10 Most Inspiring Filipino Techno Entrepreneurs. These successful Pinoy entrepreneurs include (list is through Touched by an Angel):

1. Diosdado Banatao (Computer Chips - Mostron and S3).

2. Nonoy & Ben Colayco (Online Gaming - Level Up)
3. Joey Gurango (Software Development - Webworks OS)
4. Danilo Manayaga (Biotechnology - Servac Philippines)
5. Dennis Mendiola (Wireless Technology - Chikka Asia)
6. Manny Pangilinan (Telecommunications - First Pacific, PLDT)
7. Dr. William Torres (RP Internet Pioneer - Mozcom)
8. Peter Valdes (software development - Vinta Systems)
9. Orlando Vea (Mobile Communications/New Media - SMART founder, MediaQuest)

I was reading GoNegosyo and I read about the life story of Dado Banatao. He was considered as the Filipino version of Bill Gates since both came up from a technical background, introduced technologies that transformed the computer industry, and built large successful companies from the ground up.

I was really amazed on how far Dado already went in pursuing his dreams especially knowing his roots. And as such, he was the featured story for today in the rags to riches entrepreneur section of this blog. I hope you would find another inspiring success story.

Dado Banatao was born on May 23, 1946 to a rice farmer and housekeeper where he grew up in a little barrio named Malabhac in the farming town of Iguig in Cagayan Valley Province. When he was a kid, Banatao used to walk barefoot to school along the dirt roads. He then went to Ateneo de Tuguegarao and at 15 pursued college education at Mapua Institute of Technology where he graduated cum laude with an Electrical Engineering degree.

Dado was then offered a job after graduation at Meralco but then he turned down the offer after knowing the starting salary. He instead applied as a pilot trainee at Philippine Airlines, which paid much more. Little did he know that a turning point of his career will come when Boeing pirated him as a design engineer and brought him to US. He then enjoyed engineering and later on pursued further studies taking a Masters in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at Stanford University, which he completed in 1972 to be trained properly on his craft.

After graduating with his Masters degree, Dado then worked at some of the leading-edge technology companies that include National Semiconductor, Intersil, and Commodore International where he designed the first single chip, 16-bit microprocessor-based calculator. In 1981, while he was working at Seeq Technology, the inventor of Ethernet approached the
company to look for a more efficient way of linking computers. Banatao was then assigned with the task that led him to his breakthrough discovery of by putting the Ethernet controller on a single chip instead of big boards. That was then the first 10-Mbit Ethernet CMOS with silicon coupler data-link control and transreceiver chip.

With that breakthrough discovery, Dado then decided to start his company and be his own boss. With US$500,000 seed capital that came mostly from friends, he put up Mostron i 1985 to develop chip sets. As a start up company, he had to be cost efficient and resourceful. He then used equipment from another company that wasn’t used on weekends to debug chips. Later his hard work and dedication paid off when his company developed the first system logic chip set for the PC-XT and PC-AT, which lowered the cost of building the personal computer and made it much more powerful.

About the same time, Dado started his second company named Chips and Technologies (C&T), which created enhanced graphics adapter chip sets. With its success, sales during the first quarter amounted to US$12 million. In less than a year, the company went public by listing its shares in the stock market and the market’s response was remarkable. It was one of the fastest Initial Public Offering (IPO) listings in the history of US stock market. In 1996, multinational semiconductor giant Intel bought C&T making Banatao richer by US$430 million.

But even before this huge success, Banatao had already reached millions when he started his third company named S3. It was a company that pioneered the local bus concept for the PC in 1989 and introduced the first Windows accelerator chip in 1990. Way back in 1993, S3 was then considered as the third most profitable technology company in the world when it went public having an IPO worth of US$30 million.

