

ABOUT THE RESOURCE PERSONS



**Dr. Caesar A. Saloma** is currently the Chancellor for UP Diliman. He is also a professor at the National Institute of Physics, University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City. Prior to being the Chancellor, he was the Dean of the College of Science. He also served as Director of the National Institute of Physics for two terms. He was appointed to the highest rank of Scientist 3 by the UP System in 2006. Dr. Saloma obtained his BS, MS, and PhD degrees from the University of the Philippines Diliman in 1981, 1984, and 1989, respectively.  
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**Engr. Merly M. Cruz** is the DTI Undersecretary for Regional Operations and Development Group (RODG). She supervises all DTI regional offices, four bureaus, and project management offices. She likewise steers all the DTI Regional Offices into action and prompt responsiveness to the current needs and demands of our country's MSMEs in various industries. Concurrently, Usec. Cruz serves as the Philippine senior official to the Brunei-Indonesia- Malaysia-Philippines East Asian Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) regional group.



**Dr. Josef T. Yap** is President of the Philippine Institute for Development Studies where he specializes in macroeconomic policy and applied econometrics. He finished his undergraduate and doctoral studies at the University of the Philippines Diliman and went to the University of Pennsylvania for a post-graduate program. His current research interest centers on regional economic integration in East Asia. Dr. Yap is the regional coordinator of the East Asian Development Network and was actively involved in the establishment of the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA). He is co-author of the book *The Philippine Economy: East Asia's Stray Cat? Structure, Finance and Adjustment* and is an Associate Editor of the Asian Economic Journal.



**Ms. Blesila A. Lantayona** is the Regional Director of the Department of Trade & Industry, Region 3 and DTI-RODG's island coordinator for Luzon. She earned her BS Degree in Agriculture major in Economics (cum laude) from Xavier University (Ateneo de Cagayan) as a scholar of the Filipino Banana Growers and Exporters Foundation, Inc. She holds an MBA Degree in International Business from Ecole Europeenne des Affaires in Paris, France and was a 1993-1994 fellow of the European Union-ASEAN Scholarship Programme. She also pursued her Master in Agribusiness at the University of Southeastern Philippines. Prior to her present assignment, Ms. Lantayona was the Assistant Regional Director of DTI Region XI.



**Mr. Ramon M. Lopez** is the Executive Director of the Philippine Center for Entrepreneurship-Go Negosyo program, a post he has held since September 2006. He has developed and executed strategies and programs of the Go Negosyo advocacy of the PCE to promote the spirit of entrepreneurship in the country. Mr. Lopez is also the Vice President and Head of Strategic Planning, and former Head of the Market Development Group of the RFM Corporation. Mr. Lopez took his Master in Development Economics (with recognition) at Williams College in Massachusetts, USA and finished his AB Economics degree at the University of the Philippines Diliman.



**Ms. Emmarita Z. Mijares** is the Deputy Executive Director of the Export Development Council. She became the private sector representative to the council after she retired from the Department of Trade & Industry, where she headed the Export Assistance Network. She also once headed the Import and Export Section of the Bureau of Product Standards which checks the quality of export products before shipment. Ms. Mijares is a Chemical Engineering Board Exam topnotcher from the University of the Philippines and most recently, she graduated from the University of Georgia, USA where she specialized in nonproliferation and export control.



**Mr. Virgilio P. Fulgencio** is the Executive Director of the Center for Industrial Competitiveness, National Industrial Manpower Training Council of the Department of Trade and Industry. Prior to CIC/NIMTC, he was the Officer-in-Charge of the Center for Labor Relations Assistance of DTI, and a college instructor in Pasig Catholic College, St. Paul College, and Ateneo Center for Continuous Education. His professional affiliations include membership in the Philippine Quality and Productivity Movement, Philippine Industrial Relations Society, and Hermanos de Mesa del Santissimo Rosario. Mr. Fulgencio obtained his bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the University of the East. He also holds a master's degree in Business Economics from the University of Asia and the Pacific and a master's degree in Business Administration from De La Salle University.



