

ICONIC PINOY
MAHARLIKA



SHOWCASING FILIPINO JOURNEYS

The One & Only "Iconic Pinoy Maharlika"
Showcasing the Achievement and success stories of Icons from all walks of life.

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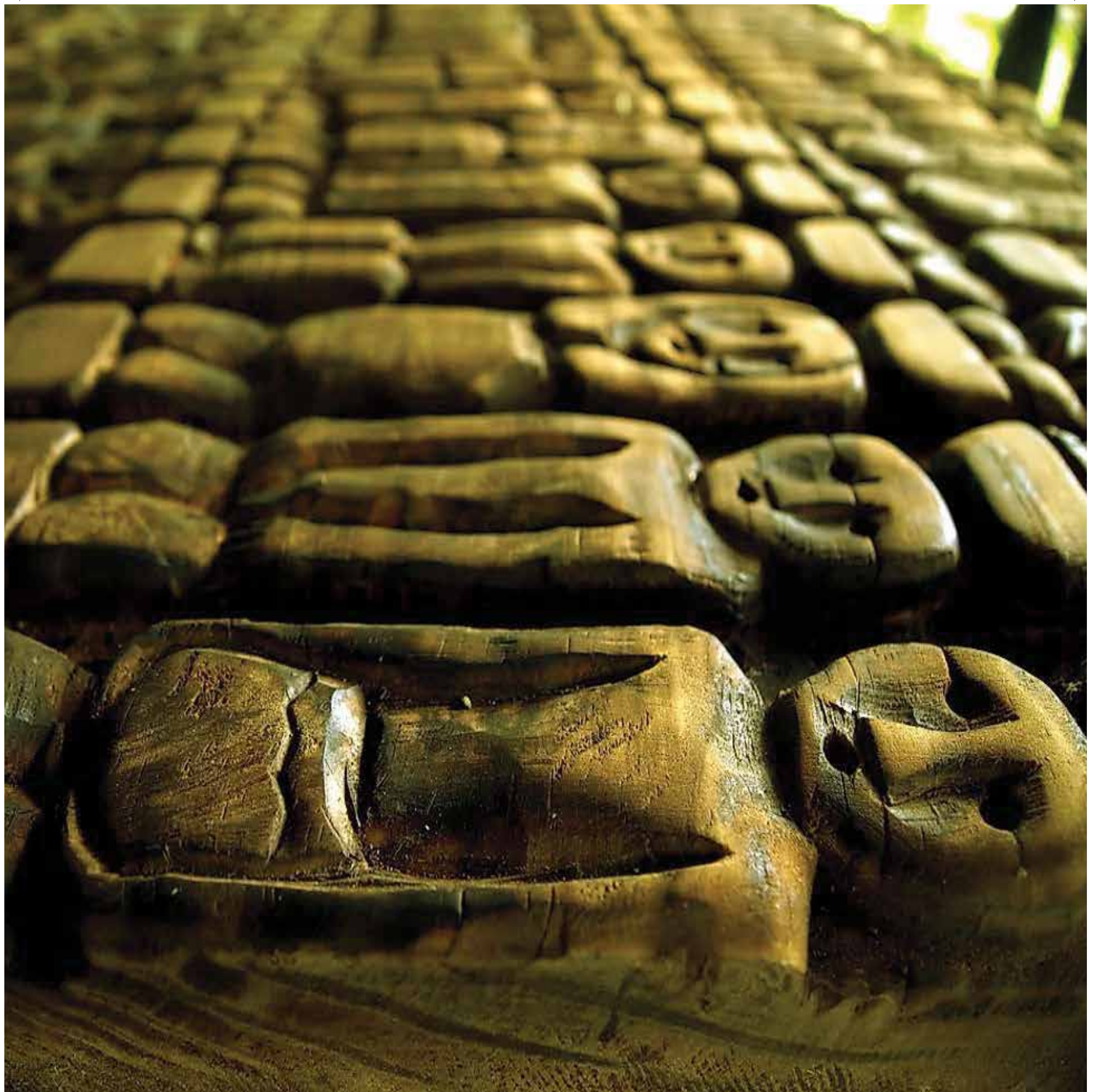
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History with Culture









*Glorious
Past*



H.E.. Ferdinand "Bongbong" Romualdez Marcos Jr.

President of the Philippines





Hon. Sara Z. Duterte

Vice President and Secretary of Education - Philippines





EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

سفارة جمهورية الفلبين أبوظبي

ABU DHABI

MESSAGE

The Philippine Embassy in Abu Dhabi takes pride in the achievements of Filipinos abroad, especially the one-million strong Filipino community in the UAE. Therefore, any effort to amplify the achievements of Filipinos is assured of the Embassy's staunch support.

Beyond the achievements and extraordinary feats of the Filipinos featured in the book "Iconic Pinoy Maharlika", it is my hope that readers will be inspired by the quintessential Filipino traits and values that were the essential ingredients that allowed these individuals to achieve what they have accomplished.

The running thread, and underlying message of this book, seems to be that the Filipino is free to aspire to great accomplishments and undertakings, for that is the definition of a *maharlika*, a freeman. This aspiration is aided by the innate strengths of the Filipino, which includes resilience amidst adversity, adaptability, family-centeredness and deep spirituality.

May this book awaken in all Filipinos pride in our country and people.

My warmest congratulations to all who made this book possible.


ALFONSO A. VER
Ambassador



EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE



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It is with great pleasure and honor that I endorse this remarkable book, *"Iconic Pinoy Maharlika: Celebrating Global Filipino Achievers,"* which encapsulates the extraordinary achievements of Filipinos around the world. This book serves as a testament to the indomitable spirit and unwavering resilience of the Filipino people, who have consistently proven their mettle in various fields and industries across the globe.

As an Ambassador of Zimbabwe, I have personally witnessed the immense contributions and impact of the Filipino diaspora, wherever I have met them across the globe. Filipinos are renowned for their exceptional work ethic, cheerful disposition, and unparalleled dedication to their craft. The stories shared within these pages vividly depict their unwavering commitment to excellence and their remarkable ability to overcome challenges with grace and determination.

Through the lens of *"Iconic Pinoy Maharlika"* readers are granted a glimpse into the rich tapestry of Filipino culture, highlighting the values and traditions that have shaped the lives of these global achievers. The book serves as a celebration of their accomplishments while also shedding light on the unique qualities that make Filipinos a truly exceptional group of individuals.

From groundbreaking innovations in science and technology to groundbreaking contributions in the arts, sports, and humanitarian endeavors, the Filipino achievers showcased in this book have left an indelible mark in their respective fields. Their stories serve as an inspiration not only to their fellow Filipinos but to people of all backgrounds, demonstrating the heights that can be reached through hard work, perseverance, and an unyielding passion for excellence.

Moreover, *"Iconic Pinoy Maharlika"* stands as a testament to the power of unity and the enduring spirit of the Filipino people. It showcases the collective strength that emerges when individuals come together to pursue a common goal and uplift one another. It is a reminder that success is not solely measured by individual achievements but also by the positive impact we can have on our communities and the world at large.

I commend the dedicated authors, researchers, and contributors who have meticulously crafted this invaluable piece of literature, showcasing the achievements and stories of these exceptional individuals. Their effort in compiling this book is a testament to their commitment to promoting the Filipino spirit and showcasing the global influence of the Filipino people.

I wholeheartedly endorse *"Iconic Pinoy Maharlika: Celebrating Global Filipino Achievers"* as a must-read for anyone seeking inspiration, insight, and a deep appreciation for the Filipino culture and the remarkable achievements of its people. May this book inspire future generations of Filipinos to continue striving for greatness, embodying the values of hard work, resilience, and joy that are ingrained in the Filipino spirit.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mazemo', written over a horizontal line.

Lovemore Mazemo
Ambassador of the Republic of Zimbabwe to the United Arab Emirates

30 November 2023



University
for Peace



PREFACE

It is with great pleasure and enthusiasm that I extend my endorsement for the remarkable book, "Iconic Pinoy Maharlika: Celebrating Global Filipino Achievers." This book serves as a poignant tribute to the exceptional achievements of Filipinos worldwide, showcasing their cultural richness, ingenuity, and unwavering spirit.

As an Ambassador for Global Peace from the United Nations U-Peace, I have had the privilege of witnessing the positive impact that Filipino individuals have made in promoting peace, harmony, and understanding across borders. The stories shared within this book are a testament to the extraordinary contributions of the Filipino people, who have demonstrated their remarkable work ethic, resilience, and infectious cheerfulness in the face of challenges.

"Iconic Pinoy Maharlika" paints a vivid picture of the vibrant Filipino culture while celebrating the achievements of Filipino individuals who have excelled in various fields around the world. Through their unwavering determination and commitment to excellence, these global Filipino achievers have become beacons of inspiration for generations to come.

This book encapsulates the essence of the Filipino spirit, highlighting the values of hard work, perseverance, and compassion that are deeply ingrained in the Filipino people. The stories within these pages serve as a powerful testament to the transformative power of unity, resilience, and the unwavering pursuit of peace.

I commend the dedicated authors, researchers, and contributors who have painstakingly compiled this treasure trove of stories. Their efforts in showcasing the achievements of global Filipino achievers are not only a source of pride for the Filipino community but also a source of inspiration for individuals around the world.

In endorsing "Iconic Pinoy Maharlika: Celebrating Global Filipino Achievers," I wholeheartedly recommend this book as an essential read for those seeking to understand and appreciate the diverse tapestry of Filipino culture and the extraordinary accomplishments of its people. May the stories within these pages continue to inspire future generations to embrace their heritage, strive for excellence, and work towards a more peaceful and inclusive world.

Best wishes


H.E. Zulfiqar Ghadiyali
Global Peace Ambassador
United Nations, University for Peace.
Member-Commission for Peace



Message of Congratulations

It is with immense pride and deep admiration that I was given a chance to endorse to you this extraordinary coffee table book, "Iconic Pinoy Maharlika: Celebrating Global Filipino Achievements." Within these pages, you embark on a captivating journey through the remarkable stories of Filipinos who have achieved greatness across the globe. Through their outstanding success and unwavering spirit, they embody the rich culture, exceptional traits, and indomitable resilience that define the Filipino diaspora.

As the pages unfold, we delve into the lives of these extraordinary individuals who have left an indelible mark in their respective fields. Their achievements transcend borders and boundaries, serving as a testament to the limitless potential and unrivalled talent that reside within the Filipino community.

This coffee table book is a celebration of the Filipino diaspora—a mosaic of triumph, inspiration, and perseverance. It seeks to honour the diverse accomplishments of Filipinos worldwide, highlighting their ingenuity, creativity, and unwavering dedication. From business titans to artistic visionaries, scientific pioneers to influential community leaders, their collective achievements demonstrate the profound impact and global influence of the Filipino spirit.

Gladly, that I will be sharing my personal experiences dealing with Filipinos at the work front.

This book was done perfectly through meticulous research, interviews, and stunning visuals, DCom Publisher has curated a collection that embodies the essence of Filipino excellence. Each story is a testament to the tireless work ethic, infectious cheerfulness, and unyielding resilience that are inherent in the Filipino culture. Despite the challenges faced along their journeys, these individuals have consistently demonstrated an unwavering determination to overcome obstacles, proving that the Filipino spirit knows no bounds.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude for the invite to write about this book and outspreading that to the individuals featured within, whose stories have illuminated the path for countless others to dream bigger, reach higher, and strive for greatness. Your accomplishments have not only brought honour to your beloved Philippines but have also inspired generations to embrace their heritage and pursue their aspirations with unwavering passion.

I also would like to extend our sincerest appreciation to the readers of this book, not only in UAE but globally who will also share in the recognition and celebration of Filipino achievements. It is my hope that as you immerse yourselves in the captivating narratives and stunning visuals, you will be stirred by a sense of pride and inspired to make your own mark on the tapestry of humanity.

"Iconic Pinoy Maharlika: Celebrating Global Filipino Achievements" is a tribute to the enduring spirit of the Filipino people—a testament to your ability to thrive and succeed, no matter the circumstances. As you explore the pages of this book, may you be filled with awe, admiration, and an unshakable belief in the limitless potential that resides within every Filipino.

Again, my sincere gesture and opportunity to thank all the Filipinos who were and still are working with us – in one or the other way, at IFZA.

Mabuhay ang Sambayanang Pilipino!


Jochen Knecht

29th November 2023



IFZA Business Park, Silicon Oasis
Dubai, United Arab Emirates

FOREWORD



It is with immense pride and profound excitement that I offer my wholehearted endorsement for the extraordinary book, "Iconic Pinoy Maharlika: Celebrating the Global Filipino Achievers." This remarkable publication artistically compiled the journey stories of Global Filipino Achievers and beautifully portrays the essence of our Filipino culture, showcasing the ingenuity, work ethics, and unwavering spirit of my co-Filipinos who have

excelled worldwide on their chosen careers and crafts.

As a brand ambassador, I have had the privilege of witnessing the remarkable talents and accomplishments of fellow Filipinos across various industries and nations. The journey stories shared within this book serve as a testament to our collective excellence, resilience, and unwavering dedication to our craft.

"Iconic Pinoy Maharlika" is a testament to the unwavering spirit of patriotism that runs through our veins. It encapsulates the stories of all Filipino Achievers who have not only brought honor to our nation but have also become global inspirations. This book celebrates our rich cultural heritage, emphasizing the values of hard work, cheerfulness, and unwavering resilience that define us as a people.

Through the pages of this book, readers will be captivated by the remarkable journeys of these Global Filipino Achievers. Their stories serve as a testament

to the heights we can reach when we embrace our heritage, nurture our talents, and pursue our dreams with unwavering determination. I commend the co-authors, curators, publishers, sponsors and contributors of "Iconic Pinoy Maharlika" for their dedication and tireless efforts in bringing this book to fruition. The commitment to showcasing the achievements and contributions of my co-Filipino achievers is a testament to our passion in promoting our culture and inspiring future generations.

In endorsing "Iconic Pinoy Maharlika: Celebrating the Global Filipino Achievers," I wholeheartedly recommend this book as a source of inspiration for every Filipino, young and old. May it serve as a reminder of our collective potential, instilling a sense of pride and fueling our determination to carry on the legacy of excellence set by all Global Filipino Achievers who are continuously thriving in all parts of world.

Together, let us celebrate our culture, embrace our ingenuity, and continue to shine as the "Maharlikas of the Century".

Mabuhay tayong mga PILIPINO, Mabuhay ang PILIPINAS!!!!

OWEN SP SANCHEZ

ICONIC PINOY MAHARLIKA

Brand Ambassador

Once again, I would like to thank all the Community members for giving me this opportunity to work on this wonderful project, not to miss the long waiting and calls but it all ending in great meetings and hospitality. *"It's a usual line ... but thats true"*

Each person and their family in a class of their own, there is lot to see, lot to learn and lot to write about them. Many we missed to meet yet felt the aura and grace while working on the designs.

Like always I say.... Initially seemed like a daunting task, but when I started all I had a vision which was supported by some great team ... also I want to thank all the members in this journey, who not only stood by me also encouraged me to continue the work on this Coffee Table Book, they constantly were guiding me all through to make this book a memorable one as each had a great source of content. Rest I'm sure the details of the book will explain.

On a personal note - many of the Icons are so different and motivating that I would like to visit their home town and make a documentary film. I dedicate this book to my parents, as the initial idea was given by my mother. I also would like to thank my boss Teena Bhargava.