Dado Banatao is now a multimillionaire investor. He invested in a lot of networking companies that were eventually sold before he joined the venture capital firm Mayfield Fund in 1998. After two years, the company offered him to promote to a general partner but Dado refused it and instead decided to start his own venture capital firm named Tallwood Venture Capital with a capital of US$300 million, all of which came from his own pocket. He then believed that independence is more important than security.

Today Dado Banatao manages several businesses. His Cielo Communications is developing the vertical cavity surface emitting laser or Versel, which speeds the transmission of data along optical lines. His SIRF Technology is designing a chip for a global positioning system which utilizes satellites to locate objects. His Marvell Technology had a highly successful public offering with the stock price soaring more than 300% during its first day of trading. He has proven to be a master investor and venture capitalist. He invests, oversees, and sells several companies that include Cyras Systems acquired by Ciena; Newport Communications acquired by Broadcom; Acclaim Communications acquired by Level One; Stream Machines acquired by Cirrus Logic; Marvell Technology Group and New Moo software.

He has more than three homes in the US, including resort properties in Lake Tahoe and Sonoma San Francisco. From his childhood roots of walking barefoot, he now drives his high-performance luxury cars and he flies his own fast jets. Yet despite these blessings, Dado Banatao
still contributes to the society and to the country. His Banatao Filipino American Fund assists Northern California high school students of Filipino heritage in pursuing a college education in engineering. Aside from this, he also went back to his childhood town of Iguig in Cagayan Valley where he built a computer center at his grade school making it the only public school with the most modern computer network.

Truly Dado Banatao has come along way being a veteran entrepreneur and venture capitalist of Silicon Valley. May his successful life story continue to inspire us to pursue our dreams, ambitions and aspirations despite adversities in life. Keep the fire burning. As this blog says, Dream… Believe… Act… Achieve.

Joey Gurango | Founder/CEO
Tarcs Taruc | Managing Director
Manny Tanseco | Director for Services

Joey Gurango has been in the software development industry since 1987, when he co-founded Match Data Systems USA, a Microsoft ISV specializing in database applications in Seattle, WA. launched and successfully grew the company's Philippine and Australian operations until 1999, when Match Data Systems merged with Great Plains Software. Gurango served as Managing Director of the Philippine R&D facility for Great Plains Software before taking on the role of Regional Director for Product & Services for Microsoft Business Solutions, after Microsoft acquired Great Plains Software in 2001.

As a Great Plains and Microsoft executive, he had senior leadership responsibilities in product development, support services, and sales & marketing, and managed teams in various countries throughout the Asia Pacific region.

The Philippines can be a major supplier of raw materials for the world’s natural ingredients industry but government must provide ample investment and protection to keep enterprises engaged in promoting such economic activity, a Filipino entrepreneur said yesterday.

Danilo Manayaga, president of Secura Philippines, Inc and Secura International Inc. reminded the government to invest more in research and development to develop crops and plant varieties that produce more nutrients and natural ingredients in demand by both cosmetics and pharmaceutical companies worldwide.

Manayaga suggested that a regulatory process be established to guide the planting and propagation of crops and plants that have great potentials in the largely competitive trade in natural ingredients.

"The presence of regulations or standards like the prohibition of the use of pesticides on crops grown locally would improve the confidence of foreign importers," he said.

Manayaga said government must restrict the importation and planting of imported varieties to maintain the quality and integrity of local crops and plants.
He added that such stringent restrictions are the key to safeguarding the purity of the country’s malunggay, which yields better nutrients like vitamin A, iron, zinc, calcium, potassium and good cholesterol than similar plants anywhere in the world.

This is similar to the superiority of local garlic over the same product propagated in Taiwan and other countries.

Secura has been offering contract to grow malunggay for more than a year but has yet to secure adequate supply from growers. The company processes dehydrated malunggay leaves for tea and additives for other medicinal plants.

"We are involved with contract growers from different towns and all over the country like Valencia in Negros Oriental, Masinloc and Botolan in Zambales, Alaminos and Infanta in Pangansinan and Bamban in Tarlac. They account for 150 hectares of land that supplies our market. It is not enough to sustain the demand for other products like Moringa or malunggay oil," he added.

