees.

The following are the statements and position papers, either joint-signed or solely-issued, by FINEX this year:

- FINEX-led Joint Statement of Support for the CREATE Bill on January 14
- Joint Statement for Unity on Covid and Recovery Against Charter Change at this Time on January 22
- FINEX Statement on Charter Change on January 18
- FINEX Statement on the approval of the CREATE Law on February 4
- FINEX Statement on the signing and approval of the FIST Act on February 17
- FINEX Statement on re-opening and making attractive our economy on February 20
- FINEX Statement on GUIDE Bill on February 25
- FINEX Statement on the arrival of the first batch of COVID-19 vaccine on February 28
- FINEX-led Joint Statement on Cyber Security in the Financial System on March 10
- FINEX Statement on the signing of the CREATE Law on March 27
- Co-signed the Joint Statement on the Need for Speedy Disposition of Court Cases on March 29
- FINEX Statement on the temporary suspension of AstraZeneca vaccines for people under age 60 on April 9
- FINEX Statement on MECQ on April 11
- Position Paper on Senate Bill 1924, “An Act Mandating Banking Institutions to strengthen the Financing System for Agricultural, Fisheries, and Rural Development in the Philippines.”
- Position Paper on the Capital Market Development Act
- FINEX Comments to THE proposed changes to the PSE REIT listing rules
- FINEX, together with IHAP, issued comments on the amendments to the SRC Rules 9 and 10 to the SEC
- FINEX Position Paper on Senate Bill 1924, “An Act Mandating Banking Institutions to strengthen the Financing System for Agricultural, Fisheries, and Rural Development in the Philippines” on April 28
- FINEX-led Joint Statement on the Bank Deposits Secrecy Bill on May 26
- FINEX-led Joint Statement for the Passage of SB2094 amending the Public Service Act on May 29
- Co-signed the Joint Position Paper on the various House bills on the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act on June 12
- FINEX Statement on the passing of former President Benigno S. Aquino III on June 25
- FINEX-led Joint Statement supporting the proposed Financial Consumer Protection Act on July 18
- FINEX Statement on Pres. Duterte’s SONA on July 27
- FINEX Congratulatory Statement to Ms. Hidilyn Diaz for winning the 1st Philippine Olympic Gold on July 28
- FINEX Statement on the 2-week ECQ Implementation on July 30
- FINEX &MAP Congratulatory and Thanks to Team Philippines for Olympics on August 9
- FINEX Statement on the Q2 GDP Growth on August 11
- Co-signed the Call for Concerted Action on Air Pollution and Climate Crisis by the Green EDSA Movement on August 12
- FINEX Statement on the possible ECQ extension on August 13
- FINEX-led Joint Statement to uphold the sanctity of duty and independence vested in the Commission on Audit on August 21
- FINEX-led Joint Statement on COVID-19 claims by Health Care providers on August 25
- Co-signed the Joint Statement calling Congress to approve key economic reforms, especially the Public Services Act amendments on September 7
- FINEX-led Joint Statement and Letter of Appeal to the COMELEC calling for the extension of voter registration on September 10
- FINEX-led Joint Statement of Support for Congressional Bill to extend the voter registration deadline on September 27
- Co-signed Joint Statement on Investigation on PPE Purchases on October 3
- Co-signed Joint Statement for more robust vaccination policies to save lives and accelerate recovery on October 5
- FINEX Congratulatory Statement on Maria Ressa on October 9

The pandemic has taught us the significance of savings and investments. With the implementation of different levels of community quarantines, many of our countrymen lost their businesses and livelihood. Unfortunately, many of our people don’t have enough savings, or worse, no investments at all to sustain their day-to-day lives. For this reason, we have been pushing for the enactment of a new law that will mandate the inclusion of Savings and Investment subject for all junior high school students. This bill is envisioned to encourage our young population to save and understand the basic principles of finance and investments. In sum, it seeks to promote investor education, investor protection, and scam-proof the population. From a broader view, as has been seen in our neighboring countries in the ASEAN region, a population with a high level of financial education and literacy will stimulate the development of the domestic capital markets and ultimately redound to the benefit of the economy. House Bill No. 9006 was filed on March 16 by Congressman Oaminal.

To support the greening of EDSA, FINEX served as one of the supporting organizations of the Green EDSA Movement. The cause of the movement is to urge and encourage the government and the private sector to transform EDSA into a greenway envisioned in the National Transportation Policy of 2017.