So let's meet over a drink... *Though I prefer Tea :)*



Vikas Bhargava

Author / Publisher / Creative Cook of the Book



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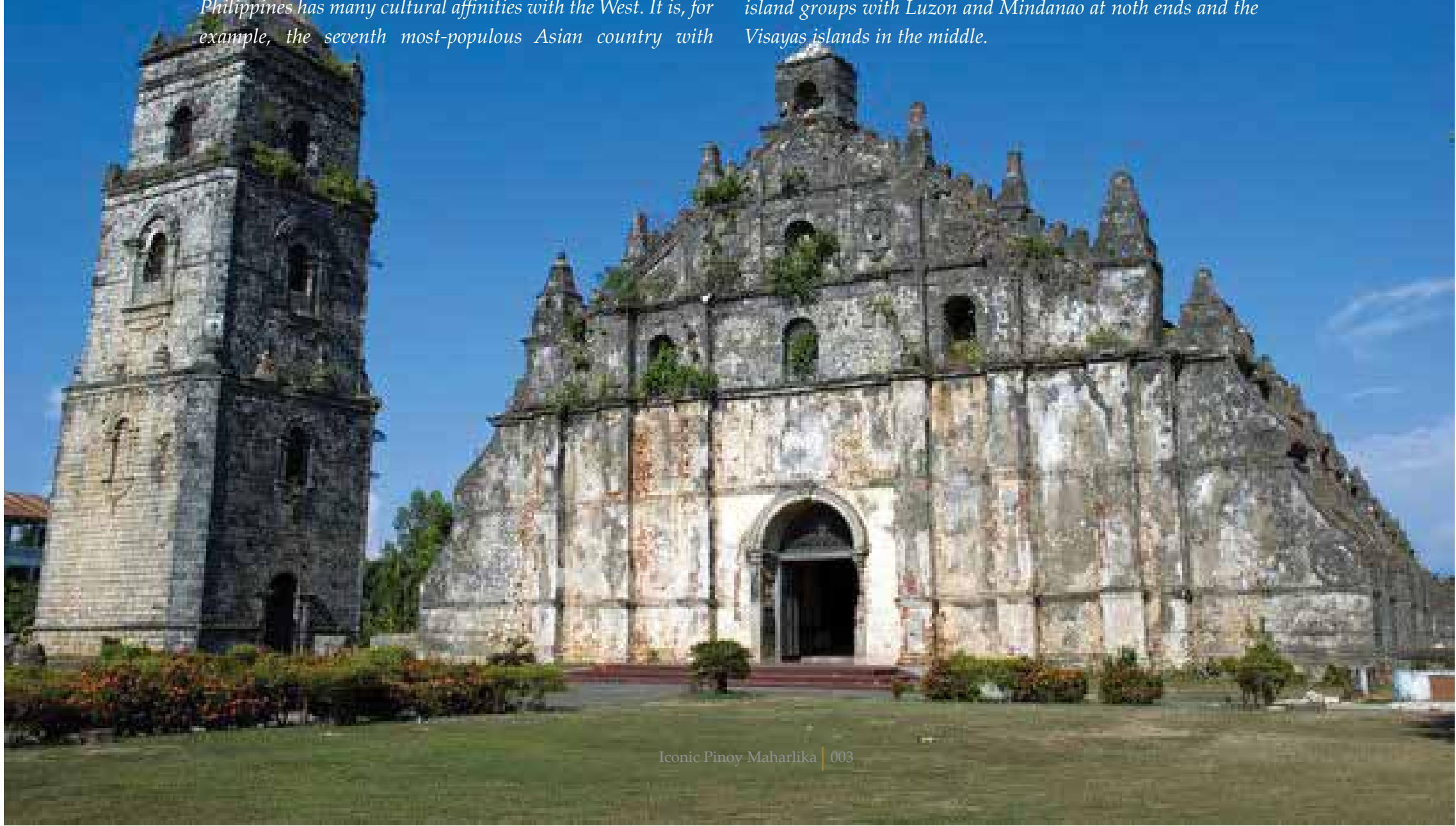
A Short History

Philippines, island country of Southeast Asia in the western Pacific Ocean. It is an archipelago consisting of more than 7,000 islands and islets lying about 910 miles (1460 km) off the coast of Vietnam. Manila is the capital, but nearby Quezon City is the country's most-populous city. Both are part of the National Capital Region (Metro Manila), located in Luzon, the largest island. The second largest island of the Philippines is Mindanao, in the south.

The Philippines takes its name from Philip II, who was king of Spain during the Spanish colonization of the islands in 1521 by Ferdinand Magellan. Because it was under Spanish rule for 333 years and under U.S. tutelage for a further 48 years, the Philippines has many cultural affinities with the West. It is, for example, the seventh most-populous Asian country with

English as an official language and one of only two predominantly Roman Catholic countries in Asia (the other being East Timor). Despite the prominence of such Anglo-European cultural characteristics, the peoples of the Philippines are Asian in consciousness and aspiration.

March 1521 when Ferdinand Magellan, a Portuguese explorer sailing for Spain, landed in Philippines. In 1542-1546 Spanish explorer expedition, Ruy López de Villalobos named the islands of Leyte and Samar "Felipinas" after King Philip II of Castile (then Prince of Asturias). Eventually, the name "Las Islas Filipinas" would be used for the archipelago's Spanish possessions. Today the Philippines is recognized as three major island groups with Luzon and Mindanao at noth ends and the Visayas islands in the middle.





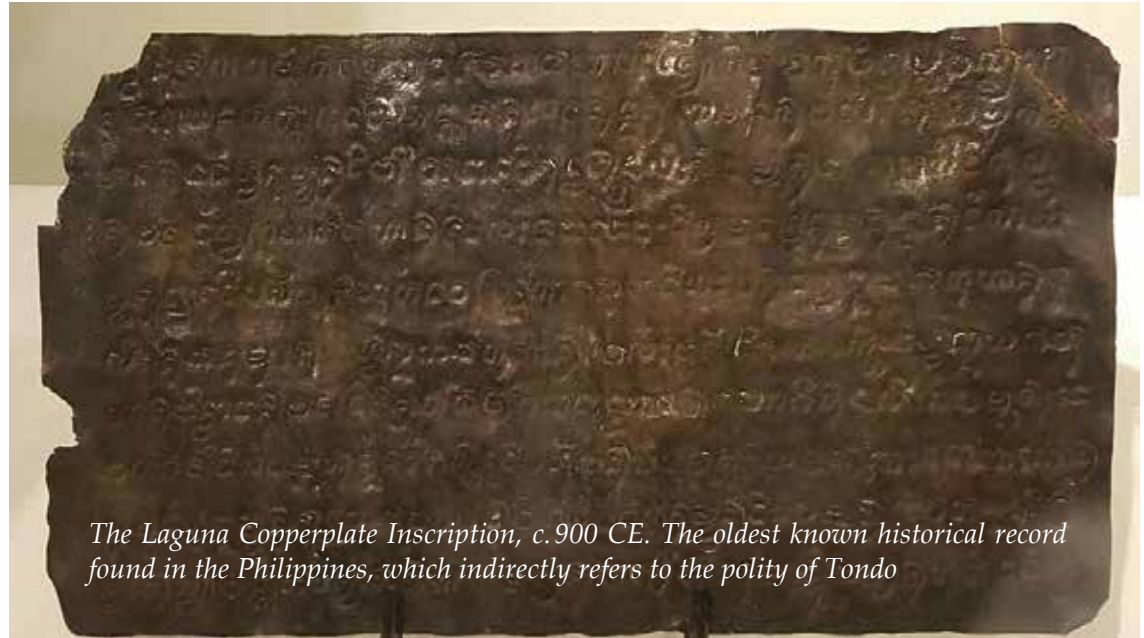
Interesting facts

- There are 7,641 islands. ...
- There are 6 official National Symbols. .. Sampaguita flower, Narra hardwood tree, Philippine Eagle, Philippine pearl, Arnis martial art and Filipino sign language. There is the flag, seal, coat of arms and motto and the language.
- The National Flag of the Philippines has great symbolic meaning. ...
- The Philippines was a Spanish colony for over 333 years. ...
- America ruled the Philippines for 48 years. ...

Historical values: The earliest known hominin remains in the Philippines is the fossil discovered in 2007 in the Callao Caves in Cagayan. The 67,000-year-old find predates the 47,000-year-old Tabon Man, which was until then the earliest known set of human remains in the archipelago.

Oldest City: Cebu, with the population of 2.5 million, is the oldest city and the first capital of the Philippines. Under Spanish rule for three centuries, Cebu has the oldest school founded in 1595, San Carlos and which became a University in 1948, and the oldest street, Colon Street, built by the Spaniards.

Rules: There are reliable records for the main periods of Philippine history: Spanish rule (1521–1898) American rule (1898–1946) Japanese occupation (1941–1946) That's why it is a culture where East meets West. The Filipino people have a distinct Asian background, with a strong Western tradition. The modern Filipino culture developed through influence from Chinese and Arab traders, Spanish conquistadors, and American rulers.



The Laguna Copperplate Inscription, c.900 CE. The oldest known historical record found in the Philippines, which indirectly refers to the polity of Tondo

The Philippines is called Asia's pearl of the orient for the richness of its culture and the beauty of its landscape. It is home to centuries old churches, turn of the century mansions, ancient forts and modern museums. The Philippines is an archipelago comprising 7,641 islands. The Philippines is blessed with abundant natural resources — this is their pride and soul. This is also their lifeline. This is where they get their food for everyday sustenance. That is why their economy thrives.

The History

The earliest historical record of local polities and kingdoms is the Laguna Copperplate Inscription, which indirectly refers to the Tagalog settlement of Tondo (AD 900–1589) and two to three other settlements believed to be located in Manila, Laguna, Mindoro, Pangasinan. As well as settlements in Cebu, Panay, Bohol, Butuan, Cotabato, Lanao, Zamboanga and Sulu.

Uniqueness

The Philippines is made of more than 7,641 islands. In addition, on every island there is a paradise to be found, unique food to eat, a singular culture to experience and new people to meet. The sheer

amount of beaches to enjoy is almost uncountable.

The Largest City

Quezon City (Tagalog- Lungsod Quezon) is the largest city in the Philippines and is one of the constituent cities of Metro Manila. Commonly called QC or Kyusi, it has a population of about 3,1 million people.

Finest cities: *(not clear what the criteria used for this)*

- Daraga, Albay.
- Vigan City, Ilocos Sur
- Silay City, Negros Occidental
- Alaminos, Pangasinan
- Basco, Batanes

Languages

Tagalog and Cebuano are the most commonly spoken native languages, together comprising about half of the population of the Philippines. Hiligaynon and Ilokano are also widely spoken.

Only Filipino and English are official languages taught in schools.

First two names

Some people may have two given names (e.g. Jose Mario), reflecting the Spanish custom of dual names. The mother's paternal family name (or maiden name) effectively acts as the person's 'middle name', while the father's paternal family name operates as the person's 'surname'. As this archipelago nation was under Spanish rule for over 300 years, many names commonly used in the Philippines today are Spanish versions of Christian names. Then, the rule of the United States for nearly 50 years brought in English names and those associated with American pop culture.

Gender name

Filipino is the Hispanized (or Anglicized) way of referring to both the people and the language in the Philippines. Note that it is also correct to say Filipino for a male and Filipina for a female.

Religion

Indigenous Philippine folk religions (collectively referred to as Anitism or Bathalism), the traditional religion of Filipinos which predates Philippine Christianity and Islam, is practiced by an estimated 2% of the population, made up of many indigenous peoples, tribal groups, and people who have reverted into... The Philippines proudly boasts to be the only Christian nation in Asia. More than 80.2 percent of the population is Roman Catholic, 6 percent belong to various nationalized Christian cults, and another 2 percent belong to well over 100 Protestant denominations. In 1380, the Sunni Shafi'i Ash'ari and Sufi Shaykh Makhdum Karim reached the Sulu Archipelago and Jolo in the Philippines and established Islam(5.6%) in the country through trade in several regions of the island. In 1390, Minangkabau Prince Rajah Baguinda and his followers preached Islam on the islands.

The first queen

Purificacion Garcia Villanueva was born in the town of Arevalo, Iloilo to Emilio Villanueva and Emilia Garcia. Her mother was born in Palencia, Spain. In 1908, at age 22, Pura Villanueva became the first "Queen of the Manila Carnival."

Japan invasion

The objective of the strikes at Pearl Harbor and the Philippines was to shield Japan's drive southward to seize the oil and natural resources of Southeast Asia and the Dutch East Indies.

Oldest Tribes

As records, these are The Negritos and the Austronesians.

Why is the Philippines called

Maharlika?

The Maharlika-meaning freeman or freedman, were the feudal warrior class in ancient Tagalog society in Luzon, the Philippines. They belonged to the lower nobility class similar to the timawa of the Visayan people, however, the word has come to refer to aristocrats or to royal nobility of society.



Economy

According to the World Bank classification, the Philippines is a lower middle-income country with a GNI per capita equal to USD 3,950 in 2022 and one of the emerging market economies in the East Asia and the Pacific region boasting a globally-recognized competitive workforce. The agricultural sector is a major component of the Philippine economy, although it contributes only about 8.8% of gross domestic product (GDP) in 2022. Crops can be grown throughout the year in the country's rich and fertile soils, and the sector employs nearly one-third of the total workforce. The principal farm products are sugarcane, rice, coconuts, bananas, corn (maize), and pineapples. Additional products include mangoes, citrus, papayas, and other tropical fruits; coffee and tobacco; and various fibres such as abaca (Manila hemp) and maguey, which are used mainly to make rope. A wide variety of vegetables are raised for domestic consumption.

Natural Resources

Most of the country's metallic minerals, including gold, iron ore, lead, zinc, chromite and copper are drawn from major deposits on the islands of Luzon and Mindanao. Smaller deposits of silver, nickel, mercury, molybdenum, cadmium, and manganese occur in several other locations.

Blessed Love

The Philippines is a land of rich natural beauty and cultural diversity. From the ancient walls of Intramuros in Manila to the revolving tower restaurant in Pasig City, to the white-sand beach

of Boracay, there is something for everyone to love in the Philippines.

Neighbor

the country closest to the Philippines is Taiwan. Taiwan is located to the north of the Philippines and separated from the northernmost Philippine island of Luzon by the Luzon Strait, which is about 250 kilometers (155 miles) wide at its narrowest point.

An Identity

A sense of national identity and pride emerged out of struggles for Philippine independence. However, loyalties remain foremost with one's family and place of birth. Key values such fellowship; respect and acceptance are found throughout the culture, with many Filipinos displaying a warming and hospitable demeanor. A true Filipino is defined by his or her total embrace of the collective values and culture of the Filipino society, and being proud of it. A true Filipino not only imbibes but radiates as well the Filipino characters that are unique to them.

Climate:

The climate of the Philippines is tropical and strongly monsoonal (i.e., wet-dry). In general, rain-bearing winds blow from the southwest from approximately May to October, and drier winds come from the northeast from November to February. Thus, temperatures remain relatively constant from north to south during the year, and seasons consist of periods of wet and dry.



Some Other Facts

- Francisca Susano, who is believed to be the 'oldest person in the world' and the last woman alive to be born in the 1800s, died in the Philippines at the age of 124. Born on Sept. 11, 1897, Francisca Susano breathed her last on the evening of November 22, 2021.

- Filipinos are predominantly of Malay descent, frequently with Chinese and sometimes American or Spanish ancestry. Many Filipinos have Spanish names because of a 19th-century Spanish decree that required them to use Spanish surnames, or last names.

- José Protacio Rizal Mercado y Alonso Realonda, best known as the "Father of the Philippines," was a polymath who came to embody the struggle against European colonialism in Asia, and the visible head of the Philippine nationalist movement at the end of the nineteenth century.

- A number of locations in the Philippines have been designated as UNESCO World Heritage sites. These include four 16th-century baroque churches built by the Spanish in Manila, Santa Maria, Paoay, and Miag-ao (collectively designated in 1993), the 16th-century trading town of Vigan (1999) in northwestern Luzon, and the ancient rice terraces of the northern Luzon cordilleras (1995). The other 3 are natural sites like the Puerto Princesa Subterranean River, Tubbataha Reefs and the Mount Hamiguitan Range wildlife sanctuary.

- Local nongovernmental organizations such as the Heritage Conservation Society and some historical groups have also sought to preserve the local heritage.