Manayaga said Secura needs at least 20,000 hectares to be able to supply the market for malunggay products like the leaves for food fortification and animal feeds, moringa oil from its seeds for cosmetics and as edible oil, and moringa seed-cake extracts for water treatment.

Dennis Beltran Mendiola (born September 1, 1967, in New York City) is an entrepreneur and investment banker oft cited for pioneering technology ventures that have been mobilized for both real profit and invaluable service to people and communities.

Contents
[hide]

- 1 Chikka
- 2 Work for the Red Cross
- 3 Chief Imagination Officer
- 4 Educational and Professional History
- 5 Personal Life

[edit] Chikka

Chikka, a company he co-founded in 2000 with Alexandra Roxas and Chito Bustamante, built an instant messaging (IM) application that was the first to seamlessly integrate full mobile functions via text messaging. The service launched in 2001 allowed millions of Filipinos who did not have Internet access, to become part of an instant messaging community using their mobile phones.

The service called Chikka Text Messenger would be driven by millions of overseas Filipinos who embraced the service as it united them, reliably, economically, with their families and
friends back home. Chikka has thus been downloaded from the US to the Middle East and every corner of the world where Filipinos could be found (including the open seas for which a Chikka version was specifically developed for access via the INMARSAT by Filipino seamen who man the world’s ships). Mendiola indeed envisioned Chikka to address a strong need for communication (itself resulting from a Philippine Diaspora that began decades back, as Filipinos were compelled to look to foreign shores for a better life). With over 45 million registering to use the service since its commercial launch in 2001, Chikka today is one of the most widely used communications tool that bridges Internet and mobile communities.

Presently Chikka is a diversified company powering mobile communications, content, commerce and corporate solutions available across the globe in countries such as the US, UK, Italy, Spain, Peru, Ecuador, India, Indonesia, and Hong Kong.

“Chikka” is Filipino colloquial for “small talk,” and indeed the nature of billions of text messages exchanged around the world.

[edit] Work for the Red Cross

Mendiola has also inspired the mobilization of mobile technologies for humanitarian causes. In late 2004 as twin killer typhoons Yoyong and Winnie (international code names: Nanmadol) ravaged Southern Luzon in the main Philippine Island, “Donate-a-Load” was launched whereby millions of Filipinos where encouraged to donate their call credits by simply texting variable amounts to a Red Cross short code. The ingenious scheme allowed people from all walks of life to give selflessly and anonymously to victims of the typhoons, raising millions of Pesos in a matter of hours. As the country celebrated National Heroes Day in December 30, 2004, the phenomenon was cited in the Editorial of the Philippine Daily Inquirer. Donate-a-load would later be mobilized again for victims of the Great Asian Tsunami with the UNICEF as beneficiary.

In June 2008, Mendiola was inducted as Governor of the Philippine National Red Cross with the specific mission to wield technology to advance the cause of the humanitarian organization.

“This is remembering and going back to my roots for me. As volunteer No. 001 at Subic of then SBMA Chief Richard Gordon in 1992, we had little more than our idealism to try and make the former US Naval facility, play a key role in RP’s bid to become an Asian Tiger,” said Mendiola. [1]

“A sound sense of providing a valuable service has always fired us up at Chikka. As for me, I feel that I’ve paid my dues to corporate business, and the Red Cross has given me this opportunity now to re-channel my energies, to wield best practices in technology towards relieving extremely urgent humanitarian crises happening everywhere in the world today,” Mendiola added.[2]

For inspiring technological innovations that have translated to valuable services for the Global Filipino, and put the Philippines on the map as a global hub for mobile applications development, he had been cited through 2006 and 2007 by:
• Ernst and Young as Entrepreneur of the Year (2006)

