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## Dr. Andrew Tan: A Story of Grit, Tenacity and Determination

*page 04-05*

## Speak to Me of Love

*page 06*

## Five Ways Leaders Can Declare Their Independence

*page 08*

## Ascott Launches A First Of Its Kind Service

*page 10*





## THE SUITES *at* GORORDO

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# CONTENTS

**04**

## **Business Matters**

Dr. Andrew Tan: A Story of Grit, Tenacity and Determination  
Written by Prof. Enrique Soriano

**06**

## **Life**

Speak To Me Of Love  
Alvah Parker

**08**

## **Work**

Five Ways Leaders Can Declare Their Independence  
Kevin Eikenberry

**10**

## **Central Spotlight**

Ascott Launches A First Of Its Kind Service

**11**

## **Site Scope**

Cebu's Most Iconic Address Has Reached The 19th floor.

**12**

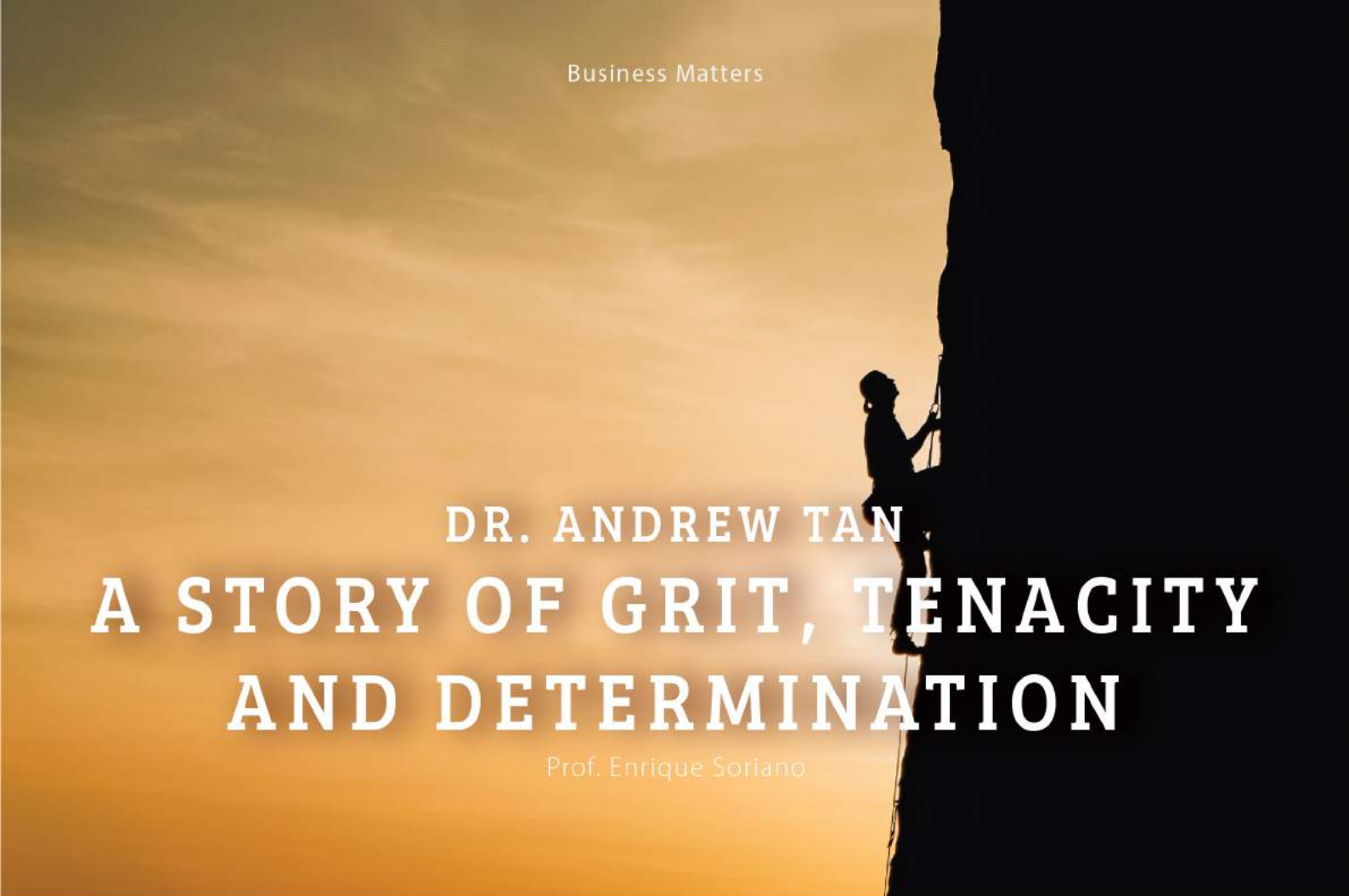
## **Food | Fun | Perks**

Recipe for the Month:  
Sinigang sa Manok at Kalabasa

Mind Twisters:  
Word Search

Discounts  
Nuat Thai  
Skin 911  
Diet in a Box





# DR. ANDREW TAN A STORY OF GRIT, TENACITY AND DETERMINATION

Prof. Enrique Soriano

*"About a week after arriving in the Philippines, I happened to wake up one day at 7 o'clock in the morning. My father got angry and hescolded me. As a newcomer in the country, he said, I had to work harder than the people here. "You cannot wake up at 7 o'clock. You must wake up at 5 o'clock! I was 16 then and that incident opened my eyes to the importance of diligence and hard work, and I have taken my father's advice to heart since then."*

- Dr. Andrew L. Tan

There are only a handful of Taipans in the Philippines who started their life as ordinary men. One individual that has achieved immense success and continues to inspire entrepreneurs to dream big and persevere amidst the very competitive environment was my former boss and mentor of eight years, 67-year-old Dr. Andrew L. Tan.

When most of the local taipans are in the twilight of their golden years, Dr. Tan is still very much in the plate and is far from corporate retirement. This time, his energies are focused on global acquisitions in the liquor and property business.

Very recently, he anointed his eldest son, Kevin, as CEO of Alliance Global Group. It is a publicly listed company with an estimated market cap of close to US\$15 Billion.

