



# 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](#).

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# KEYNOTE SPEAKER & INDUCTING OFFICER



*“Transformational Growth through Sustainability, Diversity, and Digitalization. In my own experience, a focus on these three areas have been incredible catalysts for change and continue to shape the way we look at business today.”*

*-Zobel in her keynote speech during the Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines (FINEX) inaugural meeting.*

**Ms. Mariana Zobel de Ayala** is the Executive Director of Ayala Corporation and concurrent SVP of Ayala Land was the Keynote Speaker and Inducting Officer during the 2024 Induction Ceremonies of the FINEX Institute, FINEX Foundation and FINEX Academy Board of Directors and Trustees. Committee Officers were also sworn into office.

Check out Mariana’s full profile [HERE](#).



[The Top 2024 Global Risks](#) by Ronald Goseco

[Failing forward](#) by Rey Lugtu

[Management style, the middle way](#) by Benel Laguna

**[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11976, Ease of Paying Taxes Act](#)**

A primer on the features of RA 11976 on Ease of Paying Taxes for your easy reference by BDB Law

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# VALEDICTORY MESSAGE

by Wilson P. Tan, Outgoing FINEX President

As I reflect upon the past year, it feels like just yesterday when the 2023 FINEX Board and I were inducted into office by Honorable Alfredo E. Pascual on January 23, 2023. The ensuing months have been a journey marked by challenges, resilience, and the unwavering commitment of the FINEX community.

The last few years have been fraught with difficulties and tribulations, primarily due to the global pandemic. However, as we gradually emerge from the shadows of the pandemic, financial professionals and their organizations are still grappling with the implications of the "new normal." The unpredictable and turbulent nature of COVID-19 has compelled us to adapt to disruptions, presenting an ongoing challenge for us all. Yet, amidst this uncertainty, there is an undeniable sense of optimism as we navigate through unfamiliar territory.

People, by nature, have proven to be remarkably adaptable and capable in the face of extraordinary situations. This adaptability is both a privilege and a challenge for business leaders like us. Managing an organization during times of uncertainty requires strategic foresight, resilience, and a commitment to guiding our teams through uncharted waters.

FINEX has been at the forefront of pandemic-related recovery initiatives, going above and beyond to support its members and contribute to the broader economic landscape. As we transition our focus from mere resilience to sustained growth, the theme for this year, "Forging Ahead: Accelerating Inclusive and Sustainable Growth," encapsulates the organization's commitment to progress and



inclusivity. As one of the country's leading movers in business and the economy, FINEX recognizes the importance of pushing forward financial inclusion, resilience, and sustainability.

The core values of FINEX, captured in our DNA - Development, Networking, and Advocacy - have remained constant throughout these changing times. Professional development, collaborative networking, and impactful advocacy continue to be the cornerstones of our organization's identity. In the spirit of collaborative growth, FINEX is dedicated to facilitating thought leadership and learning opportunities for its members.

In conclusion, the success of the initiatives we have undertaken last year was a testament to the dedication of our Committee Chairs, Co-Chairs, Vice Chairs, and members. Likewise, I would like to thank my dynamic and very supportive Board of Directors for their dedication in ensuring that FINEX remains the preeminent organization for finance executives in the country.

Read the full text of his message [HERE](#).

# ACCEPTANCE SPEECH

by Augusto D. Bengzon, 2024 FINEX President



Leading think tanks, analysts, and multilateral agencies have recently forecasted that the Philippines will be a high-middle-income country within this decade and the eighteenth-largest economy in the world by 2050. This growth is expected to be fueled by our traditional economic drivers of remittances and BPO revenues, coupled with the demographic dividends from a growing and young population. It is against this backdrop that corporations and entrepreneurs have developed their plans and budgets to make the necessary investments that will allow them to capture opportunities and expand their businesses. And yet, given the volatile environment filled with the complex issues that we face, it can be difficult to imagine how we can achieve our growth agenda. As I reflected on these, I was reminded of a quote attributed to Andy Grove that best summarizes his book *Only the Paranoid Survive*: "A corporation is a living organism; it has to continue to shed its skin. Methods have to change. Focus has to change. Values have to change. The sum total of those changes is transformation". 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.

FINEX Plans for 2024.

Your Board of Directors, together with our committee chairpersons, have just completed its planning sessions, and I am pleased to note that the various professional and personal development programs to be undertaken during the year, together with the advocacies that we support as an organization, will be of interest and relevance to our members. We have a roster of prestigious speakers and expert resource persons for our upcoming meetings and conferences. On February 21, we will have Maharlika Chairman Joel Consing. On March 20, we are excited to hear from BSP Governor Eli Remolona, and we await confirmation from Finance Secretary Ralph Recto to grace our April 17 general membership meeting. We are now assembling our next set of industry leaders who will provide insights on sustainability, diversity, and digitalization and how they are shaping their respective growth agendas. Taken all together, we hope that FINEX will be able to support you in your own transformational growth journey.

Thank you for attending this first General Membership Meeting, and I look forward to your active participation and engagement throughout the year.

Read the full text of his message [HERE](#).

# FINEX-IN-ACTION



FINEX Life ICONS Year-end Fellowship [HERE](#)



Financial literacy training for the parishioners of St. Jerome Emiliani & Sta. Susana Parish in Alabang [HERE](#)



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



FINEX Foundation and Pag-IBIG Fund signs Agreement [HERE](#)



FINEX Secretariat Christmas and Year-end Fellowship [HERE](#)