• The Go Negosyo Movement of the Presidential Adviser for Entrepreneurship as one of the Ten Most Inspiring techno entrepreneurs (2007)

• The Philippine Marketing Association for the Agora Asia-Pacific Marketing Excellence Award (2007)

• Junior Chamber International Philippines as one of the country’s Ten Outstanding Young Men (TOYM)

[edit] Chief Imagination Officer

Even as CEO of Chikka, Mendiola has always been referred to more as the company’s “Chief Imagination Officer” and de facto Head of Product Development. From 2000 to 2008 he had pushed for various versions of the Chikka Text Messenger and scores of mobile applications that “text-enabled” every conceivable aspect of daily life from commercial transactions to finding dates, from entertainment to prayer. So compelling were some of these services that “warring” executives from competing mobile networks once found themselves “breaking bread” at no less than the house of the Archbishop of Manila (the Philippines is 95% Roman Catholic) to jointly launch Chikka’s “Catextism.”

But real testament to Mendiola’s innovative are eleven (11) patents filed; 34 applications granted; over 40 applications pending for Chikka’s various mobile communications related products covering 24 countries.

[edit] Educational and Professional History

Mendiola attended primary and secondary schooling at the Ateneo De Manila before heading to the US for college. He graduated double summa cum laude with degrees in BS Economics (Wharton) and BS Electrical Engineering (Moore) from the University of Pennsylvania, and later earned his MBA from the Harvard Business School in 1995. He was gainfully employed through 1992 to 1997 as a consultant and investment banker at such institutions as McKinsey Consulting, Morgan Stanley and Bankers Trust, at some of the world’s most important financial capitals.

Twice however, country beckoned: Early in 1992 to volunteer at the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority in order to attract international investments in the former US Naval Base, and give the country new hope of joining the ranks of Asian Tigers; and then again in 1996, to form Next Century Partners, a venture capital firm that would call the attention of more international investors to more investment opportunities in the country.

The emerging “New Economy” also beckoned to Mendiola, firing up a new passion. He saw an opportunity in marrying Instant Messaging, wildly popular among a global Internet community, and in text messaging, the rage in this part of the world. It was an ambitious project, requiring
intricate solutions to cater to the habits of what was even then, the most advanced “texting” culture in the world, Filipinos.

In 2001, Mendiola, together with a group of young entrepreneurs, responded to the challenge of creating a messaging solution that would withstand SMS volume in a country sending 30 million messages daily, and claiming the title ‘Text Capital of the World.’ Mendiola launched the Chikka Text Messenger, the world’s first instant messenger with integrated mobile features via SMS, beating world players such as AOL, Yahoo and MSN to probably the world’s most coveted mobile messaging market.

The Chikka Text Messenger became an integral part of Filipinos’ lives everywhere, including overseas Filipino workers, and a diverse online community that quickly embraced and enjoyed Chikka for its ease of use and reliable mobile connectivity.

Since the launch of the messenger, Mendiola spearheaded the creation of various wireless applications, including a prolific line of mobile messaging solutions. Distinguished by their high and universal utility, Chikka’s services include: mobile IM and email easily accessed and managed via SMS, mobile payment systems utilizing call credits, Free-Reply SMS that aids prepaid subscribers in need of “top-up,” mobile-enabled auctions and matchmaking, and the most relevant, informative and entertaining text, voice and visual mobile content.

Mendiola has led Chikka and the Philippines to become a world-class mobile applications services provider.

[edit] Personal Life

Mendiola is currently in a relationship with Kara David, a Filipino journalist who currently works for GMA Network as one of the presenters of i-Witness and host of OFW Diaries. They first met during the awarding ceremonies of The Outstanding Young Men Awards by Junior Chamber International Philippines at Malacañang Palace in 2007, where both of them were co-honorees.