As one of the strong advocates of capital market development in the country, FINEX submitted its proposal on the proposed Capital Markets Development Act (CMDA) and attended committee hearings. Among our proposed revision is the



inclusion of Savings and Investments subject as a subject for our high school or college students to supplement House Bill No 9006 earlier filed by Congressman Oaminal. The CMDA has been approved by the House of Representatives and is now pending consideration by the Senate.

FINEX is actively taking part in the digitalization roadmap of the Philippine Capital Market. During the Capital Market Development Council Meeting last April 23, FINEX presented the proposed digital roadmap with the end goal of digitalizing the whole life cycle of bonds, from issuance to distribution, to trading and up to custody of the securities. On May 4, the electronic Securities Issue Portal (eSIP), a joint initiative of FINEX and the PDS Group, went live with the pilot issuance of ALI 10B 4-year bond.

With the continuous onslaught of the COVID-19 virus, FINEX donated a total of P500,000 to various institutions to help feed our poor countrymen.

The result of elections affects business. At this backdrop, This year, FINEX supported Eleksyon 2022 Koalisyon to promote voters' registration and education as a co-convenor with a donation of P500,000. Through our Good Governance Committee, with the support of our Media Affairs Committee and Junior FINEX Committee, in partnership with MAP, MBC, and Koalisyon PH, FINEX held two virtual events on August 27 and September to promote voter's registration among the youth and first-time voters.

Last June 7, 2021, we, together with the Judicial Reform Initiative (JRI), Management Association of the Philippines (MAP) and the Shareholders' Association of the Philippines (SharePHIL), FINEX met with the Supreme Court to discuss its reforms under the new Chief Justice. Significantly, this was the first-ever meeting of the business groups and the new Supreme Court Chief Justice and the Court En Banc.

To promote ethics in business, FINEX donated electronic copies of our Ethics Book, entitled Ethics: Black, White (or Gray)?", a compilation of 50 ethics-related articles, to our partner schools to promote ethics among our younger generation.

Professional Development

Our various committees maintained their commitment to providing valuable and significant training programs, seminars, forums, and conferences to address and support our members' professional development needs, as well as those of their staff and personnel. Due to the pandemic and continuing quarantine restrictions, our programs are conducted 100% virtually this year.

Our committees sought to keep members informed of current financial and economic issues and concerns in order to assist them in developing their financial skills and capabilities, enabling them to be more effective stewards of their respective organizations. To ensure a holistic approach to professional development, our various committees have worked to provide programs that benefit our members in areas such as leadership, people management, presentation skills, and communication.

Prior to the pandemic, we held approximately 2-3 seminars per month. Last year, we averaged 4-5 programs per month. But with the virtual nature of our programs, this year, we were able to conduct 8 Zoom sessions per month comprising of seminars, conferences and social gatherings.

Annual Conference

I am extremely proud of our recently concluded FINEX Conference last October 4–8. Despite the pandemic, we had a record high of 46 speakers, panelists and moderators from 3 continents (Asia, Europe and North America), and a record sponsorship of over P5.0 million.

The 10 different sessions spread throughout the five days with themes on each day provided our participants with most relevant information as we traverse this pandemic moving towards the new normal.

The week-long conference culminated in an exclusive "FINEX members only" virtual party filled with entertainment, games, and raffle prizes! A very fitting way for our members to unwind and relax after a week of thought-provoking sessions and insightful perspectives from our speakers and panelists.

I am very pleased to inform you that we received highly positive comments and commendations from the attendees on both the content of the sessions and caliber of our speakers.

The Annual Conference is not over yet. FINEX, together with the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Inc. and The Manila Times will hold the Vice Presidentiables and Presidentiables Forum on October 23 and 30, respectively. This is another service of FINEX to its members and the country.

Awards

The search for the 15th ING-FINEX CFO of the Year is ongoing. The awarding ceremonies will be held on November 17, 2021. Details of which will be announced to all of you accordingly. FINEX thanks ING Bank for its continuing partnership on this most prestigious event throughout all these years.





Ways and Means

The activities, projects and advocacies of FINEX will not be possible without the financial support of our sponsors. On behalf of FINEX, I would like to sincerely thank them for sharing with us their resources for our cause.

