

**MAKE
A
DIFFERENCE**

Q1 JAN - MAR 2024



STORY HIGHLIGHTS

EDITH'S Note

SPECIAL FEATURE

2024 FINEX President
Augusto D. Bengzon

Semana Santa: A Reflection
Fr. Marc Will Lim

Intramuros After Dark
Jing Arellano

CLIPS & SEGMENTS

FINEX Events

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Edith's note

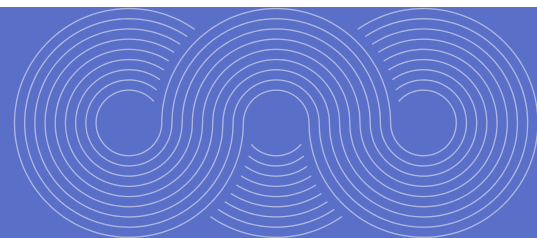
It is another 'new' year for all of us and we continue to strengthen our efforts with programs focused on sustainability and inclusiveness, not to forget staying at the forefront of taking the lead in policies and issues that concern the economic and financial aspects of our country.

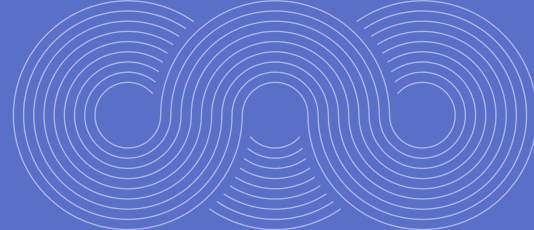
I like to think that FINEX is well on its course in embracing these, coming from the previous annual focus to this year's theme of "Transformational Growth through Sustainability, Digitalization, and Diversity", led by President Augusto "Toti" Bengzon and his Board.

Transformational growth indeed is what FINEX started to do when strategic plans were drafted from the previous year's Board to engage in new approaches of doing things rather than stick to the old and usual ways but not losing focus on what the organization's core vision, mission, and values. This includes finding approaches to deliver values to its members and other stakeholders. Digitalization is slowly being embarked on, expanding strategic partners and reviewing policies and processes. The culture for FINEX is one that should be transparent, innovative, continuous improvement, and forging strategic partnerships.

In the area of sustainability and diversity (or better inclusiveness), FINEX can continue to "lobby" for the prioritization of investments in green energy as well as projects that have social impact. Promoting financial literacy and inclusive banking/financial services will definitely empower the so-called underserved sector of society that will hopefully lead to economic equality.

For this year, by engaging in these areas, FINEX, I believe, can help drive significant changes towards a more sustainable future.





AUGUSTO D. BENGZON

2 0 2 4 F I N E X
P R E S I D E N T



Augusto “Toti” D. Bengzon is the 51st FINEX President.

Toti is a Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer, Chief Compliance Officer, and Treasurer of Ayala Land, Inc. He was named the 2019 ING-FINEX CFO of the Year.

Aside from being the CFO, Chief Compliance Officer, and Treasurer, Toti also leads the Ayala Land group of firms as Director of AREIT, Inc. and Treasurer of Ayala Land Logistics Holdings Corp.

He holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Management from Ateneo de Manila University and a graduate from the Philippine Trust Institute. He was awarded the Andres K. Roxas scholarship at the Asian Institute of Management, where he earned his Master in Business Management degree.

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“This is the real challenge of our times—how we can achieve “transformational growth” in what is perhaps the inflection point that will either see us rise to expected economic success or muddle along with the rest of the world. Which then begs the question, “How do we make it happen?” Allow me to propose three components that I believe drive transformational growth—Sustainability, Diversity, and Digitalization.”

Read [HERE](#) the complete text of President Toti’s message during his inauguration in January.



SEMANA
SANTA

LENT BEYOND NUMBERS

A REFLECTION

by: Fr. Marc Will Lim

The season of lent expects sacrifices that finds its forms in praying, abstinence, fasting and even on almsgiving. On these self-denial efforts, we might find ourselves confined on the frequency of doing them perhaps, at times with the amount or price but, generally on what is quantifiable. Hopefully, we are not lost in the process because the real focus should be in the actual work of “making present” of the ultimate sacrifice the Lord himself offered as a concrete example for all of us to emulate.

We repeatedly hear the words taken from the Bible which goes, “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life.” This sums up the sacrifice we are to consider greatly and it directs us to see such sacrifice both as the object and the subject. Simply put, the one sacrificed is the one who sacrifices. Moreover, for us to appreciate it well, we can understand this more with the words of St. Paul as he explains with the Philippians who Jesus really was along with the wonderful work of salvation he has done as a sacrifice for us all, “though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross”. This self-emptying of Jesus is the real center of the Lenten season. This is what we are to take as a sacrifice.

There are other sacrifices of self-emptying we can consider and the most evident among all is forgiveness. Jesus clearly manifested this even when he was already crucified. He even uttered words so important for us to live by in the presence of those who brought him to the cross, “Father, forgive them, they know not what they do.” Another worth considering is the “washing of the feet”. This gesture which would normally not be done by masters with their servants exacts a moving away from one’s presumed identity in order to be of service to all. Surely, these sacrifices are not to be taken literally since we cannot just embrace physical death or washed feet from here and there. Although, we can make forgiving as an exception.

Forgiveness is not really easy to give. But, as we all know this is more of a gift to the one who gives rather than to the one from which it is given.

It is good to be reminded though that this doesn’t mean we are to give up the challenges of the pillars of Lent such as prayer, fasting and abstinence. Since these too are all articulated well in the Holy Scriptures, what we are saying is that the real focus should be placed at the center so as these pillars might not lead for an unfortunate detour.