Animals & Birds:

The Philippines are inhabited by more than 200 species of mammals, including water buffalo (carabao), goats, horses, hogs, cats, dogs, monkeys, squirrels, lemurs, mice, pangolins (scaly anteaters), chevrotains (mouse deer), mongooses, civet cats, and red and brown deer, among others. The tamarau (*Anoa mindorensis*), a species of small water buffalo, is found only on Mindoro. Of more than 50 species of bats, many are peculiar to the Philippines. Hundreds of species of birds live in the Philippines, either for all or part of the year. Prominent birdlife includes jungle fowl, pigeons, peacocks, pheasants, doves, parrots, hornbills,

kingfishers, sunbirds, tailorbirds, weaverbirds, herons, and quails. Many species are endemic to the island of Palawan. The endangered Philippine eagle (*Pithecophaga jefferyi*) is limited mainly to isolated areas on Mindanao and in the Sierra Madre on Luzon.

Dresses

Although slacks, shirts, skirts, and dresses based on European designs are common throughout the Philippines, some garments are unique to particular groups or regions. The malong, a colourful woven tube of cloth that can be worn in a variety of ways by both men and women, is characteristic of Muslim communities in Mindanao. In the urban areas, many men wear an intricately embroidered shirt, the barong, for casual and formal events. On special occasions, urban women may wear the terno, a long dress characterized by broad "butterfly" sleeves that rise slightly at the shoulders and extend about to the elbow. Many of the smaller ethnic groups have characteristic attire for events of special cultural significance.



Food



Whether festival fare or everyday food, major meals in most Filipino societies are built around boiled or steamed rice or rice noodles. Small amounts of meat, including chicken, pork (in non-Muslim communities), goat, or fish complement the rice or noodle core, along with an assortment of fruits and cooked vegetables. Assorted alcoholic drinks are made from coconut sap, sugarcane, and rice. Balut, a parboiled embryonic duck still in the egg, is a popular street food in the Manila area. Many Filipinos consider adobo, the national dish of the Philippines. The perfect adobo lies in the delicate balance of soy sauce, vinegar, garlic and spices (bay leaves and fresh ground peppercorns).

Art & Music

Early Spanish chroniclers testified that the Filipinos carved the images of their anitos (gods and goddesses) and ancestors in wood. They also played a variety of musical instruments, including end-blown flutes, nose flutes, jew's harps, gongs, drums, and lutes, among others. Various seasonal celebrations (e.g., harvest) and life rituals (e.g., courtship and marriage) called for certain instrumental music, songs, and dances. For instance, in some of the Muslim communities of Mindanao and the Sulu Archipelago, the kulintang ensemble, consisting of a set of gongs suspended horizontally and vertically and a single-headed drum, can still be heard at festive events. Some of the local dance traditions have been preserved or reinterpreted by contemporary performing

groups, such as Bayanihan (the national folk dance company of the Philippines). To encourage the development of arts, the government gives awards of recognition and maintains a National Arts Center (established 1976), which includes the Philippine High School for the Arts in Los Baños, south of Manila.



Sports and Recreation

A number of sports introduced by the Americans in the early 20th century enjoy great popularity in the Philippines. Basketball and Baseball are particularly prominent, with amateur games occurring regularly in neighborhoods throughout the country. However, there are six major sports in the Philippines: basketball, boxing, tennis, football, billiards, and volleyball. Over time, basketball was able to captivate every Filipino's heart. It is the most played and the most popular sport for the Filipinos. The Philippine Basketball Association was a league founded in April 1975. The country has produced many legends in Sports Industry



Filipinos have excelled in various internationally competitive martial arts, including boxing, wushu, and tae kwon do, while local Filipino martial arts traditions have experienced a resurgence since the end of the 20th century. The country has produced champion boxers in competitions hosted by the World Boxing Association, and the Philippines has taken several medals in martial arts in the Asian and Southeast Asian Games.

The Philippines has participated in the Summer Olympic Games since 1924 and in the Winter Games since 1972. Filipino athletes generally have been most successful in swimming, boxing, and track and field events. Cockfighting (sabong), an age-old pastime in the Philippines, has retained a passionate following. It is a popular form of gambling, with many spectators betting on the outcome of the fights. Although practiced throughout the country, cockfighting is most strongly associated with Cebu.





Films

The Filipino film industry was one of the busiest and bustling film communities in Asia, releasing an average of 350 films a year making Philippines. Even with the problems currently facing motion pictures around the world, films are still considered one of the popular forms of entertainment among the Filipino people, directly employing some 260,000 Filipinos and generating around 2 billion revenues annually. Among its neighbors in Southeast Asia, Philippine cinema remains as the strongest in the Southeast Asian region with the majority of films made in the region came from the Philippines along with the film industries of Thailand and Indonesia. On September 12, 2019, the film industry celebrated its One Hundred Years of Philippine Cinema, which declares the same day up until September 11, 2020, as Philippine Cinema's Centennial Year.

The COVID-19 pandemic had an enormously negative effect on the film industry

Fashion

Fashion and clothing in the Philippines refers to the way the people of the Philippine society generally dress up at home, at work, travelling and during special occasions. Clothing and fashion are signifiers of identity, the social fabric of society, and markers of cultural beliefs and historical change. Filipiniana clothing such as the Maria Clara gown, the terno, and cultural dress have played important roles in the heritage of the Philippines.

The clothing style and fashion sense of the Philippines in the modern-day era have been influenced by the indigenous tribes, Chinese waves of immigration, the Spaniards, and the Americans, as evidenced by the chronology of events that occurred in Philippine history. At present, Filipinos conform their way of dressing based on classic fashion or prevailing fashion trends.

Apart from Western influence, the Philippine style of clothing was dictated by its climate. With a tropical climate (dry and rainy seasons), indigenous groups wore and to this day still wear colorful woven clothes, often with intricate beadwork and other ornate a type of a collarless shirt – which later became adorned with laces, trimmings, buttons, and a collar – was where from the Barong Tagalog evolved. On the other hand, the Bahag was a type of loincloth.

The Filipiniana/Terno gown, the modernized Traje de Mestiza rose to popularity as a formal attire during latter half of the 20th Century.





Tourism

Tourism has been growing steadily. Most international visitors come from South Korea, the United States, and Japan, but the number of Malaysians, Singaporeans, and residents of other Asian countries is increasing. Metro Manila and Cebu are among the most popular destinations, as are such resort areas as Boracay Island, just off the northern tip of Panay. DoY reported 2.65 Million foreign arrivals in 2022.

Media and Publishing

A highly independent press developed in the Philippines under U.S. administration, but many newspapers ceased publication during the period of martial law. Newspapers are published in English, Tagalog, and many of the country's vernacular languages. The operators of radio and television stations belong to a national organization called the Association of Broadcasters in the Philippines that regulates the broadcasting industry.





ICONIC legacy from the Past to Present for the Future...



While these are the known ICONS who had created history and contributed immensely to the growth and development of the country across all aspects, we're now presenting the Icons of the present day - the men and women who've carried forward the glorious legacy left behind by their spectacular ancestors, and presented aura in a completely new way on the global map.

Embark on a journey with us as we uncover their stories, struggles, successes and achievements that will engage and inspire one and all.



ICONIC PINOY
MAHARLIKA

Providing *opportunities for the community*

AGNES P. MIRANDA - Businesswoman and philanthropist



HCP Agnes P. Miranda of Toronto ON Canada, is an accomplished businesswoman and a strong supporter of the Filipino Community since she migrated to Canada in 1966. Agnes is the current President of the Philippine Independence Day

Council, a non-profit Filipino – Canadian umbrella organization mainly tasked with the Philippine Independence Day celebrations bring together the fourth largest minority group in Canada.

Over 40 years of serving the community, Agnes Pasaporte Miranda find great pleasure in seeing people lives in community change for the better , her loved ones and of people somewhere else in the world. She find her own existence in this world more meaningful when she see the benefit of helping others. She get a full sense of accomplishment knowing that the sole act of gratitude from blissful years of her life is spent between the spectrum of harsh reality and the positive impact to the life of every person who have trusted and believed in her. Life can be a special journey if it's travelled by a restored dignity because someone is willing to pledge unconditional commitment to light the path along the way.



She is also a Senior Executive Vice Chairman and Co-Founder of World Financial Group Canada and a recipient of the WFG Pioneer Award for her substantial contribution to the growth of WFG Canada advocating Financial Literacy and

Education not only among Filipino-Canadian but also globally. Being extremely passionate about her advocacy of helping the community here and abroad, she continuously bridges and provides opportunities

for Filipino-Canadian to promote and embrace Filipino Culture through her community programs, fundraising events and charity works that helped calamity victims in the Philippines and those who are affected by the Covid-19 Pandemic.



*Extremely passionate about her advocacy of helping
the community all over the world*





She became a true inspiration to the community and have garnered numerous recognition in both of her business building expertise and mentorship and her humanitarian deeds. Some of her most notable recognitions are:

- 2012, HCP Agnes Miranda was awarded by the Philippine Independence Day Council as Outstanding Filipino-Canadian in the field of business.
- 2015, HCP Agnes Miranda was awarded one of the Outstanding Asian Canadian in recognition for Exemplary Contribution to the Canadian Community given by the Canadian Multicultural Council Of Asians in Ontario, Canada.
- December 2015, she was also recognized by Kol Hope Foundation For Children for her mission to help kids with disabilities around the world.
- 2016 , during the 25th Year Anniversary of Philippine Chamber of Commerce Toronto, HCP Agnes Miranda received a Certificate of Excellence in recognition of her achievement, leadership, commitment and desire to make a difference in the community.
- 2017, HCP Agnes Miranda received the RBC Top 25 Canadian Immigrant Awards.
- September 2017, HCP Agnes Miranda received the Golden Balangay for Excellence in Business. The First Golden Balangay Award aims to promote excellence, hard work, higher education, entrepreneurship, public service, positive relationships and community involvement.
- 2018, Agnes was awarded as one of the 100 Most Influential Filipino Women in the World 2018 by the Filipino Women's Network. HCP Agnes Miranda received her "Builder" award in London, UK.
- September 2020, HCP Agnes Miranda received the most coveted Top 25 Legacy Award of World Financial Group, recognizing her and her team for the most number of families helped totaling over 200 Million Dollars in her advocacy of Financial Educations in her entire WFG career.



- In December 2020, Agnes Miranda sponsored two of the Alpha Kappa Rho Fraternity annual charity drives through the Pamasko Ng Akrho, which brightened 150 families holiday celebration through the Noche Buena Package Giving Program and Mula sa Puso ng Akrho, which distributed essentials and food to neglected and abandoned children at the Mother Teresa Spinelle's Treasure, INC and Bahay ni Maria in the Philippines.

- 2021, Agnes Miranda was awarded by the Philippine Consulate General of Toronto ON Canada, the Community Service Award during the Quincentennial Commemoration of Christianity in the Philippines.



- 2022, Agnes received the Universal Peace Federation (UPF) Global Service and Leadership awards during the Mabuhay Philippines Festival Celebration at the XinFlix Studios in Markham ON.

- 2022, Recipient of the Warsi International Organization (WIO) Global Womens Award.

- 2022, Appointed as Honorary Patron-In-Chief of Warsi International Organization and WIO Global Women's Award Academy.



- 2022, Recipient of the International Friendship Award from Xinflix Media Group of Markham Ontario.

- 2022, Featured as one of the ASEAN Heroes in the Book authored by a prominent Filipino author, AKS Maria Rosa "Bing" Nieva Carrion in her book "ASEAN HEROES." Agnes Miranda's goal onwards, is to help the young generation to fulfill their dreams in the field of sports, music, and literary arts and to continue her advocacy in the Financial Literacy and

Education campaign, mentoring and coaching senior citizens to retire in dignity and to continue to serve the community.

-- 2023, recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II 75th Jubilee Pin, a commemorative pin awarded to Agnes Miranda for her significant contributions and service to the community.

- 2023, As the current President of the Philippine Independence Day Council of Toronto recently led the highly attended double

celebration OF PIDC's 35 years and the Mabuhay Philippines Festival's 25th year anniversaries.

- 2023, Agnes Miranda is recently inducted as Hope Creating President (HCP) of Rotary Club of Manila 101 under Rotary International District 3810.

- 2023, Asia Pinnacle Awardee as Asia's Most Outstanding Leader for Financial Literacy & Education at Okada Hotel, Manila-Oct 13





CANADIAN
ARRIVE
SUCCEED
INSPIRE
IMMIGRANT

As a little girl in the Philippines, Agnes P. Miranda dreamed of coming to Canada one day. “My interest to come to Canada began when I was merely 10 years old, when studying at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Academy run by French-Canadian nuns,” recalls Miranda, an executive vice-chairman of World Financial Group (WFG). “I still remember how they showed movies showing children ice skating, tobogganing and skiing! I exclaimed to the nuns, ‘When I grow up, I am going to see your country, Canada!’”

After graduating from university in banking and finance, Miranda took the plunge and applied for immigration. She landed in Canada as a 20-year-old single woman in 1966. And she got a job the very next day. “When I was asked if I had Canadian experience, I simply answered, ‘I would if you hire me today.’ And that they did. Imagine the day after I arrived, I had a job as a junior accounting clerk!”

She’s come a long way in the financial industry since then; 2017 marks the 20th anniversary of her co-founding WFG in Canada.

“The most important qualities that helped me as an immigrant were courage, ambition and perseverance,” says Miranda, who gives lots of her time to mentor other Filipino Canadian women in business.

In 2009, she was a recipient of the WFG Pioneer Award for her substantial contribution to the growth of WFG Canada, and, in 2012, she was awarded Outstanding Filipino Canadian in the field of business by the Philippine Independence Day Council.

With her keen business acumen, Miranda is also a promoter of community events, particularly related to culture and beauty. She has produced fashion shows, pageants and other cultural events in Toronto. Recently, Miranda received a Lifetime Award of Excellence for her contribution to Canadian Asian Fashion Week – Toronto.

“My commitment to give back to the community has grown more over the years,” says Miranda. “I am focusing on helping youth succeed in ventures such as sports and arts.”



ICONIC PINOY
MAHARLIKA

Serving to protect *the humanity*

SENATOR GRACE POE - Politician, Businesswoman, Educator, and Philanthropist
Serving as a Senator since 2013



Grace Poe is a formidable advocate of transparency in governance, efficient delivery of public services, and the protection of the rights of mothers, children, commuters and consumers.

She began her life in public service when she was appointed by President Aquino to serve as



chairperson of the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) in 2010. While at the MTRCB, she implemented policies and programs to promote "intelligent viewing." She introduced the new ratings system for television programs, "designed to empower parents to exercise caution and vigilance with the viewing habits of their children."



In 2013, she was invited to run as one of the administration’s senatorial candidates. It was a successful campaign which ended with her topping the polls. In her first term as senator, she immediately set to work creating meaningful legislation, more than 50 of which are now fully enacted laws. Among these are the laws providing for free lunch program for public school children; for maternal and child care for the first 1000 days of life of a child; for free text alerts in times of disaster; for extended validity of driver's license and passports; and making our streets, public spaces, and workplaces safer by prohibiting all forms of sexual harassment; to name a few.

In 2019, she ran for a second term as senator, won a seat and continues to serve our country especially our most marginalized and disenfranchised sectors.

Senator Poe also led the passage of the long



overdue amendment to the 85-year old Public Service Act which seeks to liberalize the economy.

These amendments to the Public Service Act have the capacity not only to improve the quality of public services in the country, but also to transform the Philippines into a more globally competitive arena where businesses flourish, and each and every Filipino thrives.

The measure clears the ambiguity surrounding the interchangeably used terms “public utility” and “public service.”

The proposal limits public utility to three services: distribution of electricity; transmission of electricity; and water pipeline distribution and sewerage pipeline systems.

All other public services that are not natural monopolies will be freed from such foreign



equity restriction but not from any of their other responsibilities as public service providers.

It aims to encourage the entry of more players and capital investments; in turn, enhance competition, leading to better consumer service.



In 2019, she ran for a second term as senator, won a seat and continues to serve our country especially our most marginalized and disenfranchised sectors.