Partner: Union Bank of the Philippines

Platinum: First Philippine Holdings Corp., LT Group, Inc.

Diamond: Ayala Land, Inc.

Gold: Converge ICT Solutions, Inc., Divina Law, Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corporation, SGV & Co, United Auctioneers, Inc.

Patron: Bank of the Philippine Islands, BDO Unibank, Cirtex Holdings Phils. Corp., Megaworld Corp.

Annual CFO Survey Partner: KPMG R.G. Manabat & Co.

Other sponsors that supported our projects (FINEX Week, webinars, directory, etc.): Aboitiz Equity Ventures, ACCRA Law, AllDay, AllHome, Alliance Global, Aruba, Bank of Singapore, Binance, BloomX, BPI Asset Management & Trust Corp., Cisco, Filinvest Development Corp., Forecasting and Planning Technologies, FTI Consulting, Grab Philippines, IBM Philippines, Inventor Miranda & Co., KonsultaMD, Manila Electric Company, Mastercard, Metro Pacific Tollways Corp., Metrobank, Monde Nissin, Navarro Amper & Co./Deloitte Philippines, P&A Grant Thornton, Palo Alto, USA, Pascual Laboratories, Paymaya, Philippine National Bank, Phinma Corp., RCBC, Reyes Tacandong & Co., Robinsons Land Corp. Royal Asia, San Miguel Corp., Security Bank, Siemens Inc., Sonicwall, St. Peter Lifeplan, Inc., Thomson Reuters, Villaruz & Co. CPAs., Vista Land and Lifescapes, Vmware, W Group, Wilcon Depot, and ZMG Wardhowell.

Others

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

Our 50th anniversary book, "FINEX 50: LEADING ON TO WIDER FRONTIERS" received the three awards from the International Association of Business Communicators (IABC): the IABC Philippine Quill Award; the Silver Quill Award of Excellence in the Publications category by IABC Asia Pacific; and the global Gold Quill Award. For more than 40 years, IABC's Gold Quill Awards have recognized and awarded excellence in strategic communication worldwide. This third award completes our Golden Jubilee Book's Grand Slam for this year!

For the first time of our history, KPMG R.G. Manabat and Co. has confirmed to be our partner for the Annual CFO Outlook Survey that will begin this year. The survey is intended to get the inputs and insights of our country's CFOs and other senior finance officers from the private sector on matters involving finance, business and the economy. The preview of the results were presented during the FINEX Conference last week, and the full report will be made available to all soon.

With the SEC approval of the amended articles of incorporation and by-laws of FINEX, we are now working on the application for tax exemption with the BIR.

Internally, we reviewing and draft our new accounting, treasury and investment manuals, operations and corporate governance manuals, and Secretariat organizational structure.

Additionally, we recently approved our revised Code of Ethics and the policies in handling ethics complaints. The revisions focused on enhancing proper and ethical conduct, adherence to the confidentiality of information, particularly on personal data information, clarification on conflict of interest, and emphasized gender inclusion, sensitivity, and protection from harassment. The new code will be shared with everyone for proper guidance.

To help strengthen our beloved institution as one of the country's most important business organizations, I included an Organizational Development project in my deliverables as your president. This project aims to improve FINEX's organizational structure, strengthen the capabilities of our Secretariat, make our Secretariat more efficient in their work, and recognize high performers among our Secretariat officers and staff. This, I am confident, will improve FINEX's delivery of value-added services and activities to you, our members and stakeholders.

I am pleased to report that your Board has approved, and we have already begun implementing, an immediate salary adjustment for our Secretariat, effective July 1, 2021, for those who, understandably, did not receive merit increases prior to the pandemic's onset. This will be followed by a performance evaluation for 2021 later this year, which will serve as the basis for an even larger average salary adjustment. Fortunately, we have the funds necessary to accomplish this. Additionally, we are implementing a new Performance Rating System that will be balanced scorecard-based to increase objectivity and minimize purely subjective assessments in our staff performance evaluations.

We held a town hall meeting with our employees to explain this pleasant surprise, and I must say that they are incredibly appreciative of the FINEX family for looking out for their welfare during these trying times.

All of these projects and activities will not be possible without the support and active participation of the Committee Chairs, Co-Chairs, Vice Chairs, and their members. They are the real workhorses of our organization. Likewise, I would like to thank my dynamic and very supportive Board of Directors for their dedication in ensuring that FINEX remains to be the preeminent organization for finance executives in the country.