INTRAMUROS AFTER DARK TOUR: A WALK THROUGH THE PAST

by: Jing Arellano

On a balmy Saturday night in November, the members and friends of the FINEX Arts and Culture Committee walked around Manila's historic walled city, the Intramuros. Established in 1571 by Miguel Lopez de Legazpi on the south bank of the Pasig River, Intramuros ("within the wall") was the centerstage of Philippine history, having been the seat of power of the Spaniards, then the Americans after the Treaty of Paris, and finally the Japanese during World War II.

For any history lover, a tour of Intramuros is a must. But doing one during nighttime is truly a one-of-a-kind experience. Our guide, Butch Pedalino, veterinarian by day, history buff at night, gave us a two and a half-hour (shortened from the original four hours) history lesson, interspersed with urban legend and commentaries, while walking around the cobbled stones of the walled city. Meeting at Plaza Roma, we walked to Fort Santiago, seeing the prison cell of our national hero Dr. Jose Rizal and even going through the dungeons where 600 decomposing bodies were discovered by American forces after their return in 1945. We returned to the Manila Cathedral for some photographs then moved to the Memorare-Manila, where we lit candles for the more than 100,000 civilians who were killed during the battle for the liberation of Manila. We then walked to the Plaza San Luis Complex where we saw the piedra china (granite from China), which dated even earlier than the Spanish colonization. We finished at the San Agustin Church, the oldest stone church in the country. The warm night lights gave the whole place a golden sheen, making everything look lovely and quite romantic.

Still, while walking around, I could not help but sigh and wish for our nation to give more attention and funding to preserving our history and heritage. Hundred-year-old artifacts are left to the elements without regard for their cultural and educational value. If only we put to heart the words of Dr. Rizal, "Ang hindi marunong lumingon sa pinanggalingan ay hindi makararating sa paroroonan," then we would realize the importance of saving our past.



A Night at the Historic Intramuros
with FINEX Arts and Culture Committee

CLIPS & STANFMENTS



STANFMENTS



CLIPS & SEGMENTS



“Wok-ing Tour of Binondo”

Organized by the FINEX Arts & Culture Committee with Mr. Ivan Man Dy.

CLIPS & SEGMENTS



“Inclusion through Women and Water”

The forum is presented by Financial Inclusion Committee and co-organized by Water.Org



The panelists with FINEX Directors and officers. From left are Joey Camus, Rogelio Sinsgon, Griselda Santos, Atty. Salma Rasul, Heng Bomakara, Mignon Ramos and EJ Qua Hiansen

CLIPS & SEGMENTS



“Empowering Excellence:
Women Leaders Shaping
Good Governance for a
Sustainable Future”

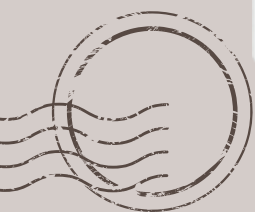


A video message from
Hon. Stella Quimbo



Hon. Anita Aquino, Monetary Board Member, BSP and Dr. Karen Remo, President & Managing Director of New Perspective Media Group with Good Governance Committee officers and members during the talk.

The forum is presented by the Good Governance Committee and sponsored by PHINMA.



CLIPS & SEGMENTS



Social Involvement Committee Financial Literacy Trainings



Diocese of Paranaque



RSPAI- Baler, Aurora



Baler Hotel, Resort, and Restaurant
Owners Association - Baler, Aurora



Jesuit Communications Foundation, Inc.

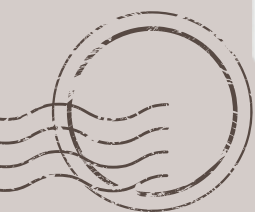
CLIPS & SEGMENTS



Executive Finance
Leadership Program



Congratulations to the first batch of the
Executive Finance Leadership Program!



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Capital Markets
Development Council
Q1 Meeting



First meeting with the new DOF Secretary Ralph G. Recto. Also in the photo are Co-Chair Atty. Francis Lim, and other Council members.



CLIPS & SEGMENTS

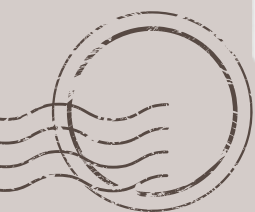


CJ Alexander Gesmundo with JRI Officers

2024 Justice Summit:
"Freedom through
Justice Reforms"



JRI Officers and other Members of the Judiciary were Associate Justice Antonio T. Kho, Jr., Associate Justice Rodil V. Zalameda, Associate Justice Amy C. Lazaro-Javier, Associate Justice Henri Jean Paul B. Inting, Associate Justice Jhosep Y. Lopez, and Associate Justice Maria Filomena D. Singh with Chief Justice Alexander Gesmundo.





FINEX FOCUS

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF FINEX

Transformational Growth through Sustainability, Diversity, and Digitalization



WILSON P. TAN
FINEX FOUNDATION CHAIRMAN

AUGUSTO D. BENGZON
2024 FINEX PRESIDENT

MICHAEL ARCATOMY H. GUARIN
FINEX ACADEMY CHAIRMAN



MARIANA ZOBEL DE AYALA
INDUCTING KEYNOTE SPEAKER &
INDUCTING OFFICER



The 2024 FINEX BOARD OF DIRECTORS. Induction Ceremonies [HERE](#)

ACCEPTANCE SPEECH:
AUGUSTO D. BENGZON P. 4

VALEDICTORY MESSAGE:
WILSON P. TAN P. 3

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FINANCIAL EXECUTIVES INSTITUTES OF THE PHILIPPINES

FORGING AHEAD: ACCELERATING INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE GROWTH



2023
FINEX
DIRECTORY

FD

Q4 2023

One's MOMENT

Treasure every moment as they allow us to relive delightful times in our lives.



AD VER TISE WITH US

Email us: lyn.vizcaya@finex.org.ph