Grace was a foundling who was discovered on September 3, 1968, in Iloilo City in the holy water font of Jaro Metropolitan Cathedral. The parish priest named her "Grace" in the belief that her finding was through the grace of God.

She was eventually adopted by Fernando Poe, Jr. and Susan Roces, who were newlyweds at that time. Both her parents are renowned and well-respected artists who have made important contributions to the Philippine Film Industry. Her father, Fernando Poe, Jr., was known as the, "King of Philippine Movies" and was posthumously declared a National Artist of the Philippines in 2006. Her mother, Susan Roces, was an actress with an illustrious career, during which she won five FAMAS Awards, including two Best Actress wins.

Grace grew up in Manila. She studied at the University of the Philippines, where she majored

in development studies, then moved to Boston College in Massachusetts, United States where she finished a degree in political science.

Grace married Teodoro Misael Daniel "Neil" Vera Llamanzares. They have three children: Brian, Hanna, and Nika.





Governing *the hearts*

GOVERNOR GWENDOLYN FIEL GARCIA - Governor of Cebu



GWENDOLYN F. GARCIA is the first woman governor elected in Cebu's 454-year history. She served three terms from 2004 to 2013 and was reelected for a fourth term in 2019 after serving two terms in Congress, becoming the only Cebu governor to come back for a fourth term. In the 2022 elections, she yet again carved another

milestone by becoming the first official in Cebu's electoral history to have breached the one-million-vote mark when 1,478,436 Cebuanos gave her a most resounding vote of confidence — with a lead margin of over 1.1 million votes over her closest rival. She is now serving her unprecedented fifth term in office.



Often called as Cebu's iron lady and the most beloved "Governor of The People," Gwen is the eldest child of former governor Pablo Paras Garcia and Judge Esperanza Fiel-Garcia. When she first became governor in 2004, she aggressively pursued a 12-point agenda to address the problems of roads and bridges, water, power, health, education, women, business, agriculture and food production, tourism, heritage preservation and the environment.

A graduate of Broadcast Communication from the University of the Philippines-Diliman, Gwen, a mother of three, is known for her strong and assertive leadership style. She has been vocal in advocating for the rights and welfare of her constituents and her leadership has earned both support and criticism from various sectors.

Under her watch, she implemented effective financial management which officially made Cebu debt free in 2009 and the richest province in the country in terms of assets which stand at P235



billion, according to the 2022 Commission on Audit report. She runs Capitol like a business enterprise: efficiently and professionally, with the best interest of Cebu and the Cebuanos as her guiding principles in crafting policies and decisions. Throughout her political career, Garcia has initiated various development programs and projects aimed at improving the infrastructure and economic growth in Cebu.

During her return in 2019, Garcia's leadership was tested by the Covid-19 pandemic in the first quarter of 2020. Under her watch, Cebu implemented measures that balanced health and the economy; the lives and livelihoods of the people. Because of her bold and decisive policies, Cebu is now ahead of the entire country in terms of pandemic responses and post-pandemic recovery efforts.

She was the first local chief executive to reopen tourism in as early as August 2020, junked the required RT-PCR tests for travelers coming to

Cebu, and made the wearing of facemasks "optional" in open and well-ventilated spaces. While formerly controversial and heavily criticized, these policies have eventually been adopted by the national government for nationwide implementation.

Her visionary leadership salvaged Cebu from the pit of the disaster when the double whammy of the pandemic and Super typhoon Odette devastated the province. Instead of letting the Cebuanos adopt a mendicant mentality, she introduced programs that have helped Cebuanos help themselves. She implemented the Sugbo Negosyo program, in partnership with the private sector, which helps micro and small entrepreneurs jumpstart their businesses by giving them entrepreneurial trainings and capital. Another program, the Sugbo Kahanas provides free skills training for Cebuanos, especially those who lost their jobs during the pandemic.



The Enhanced Countryside Development hooks up entrepreneur-borrowers with financial institutions at very low-interest rates. The Sugbusog Program, a backyard gardening initiative, made Cebuanos productive and provided them with nutritious food at the height of lockdowns. Today, the program is adopted by all levels of local government as well as households, public schools, police stations, and Capitol-run hospitals.

In 2019, she also started the Caravan of Provincial Government Services for Cebuanos to have access to basic services despite the lockdowns, such as medical, dental, optical, laboratory, legal, and agricultural, among many others. Recently, the "Kadiwa ng Pangulo" has become part of this quarterly Caravan as a response to the call of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. for local government units to organize their own initiative and make locally produced agricultural products available to the public at a cheaper price. This includes selling rice at PHP25 per kilo.

Cebu Province allocated P1.8 billion for the Dasig Sugbo Program to expedite the recovery efforts of over 400,000 households in 32 local government units that were severely affected by Super typhoon Odette in December 2021. To ensure proper use of government funds, beneficiaries were given QR-coded cards that they can use to purchase food and housing

materials from partner stores. This also helped stimulate the local economy that was in a bad shape. Cebuano culture and heritage have taken center stage under her administration. The Suroy-Suroy Sugbo was born and institutionalized in 2005, a tourism caravan that has become the most effective tool for promoting local tourism. After six years of hiatus, the program was revived in 2019 and is now made a benchmark by the national government's "The Philippine Experience" program of the Department of Tourism. The Suroy Suroy Sugbo's latest installment had Capitol leading 11 busloads of participants in touring the northern Cebu.

The Pasigarbo sa Sugbo, Festival of Festivals also made a comeback, with the entire One Cebu Island taking part in the grandest festival showdown this country has ever seen. Under Garcia's watch, the inmates of the Cebu Provincial Detention and Rehabilitation Center (CPDRC) perform dance routines, giving a different approach to rehabilitation and daily exercise. Thus was born the now popular CPDRC dancing inmates, a concrete proof of the transformative brand of leadership that she has been displaying through the years.

Cebu has also gained recognition worldwide and has forged ties with cities and provinces across the world, including China, Korea, Israel, Spain,

Hawaii, Guam, and Russia. Locally, Cebu has garnered awards for good governance for several years, and for its pioneering tourism practices during the pandemic. Gov. Garcia herself is also a recipient of several awards including the Order of Lakandula Grand Cross (Bayani) Medal, Most Influential Filipina 2018 Nicole Award, an Outstanding Lawmaker by Superbrands International for three consecutive years, and the No. 1 Performing Governor in the Philippines in 2020 and 2021.

Today, Gwen, dubbed as the face of "One Cebu" (the party her family founded known for its regional focus and strong influence in Cebu politics) has become a unifying force in Cebu, with the entire island, including the highly urbanized tri-cities of Cebu, Lapu-Lapu and Mandaue, now looking to her for guidance in crafting important policies. Indeed, Cebu is now a One Cebu Island, thanks to the trailblazing leadership of Cebu's Iron Lady and the Governor of the People: Gwendolyn F. Garcia





ICONIC PINOY
MAHARLIKA

Resilient & Innovative *for Sustainable Development*

USEC. SANDRA SANCHEZ MONTANO - Chairperson, Philippine Commission on Women



*With all her life works she was chosen to represent the Philippines in the
APEC BEST TOP MANAGER
awards during the APEC Summit in La Serena Chile 2019.*

Her inspiring transition from Baguio City 1990 killer earthquake victim to a resilient, innovative life saver bagged her an award as the 1st ASEAN Woman Leader in ASEAN Business Investment Summit in Myanmar (2014). Her altruistic efforts to empower women on urban and rural farming, food security and sustainable livelihood through TROPIKA food manufacturing were recognized by ASEAN Women Entrepreneur Network (AWEN) awarding her Outstanding ASEAN Women Entrepreneur Network 2015 in Hanoi Vietnam.



Her valuable contribution in MSME Inclusive growth as part of APEC Global Value Chain, founding of CHEERS a social enterprise pre hospital care success story was featured in the APEC Going Global Together coffee table book, her outstanding work performance on occupational safety and health made her on the lists of awardees among the 100 Most Influential Filipina Woman in the World 2016 by Filipina Women Network a San Francisco, USA based women lead organization.

One of the authors of Intensity 7 Disrupt 3.0 Woman in Rising published by FWN.

With all her life works she was chosen to represent the Philippines in the APEC BEST TOP MANAGER awards during the APEC Summit in La Serena Chile 2019.

She bagged the 2022 Ministerial Awards on her COVID 19 initiatives and response in the Global Summit Women held in Bangkok Thailand.

She was among this year's Asia Leaders Awards Woman of Substance by Rising Tigers Nation Builders.

She is a Registered Nurse and Naturopathy Doctor by profession, graduate of Combating GBV new Intervention and Approach, an International GAD Resource fellow by MASHAV in Israel with 18 other countries, finished Angat BAYI Women Empowerment Leadership Program in the University of the Philippines Center for Gender Studies. She's successfully completed Basic Citizen Military Training Reservist by the Philippine Air Force.





“Women are powerful beyond measure and beautiful beyond pressure”

Usec Sandy is happily married blessed with 3 children, recently the MONTANO family was awarded during the 2019 JOLLIBEE Family values awards, Jollibee Foundation gives honor to deserving families who exemplify positive FILIPINO values such as generosity, compassion, love for the community, love for the environment

while also providing selfless service to the ordinary citizens towards nation building.

A proud farmer’s daughter, our champion on gender equality women empowerment and resiliency towards sustainable development says

“Beside a successful man is an empowered

woman” her life motto “Women are powerful beyond measure and beautiful beyond pressure”

As an author, it is an honor to have GAD Resource Speaker Undersecretary Sandy Montano, Chairperson Philippine Commission on Women to be in our first book.





Equity & Justice *for the community*

JUSLYN CABRERA MANALO - Mayor, City of Daly City

She was re-elected in 2020 with highest votes ever for a City Council race in Daly City's history.

Juslyn Cabrera Manalo, lifework to date pushes for equity and justice for the community and creating policies that enhance the quality of life for the residents, ensuring small businesses thrive and supporting youth development and older adult programs. Early in her career, in the non-profit sector, Juslyn became a Community Service Worker at the Veterans Equity Center providing direct service to the Filipino World War II Veterans who were deemed inactive from U.S. Congress-an injustice that needed to be resolved. She along with others started SAVE (Student Action for Veterans Equity) to build a national campaign advocating for The Filipino Veterans' rights.

Juslyn also managed the Bill Sorro Housing Program (BiSHoP), a program that helped low to moderate income families, find, defend and sustain their housing.

She also worked in the corporate private sector as a Community Engagement Manager for Brookfield Properties, building partnerships to create community development such as affordable housing, local job creation, cultural district support, open green space, and youth development- one of the most comprehensive Community Benefits in a Development Agreement in the City and County of San Francisco totaling \$76M.

“I’ve always had a passion to help others. Now I have the opportunity to help the community that raised me. Follow your heart’s passion, it will lead you where you are meant to be.”

In 2016, Juslyn became the first Filipino American woman on the City Council in Daly City and was appointed Vice Mayor in her first year. Right away, she pushed the needle to bring the issue to support all immigrants. Also, she led raising the minimum wage in Daly City and is still above CA state minimum wage to date. She was an appointed Personnel Board Commissioner for the City of Daly City and was previously chairwoman for the SamTrans Citizen Advisory Committee ensuring that local community voice is represented on transit.

She is also on the board of Senior & Disability Action, an organization that fights for policy

locally and beyond for older adults and those with disabilities. Manalo earned her Masters of Public Administration, from San Francisco State University's School of Public Affairs and Civic Engagement.

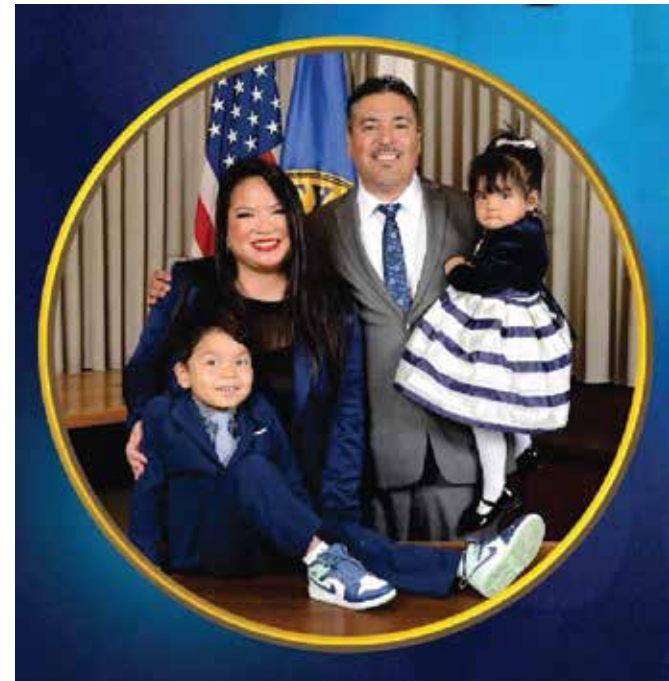
She has also attained a Bachelor of Arts, in Asian-American Studies and a Minor in Women Studies from San Francisco State University. She believes local activism is key in communities.

Juslyn is the President of the Filipino American Democratic Club of San Mateo County which has been in existence for 40 years and active in the San Mateo County Democratic Central Committee.

On the state California Democratic State level, Juslyn is on the Executive Board for the Filipino American Democratic Caucus (FADC) as Chairwoman. For the League of California Cities, a bi-partisan CA statewide organization with 479 member cities, Juslyn is the President of the Asian Pacific Islander Caucus.

She sits on the Bay Area Water Conservation Agency (BAWSCA) and a delegate for the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG). Most recently she was appointed to the C/CAG City/County Association of Governments in San Mateo County.





In 2017, Juslyn broke the barrier and became the first Filipino-American/Asian American woman to become Mayor in Daly City. Daly City is next to San Francisco, CA and considered the “Pinoy Capitol” with the highest percentage of Filipinos in a mid-size City.

Juslyn Cabrera Manalo was born in San Francisco of Filipino parents and was raised in Daly City, California. She is raising her 4 year old and 2 year old son with her husband in her hometown.

She was re-elected in 2020 with highest votes ever for a City Council race in Daly City’s history. In December of 2020, she became Mayor for her second term.

Notable awards:

- STARS Award Chancellor Award for Community Service California State University 2001
- Certificate of Honor, City and County of San Francisco 2013
- Filipino Women’s Network Global Award - Filipina Influential for Emerging Leader 2015
- Filipino Women’s Network Global Continuing Influential for Policy and Visionaries 2018
- Alumni of the Year, SFSU Asian American Studies Department 2019
- Trailblazer of the Year, CA Democratic API Caucus 2019
- San Mateo County Board of Supervisors’ Proclamation 2021
- Filipino Women’s Network Keepers of the Flame 2022





Creative Changes *for next generation*

HON. JOHN MARVIN C. “YUL SERVO” NIETO- Honorary Vice Mayor Of The Year, City Of Manila

Ang Lingkod Bayang Manilenyo (A Public Servant of Manila)

The first of July 2022 marks a new chapter for John Marvin Cruz Nieto, with the same promise of unceasing and unparalleled service to his constituents as a Lingkod Bayan. Vice Mayor Nieto committed himself to continuing the same brand of service and devotion he had been known for and exhorted everyone to file their new COCs, redefining the same as Compassion, Obligation, and Commitment, thus:

“Ngayong tapos na po ang eleksyon, nais kong mag-sumite tayo ng bagong COC. Diba ang COC ay pina-file natin sa intensyon nating lumahok sa halalan? Ngayon ang COC na ito ay may isa pang

kahulugan: Compassion, Obligation, at Commitment.

Compassion—bigyan natin ng awa ang ating nasasakupan. Obligation—gampanan ang ating katungkulan. Commitment—maging totoo tayo sa ating mga pangako. Yan ang gawin nating pamantayan ng paglilingkod.” (Now that the election

is over, I exhort everyone to submit their new COCs.

Isn't it that we file our COCs in order to become candidates in elections? COC, however, has another meaning: Compassion, Obligation, and Commitment.

Compassion—let us serve our constituents with sympathy. Obligation—let us all perform our respective duties. Commitment—let us be true to all our promises.