FINEX is very fortunate that it has a very strong and engaged membership base. In closing, as I mentioned in my inaugural address and during the FINEX Conference, we in FINEX must go back to our own value of BAYANIHAN. We must work together as one nation. Together, we will emerge from this pandemic STRONGER and BETTER!

Maraming salamat at Mabuhay ang FINEX. Mabuhay tayong lahat!

LOCKDOWN DIARIES

By Tissa Roxas-Tan

LOVE ART? LOVE ANIME?

MAKE ART A TIMELESS PASSION INVESTMENT

Pandemic or no pandemic, art sells. Few realize that collecting art is one way to enjoy your investment as its value rises. Now the secret is out.

In the sixth webinar for this year organized by the FINEX Arts and Culture Committee held on August 27, emcee Maret Bautista called art investing “good for the soul, delights the eyes as you watch it grow in value over time.” The event, which opened with a powerhouse performance by soprano singer Anna Migallos, featured guest speaker Tónico Manahan, a lawyer, banker, lifetime art collector, and adviser to the Leon Gallery and Auction House, who was happy to discuss various strategies on how to build a lucrative art collection.

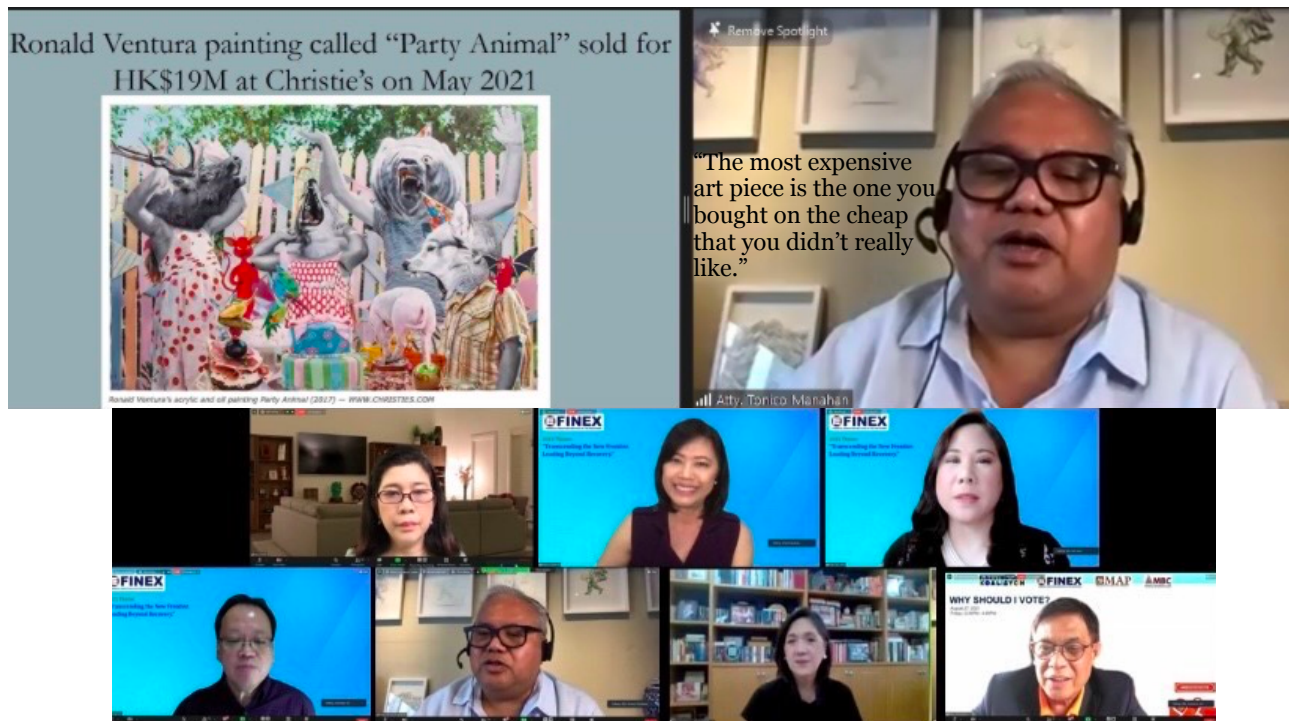
Manahan said there are two drivers of the art world: auction sales (transparent because “hammer prices” are usually available online); and gallery sales (which are more opaque since sales are kept confidential).

