



FINEX FOCUS

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF FINEX

SHE'S ON TOP OF THE GAME Women FinTech Leaders



WILSON P. TAN:
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE [p. 2](#)



FINEX welcomes the newly-inducted members [HERE](#)



Cybersecurity During the Rapid Digital Transformation [HERE](#). Did you miss the forum, watch it [HERE](#).



Conversation with Dr. Jaime Laya [HERE](#)



Exposure trip at Batangas [HERE](#)



MEET THE
ICONS
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Business, Education Committee Planning Workshop with Teachers [HERE](#)

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Wilson P. Tan



We, at FINEX, feel that celebrating the strength of women shouldn't be limited to the month of March alone as diversity and gender equity are vital issues that are perpetually relevant, given how women have established themselves as dynamic contributors and participants in the national economy and the business community.

In our last month's General Members Meeting, we covered one of the more controversial issues in the business community, the Maharlika Investment Fund (MIF). We were privileged and honored to have had well-known business executives, such as former BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo, renowned economist and academic Dr. Bernie Villegas, and ISA Chairman and former DND Usec. Popoy del Rosario, speak on the MIF from various perspectives. We've heard much about the MIF from various politicians and analysts, and it was enlightening to hear new perspectives from business executives.

March was also a meaningful month for our lady members, as it has been designated as Women's Month in the Philippines since 1988. This celebration takes place every year to honor the many accomplishments and qualities of women, and bring attention to the challenges they confront in various aspects of their lives. However, we at FINEX feel that celebrating the strength of women shouldn't be limited to the month of March alone as diversity and gender equity are vital issues that are perpetually relevant, given how women have established themselves as dynamic contributors and participants in the national economy and the business community.

Read the full President's Message [HERE](#).

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PROFILE OF GUEST SPEAKER & PANELISTS

IDA TIONGSON

Governance, Fintech and Blockchain Advocate

Ida is known as a turn-around expert. She is the CEO-President of a multi-billion ING formed company, OPAL Portfolio Investments (SPV-AMC) Inc. managing distressed portfolio. She started as a traditional banker spanning over 22 years in senior management positions in National Australia Bank and Philippine National Bank, before heading OPAL SPV.

She is a Professional Director who sits in several Boards as Independent Director, namely: Chairperson of the Board, Prulife UK Ph, Xurpas Inc., Alipay Philippines and Seedin Technologies Inc.

Ida is also part of Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' Open Finance Oversight Committee Transition Group representing the fintech industry.

Apart from the Institute of Corporate Directors Philippines, she is also a Board Trustee of several associations - Womenbiz Ph, Blockchain Council of the Philippines and two of country's largest fintech associations.

Session moderator Malou Cristobal with Mharicar Castillo-Reyes, Lofreda del Carmen, Gina Oris and Ida Tiongson.



[WATCH THE VIDEO HERE.](#)

LOFREDA DEL CARMEN

President & CEO, Forecasting & Planning Technologies, Inc.

Dada Del Carmen is a successful technopreneur. She is the Chief Software Architect of NOAH Business Applications. President & CEO of Forecasting and Planning Technologies, Inc. and Chairman of NOAHSYS Corporation. Her exemplary leadership for 20 years has led to the development of NOAH Business Applications that digitally supplements, complements, replaces or becomes legacy system of the top conglomerates and private entities in the country spanning from real estate, manufacturing, sales and distribution, banking, holding and other industries.

GINAFLOR C. ORIS

Managing Director, Ayala Corporation

Gina Oris is currently a Managing Director of Ayala Corporation seconded to AC Industrial Technology Holdings, Inc. (AC Industrials). Prior to joining AC Industrials in April 2022, she was a Vice President of Ayala Land, Inc. and was the Chief Finance Officer of Makati Development Corporation (MDC), positions she held for almost 8 years.

MHARICAR CASTILLO-REYES

President & CEO, Asticom Group of Companies

Mharicar Castillo-Reyes is a seasoned leader whose expertise in HR and shared services spheres brought growth and success to companies. On top of having a degree in Psychology from the Philippine Normal University, Mharicar is also a chartered business administrator and has earned several HR certifications in compensation and benefits, Labor Relations and Talent Acquisition. She also completed the Ayala Group Leader's Program under Harvard Business School, Digital Business Strategies under Columbia Business School, and Executive Development Program under Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University.

Meet the **ICON:**

Dennis D. Decena

FINEX President, 1994



Dennis is currently the Chairman of Enterprise Capital Bank.

Before joining Enterprise Capital Bank, he was Senior Vice President and Operations Sector Head at Development Bank of the Philippines. He spent most of his career in banks and real estate companies.

Upon his retirement in 2017, Dennis had served as President in many civic organizations. He also served and is still serving as Director and Trustee to the Board of many private companies.

Among the organizations, with the Rotary is his longest involvement. He has been a Rotarian since 1983 having been served various positions.

Dennis has a post-graduate certificate in International Business from Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University in Massachusetts, U.S.A.

He finished his MBA program at University of the Philippines and his A.B. Economics from Ateneo de Manila University where he graduated Cum Laude.

Dennis is married to Sarah and they have three daughters: Katharine, a US-based medical doctor; Denise, an officer in a Hong Kong-based multinational bank; and Kimberly, financial adviser in a US-based financial services company.

He enjoys retirement and relaxes by playing golf with his friends.



Meet the ICON: **Benedicta "Dick" Du-Baladad** **FINEX President, 2017**

- Dick is the 2017 FINEX President, she pushed for the creation of the committees on Women in Finance (WIF) and Financial Inclusion. During her Chairmanship of the FINEX Foundation the following year (2018), she spearheaded the creation of the FINEX Academy, a center for excellence and learning in capital market development.
- From 2019-2022, she Co-Chaired the Capital Market Development Council and pushed for the completion of the 5-year Blueprint for Capital Market Development in the Philippines.
- In 2009, she founded the corporate and tax law firm Du-Baladad and Associates (BDB Law), a consistently recognized outstanding tax law firm by various international ranking bodies including the Chambers and Partners, International Tax Review, Legal 500, and Asian Legal Business.
- As the corporate social responsibility arm of the Firm, she founded the BDB Law foundation to help address the gaps in humanitarian, cultural, and socio-civic development by focusing on improving the quality of education, sustained livelihood, clean environment, and better health.

The Foundation has built and donated several school buildings, clinics, and other facilities in remote areas of the country, and provided scholarship grants to college students to help them access good education.

- Earlier in her career, she joined the Bureau of Internal Revenue. She was instrumental in the creation of the Large Taxpayers Service which is now responsible for more than 50% of revenue collection of the government.



Atty. Dick is an author of books, a painter, and a farmer. Not only that, she also makes her own line of clothes and is a most proud mother of 4 young gentlemen.

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sa bibig at lalamunan sa
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and throat defense!**



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