This will be our standard of service.)



With this in mind, Nieto embarked on a new journey in the field of public service, this time as the second highest ranking city government official in the nation's capital.

John Marvin Cruz Nieto is a Manileño through and through, born on 22 February 1977 and raised in Binondo, Manila by parents Martin and Zenaida Nieto. The second of eight children, Nieto, who carried the nickname "Jon-Jon" in his childhood years, attended kindergarten at the Tulungan Daycare Center, primary school at the Pedro Guevara Elementary School, obtained secondary education from the Arellano University and graduated with a degree in Criminology in 1998 at the Philippine College of Criminology.

In 2007, Nieto entered politics as a 3rd District Councilor, serving three full terms, where he became a known legislator, having authored hundreds of resolutions and 21 notable ordinances passed by the City Council. All while, persevering to fulfil his promise of

unceasing service to his constituents, as evidenced by his projects such as medical missions (called Araw N'yo, Serbisyo Ko), mass weddings and baptisms (Kasalang Bayan and Binyagang Bayan), feeding programs (Kusina Manileño), mass circumcision (Binyagan sa Tag-Araw: Operation Tuli), and other programs providing wellness services— all of which have become innovated and enhanced continuing projects as the Vice Mayor of Manila city.

As a neophyte legislator, serving as a two-term Congressman in the same district from 2016-2019, he relished the opportunity to serve his constituents in a new capacity, and proceeded to sponsor bills aimed at improving the lives not only of his constituents but of the Filipino people in general. As a result, out of 1,224 House Bills he principally authored, 128 were enacted into law under the 17th and 18th Congress. He distributed millions of pesos worth of guarantee letters and sponsored several infrastructure projects consisting of government buildings, police stations,

multi-purpose barangay halls, medical facilities, libraries and school facilities.



With a staff that has grown exponentially, consisting of fellow *lingkod bayans* adopting the same culture of service that defined Nieto's career, the Vice Mayor is now able to carry out his projects—this time, on a much larger scale and with an unprecedented number of beneficiaries, embodying his promise of *Serbisyong Walang Katulad* (Unparalleled Service).

The Vice Mayor and Presiding Officer of the 12th City Council of Manila was able to preside over 521 ordinances and 2,011 resolutions authored by the 38 hardworking and dedicated councilors of the city, earning them an 82% rating from the Regional Local Legislative Award (LLA) by the Department of Interior and Local Governance (DILG).

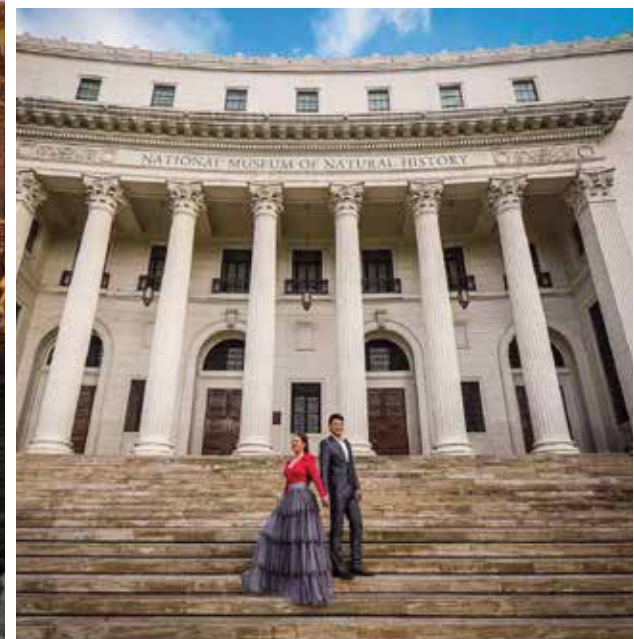
On its 122nd founding anniversary, the City Council of Manila launched its official City

Council of Manila Website, an archive of legislations dating from the Municipal Board in 1901 up to the present council.

For the remainder of his term, Nieto has many other huge projects lined up, some of which are carried over from his time as Councilor and Congressman.

Nieto is a doting husband to Flovelyn L. Nieto, an entrepreneur with whom he is raising four sons and two loving daughters.

More notably, Nieto is a contemporary metal work artist, spending some of his personal time painting and creating pieces inspired from the aerial view of the landscape of Manila. He has conducted 3 exhibit shows at various art galleries, most recently at the Manila City Hall, enabling him to donate a portion of the proceeds to charitable works.





ICONIC PINOY
MAHARLIKA

A Man of Action and Vision: *Leading the Positive Change in Nation-Building*

ALFRED VARGAS - Actor and Politician as Councilor of Quezon City



Alfred Vargas, a man of action and vision. His vision for the Philippines is one where all children have access to quality education, the poor are empowered to be partners in nation-building, and every family can enjoy the comfort and security of a decent home.

With this vision, he has been propelled to formulate policies and legislation that address key issues in health, education, employment, and housing. He has also initiated pioneering programs in the 5th District of Quezon City where he was the first, elected congressman.



While many may consider a career in both showbusiness and politics as tough and taxing, he stood out and showed that the two very challenging industries can be married and can bring out the best of an actor and public servant to the fore.

He bagged two Best Actor awards from the Golden Screen Awards and the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) Film Awards. He was the principal author of 93 Republic Acts.

He has been recognized as one of the top-ranking congressmen in terms of legislative performance. And his efforts as a public servant were also recognized by socio-civic organizations, having



been given the prestigious honor of one of the Ten Outstanding Young Man of the Philippines.

Alfred is a true blue Atenean, having studied at the Ateneo De Manila University from prep to college. As a grade school student, his talents in music and sports were honed by the Ateneo Boys Choir and Basketball Varsity Team. He also experienced his first election, having won the Sergeant at Arms position in fourth grade. In high school, his leadership skills were further put into practice as the elected president and vice president of his class. In college, he found his passion in theater after joining Tanghalang Ateneo and playing leading roles in Shakespearean plays.

In 2002, Alfred earned his Bachelor's Degree in Management Economics at the Ateneo de Manila University. It is in this same school where Alfred was indoctrinated on how to become a man for others.

Alfred is also an Iskolar ng Bayan, having



received his Master's Degree in Public Administration at the University of the Philippines - National College for Public Administration and Governance.

Raised by a father who was a businessman, Alfredo Vargas Jr., and a mother who was a lawyer and government official, Atty. Susana Dumlao-Vargas, Alfred was brought up in a loving environment where integrity, compassion, and competence were the pillars of building good moral character.

His father, though strict and firm, was an excellent mentor and visionary who inspired Alfred to think beyond himself and contribute meaningfully to society.

His mother was Alfred's role model for integrity, discipline, compassion, and excellence, having served the government for more than 30 years and holding key and sensitive positions in the Office of the President, while maintaining a simple and humble lifestyle.





A devoted father, a loving husband, a multi-awarded actor, an outstanding lawmaker, and a genuine public servant, he is Alfred Vargas. His faith in God is unswerving and he lives by one strong, unchanging principle that service to humanity is the best work of life.

Of his legislative achievements, the closest to Alfred's heart is the passage of the National Integrated Cancer Control Act (RA 11215) into law. His mother succumbed to uterine cancer in 2014 and Alfred bore witness to the hardships his mother and their family had to go through during this painful phase in their lives.

He did not stop his efforts to combat the big C. Prior to its enactment, he filed eleven cancer-related bills meant to address one of the worst diseases that kills Filipinos. He was hands-on, working with the Cancer Society of the Philippines for two years until the cancer bill got the Senate, bicameral and Malacañang's nod.

Alfred's strong and enduring leadership has made relevant reforms in areas of disaster preparedness, education, health, and livelihood.

There is a big expectation on what a true public servant can accomplish to solve the people's

toughest problems. Alfred Vargas has the vision to build a better, beautiful community we all yearn to be part of—one that we can leave to our children with confidence, calm, and peace of mind. His actions as an actor-public servant help us meet life's challenges with confidence.

He embodies the true ideals of a leader. He is a true statesman. And he brings hope that there is someone we can truly rely on, a warrior and defender, an indefatigable ally who will do what is good and what is right, with us and for us, no matter what the circumstances.



ICONIC PINOY
MAHARLIKA

Advocacy *for people empowerment*

JOJI ILAGAN BIAN - Business Leader, Educator and
Trustee - Mindanao Business Council, Philippine Chamber of Commerce Industry,
Davao City Chamber of Commerce Industry and East ASEAN Business Council & Mindanao Commission of Women



'My life is a tapestry of different weaves and colors symbolizing my diverse experiences as a wife, mother, educator, business leader, and community worker,' she said. Moreover, these experiences gave her a broader perspective and understanding of the complexities of life.

Joji Ilagan has worked tirelessly for over 45 years

on her advocacy for people empowerment through business, education, and skills training. These resulted in providing jobs and investment opportunities.

She has done this not only through her network of schools but also through her engagements and

She was the youngest-ever recipient of the Datu Bago Award in Business and Education; the highest award given by the City of Davao, Philippines for her contributions to the city's growth and development in business and education.



affiliations. She has functioned in various capacities in civic, religious, industry, trade, and business organizations, as well as government-created commissions, carrying this advocacy with her. These efforts have not gone unnoticed.

Her entrepreneurial journey in education has consistently inspired many entrepreneurs to pursue their dreams. From a two-classroom school in 1980, she expanded her Joji Ilagan International Schools network to five [5] schools offering early childhood education to baccalaureate degrees.

Joji Ilagan is highly esteemed in the industry and business sectors for her accomplishments. In holding leadership and trustee roles in the Mindanao Business Council, Philippine Chamber of Commerce Industry, Davao City Chamber of Commerce Industry and East ASEAN Business Council, and Mindanao Commission of Women, among others.

Joji Ilagan Bian has a solid track record in community engagement in education, business, politics, civic and religious movements over 45 years. She has received the Patnubay Award in Non- Governmental Organization Work for

Education in recognition of her consistent work providing free skills training and scholarships at the grassroots level.

She was the youngest-ever recipient of the Datu Bago Award in Business and Education; the highest award given by the City of Davao, Philippines for her contributions to the city's growth and development in business and education.

She was also awarded one of the Philippines Best Dressed Women in 2021.

"I had walked the halls of power and dined with the poorest of the poor, and from these experiences, I became wiser and much better. I pray that I continue to be God's instrument in transforming people's lives."

Three [3] Philippine Presidents conferred on her the following awards as a recognition for her unselfish services to the country in business and education: The Kabalikat Laang Bisig Presidential National Awardee 1997 for the promotion of Development of Technical Vocational Training in the Philippines and the scholarship programs to out of school youth of the Joji Ilagan Foundation conferred by then President of the Republic of the Philippines, President Joseph Estrada.

Two other Phil Presidents had conferred on her various awards: the Presidential Merit Award for her membership in the 1997 Consultative Commission to review the Philippine Constitution conferred on her by Pres Gloria Macapagal Arroyo; Pres. Fidel Ramos for her immense contribution to the development of Mindanao.





*Awarded as one of the
Philippines Best Dressed
Women in 2021.*

She was also awarded in 2017 by the Filipina Women Network as one of the 100 Most Influential Women of the World—the ASEAN Women Network as One of the Most Outstanding Women Entrepreneurs in 2018. The Australian Embassy recognized her as the Most Outstanding Australian Alumni in 2018. She also received recognition as one of the Asian Phil Heroes for 2022.

Her success story was featured in the Go Negosyo book: "55 Inspiring Stories of Women Entrepreneurs". Local, national, and international publications have also given her countless accolades, including Disrupt 2.0 Filipina Leadership Stories published by the Filipina Women's Network USA. Her leadership journey as an entrepreneur, educator, and woman leader was aptly titled "Dreaming Big, Giving the Best". This book was launched via a 'Book Reading' in the House of Lords in the London Parliament.

Throughout her life, she has consistently broken down barriers for women and all individuals who would otherwise not have the opportunity for personal growth and advancement.

Joji Ilagan Bian exemplifies what a woman should be in this age of constant flux: a combination of vision, skills, and strength tempered with resilience, tenacity, and genuine care.

She leads a life devoted to developing the potential of young people, molding their minds, and transforming their lives through education. She has worked with Muslim and Christian women, influencing them and instilling in them an entrepreneurial mindset.

As a woman business leader, she has transcended genders and has stood firm in her belief that women leaders are strong, straightforward, and results-oriented.

Throughout her life, she has consistently broken down barriers for women and all individuals who would otherwise not have the opportunity for personal growth and advancement.

Despite her countless achievements and

commendations, her dedication to continuing her advocacy has continued. Her tenacity and entrepreneurial spirit come from a drive to help others, as shown in her continuous involvement in education, tourism, religious affiliations, and business.

Her resume may be comprehensive, and she plays multiple roles, but these come only next to her familial obligations as wife, mother, and grandmother.





Determination *is the key to Accomplishments*

MA. LOURDES DE VERA NAVARRO - CEO at ZC Kings Manpower and Janitorial Services Cooperative,
ZC Kings International Boxing Promotions & Entertainment Corporation,
Kings Asia Pacific Consultancy, Navishi Shell Corporation, Rotary Makati EDSA- Life Changing President



Her message to budding entrepreneurs resonates: “cling to your vision, persist in your plans, and never abandon your dreams. With resolute passion and untiring dedication, dreams transformed into reality”.

Cory stands as a living testament. Cory stands as the Founder of the Kings Group of Companies, with footprints across several industries and entities like Kings Lending Corporation, Kings Manpower, Kings City, Kings Asia Pacific Trading, and Home Culinary and Technical School. In memory of her late husband, she established the Rolando Marquez Navarro Foundation, a pillar for charitable endeavors and advocacies like the Zamboanga Valientes Sports Program – nurturing local basketball and boxing talents, priming them for both domestic and international competitions. Cory's imprints extend to leadership as well.





*Philippines'
Best Dress Award
Recipient*

As the Life Changing President of the Rotary Club Makati EDSA, her tenure garnered the highest accolade of 6 stars among 118 Presidents. Her club also achieved the District's second-highest membership count during her stewardship. Notably, Cory sponsored 30 Life Changing Scholars during her presidency. Beyond borders, she organized the Ambassador Club of Melbourne and served as its Charter President. Cory was recognized as one of Manila's Best Dressed. She is also one of the Best Dressed Women of the Philippines.



Cory attributes her achievements to the Almighty, acknowledging the impossibility of her feats without divine guidance. In gratitude, she shares her faith through weekly Bible studies across her multiple organizations and companies. Cory founded the Ambassadors of Christ, extending these studies virtually to participants from the Philippines, Melbourne and Vietnam. In Cory's words, "In giving, we receive abundantly." For Cory, life isn't just a journey; it's a series of purpose. Her legacy forms her destination, a testament to her lasting impact. Beautiful inside and out — an icon in the truest sense.