**Mr. Benel P. Lagua** is President and Chief Operating Officer of the Small Business Corporation where he also serves as Vice Chair of the Board of Directors. As COO, he has overseen the growth in the loan origination of the SB Corp. from Php 1.3 B in 2022 to Php 4.2 B in 2010. He is currently a Review Committee Member of the Industrial Guarantee and Loan Fund (IGLF). He was a member of the Project Steering Committee of PEARL 2. With SB Corp. being a member-government financial institution (GFI) of the SULONG Program of the national administration, Mr. Lagua sits as the Chairman of the SULONG Finance Committee and orchestrates its efforts to seek ways to improve the lending environment for the SMEs.



**Mr. Jerry T. Clavesillas** is the Assistant Director of the Bureau of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Development of the DTI. He administers various programs for the MSMEs where he takes charge of the study, preparation, planning, implementation, and evaluation of these programs. He is also responsible for recommending policies and standards, objectives and priorities and likely directions in the promotion and development of MSMEs through the SME Development Council. Concurrently, he is the Program Manager of the RuMEPP and a member of the Technical Advisory Group of the IGLF.



**Mr. Reysan G. Gantuangco** is the Deputy Director of the Credit Rating & Financial Services Group- as well as of the Policy, Systems & Business Development Group Department of Loans & Credit of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP). He undertakes credit scoring, establishes the credit lines of banks dealing with BSP, and manages securities for overdraft lines of banks. As such, he formulates & implements policies on BSP lending operations, operates the electronic rediscounting system of the bank, implements business process improvements in the Department, and is Project Head of BSP Credit Surety Fund Program. Mr. Gantuangco obtained both his Bachelor's degree in Commerce, Major in Accounting & Master's degree in Business Administration & Computer Science from the San Sebastian College, Recoletos, Manila.



**Dr. Carol M. Yorobe** is the Undersecretary for Regional Operations of the Department of Science and Technology. She holds a doctorate in Public Administration. She is a Career Executive Service Officer 1 and a certified public accountant. Her areas of expertise include financial management, human resource management and development, institution development, administration and policy and planning. Dr. Yorobe has been conferred awards and citations including the Outstanding Alumni Achievement award for Government Service given by UP NCPAG, Outstanding Alumna in Research & Development Management given by the Foundation University, and recognition Award for Significant Contribution to the National Research and Development System given by Philippine Council for Agricultural Research and Resources Development (PCARRD) of DOST.



**Engr. Jovito Rey E. Gonzales** is the Chief Science Research Specialist in the Investment and Business Operations Division of the Technology Application and Promotion Institute. His previous assignments include being the Program Manager for the Small Enterprise Technology Upgrading Program, the Manufacturing Productivity Extension Program, and the Invention Guarantee Fund Assistance Program. His areas of expertise include plant production and rationalization, process and systems design and improvement, project management, alternative dispute resolution, and information technology. He obtained his bachelor's degree in Industrial Engineering and completed the academic requirements for Masters in Business Administration from the University of Santo Tomas. Engr. Gonzales finished his Master of Information Technology at the University of the Philippines Los Baños.



**Prof. Edison D. Cruz** is the current Executive Director of the Technology Management Center of the University of the Philippines where he is directly responsible for the center's graduate program and research and extension activities. Prof. Cruz has an MBA from the University of the Philippines College of Business Administration and a bachelor's degree in Business Economics (Cum Laude) from the UP School of Economics. Aside from teaching graduate and undergraduate courses in the TMC, he also handles local and international consulting projects for both the government and the private sectors.



**Dr. Virginia J. Soriano** obtained her bachelor's degree in Industrial Engineering at the University of the Philippines Diliman, her M. Eng. in Industrial Engineering and Management from the Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok, Thailand under a Scholarship Award from the Government of Australia, and her Ph.D. in Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering from the University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia under the ESEP Scholarship Award from the Government of the Philippines. She is currently Associate Professor VII of the Industrial Engineering and Operations Research Department in the UP College of Engineering. She was Chairperson of the said department from Nov. 2007 to Oct. 2008. Prior to being involved in the University, she was Senior Project Officer of the Management Systems Development, Organization Management and Development Group of the Development Academy of the Philippines. Aside from her work in the academe, Dr. Soriano is also involved in various research, extension, and consultancy work.



**Prof. Nestor O. Rañeses** is the Director of the UP ISSI, Associate Professor of Industrial Engineering and Operations Research at the College of Engineering and Affiliate Faculty at the Technology Management Center in UP Diliman. He was former Senior Director for Quality Asia of AMIS Semiconductor and Worldwide Manufacturing Quality Manager of ON Semiconductor. He holds a masters degree in Industrial Systems Engineering from Georgia Institute of Technology. Prof. Rañeses completed his graduate studies on Energy Systems at the University of Wisconsin –Madison, and was research exchange scientist on Ergonomics at the Kanagawa University in Yokohama, Japan. He has more than 30 years of professional experience on systems integration and total quality management and process optimization.