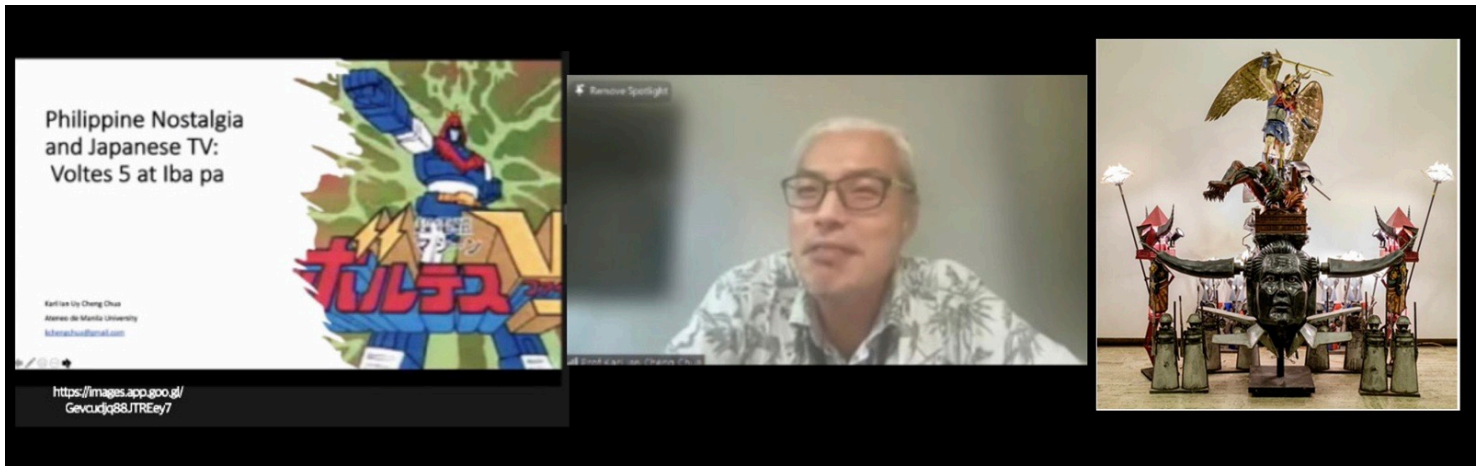
Despite the sluggish economy, art sales continue to hit new highs as Filipino artists gain recognition worldwide. There have been stunning auction endings: ranging from the historic sale of Juan Luna’s 1892 “Parisian Life” oil painting to GSIS for P46 million in 2002, peaking with Anita Magsaysay Ho’s “Market Vendors” (P84 million), to the sale of Ronald Ventura’s “Party Animal” for HK\$19 million in May 2021. Currently, the local auction market is P3 billion strong. Leon Gallery declared a recent auction as its best ever.

Here are Manahan's tips for prospective art collectors as well as investment strategies for beginners:

1. Buy what you like.
2. Follow the money. See what experienced art buyers are buying.
3. Find a mentor. They will teach you more than the Internet will.
4. When buying from a well-known artist, try to buy a painting from their "golden years."
5. When buying from an up-and-coming artist, choose a work that shows his/her developing their visual voice.
6. Try not to buy cheap. The art market is a trophy market.
7. Immerse yourself in the art scene by hanging out with art people in the know.

He encouraged millennials to embark on art collecting with as little as P50,000. For tips, he mentioned Anna Bautista, Pong Bayog, and Mark Allan Reyes as artists to watch. Not only is each work of art unique, it carries with it a story, just as every artist and buyer/collector has a story to tell. With little investment required, it’s never too late to be a collector and turn your passion into a wise investment.





THE ENDURING FASCINATION FOR VOLTES V

Who does not love Japan—its food, culture, and cherry blossoms? In recent years, Filipino tourists have flocked to Japan in big numbers. What has puzzled the Japanese, though, is the mystery behind Pinoy interest in a Japanese anime show that was, in fact, little known in Japan.