AFFILIATIONS-

1974–Present Philippine National Red Cross, Zamboanga City Chapter (Member)
1980–Present Philippine Nurses Association, Zamboanga City Chapter (Member)
1980–Present Professional Regulation Commission (Registered Nurse)
1982–1991 San Miguel Corporation (Company Nurse)
1990–1993 Fatima Pastoral Council, Talon-Talon, Zamboanga City (Vice President)
1990–Present Bukas Loob sa Dios, Zamboanga City (Member)
2003 Philippine National Red Cross, Zamboanga City Chapter (Chairman)
2011–Present Metro Manila Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Member)
2011–Present Makati Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Vice President)
2012–Present Rotary Club of Makati-EDSA (President Nominee)
2012–Present Rotary Club of Makati-EDSA, Community Service (Chairman)
2012–Present Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Member)
2013 Rotary Makati EDSA (Vice-President)
2014 Inner Wheel Makati-EDSA (President)
2013–2015 Makati Chamber of Commerce (Vice-President)
2013–2015 Inner Wheel Club of Pasay-EDSA (President)
2015–2016 Soroptimist Ayala Alabang (Vice –President)
2017–2018 Victoria Chamber of Commerce (Member)
2017–2018 Inner Wheel of Williams Town (Member)
2016 to present Zamboanga Valientes (Founder)
2019 to present The Ambassador Charter Club of Melbourne-Ambassadors of Christ (Founder & President)
2019 to 2021 Providence Church (Member)
2021-2022 Rotary Makati EDSA (Life Changing President)

AWARDS and RECOGNITIONS

2003 Certificate of Appreciation, Urban Poor Solidarity Week
2005 14 Top of the Year Award, Zetan Foundation
2005 Certificate of Recognition 30th Anniversary of College of Nursing, Ateneo de Zamboanga University
2005 Excellence Spirit Service, Ateneo de Zamboanga University 25th Jubilee
2008 Reyna Elena de Zamboanga, Zamboanga City
2010 Certificate of Recognition, Ateneo de Zamboanga University College of Nursing
2010 Rotary Club of Zamboanga City West, Zamboanga City
2011 The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International, Zamboanga City
2012 Empowered Women of the Philippines 2012
2013 Empowered Women of the Philippines 2013
2013 Manila's Best-Dressed
2014 Famous Manila's Best-Dressed
2015 Manila's Best-Dressed, "Style Ambassador"
2015 New York Fashion Model, United Nations Week
2015 Nominee, Eminent Personality of the Year, United Nations Fashion Week
2015 Inner Wheel Club of the Philippines National President's Awardee

- 1st Runner-Up, Best Club IWY 2014–2015
- Promotion & Publicity of the Organization
- Best Club in ECOSOC Projects
- Organizing, Chartering, & Nurturing IWC – Manila Metro

2015 Outstanding Leadership Award, Inner Wheel Club of Pasay EDSA
2015 Club Service Award, Inner Wheel Clubs of the Philippines
2015 Rookie Club & Club President Award, Inner Wheel Clubs of the Philippines
2015 ECOSOC Economic Development Award, Inner Wheel Clubs of the Philippines
2016 Hall of Fame Award – Manila's Best Dressed
2016 Best Dress Melbourne Cup
2016 Best Miss Tiara Award Melbourne
2017 Fifteen FAAABVLOUS Women VIII
2017 Global Achiever Awardee for Outstanding Businesswoman and Civic Leader
Dangal ng Bayan Awardee for Outstanding Civic Leader and Family Advocate
Huwarang Ina Awardee
2018 38TH Huwarang Ina Mother's Day Celebration and Award
Family Choice Consumers Award
2022 Philippines' Best Dress Award Recipient
2023 Philippine Profiles Asia Awardee





ICONIC PINOY
MAHARLIKA

Love & Oneness

DR. JONATHA "JO" BELCIÑA LEICHER

"I AM" • Poverty • Power • Universe • God • Love • Empathy • Compassion • Spiritual Awakening & Ascension
• Quantum Realm & Mechanics • INFJ • Pleiadian Starseed • Quadrivium • 12 Chakras & Merkabah Activation
• Akasha • Wu Wei • Buddha Awareness • Taoism • DNA G-Quadruplexes Evolution • Primordial Spiral
• Gamma Brain Waves • Language of Creation • Laws of The Universe • Revelation 1-22 & 7:2
• Nostradamus Repository C1:Q9 • Enigmatic 137 • Tesla 369.

In women's Army Training Corps (ROTC-WATC). She was the only female among the 5-brigadier staff where she led three battalions, six companies, and 18 platoons.

Dr. Jonatha "Jo" Belciña Leicher, a Filipina, was born in the mystic island of Siquijor, Philippines. She is the 5th among the ten children of Jose Belciña and Victoria Yurong (deceased). Dr. Jo grew up in poverty. At a young age of 12, Dr. Jo served as a children's mass gospel reader at St. Michael's Cathedral in Iligan City on Sundays. 1991-1993, Dr. Jo joined the Reserve Officer Training Corps – Women's Army Training Corps (ROTC-WATC) at the Mindanao State University – Iligan Institute of Technology. She was the only female among the 5-brigadier staff, where she led three battalions, six companies, and 18 platoons. In 1992, Dr. Jo functioned as Iligan City's *Sangguniang Kabataan* (SK) youth counselor.





While in college, she worked three jobs: as a dishwasher at Enrico’s restaurant in Quezon Avenue, as a music moderator at Pagoda karaoke bar in Mercado Street, and as a waitress at *Musikahan* resto-bar in Quezon Avenue extension, Pala-o, earning 30-50 pesos (US \$0.60 - \$1.00) a day. In 1993, her parents lost their house, prompting her to accept a stay-in job as a housemaid to a young couple working at the university’s administration department, earning 10 pesos (US \$0.20 cents) daily. At the same time, she was a Tae Kwon Do green-belter martial artist and an active varsity athlete in Track and field and swimming (butterfly stroke), where she reached the nation’s highest athletic meet called *Palarong Pambansa*.

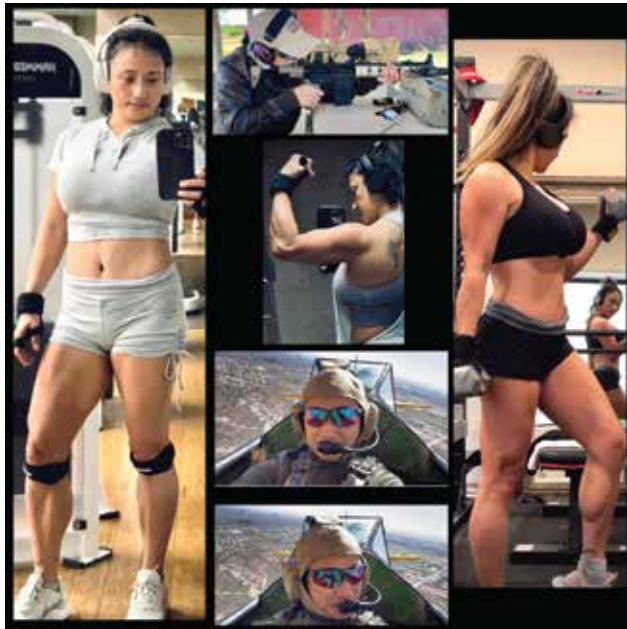
However, Dr. Jo had to give up college to be able to help her struggling family. She relocated to Manila and ventured into the entertainment industry, where she worked as a Guest Relations Officer at the top elite clubs, namely Lexus, Pegasus, and Infiniti. She established a catering business handling 30-35 staff and functioned in

various roles. At the same time, inspired by her father’s talent, Dr. Jo set up an advertising sign shop business across the town’s public market. In 2004, Dr. Jo invested in building a two-story commercial and residential building for her parents in Cangmalalag, Siquijor. Despite being a successful self-made businesswoman, Dr. Jo struggled internally from a deep sense of having a greater spiritual purpose.

In December 2007, Dr. Jo immigrated from the Philippines to Tucson, AZ, to marry her then-fiancé. From 2008-2014, she worked as a server to support herself while going back through college. In July 2010, Dr. Jo gave birth to her first child. Unfortunately, due to irreconcilable differences, she filed for divorce in mid-2013, where she deviated from the US divorce law. She waived all her rights over the community property, 401K, alimony, and child support, demanding only joint physical custody. Finally, in May 2014, Dr. Jo graduated and obtained a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree at The University of Arizona.



Dr. Jo won the election as one of the Board of Directors of the Philippine Nurses Association of Austin, Texas (PNAATX)



In early 2015, Dr. Jo relocated to Austin, TX, and worked two full-time RN jobs totaling 72 hours/week. She has received numerous recognitions and awards for exceptional provision of patient care. In the Fall of 2016, Dr. Jo pursued a Doctor of Nursing Practice specializing in Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner at the University of Arizona. In July 2017, Dr. Jo remarried and gave birth to her youngest child in May 2018. Unfortunately, in early 2020, the marriage ended due to irreconcilable differences. In November 2021, Dr. Jo was elected as one of the Board of Directors of the Philippine Nurses Association of Austin, Texas (PNAATX), founded in 2019. Finally, in May of 2022, Dr. Jo graduated and obtained the title Doctor of Nursing Practice, where she was honored to sing the American national anthem,

Star Spangled Banner, during the commencement at the University of Arizona.

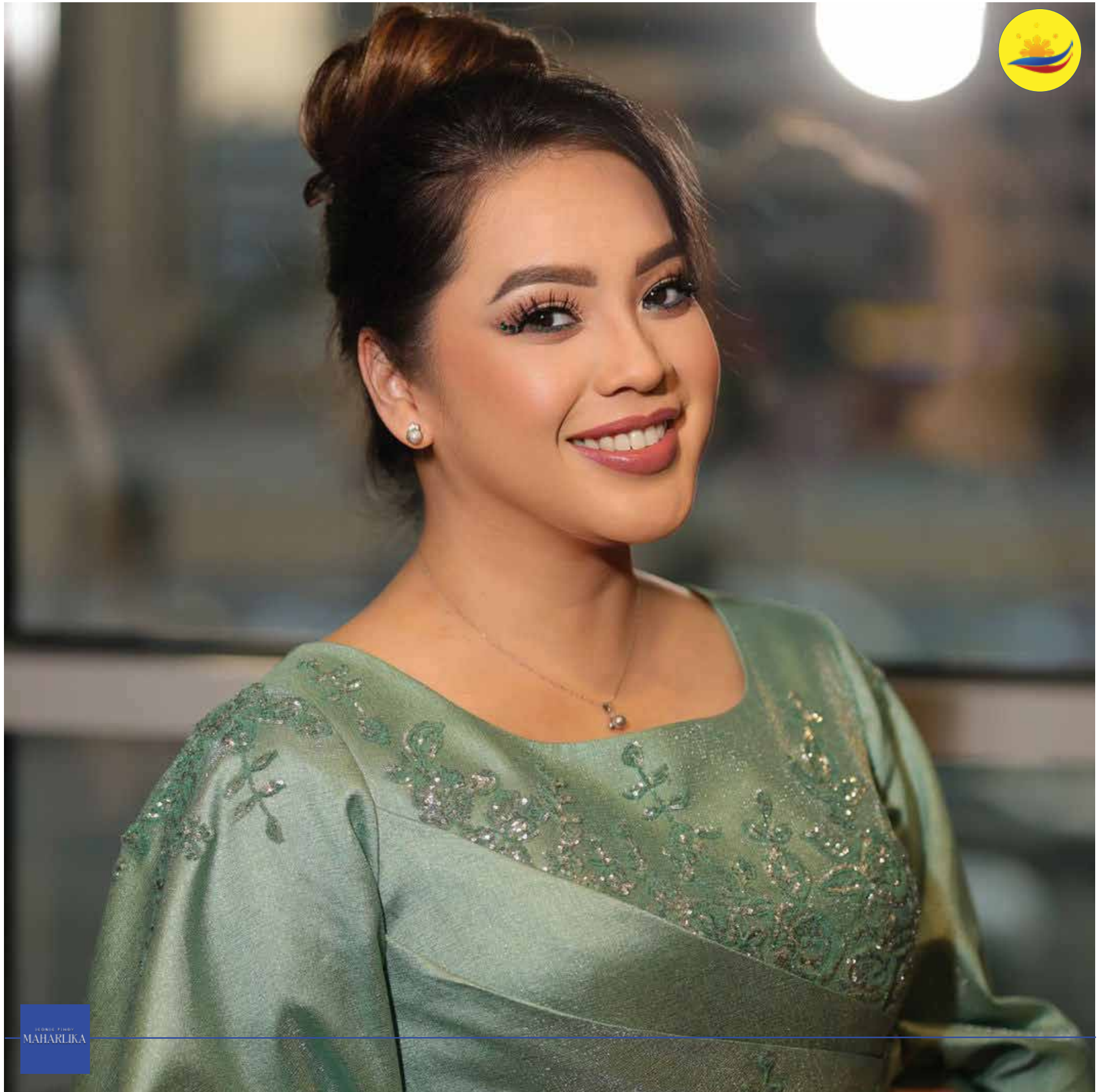
In July, the Beverly Hills SOCIETY magazine featured Dr. Jo and her life story on its cover. Hundreds of copies were sold and counting! On August 20, 2023, Dr. Jo received the Most Outstanding Healthcare Leader and Advocate 2023 award during the inauguration of the America Excellence Awards held in Hollywood, CA. Among the 150 awardees worldwide, only two were granted to speak. Dr. Jo delivered a powerful speech urging all people to realize their true being and be of service to humanity. She also gained the beauty title Miss Quantum Universe 2023.



Dr. Jo states, “I have been struggling all my life, looking externally to fill that ‘void’ in me but

failed. The failures and defeats sparked my deep curiosity about the evolution of human life and my spirituality. The unwavering belief, faith, and trust in the Universe have led to my spiritual awakening and, eventually, enlightenment and the discovery of the true essence of my being. All my questions rooted in childhood and even from previous lifetimes were answered. My heart is at peace now. Finally, I have discovered the true purpose of my existence in this world: to advocate for the people suffering from poverty, homelessness, and injustices. I can fulfill my mission by establishing a worldwide philanthropic initiative that I will call – Love and Oneness.”





ICONIC PINOY
MAHARLIKA

A Tale of Choices and Chances

OWEN SP SANCHEZ - The “Rare Breed”, Public Figure, Media Personality, Seasoned HR Practitioner
100 Most Influential Filipina Women in the World 2018 and APEC Gold Medalist 2018
TOP50 Influential Women in Dubai & One of the 24 Most Empowered Women in 2023



Owen SP Sanchez, a luminous vigour emerging from Asian descent, crafts a narrative that echoes with resilience and tenacity, leaving an indelible mark on the tapestry of success.

She tells a tale of a Multi-Awarded Woman who came from a country

where education system is deemed to be only third-rate and not accepted globally. Owen takes us through her life choices and chances, how she found her niche, rose above judgements and emerged as a woman

of purpose, passion, and productivity.



A woman who has never been typical, she graduated holding a Latin Honor – “Cum Laude” with a degree of Tourism & Travel Management from University of Santo Tomas, in the Philippines, graduated "Magna Cum Laude" whilst taking her MBA in HR Management from Orlando University, specialized and received her distinction as Departmental Honors in HR Organization Development at Stanford University, USA.

Owen's intellectual prowess only surpassed by her unwavering determination, yet in Dubai this dedicated woman has chosen to carve a name and continuously make an impact in the Corporate World of Business & Human Resource, Broadcast and Media industries. What chances made her shift, and why is she in this Iconic Book alongside other global Filipina

visionary women from across the continents? Every girl has always dreamed of living her own story of “Once Upon a Time”, and she was no exemption. She’s always imagined that life is always about glitters and sparks, of bed of roses and cloud nine. Just like the fairy tales she used to love and dreamed of since she was six, she thought she was really meant to live only in perfection and pure bliss—she had seemingly reached the pinnacle of her career from her top management position in most of MNCs and Fortune 500 companies as early as she reached thirty, to a beautiful family life, two precious boys, wonderful ancestry in her home-country, a supportive mentor, and a blessed life abroad. There’s nothing she could ask for that mirrored her childhood dreams, really. She was no ordinary girl as she came from a prominent

family in Manila who raised her to always be the kind of daughter who they can be proud of. If she could remember the first definition of wealth and success in life, she first learned it from her family. Growing up, learning that the environment she was living in was very active and far different from the ordinary, she felt privileged, yet at the same time, pressured.

Though it was all clear to her that she grew up in an unusual family set-up, it bore to her that she was trained to be an achiever, she has always been. The rigid trainings she had inside the walls of their home had transpired inside the halls of the academe, making her a consistent A+ student and a young active organization officer and a beauty pageant title holder. “I am made for these”, as what she’d always say to herself.



She continued to strive for excellence in and out of the classroom, from academics to social activities. Nevertheless, in an era marked by the relentless pursuit of gender equality and the ascendancy of women in the corporate world and the realm of HR abroad, few professionals exhibit the depth of expertise and unwavering commitment that she possesses, stands as a shining example of triumph over challenges.