So how did Tan suddenly shot to the top? Hard Work and Determination! The son of poor immigrants from Fujian province, Andrew was born in China. His family migrated to Hong Kong when he was four years old. As a child, he and his family used to share a tenement apartment with four other families, with only one bathroom and one concrete table for all the families' cooking stoves. Tan recalls the apartment owner even leased out the corridor to another family. At 16, he came to the Philippines to join his father who was then working in a transistor radio factory. Tan recalls the difficult period, "I lived with my parents in a cramped 20 square meter apartment in Sta. Cruz, Manila. I struggled throughout my college days because I had no money. To save on jeepney fare, I walked every day from my apartment to the UE campus on C.M. Recto."

For lunch, Tan often ate “bananacue” (fried bananas) that he bought from vendors along Gastambide Street. During his first two years as a student, he supported himself by selling watches and tutoring grade school students in math on a part-time basis. It was hard juggling a part-time job and going to college, but Tan never complained. He learned that whether working or studying, doing it as best as he could brought him a sense of satisfaction and fulfillment. It also helped him become a better person.

Most of Tan’s classmates were better off than him since their families owned small businesses such as a grocery or hardware store. That started him off to dream of having his own business to give his family a better life. He quipped, “I would tell myself that if I had P200, 000 (\$3,700)—a lot of money back then—I would use it to open a grocery store!”

The young Andrew took up Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and eventually graduated magna cum laude in 1974. Such a feat for a young dreamer armed only with the values of hard work, tenacity and a burning desire to help his family have a better life! Indeed, Dr. Andrew L. Tan has already gone far from his simple dream of owning a small grocery store to becoming one of Asia’s wealthiest businessmen. At present, his publicly listed holding company, Alliance Global Group, is one of the Philippines largest conglomerates, with interests in gaming (Resorts World Manila), food and beverage industry (Emperador Inc), real estate development (Megaworld, Empire East, GERI, Suntrust) quick service restaurants McDonalds and Hospitality (Richmond, Marriott and Sheraton Hotels).



**Prof. Enrique Soriano**

A World Bank/IFC Governance Executive of Post and Powell Singapore and the Executive Director of Wong + Bernstein, a research and consulting firm in Asia that serves family businesses.