**Ms. Esther F. Guirao** is currently the Deputy Executive Director of the National Wages and Productivity Commission, an attached agency of the Department of Labor and Employment. Ms. Guirao has more than twenty years of experience in wage and productivity policy development, program management, training, strategic planning, and communications. She is a Career Service Executive Officer III, a certified ISTIV productivity trainer and likewise a trained social audit officer. In 2002-2004, Ms. Guirao was the Labor Attache and headed the Philippine Overseas Labor Office in Taipei, Taiwan, Republic of China. Ms. Guirao, obtained her Masters in Public Management from the Development Academy of the Philippines and her postgraduate Diploma in Development Administration from the University of Manchester, in Manchester, United Kingdom. She is a graduate of the University of the East with a degree in Business Administration.



**Ms. Ma. Luisa B. Gatchalian** is a faculty of the Entrepreneurship Department of Miriam College, the National President of the Entrepreneurship Educators Association of the Philippines (ENEDA), and a member of the Research & Information Committee of the Small Enterprises Research & Development Foundation, Inc. As an educator for the past 21 years, Ms. Gatchalian finds mix-teaching techniques that are mostly experiential and project-based, very engaging, enriching, and appropriate for college teens aspiring to be entrepreneurs. She is very much interested in various research and development projects which are aimed on progressive teaching and learning. She is the first President of ENEDA NCR chapter (2007-2009) and was with UP ISSI for 13 years.



**Ms. Serenidad F. Lavador** is a Member of the Board of Trustees and the Technical Adviser to the Office of the President of the Small Enterprises and Research Foundation, Inc. She has worked with the United Nations as ILO Expert/Adviser in the fields of child labor, gender and development, women's employment, and rural vocational training. She has worked as expert/consultant on the above-mentioned fields with UN agencies and international organizations, including WFP, UNHCR, the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, Technonet Asia, and East West Center in Hawaii. She also served as ILO Chief Technical Adviser on child labor elimination and women/gender and development projects in Bangladesh, Egypt, and Pakistan. She likewise worked as a specialist in small enterprise and entrepreneurship training and development in the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand. She is one of the pioneers in entrepreneurship development in the Philippines while working as head of the Entrepreneurship Development and Training Department of the UPISSI from 1972 to 1982.



**Cong. Teodoro A. Casiño** is a social reformist and a dynamic leader. He is a third-term party-list representative of Bayan Muna. Prior to being a Congressman, he joined the labor movement as part of the Kilusang Mayo Uno, was elected secretary general of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, and appointed commissioner of the EDSA People Power Commission from 2001-2002. As a progressive legislator and advocate of new politics, he spearheads the fight against corruption and government abuse and pushes for fundamental reforms in the areas of good governance and people empowerment, justice and human rights, educational reform, economic nationalism, the protection of the national patrimony and the environment, and the appropriate use of information and communications technology. In 2008, he was accorded the distinction as “Most Outstanding Congressman” during the annual Congress Magazine awards.



**Dr. Edna Estifania A. Co** is currently Dean and Professor at the National College of Public Administration and Governance in UP Diliman. She has a Doctorate in Public Administration from UP and was visiting Research Fellow at the University of Manchester Institute for Development Policy and Management. Her expertise includes social development, organization studies, citizenship and citizens' role in governance, democracy assessment, and electoral administration and reform.



**Mr. Guillermo M. Luz** is currently the Private Sector Co-Chairman of the National Competitiveness Council, a public-private sector body dedicated to building the long-term competitiveness of the Philippines through policy reforms, project implementation, institution-building, performance monitoring, and goal-setting. He was Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Ayala Foundation from 2006 to May 2011, concurrently serving as Director of Ayala Museum, and was the Executive Director of the Makati Business Club from 1987 to 2006. Mr. Luz graduated from Ateneo de Manila University with a bachelor's degree in Social Sciences (Sociology and Political Science). He was selected as one of the Ten Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) and an Aquino Fellow for Public Service in 1999. He was conferred the Chino Roces Freedom Award in 2002.