Her illustrious journey from Manila to the pinnacles of the business realm is a testament to the power of determination, hard work, and unwavering passion for success. In the corporate arena, she traversed a trajectory. Her fruitful career journey in the Middle East began

in Dubai when she joined, moved and had started to work in Jebel Ali Free Zone Authority joining McDermott International the most dreamt Oil and Gas Company to work with. Then she was pirated to join Abbott, a renowned American multinational pharmaceutical, medical devices and healthcare company. Where her career and versatility of know-how have been tested. From Executive Administration and Marketing, pivoting to Human Resources, whilst juggling a role in Regional Financial Planning and Analysis.

Owen quickly established herself as a dynamic force. During her tenure in Abbott, she had the privilege of being mentored by the late Francois Viljoen, a former HR Director, who became her inspiration. This mentorship set her on a path of excellence and dedication in HR Management that she continues to exemplify.

Owen's journey of accomplishment also led her and imprinting her legacy to International SOS, a Medievac, an Air Ambulance & Medical Services company, where she served as the HR and Administration Manager, built the entire core from scratch till expansion and stayed for more than 7 years. Following this, she orchestrated transformative HR initiatives as she assumed the role of HR Organizational

Development Head at SDV – Bolloré Logistics in Dubai, an Emirates Group, an armed aerospace logistics for Airbus, showcasing more her prowess in steering organizational growth. Owen's influence extends beyond boardrooms, her versatility is further evidenced by her roles as the Vice President for Broadcast Media & Communication, VP for Corporate Business Development & Client Relations, while being the VP for HR Administration & Operation. These roles illuminate her ability to navigate complex responsibilities with finesse and dedication, yet continue to impact diverse audiences. However, her achievements extend far beyond the confines of HR.



A distinguished public figure and multi-awarded media personality, she is a true luminary and has earned an indomitable reputation for her contributions to broadcast media and communication. With accolades such as being recognized as one of the "100 Most Influential Filipina Women in the World 2018" and the APEC Gold Medallist, her impact on various fields is undeniable. Owen's list of awards is as remarkable as it is extensive. From earning her initial year in Media, she was immediately crowned as the "Best Media Personality of the Year" in 2022, followed by the "Outstanding Woman in the Field of Broadcast Media" title. Her recognition spans continents and industries, and mid 2023 the Philippines' Golden Eagle Awards accorded her as the "Philippines' Multifaceted Empowered Women & Outstanding Media Personality of the Year". Now, acknowledged as the "Iconic Pinoy Maharlika" Brand Ambassador of this Global Filipino Achiever's Book and much more.

"When one opportunity knocks, do not ignore it, go for it!"

Her media features in different contents, and being branded as the "RARE Breed" by Tatak Pinoy. She was featured in Illustrado Magazine

in 2014; in Dubai Vibes Magazine, as one of the 24 Most Empowered Women in 2023, and the recent, as one of the TOP50 Influential Women in Dubai by Womenpreneur Magazine, these showcases her commitment to sharing knowledge and inspiring others.

Owen SP Sanchez, as a brand name, influence extends globally, with affiliations that include the KM Universe Pageant Advisory Board, I-Glow Influencer's Empire, ER Luxury Collections, Ixxia Jewellery and Alish Apparels by Danube Brand Ambassadors. Her capacity for leadership and her ability to inspire has led to appoint her as one of the four (4) Jury of the UAE's Got Talent 2022 and continues their Season 4 for this year; she became Pageant's Brand Ambassadors for Miss/Mrs International Woman of Substance and for Mrs Lady of the Year Middle East.

"Woman, you have to pursue what you really like. You have to be firm in the things that you plan for yourself. You have to move from that FEAR in your HEART!!!"





Owen's journey becomes a testament to triumph over challenges and a clarion call for empowerment.

“Woman, you have to pursue what you really like. You have to be firm in the things that you plan for yourself. You have to move from that FEAR in your HEART!!!”

In a world hungry for inspiration, Owen SP Sanchez's narrative stands tall, beckoning aspiring achievers worldwide to embrace challenges, conquer milestones, and contribute to the symphony of empowerment and diversity. Her journey story offers valuable lessons for aspiring achievers. Her unyielding

pursuit of knowledge, willingness to embrace challenges, dedication to mentorship, and advocacy for change stand as pillars of her success.

By emulating her dedication and embodying her values, anyone can chart a path toward their own story of achievement and contribute to the advancement of women in the professional sphere.

With all her achievements in life, one thing remains in her: All the adversities, all the failures, all the crashes, and injuries and wounded hearts were far beyond worth it. They were all opportunities, as if divine

storms, which led her to LOVE life even more. Challenges, she realized, create meaningful colours in our lives, because it would be oddly boring if we never have to strive or struggle.

Hitting rock bottom makes us become a fighter, a warrior—and that's who she is now, will you can be, too. If we want to be significant in this world, we cannot be ordinary. If we want to make a difference, we cannot always stay in the safe harbour.

For someone who is such a lover of life, all she wants to continue doing right now is two things: being able to give back and use whatever resources she has to help other people.



ICONIC PINOY
MAHARLIKA

Building Beyond *a Green Future*

JENNY LIN MAAÑO - NGAI - Co-Founder & President, SUNSMART Solar Power Technology Inc.



SunSmart, Asia's leading renewable smart solar energy pioneer, continue to empower underprivileged communities across the Philippines by providing immediate access of clean energy, potable water, cold storage, communication and connectivity through its decentralized micro-utility mother station approach bridging the gap between energy and the environment as an an integrated and hybrid utility

solutions for all. The company has dedicated its mission to make "Living Off the Grid Possible" serving the current unserved, underserved or namely the G.I.D.A.S. Geographically Isolated Disadvantaged Areas no matter how near or far. Thus, keeping with SunSmart's E.L.E.M.E.N.T.S. of advocacy: "Elevating Livelihood, Empowering Mankind, Engaging Nature Towards Sustainability."



“Today, 16 million Filipinos are living without access to electricity. And this should not be the case, given that we have the resources and latest innovations at hand to help them. SUNSMART aims to provide power to the unserved and underserved areas and make life sustainable, resilient and economically viable for 16 million of our fellow men,” says Jenny Lin Maaño - Ngai, President & Co – Founder of SUNSMART Solar Power Technology Inc.

SUNSMART service a broad range of clients, ranging from township residences, commercial, industrial, right up to participating with rural electrification development and partnerships with Local Government Units.

The company have achieved the many firsts in their industry, including being the first to introduce integrated solar power energy, being

the first and only Solar Hybrid readily integrated with smart Artificial Intelligence of Things (AIoT) features, and the very first to viably prove in ASIA through its recent win and esteemed recognition from ACES Asia Corporate Excellence Sustainability award, that to live off the grid is POSSIBLE.

SunSmart believes that their expanding commercial operations will prove that the use of not just solar power, but innovative solar power systems and solutions, are the way forward. Not counting having a main niche as a Direct to Manufacturer & independent R&D platform, the company is the very first to introduce and establish a Distributorship model in Solar Energy industry due to the mobility, multifunctional and ease of use of their solar power systems. With a clever modality, the company was able to timely

expand its Sales & Marketing teams and Technical & Engineering expertise in various regions, creating a stronger impact of providing innovation knowhow, environmental awareness and significantly sustainable “livelihood” by training the local people at site and hiring them as the first priority of the growing, advance and skilled team forces of SUNSMART.

Through SUNSMART business model and values, the company continue to gain recognitions and accolades to many of the communities they have served. Its inspiring accomplishments is led by no other than its President & Co-Founder, Miss Jenny Lin Maaño - Ngai, who strengthened the company’s mission with her Four (4) Pillars to success; that is to serve with a heart for People, Planet, Progress and PURPOSE.

April 10, 2019 Miss Jenny Lin Granados Maaño-Ngai is one of the very first Filipina in green energy field who landed in the high profile People Asia Magazine as Faces in the Crowd “Running and Ruling Woman entrepreneur to inspire today”

On April 12, 2020, Miss Jenny was featured by The Manila Times “Keep in View” as WOMAN POWER PLAYER bravely energizing the remote areas determined to bring solar energy to the 16 million Filipinos who remain unserved and underserved.

On the same year of June 30, 2020, she remarkably received a one in a decade honorary award from Philippines Forbes Business Society as the youngest “Jose Rizal Pamana Awardee” Most Inspirational Business Entrepreneur Leader.

In early January of 2021, despite the challenges faced in Covid19 Pandemic, Miss Jenny bearing the flag of the Philippines with her company SUNSMART won the global arena of ACES - Asia Corporate Excellence Sustainability in Malaysia as ACES Most Promising SME and Asia Corporate Excellence Sustainability Business Leader.

On January 14, 2022 Miss Jenny was one of the privileged chosen few key inspirational woman speakers from the Philippines for (WHD) World

Humanitarian Drive in London, UK combatting adversity against the uprising and vast effects of Climate Change. She received and is currently listed by WHD-World Humanitarian Drive Founder, Chairman & CEO Dr. Abdul Basil Syed Frsa as an “INSPIRING MILLIONS AWARDEE” along with prominent names of high profile corporations, business leaders and renowned personalities all over the world such as James Bond Girl Rachel Grant and famed author and award winning story writer Tony Cranston from UK among all others.

At her own initiative of CSR works and unconditional support of creating livelihood programs during an employment halt from the pandemic to the LGBTQ communities and Filipino Fashion Designers of the Philippines , last July 12, 2022 independence day celebration, Miss Jenny was named by the reputable organizations together with Crowne Plaza Galleria as “Philippines PRIDE Most Quintessential Woman”.

On December 3, 2022, with lengthy humbled accomplishments Miss Jenny have garnered beyond her solar business, Philippine Best Brand Management Committee composed of media, key influencers, political leaders and celebrities has awarded Miss Jenny as Philippines BEST FACE OF SUCCESS 2023. Among the awardees also includes Mercedes Benz and The Manila Times.





ICONIC PINOY
MAHARLIKA

Inspiring the women *by creating path*

MYRNA TANG YAO - President & CEO, Richprime Global Inc, Richwell Trading Corporation



Ms. Myrna T. Yao is a graduate of Business Administration in the University of the East. She finished her Master's Degree in Business Administration in the same university. She is a proud mother of 4 daughters and grandmother of 9 grandchildren.

Women in business are not a rarity; entrepreneurship has allowed many to run successful businesses. But breaking the glass ceiling for women in business can inspire women who choose business as a career to aim high or higher.

She is a recipient of many local and international awards including 2021 BPW International Excellence Business Leader Award



The story of Richwell Trading Corporation, the leading distributor of children's toys and shoes and baby products, and one of the brains behind its success, exemplifies the possibility of a woman taking on a big project and exhibiting exemplary leadership in its success. Gender is not an issue if women handle themselves professionally and competently in any undertaking, earning the respect and confidence of the people they work with. Richwell's ascendancy in the business community in the early 80's began with the tenacity of a forward-looking woman who co-founded the company and who raised its standards so that it becomes at par with its peers worldwide.

Despite the instability of the local political and economic conditions, Richwell successfully maintains the marketability of its products. Because of its track record in creating a market for

its existing brands like Barbie, Richwell continues to acquire new brands for exclusive distribution in the country. Given its ability to set right pricing for good quality shoes, Richwell currently holds one of the biggest share in infant and children's branded shoes in the Philippines. Toys and Children Wear.

As the President and Chief Executive Officer of Richprime Global Inc, Richwell Trading Corporation and other companies. Ms. Yao's passion or success is the result of hard work, perseverance, determination and a focused mind – knowing where she wants to be, what she wants to happen for the company, how she would like to see Richwell and RGI Group of Companies grow and progress in the future.

Despite having reached the peak of her professional life, Myrna could not find enough

fulfillment so she started pursuing what she has always dreamt of, to go into socio-civic work to be able to help more people, especially those not privileged enough to have the proper education to be employed or venture into business.





Mrs. Myrna T. Yao was appointed Chairperson of the National Commission on the Role of the Filipino Women (NCRFW), now known as the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW), by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo from 2004 until 2010. PCW is the government’s advisory body on policies and programs for the advancement of women. Before being appointed Chairperson, she served as a Commissioner of NCRFW, she championed the passing of the Magna Carta Law of Women into law during the Presidency of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and the visionary and implementor of the Great Women Project during her term as Chairperson of Philippine Commission of Women, representing the National Council of Women of the Philippines from 2000 to 2004.

She now serves as the Founding Chairperson of the Philippine Federation of Local Councils of Women. She is also the Founder and President of the Filipino-Chinese Federation of Business and

Professional Women of the Philippines since 1999. She is likewise involved in the movement that assists children through the Pearl S. Buck Foundation, Philippines, and now the Chairman Emeritus, where she has the distinction of being the Charter President and the Founder.

She is a recipient of many local and international awards including 2021 BPW International Excellence Business Leader Award; 2020 Global Woman Honorary Awards by Global Woman Club; 2020 People of the Year Awardee by People Asia; 2019 ASIA CEO Awardee for Regus Entrepreneur of the Year and InLife SHERO of the Year Circle of Excellence Awards; Asia Leader’s Awards 2019 Woman of the Year; 2016 BizNews Asia Awardee for Entrepreneurship Award; 2015 & 2016 Most Influential Filipina Women in the World; 2013 International Women Entrepreneurial Challenge Awards held in Lima, Peru; International Entrepreneur Award held in Cairo, Egypt awarded by the Global Summit of Women

of Washington D. C. and Gold Prize Award for Women’s World Excellence Award held in Beijing. She was also granted the Presidential Merit Award by President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo for her success in the field of entrepreneurship in the local and international level. She was awarded in 2015 as the 100 Most Influential Women in the World. In 2015, she launched her book entitled “The Gift of A Dream” The Great Women Project which Vision and Conceptualization, started from her. In 2023, she completed her Doctorate Degree at De La Salle University for PhD in Criminology and Philosophy.





Rewards for *outstanding achievements*

MARIA MONTSERRAT ITURRALDE-HAMLIN "MONETTE"
President and Founder, TeamAsia

Monette is passionate about her advocacies on women's economic empowerment and gender equality, sustainability and green events



Maria Montserrat Iturralde-Hamlin (Monette for short) is the founder and president of 31-year-old TeamAsia, an award-winning integrated marketing communications firm that brings brands to the next level experience through integrated marketing, events, PR, creative and digital services (www.teamasia.com).



Monette concurrently serves as chairperson of Hopkins International Partners, Inc.; president of the Government-Academe-Industry Network (GAIN), and Vice President for Conventions of the Philippine Association of Convention/Exhibition Organizers and Suppliers (PACEOS). She recently ended her two-year term as chairperson of the Women's Business Council of the Philippines (WomenBizPH) and now serves as a trustee.

She served on the Tourism Promotions Board as director representing the Meeting, Incentives Travel, Conventions, and Exhibitions, Events

Services and Facilities Sector for three years. She also heads the Sub-Working Group for Human Resources of the Philippine M.I.C.E Roadmap 2030. A founder of the Philippine MICE Academy, she regularly delivers lectures on event management.

A sought-after speaker, moderator, trainer, business consultant and author, Monette has been recognized by LinkedIn in 2021 and 2023 as one of Top 100 Most Influential Filipino Women. She also received the ASEAN Women Entrepreneurs Network's 2018 Outstanding Women Entrepreneur; Philippines Women Leadership Awards 2018, IABC 2016 CEO Excel Award, and 2014 Ten Outstanding Alumnae of the College of the Holy Spirit. She has represented the country in various fora of APEC, ASEAN, AWEN and Asian/Spanish Network of Women. She was conferred the Global Woman Leadership Award at the Global Woman Summit in the UK in June 2022.

Aside from numerous magazine articles, editorials, book reviews, case notes and management cases, Monette has co-authored Professional Event Management: A Guide to Meetings, Incentives, Conventions, Exhibitions and Events, and is chapter lead on Communications with a Gender Lens for I am Woman. She has her own column entitled Monette's Musings at www.theredcircle.com.

Monette is passionate about her advocacies on women's economic empowerment and gender equality, sustainability and green events, inclusiveness, communications, corporate social responsibility, education, and global competitiveness of human talent.