The answer to the puzzle lies in our recent past as a country. On Friday nights during the 1970s, millions of Filipino viewers were glued to their TV sets to watch a Japanese anime TV series. “Voltes V”—a robotic drama based on a cruel caste system—resonated with Filipinos then living under Martial Law. The remaining four episodes, ostensibly banned by then President Ferdinand Marcos for its “harmful effects on children,” were

believed taken off the air for the show’s underlying themes of rebellion and revolution. Another narrative alleged that the episodes were banned as an answer to a complaint by the Catholic Women’s League that anime constituted violent entertainment. Whatever the reason, the censorship raised a public outcry against authoritarian rule that resonates among Filipinos to this day.

Evidently, the show’s cultural phenomenon ran deep. Voltes V nostalgia trickled into the veins of Philippine pop culture by way of merchandising—stickers, pencil cases, t-shirts, and collector toys—local comics (“Pilipino Funny Komiks Voltek 5”), and even art installations.

In an example of “low art influencing high art,” Toym Imao’s 2014 art installation “Last, Lost, Lust for Four Forgotten Episodes” memorialized the nostalgia of a wounded nation. By evolving from “multiple fandom space” to a “soft power” cultural concept, the fascination with Voltes V spilled over to younger generations in a way that Star Wars and Harry Potter were known for their “power to attract rather than coerce.”

Who would have known that “Voltes V” was the little TV show that could? Its political impact and enduring legacy were the topic of the FINEX Arts and Culture Committee webinar held last September 24 featuring guest speaker Dr. Karl Ian Uy Cheng Chua, Assistant Professor of the Department of History and former Director of the Japanese Studies Program of the Ateneo de Manila University. This webinar was moderated by Dr. Benjamin A. San Jose, Assistant Professor of Japanese and Political Science and current Director of the Ateneo Japanese Studies Program. Both resource speakers hold doctorate degrees from Japanese universities.



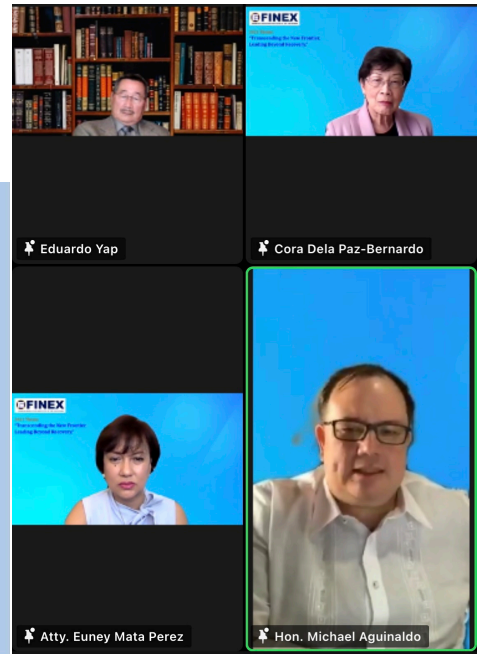


FINEX IN ACTION

COA'S CONSTITUTIONAL MANDATE VIA ZOOM | SEPTEMBER 15, 2021

Annual Audit Report

- ✓ Contains the results of financial (audit opinion; not a rating) and compliance audits; aside from audit observations and recommendations, includes Management's comments and auditor's rejoinder as well as annexes to support observations



WIF COMMITTEE ON SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST VIA ZOOM | SEPTEMBER 16, 2021

CHANGING PREFERENCES

INQUIRE PROPERTY

- Some have started to look at communities outside city centers to have bigger spaces to move about
- There are those who are even eyeing seaside or resort themed properties
- Others continue to prefer city centers because of their proximity to essential shops and services