Manuel V. Pangilinan (born July 14, 1946 in Manila, Philippines), also known as Manny Pangilinan and MVP, is a Filipino businessman. He is the Chairman of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company, from 1990 up to the present. Pangilinan spent his elementary and high school days at San Beda College. He graduated cum laude from the Ateneo de Manila University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics. He received his MBA degree in 1968 from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. He is also the owner of ABC/TV5 network, Cignal Digital TV and Smart Communications. He was the former Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Ateneo de Manila University.
Current investments

Manuel V. Pangilinan, founded First Pacific in 1981 and served as its Managing Director until 1999. He was appointed as Executive Chairman until June 2003, when he was named CEO and Managing Director. Within the First Pacific Group, he holds the positions of President Commissioner of P.T. Indofood Sukses Makmur Tbk, the largest food company in Indonesia. He was named Chairman of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company (PLDT), after serving as its President and CEO until February 2004. He also serves as Chairman of Maynilad Water Services, Inc., Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation, Medical Doctors, Inc., Metro Pacific Investments Corporation, Landco Pacific Corporation, Pilipino Telephone Corporation, and Smart Communications, Inc.

2010 Ateneo commencement address

During the Ateneo de Manila University graduation rites on March 26 and 27, 2010, Pangilinan was invited to deliver a speech for the graduating class, after being awarded an honorary degree in recognition of his services and contributions to the University. The speeches caused controversy as various parts of them were found to have been lifted from similar graduation speeches made by Oprah Winfrey, Barack Obama, JK Rowling, and Conan O'Brien. Pangilinan openly admitted to the act in a written apology to Fr. Bienvenido Nebres, SJ, President of the Ateneo de Manila University, and offered to resign from his official duties in the Ateneo out of "deep personal embarrassment." Fr. Nebres's immediate reaction was not to accept Pangilinan's resignation, but to defer judgment to his board.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Share</th>
<th>President/CEO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PLDT (MY DSL)</td>
<td>Chairman</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>Napoleon L. Nazareno</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associated Broadcasting Company (TV5)</td>
<td>Chairman</td>
<td>MediaQuest Holdings, Inc. 100%</td>
<td>Rey C. Espinoza</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SMART Telecommunications (SMART BUDDY)</td>
<td>Chairman</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>Napoleon L. Nazareno</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ePLDT Ventus Inc.</td>
<td>Chairman</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>Rey C. Espinoza</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meralco</td>
<td>President and CEO</td>
<td>PLDT 26.7%/MPIC/PilTel Group total 40% above</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stradcom International Holdings Inc.</td>
<td>Chairman</td>
<td>ePLDT 9.5%=172.8 million [8]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cure Inc. (Connectivity Unlimited Resource Enterprise, Inc.)(RED MOBILE)</td>
<td>Chairman</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>Eric O. Recto</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Beda College</td>
<td>Chairman</td>
<td></td>
<td>Fr. Aloysius Maranan, OSB,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Pacific Company Ltd. [9]</td>
<td>Chairman</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cignal Digital TV</td>
<td>Chairman</td>
<td>MediaQuest Holdings, Inc.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pilipino Telecommunication Corporation Piltel (TALK N' TEXT)</td>
<td>Chairman</td>
<td>Smart Tel. 99.5%</td>
<td>Napoleon L. Nazareno</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Pacific Tollways Corporation</td>
<td>Chairman</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metro Pacific Investment Corporation</td>
<td>Chairman</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[edit] Company Ownership
[edit] North Harbor Management

The management of Manila North Harbor is under the Harbour Port Inc., a joint venture of Harbour Port Terminal Inc., of Reghis Romero II and Metro Pacific Investment Corporation of Manny V. Pangilinan[1].