# SPEAK TO ME OF LOVE

Alvah Parker

Dovid Grossman, a coach and father of nine, recently told me that his father and he had fought constantly through his growing up years. Through it all, his mother was the referee. Finally when Dovid was 17 years old he sat down with his father and said, "I want to have a close relationship with you." He was flabbergasted when his father said, "I've tried to do that your whole life but I don't know how."

The conversation made a strong impression on me because I too had a stormy relationship with my father. I tell people I had sibling rivalry with my father!

Gary Chapman, pastor and marriage counselor, noticed that if you want to truly connect with your loved one you need to know and speak his or her love language. A love language is the way we express our devotion and commitment, and it can be learned or changed to touch the hearts of our partners.

Chapman says there are 5 Love Languages. They are:

·**Receiving Gifts**

Presents and physical tokens of affection move you.

·**Quality Time**

This can be expressed either through those intimate tête-à-tête discussions or via doing things together.

·**Acts of Service**

You prefer to show your love through favors and chores and doing things for others.

·**Physical Touch**

You want to give and/or receive affection physically.

·**Words of Affirmation**

You need to hear praise to know you are loved, and you may also prefer to express your affection verbally.

Everyone has a preferred love language. Most of us just naturally assume that because we like to have love expressed to us in a certain way that the other person wants to have it expressed to him or her in that same way.

Now that I think about it my father was a hugger but I preferred going on outings with him and hearing him praise me. It is no wonder that we struggled! Perhaps something similar happened between Dovid and his father.

Gary Chapman has written several books on the topic. The Five Love Languages is for couples; there are also volumes that address men, singles, children and teenagers.

Most fathers want to connect powerfully on a deep emotional level with their children.

Are you interested in "Connecting powerfully on a deep emotional level"? If so Gary Chapman's Five Love Languages may provide you with the tools to do just that.





# Five Ways Leaders Can Declare Their Independence

Kevin Eikenberry





As leaders, here are five declarations of independence to take that will help you lead better and work towards greater success and satisfaction.

238 years ago this week, a group of men, a group of leaders, risked their lives and livelihoods to declare their (nonexistent) country's independence from England. If you are from the United States, I wish you a Happy Independence Day!

But actually I am wishing that all of you (regardless of the country that issued your passport) consider declaring your independence.

What do I mean? After all, as leaders, aren't we actually pretty dependent on our organizations and those we lead?

Perhaps.

But I believe that anytime and anywhere is a good time to think about our Independence. It is one thing to declare it, and yet another to make it happen. So today, I am suggesting several declarations and some actions to help you get started.

We can independently choose to improve our skills.

Reading and thinking about these words is a start. You might be fortunate to work for an organization that invests time and money in your development. (If so, that's great.) But whether you have training and development offered to you or not, you still must own your development. Yes, the skills benefit others, but the learning (and results) belongs to you.

We can independently choose to serve those we lead in a way that supports their growth and the growth of the organization as well.

When you see your leadership role as one of service, good things will happen. When you actually serve others and the goals of the organization, your world and results will change. Declare that you will serve, and then begin serving. The forefathers of the United States were a pretty good example, an example worth following.

We can independently choose to care more, listen more, and trust more.

If you care, let your actions show it. This isn't just nice to do, it is the core of your leadership role. This is a declaration to make silently and intentionally, and then let your actions show your private declaration.

We can independently choose to be more creative.

There are problems and opportunities all around you in your organization. You can wait for resources or time – but it might be a long wait. Many of the greatest innovations came not from well-funded and planned efforts, but from passionate people focusing on a problem and creatively finding a solution. Why not make the creative choice for the benefit of your team, your organization, and your Customers?

We can independently choose to create the culture in which we want to work.

Too many leaders lament that things would be different if their organizational culture was different. You might not be able to influence the decisions and approaches of the "home office" (at least not immediately), but you can influence the working conditions, relationships, and "how things are done around here" with your team, on your shift, or in your work area. Culture starts at home, not at the home office. As a leader, you can create the culture you want.

This list could be (really) long – but I hope you see the point. We do not have to wait for our organization, the economy, the start of the fiscal year, or someone else to change our organizational reality.

This article seems to be about independence, but now you see that independence, just like it did more than 200 years ago, requires a choice. We have choices – as human beings and as leaders. When we wait for others, not only are we not leading, we won't get new or better results.