FINEX IN ACTION

53RD ANNUAL FINEX CONFERENCE

VIA ZOOM | OCTOBER 4-8, 2021



INCLUSION MONDAY

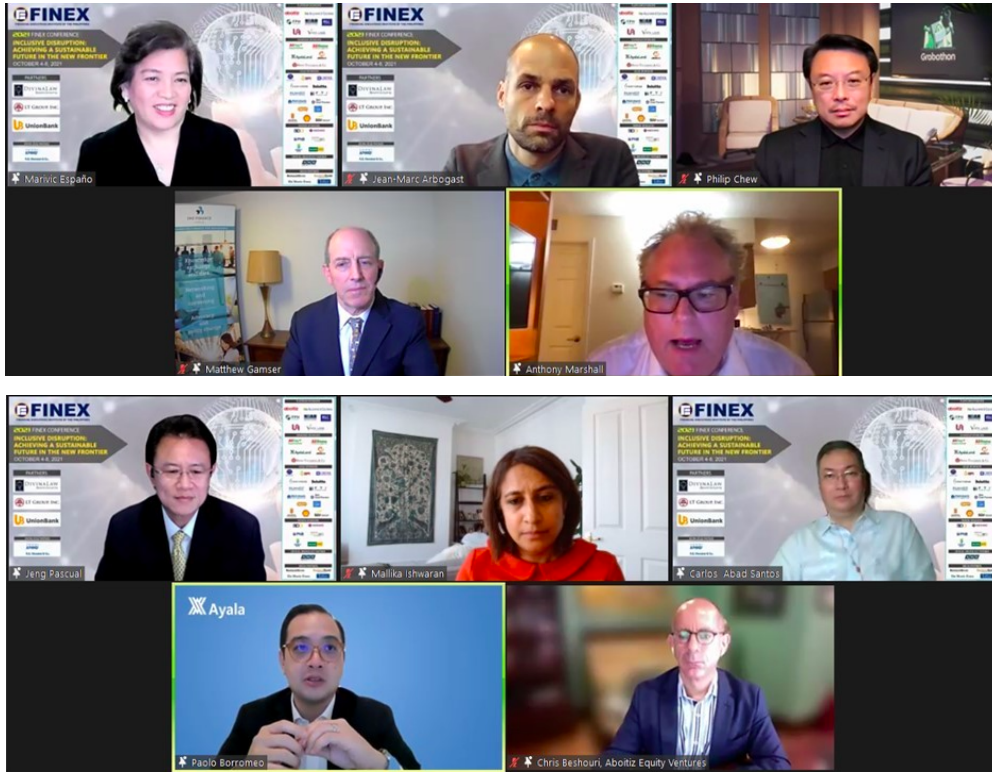


COOPERATION TUESDAY

featuring

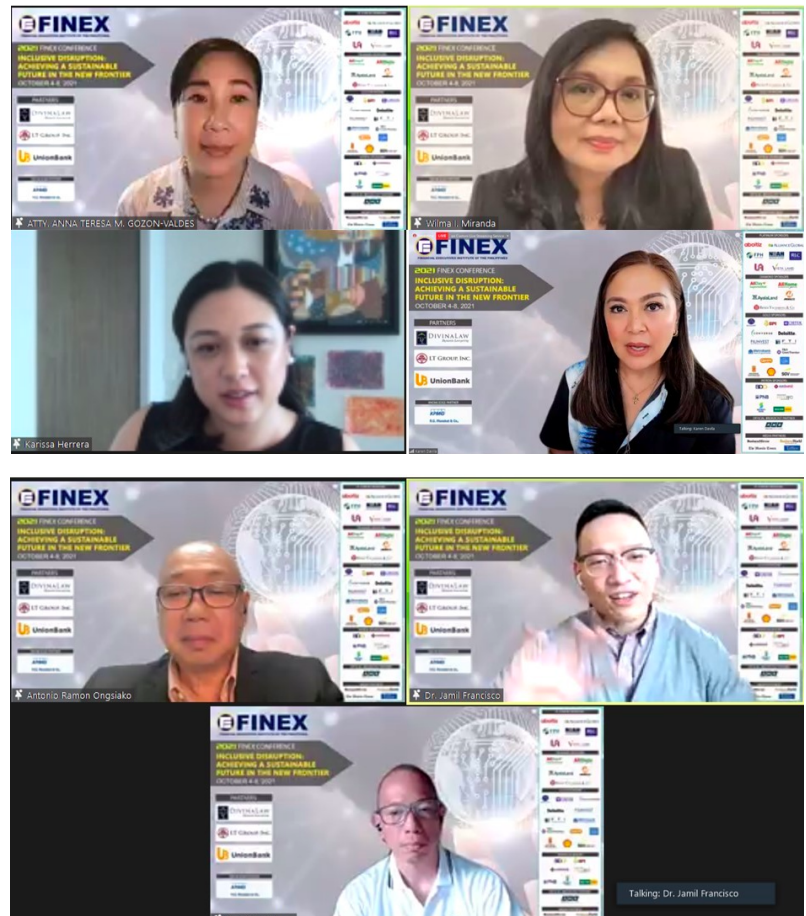
The Rt. Hon. Helen Clark
Former Prime Minister
New Zealand