She leads her 31-year-old award-winning integrated marketing experience agency TeamAsia in creating social change through nation-building efforts. She pushed TeamAsia to sign up for the United Nations Women Empowerment Principles to keep track of its gender equality and women empowerment initiatives. TeamAsia was recently recognized by UN Women Philippines as the SME Champion for Gender-Inclusive Workplace. Moreover, she helped build TeamAsia's own annual event "MommaCon" starting 2020, providing a safe space for mothers to discuss taboo issues on motherhood.





To shed light on the issue of unpaid labor for women Monette wrote, “What is a Woman’s Worth” in her column on The Red Circle, which was then picked up by local dailies and shared by the UN Women Regional network. She set up My Dream In a Shoebox (MDIAS), TeamAsia’s annual education campaign that provides children with their educational needs. Now in its 15th year, MDIAS raises funds to build e-hubs and sponsor scholars so that children may continue learning amid the pandemic. Since 2009, MDIAS has distributed over 421,219 school kits, provided for 497 scholars and raised over USD100,000 to support its beneficiaries nationwide.

Monette advocates for economically empowering women through organizations like Women’s Business Council Philippines, Inc. (WomenBizPH) to help people understand women empowerment and gender equality. She

led the organization of a series of womenars (women seminars) to help companies better understand women empowerment and gender equality. The lessons from the sessions were collated into an e-Book, I am Woman, serving as a guide for women leaders.

Monette also promotes the country’s tourism and the meetings, incentives, conventions and exhibitions industry with the Philippine Association of Convention/Exhibition Organizers and Suppliers, Inc. (PACEOS) and enables the global competitiveness of Filipinos through the Government Academe Industry Network Inc. (GAIN). Monette is an active lifetime member of Global Woman Club Manila.

She completed AB Psychology at College of the Holy Spirit, graduating Summa Cum Laude; Master in Business Management (MBM) with Distinction at the Asian Institute of Management;

and is a Fellow of the Institute of Corporate Directors (ICD). She heads the Board Diversity and Inclusion Committee at ICD.

A widow, she is mother to three wonderful children: Bea, Cara and Niccolo. She loves to experiment in the kitchen and posts her creations on social media using #casadeduckies.





ICONIC PINOY
MAHARLIKA

Community leader *resolve social issues*

LEONOR S VINTERVOLL- CEO & Co-founder, European -Philippine Advocates



Leonor Vintervoll migrated to Norway in mid-1981 when she was given a job training program at the head office of Norconsult A.S, Philippines, where she worked for seven years. Born in the Philippines,

she was destined to work and live in Norway by having met her Norwegian husband Aage during this assignment, who respects and supports her advocacies.



They are gifted with a son, Rayner! Leonor has a track record of 30 years as community leader despite her full-time job as entrepreneur, advocating causes that resolve social issues or a frontline fundraiser for the education of the underprivileged children in the Philippines, or



help disaster-stricken villages struck by natural disasters. Her track record of community service is long and meaningful. Leonor founded the Philippine Women's Organization in Norway in 1990, a non-profit/charity foundation focused on women empowerment, equal rights and welfare for women, youth and children.

Her position paper resulted to the lifting of the ban on the deployment of Au Pairs in Norway and the whole Europe, of which to date, thousands of Filipino youths are benefitting from this youth program.

In closed cooperation with three Ambassadors based in Sweden, Philippines, Leonor served three Philippine Ambassadors as the contact person of the Filipinos in Norway until the establishment of a Philippine Embassy in Oslo in 2007. She was the Chair/Coordinator of the Filipino Community in Norway for six years. As



Behind the Scenes leader, she was always ready to help whether it was a Filipino with a problem in Norway or a disaster fund-raising for the Philippines. Appointed by the Norwegian government in 2000, her experience as a Lay Judge for 16 years in the City Court of Oslo and Borgarting Lagmannsrett (Court of Appeal) was a great influence of her life and leadership, and a significant factor in her successful leadership in the community.

Leonor, a multi-awarded woman, her dedication to community service was recognized when she was awarded one of the FWNIOO Most Influential Filipina Women in the World in 2015, 2017 and 2022 by the Filipina Women's Network based in San Francisco, USA. Awardees are inspirations for the empowerment of the next generation of women leaders. Leonor serves as a Board Director and Vice President for Membership (2017-2023).



She also received a Certificate of Recognition for her role as Ambassador for Peace from the Presidential Peace Adviser of the Office of President of the Philippines. In Europe, she led as a Chairperson of ENFID-European Network of Filipino Diaspora, with 17 country members (2016-2022).

Giving a poor child the hope and the chance to change her/his life through education is closest to her heart, thus sponsoring ten poor children's education under the care of the World Vision Philippines is just one of her initiatives in the Philippines! Believing in empowering women, she is working towards building a small

"Women's Center" in her hometown, where women who have not reached higher education are taught crocheting, sewing, cooking, and other means of livelihood.

Leonor is a Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer of EPA – EUROPEAN-PHILIPPINE ADVOCATES. EPA focuses on giving back to our Motherland, the Philippines and helping out Filipinos in need in Europe. The Group recently donated four classrooms (two one-story duplex building)! These buildings contribute in lessening the Government's lack of school classrooms: Umingan National High School, Pangasinan, and San Isidro Elementary School,

Sulat, Eastern Samar. EPA is again donating a MULTI-PURPOSE Duplex Building.

Awards:

FWN100 Most Influential Filipina Women in the World 2015

FWN100 Keepers of the Flame 2017

FWN100 Keepers of the Flame 2022

Certificate of Recognition as Ambassador for Peace by the Presidential Adviser of the Office of the President of the Philippines 2018

Received a Plaque of Recognition from the Department of Education, Region 1 Schools Division Office II of Pangasinan 2023





COURAGE • INTEGRITY • LOYALTY



M A R A N G A L

“Making a difference is being noble.”



The making of the First Philippine National Police General from the Zamboanga Peninsula.

Elbon started out a people person and was forged into a proud soldier. For all the years that he was active in public service, country always came first.

No wonder he always went for 1st, graduating No.1 in athletics. He received the Athletic Saber or Baguio City Mayor Award. He had a record for receiving Major A in basketball, volleyball, boxing, baseball, badminton, tennis as well as Major A with 3 stars for track and field.

As an officer, he always preferred to be on the field. His first assignment was in Jolo, Sulu, then the urban jungles of Manila. He has travelled through the mountains of Ilocos and Ifugao, the plains of Central Luzon, the shores of Zamboanga, before turning to the last chapter of his career on the rolling plains and hills of CALABARZON. His accomplishments, too numerous to be mentioned here, would seem like scenes from a familiar motion picture.

His parents, Prospero Sr. and Antonina, lived to their 90s to see their little boy become the first PNP general of the Zamboanga Peninsula when he was promoted in March 2002.



Retired Police Brigadier General Prospero "Elbon" Cornelia Noble Jr.
Born on September 25, 1950
Graduated PMA Class of 1974
Athletic Saber recipient (Baguio City Mayor Award)



PMA Ring Hop, 1974



PMA roommates, 1973



Commanding Officer, Nueva Ecija, 1980



US Army Infantry School, Fort Benning Georgia, 1985



Tirad Pass Patrol, 1996



Regional Director, Zamboanga Peninsula (PRO9) 2005



Regional Director, CALABARZON (PRO4A) 2006



Noble family at Liloy, Zamboanga, 1960's



Wedding, January 12, 1974



The General's daughters, 2002



Negros Oriental High School, Dumaguete City, Homecoming 2003



Mother Antonina's birthday, 2010



Grandchildren, 2016



Disneyland, 2018



Holy Land Pilgrimage with Mistahs, 2018



Japan winter trip, 2020



Three generations of Prospero, 2022

Athletic Activities



Jogging with DND Sec. Fidel V. Ramos, 1989



His beloved sport of tennis, 1980



PNP's Basketball superstar, 1982



Track and field trophy, 1983



Retirement sport of golf, 2020

Elbon, always marching on.

A man of humble beginnings, Elbon remained a 'probinsyano' at heart and has never forgotten the value of hard work, perseverance, equality and self-discipline.

He expresses his love for humanity and his zest for life with each passing day. Aside from being a soldier, he is a son, a brother, a husband, a father, a friend, a star athlete and a whole lot more. For those who have experienced having him in their lives, their hearts embrace the spontaneity and joy of his spirit.

He is a very natural, almost uninhibited person who expresses himself with engaging frankness. A man of many achievements who never misses out on a good joke or prank and is the proverbial life of the party.

Through all these years, he has lived his life with the fervent hope that he leaves each destination a lot better off after he first set foot on it. A man noble in name and orientation, he is ever moving forward, marching to the beat of his personal mantra of "Making a Difference".



ICONIC PINOY
MAHARLIKA

Actions *of versatility*

DIETHER PASCUAL OCAMPO - Artist, Coast Guard Auxiliary Officer, and Philanthropist

“Believes in improving quality of life by giving back to society”



Diether Ocampo is a celebrated actor, philanthropist, and Captain of the Philippine Coast Guard Auxiliary (PCGA). He was born on the 19th of July, 1973 in Bacoor, Cavite, and is of German, Chinese, and Spanish descent. He undertook his primary and secondary school education in Cavite, then earned a Bachelor of Business Administration degree at De La Salle University, Dasmariñas.

During a talent search that ran between 1995 and 1996, ABS-CBN identified him as a potential candidate for an actor's role. A year later, he joined the Star Circle Batch II. During the same period, he was the vocalist of a pop-rock band.

In 1997, he made his acting debut in a movie called Calvento Files: The Movie. Diether holds the record for starring in the most TV series in the Philippines, being featured in 13 television serials. Some of his most famous roles were in La Vida Rosa (2001), Wherever You Are (2005), and Apoy sa Dagat (2013). He has appeared in several commercials and also starred in an anti-zoo ad for the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals.

In addition to acting, Diether was also the executive producer of the band The Pin-Ups,

which was signed under an American label. He also served as an executive producer of Tandem Entertainment.

A steadfast patriot, Diether joined the PCGA in 2014, and completed his maritime training in 2019 at the Philippine Center for Advanced Maritime Simulation and Training (PHILCAMSAT) through the Philippine Transmarine Carriers, Inc. (PTC). He currently serves as the Deputy Director for External and International Affairs of the PCGA National Auxiliary Main Office (PCGA NAMO) and concurrent Deputy Chief of Staff for Maritime Community Relations (COMREL) – CGAD NCR-CL.

Since 2014, Diether has served as special staff and aide-de-camp to the foreign diplomatic corps, including the ambassadors of the United

States of America, Canada, Germany, Israel, Vietnam, Singapore, Spain, Japan, Australia, and New Zealand. He is an honorary member of the Naval Special Operations Command (NAVSOCOM) Class of '85, Coast Guard Special Operation Force (CGSOF), and Coast Guard Air Force (CGAF). He actively participates in Defense Cooperation Initiative Programs with foreign diplomatic attachés and also is an honorary member of the Foreign Armed Forces Attachés.

Diether also served as Investment Promotions Ambassador for the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA), Ambassador of Goodwill of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), and HERO Foundation Ambassador, in which capacity he helped organize events to raise funds for the families of fallen soldiers.



WHAT IS THE PCGA, AND WHAT IS CAPTAIN OCAMPO'S ROLE?

The PCGA is a non-government, non-partisan civilian volunteer organization that supports the Navy and Coast Guard. As a member of the PCGA, Diether is dedicated to carrying out the PCG's mission of promoting safety of lives and property at sea, protecting the marine environment, and conducting humanitarian missions and disaster response.



Coming from humble beginnings, Diether is a man with a big heart whose passion for helping the less fortunate is far-reaching. He is a charter member and co-founder of the Rotary Club of Makati Circle of Friends (RCMCoF), and currently serves as Project Chair for numerous programs such as the Iron Circle Bloodletting Program and the Tunay na Iskolar ng Bayan Program—a program that seeks to provide 1,000 scholarship grants to orphans of fallen soldiers and dependents of eligible Armed Forces of the Philippines, Philippine Coast Guard, and Philippine National Police personnel.

He is also the co-founder of a non-profit, non-partisan organization called Kabataang Inyong Dapat Suportahan (KIDS) Foundation, established in 2008, which delivers medical and academic support to less-privileged children in remote and conflict-stricken areas of the Philippines.

Related to his PCGA commitments, another of his primary advocacies is to uplift and improve the entire marine ecosystem—especially the quality of life of fisherfolk communities—by promoting proper training and more responsible fishing practices, as well as creating

awareness of illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing.

The multi-faceted Diether is also a private pilot, competitive polo player, avid golfer, certified advanced open-water diver, and spearfishing pesca-sub diver. He is a dedicated father to his son Dream, and actively supports his academic career.

Diether's central ethos is to value the family, and to be a loving father, a responsible son, a faithful brother, and an honorable patriot.





ICONIC PINOY
MAHARLIKA

Sustainable Future

“A Vision for tomorrow”

BRIAN POE LLAMANZARES - Chief of Staff for Senator,
Chairman of the FPJ /Member of the Blockchain Council



An author of "A Sustainable Future," a book that aims to help Filipinos plan for the battle against climate change. author of "A Sustainable Future," a book that aims to help Filipinos plan for the battle against climate change.

Brian Poe Llamanzares is a multi-faceted individual with a Master's Degree in Climate and Society from Columbia University and Ph.D. in Public Administration from the University of Perpetual Help. He has a diverse range of educational experiences, having completed programs at prestigious institutions

such as Wharton, Stanford, MIT, and the Harvard Kennedy School of Government. He also took part in the Conference Diplomacy and Multilateral Negotiations Program at the United Nations in Geneva, further expanding his knowledge and expertise in international relations and diplomacy.



Brian is a leading figure in technology and innovation, known for his entrepreneurial spirit and contributions to the industry. He is a member of the Blockchain Council of the Philippines, working towards making the Philippines a leader in blockchain technology. He is the founder and CEO of Time Master Watches, a Filipino lifestyle brand that offers quality timepieces, and co-founder of Unit256, an art tech enterprise that aims to make Philippine Arts accessible and aid in art preservation. He is also lead investor in A3 Group of Companies, founder of Oracle Media Group, and CEO of A-Team 360 Reputation Management Services.

Currently, Brian serves as the Chief of Staff for Senator Grace Poe and is Chairman of the FPJ Panday Bayanihan Foundation, which is dedicated to serving the Filipino community in times of crisis. He is also the author of "A Sustainable Future," a book that aims to help Filipinos plan for the battle against climate change.

His passion for sports is also evident as he joined the 2022 SEA OIL Radical Challenge Philippines, racing for Porsche Design and Team PartsPro, and was awarded "Rookie of the Year." Throughout his career, Brian has been recognized for his leadership and contributions in entrepreneurship, public service, and innovation, including being named one of Lifestyle Asia's Power Millennial Award winners

for Entrepreneurship in 2018, being recognized as one of People Asia Magazine's "Men Who Matter" in 2020, and being named as a "People to Watch" for 2023 by Rising Tigers Asia Magazine. He also invested in Mind You Mental Health Systems, promoting mental well-being for the community. He is also involved in WOOP, a platform that helps financially-challenged students apply for and look for scholarships. He believes that this platform can bridge the gap between donors and students in need by providing a secure platform for scholarships from the private sector.



He is a true example of how one person can make a difference, and how one's passion, dedication and hard work can lead to a successful and impactful career.

In summary, Brian Poe Llamanzares is a highly accomplished and well-rounded individual who has dedicated his life to making a positive impact in various fields. He is a leader in technology and innovation, an advocate for education and community service, and a passionate individual who is committed to the betterment of his country. His involvement in various initiatives and recognition for his contributions demonstrate his unwavering dedication to the Philippines and its people. He serves as an inspiration for the youth and for those who aspire to make a difference in their communities and the world.



He is a true example of how one person can make a difference, and how one's passion, dedication, and hard work can lead to a successful and impactful career. His recognition by Rising Tigers Asia Magazine as a "People to Watch" for 2023 is only a testament to his potential as a leader.