New choices bring new results.

This is all true, and it still isn't the whole story.

While we must claim our independence, we must also realize that we aren't alone. We are making these choices in connection to and in connection with other people. As a leader, I want you to claim your independence and I also especially want you to value your interdependence.

Declare independence to take responsibility and avoid victim behaviors and attitudes, then think interdependence to create a team that joins you to work towards greater success and satisfaction.

Do those things and you will be able to celebrate both your Independence and enjoy the results.

# Ascott Launches A First Of Its Kind Service

Collaborates with International SOS as part of the enhanced 'Ascott Cares' commitment to improve guests' overall wellness and safety.



*Ascott has enhanced its 'Ascott Cares' commitment to provide stringent hygiene and safety standards, wellness support and implement sustainable practices. Ascott's guests who require telehealth, telecounselling or travel security advisory assistance can call the property's front desk from their apartments, to be connected to International SOS' Assistance Centres 24/7.*

Singapore, 31 May 2021 – CapitalLand's wholly owned lodging business unit, The Ascott Limited (Ascott), is the first hospitality company in the world to offer its guests global access to a comprehensive suite of telehealth, telecounselling and travel security advisory services. In a global partnership with leading health and security services company International SOS, Ascott will provide these complimentary services as part of its enhanced 'Ascott Cares' commitment to improve the overall wellness and safety of its guests. Starting 1 June 2021, the services will be available to Ascott's guests across nearly 200 properties in 86 cities and 27 countries.

Ascott's guests who require telehealth assistance or telecounselling can call the property's front desk from their apartments, to be connected to International SOS' Assistance Centres. Ascott's guests will be able to speak directly with International SOS' health experts at any of its 27 Assistance Centres across the world. The Assistance Centres operate 24 hours, seven days a week and provide assistance in 99 languages and dialects. Depending on the guest's medical condition, International SOS' health experts will provide medical advice or may refer the guest for teleconsultation, in-person consultation or telecounselling with their global network of over 90,000 accredited medical service providers, including clinics and hospitals.

International SOS will also provide travel security advisory and assistance to Ascott's guests to better prepare them for new environments. This includes advice on security matters including the choice of safe ground transportation, as well as verification and updates on in-country incidents, such as street protests, natural disasters, travel restrictions and security threats. With International SOS' assistance, Ascott can advise its guests on the latest developments, implement in-property security protocols and safeguards, or work with International SOS to arrange travel security solutions to further assist its guests. For more information on the telehealth, telecounselling and travel security advisory services.





## THE SUITES *at* GORORDO

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has reached the 20th floor.

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# Sinigang Sa Manok At Kalabasa Recipe



This is one sinigang recipe that's made better with an unlikely vegetable added to the mix: the kalabasa. It gives this sinigang recipe a sweetness that's delicious and homey.

## Ingredients:

- ☐ 3 tablespoons canola oil
- ☐ 1 medium red onion, peeled, quartered
- ☐ 4 pieces chicken quarters
- ☐ 1 cup radish (labanos), peeled, sliced
- ☐ 1/8 wedge squash (kalabasa), peeled, cubed
- ☐ 2 piece green finger chilies (siling pangsigan)
- ☐ 4 cups water
- ☐ 1 44-gram pack sinigang sa sampaloc mix
- ☐ 1 bunch kangkong, leaves and tender stalks only
- ☐ 1 bunch string beans, cut into 3-inch lengths

## How to cook Sinigang sa Manok at Kalabasa

- ☐ In a large pot over medium heat, heat oil. Add onions and sweat until just translucent. Add chicken, labanos, kalabasa, siling pangsigan, water, and sinigang sa sampaloc mix. Stir to mix and then bring to a boil. Lower heat to a simmer.
- ☐ Using a cooking spoon, remove any scum that rises to the surface. Simmer until the chicken is cooked through and the labanos and kalabasa are tender. Add the tender stems from the kangkong and sitaw, and simmer again until just heated through. Serve with steamed rice.

# Word Search



- American
- Independence
- Declaration
- Freedom
- Glory
- Patriot
- Redcoats
- Minutemen
- Britain
- John adams
- Fireworks
- Parades
- Fourth July

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