FUTURE-PROOF WEDNESDAY

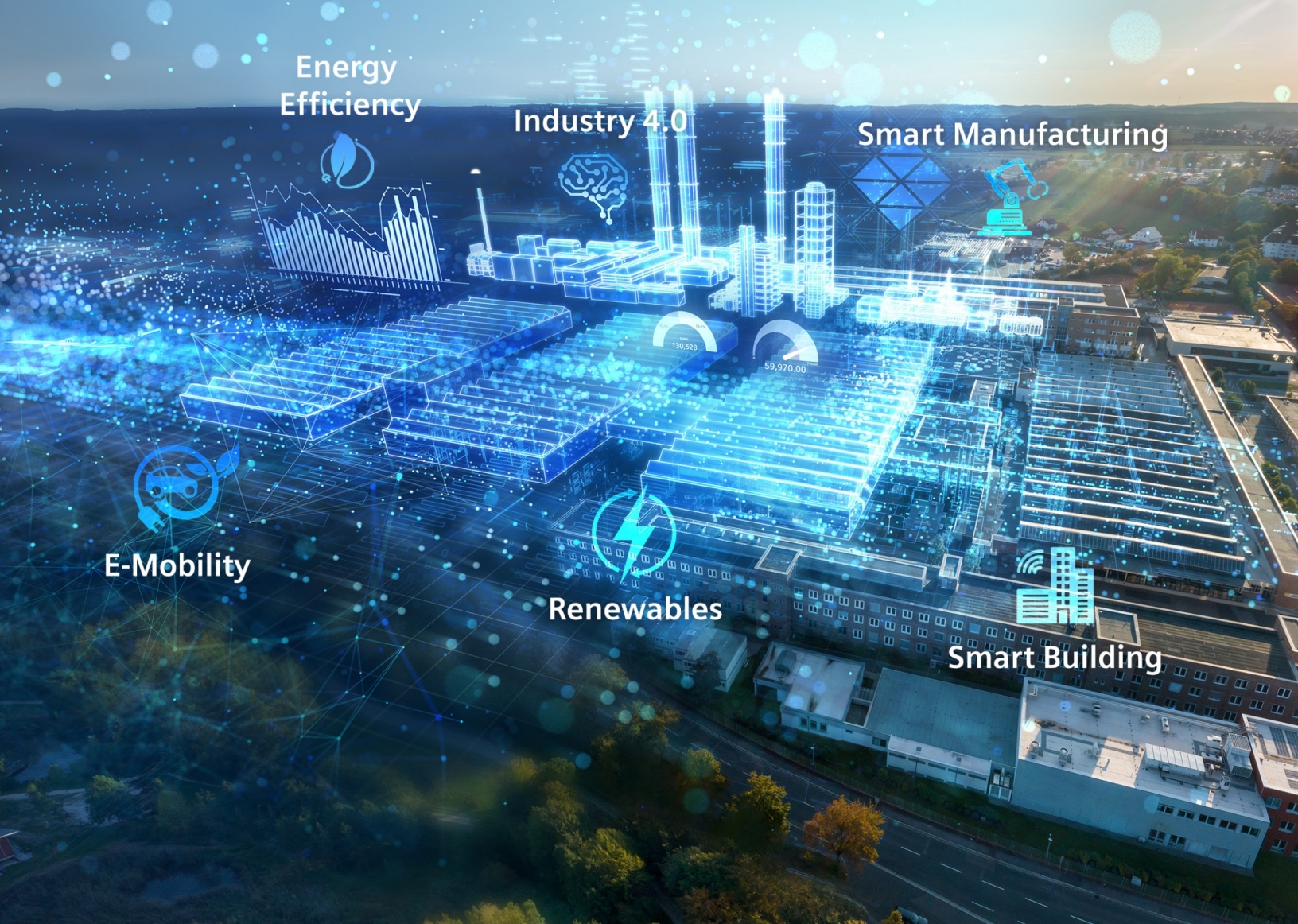
**TECH
THURSDAY**
in collaboration with
Media Affairs Committee
and
Junior FINEX Committee





SUSTAINABLE FRIDAY





Energy
Efficiency

Industry 4.0

Smart Manufacturing

E-Mobility

Renewables

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