[edit] Meralco Leadership

Manny Pangilinan is planning to build a sky-way connecting North Luzon Expressway and South Luzon Expressway, however all of this are merely proposals through his company, the Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation. Pangilinan-led company Metro Pacific Investment Corporation had invested in different utility companies in the Philippines such as Makati Medical Center in Makati City, Cardinal Santos Medical Center, Davao Doctor's Hospital in Davao City, Maynilad a water utility system serving eastern Metro Manila and the biggest competitor of Manila Waters Incorporated a Ayala-led company which is serving the western part of the metro., Manila North Harbour Management, Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation, and Meralco or Manila Electric Company a Lopez-led Company which is reported that effective on July 1, 2010, Manuel V. Pangilinan is the new President and Chief Executive Officer of the company while Manolo Lopez is the chairman. MVP owns more than 40% of Meralco through PLDT/MPIC/ and Piltel Group with Ramon S. Ang, the President and CEO of San Miguel Corporation, who also has a 27% share of the company. Meralco has announced that on the next season of PBA or Philippine Basketball Association they will include their second team after Talk 'N Text. [11]

William Torres

Profile.
Bill Torres is the president and co-founder of MosCom Internet (together with Dr. William Gan). He is also the current chief executive of the Philippine Internet Service Organization (PISO). But his commitment to the development of the local Internet scene didn't start there but goes way, way back.

"I was there at the very beginning when it all came up," he said. Bill's affair with IT started in 1966 when he was chosen and sent on a Fulbright Hays grant to pursue a graduate's degree in computer science in the United States. "I was the first Filipino to obtain a Ph.D. in computer science." In the Cory Aquino government years (1986-1992), he was appointed as the managing director of the National Computer Center (NCC) and chaired the Information Technology Coordinating Council (now called the National Information Technology Council or NITC).
Why he's influential.

What he and others consider as his greatest contribution in the industry happened in 1992 when he initiated the first informal negotiations with the US National Science Foundation to bring the Internet to the Philippines. He was also the first to approach government agencies to sponsor the project. "During those years the government had very little money, fortunately there were other people like Ricardo Gloria and William Padolina who believed as I did that we should not wait to get the Internet into our country," he said. Today, his pioneering efforts have earned the unofficial title among his circles as "the father of Philippine Internet," and said he has no qualms about the results. "I believe the industry is enjoying a healthy growth in our country despite many difficulties (i.e., very expensive leased lines and dial-up lines) and uncertainties (metering, convergence policy issues, e-commerce, etc.)."

Visions for the Net.
"The Internet will be the main information and communication system for the world and for our country." 1966 to 1999 seems to be such a long time to be in the business, and we wondered if this has tired or hindered him from playing in a field dominated mostly by a younger lot. "Not at all," he said.

"What is perceived by most are the actions, events, happenings and implementation, but few ever notice and experience the visioning, planning, study, negotiating and startup. I was there at the beginning when the opportunity came up and I was prepared to explore it!"

MANILA, Philippines—Morph Labs Inc., a Cebu City-based world leader in Software as a Service (SaaS) operations, announced Monday that Orlando Vea, Lorenzo Tan and Martin Lichauco had been notified of their nomination to its board.

Vea is the founder and currently chief wireless adviser of Smart Communications Inc., a unit of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT). He is also president and chief executive of
MediaQuest Holdings Inc., where he is responsible for the PLDT group’s initiatives in traditional and new media platforms.

Tan is president and chief executive of Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. (RCBC) and vice chairman of RCBC Savings Bank. He is also a director of RCBC Bankard, Great Pacific Life and Smart Communications.

Lichauco is managing director of AO Capital Partners Ltd., an investment and financial advisory services firm. He has 14 years of private equity and venture capital experience and is a member of the National Venture Capital Association (NVCA) in the US.

The three executives are expected to be formally elected to the Morph board this week, Morph Labs said.

The company has filed its registration statement with the Securities and Exchange Commission and its listing application with the Philippine Stock Exchange in preparation for an initial public offering of stock in the second quarter.

Morph Labs is a leading enabler of SaaS for Web applications. The Morph AppSpace service allows developers to quickly deploy applications into an enterprise quality on-demand environment.