

# Take Inspiration

## From These Role Models Of Success



Unless you have school going children, many of us may not have heard of David Chiem, the soft spoken and unassuming founder of a successful education business in Singapore called MindChamps®.

When David was just nine years old, he joined his parents and thousands of other desperate “Boat People” fleeing South Vietnam just before the fall to the Communists. David’s parents, who were born in China but immigrated to Vietnam, escaped with nothing more than the clothes they were wearing, braving the rough seas and scores of pirates in search of a new beginning in Australia.

His is an amazing story (see page 30) of how a desperate refugee, who was shy and could not even utter a word of English, went on to top his class consistently and became the first Asian actor to make it on mainstream television in Australia. He later started MindChamps® to teach the art of creative learning and mind development. His approach has won endorsement from luminaries such as Professor Allan Snyder, an eminent scientist and researcher known for his research into human cognition and what it means to exercise one’s genius potential. Even property billionaire Kwek Leng Beng was impressed enough with David and MindChamps® to invest in the company and is now Chairman of MindChamps® and a significant shareholder.

In this first *MillionaireAsia* issue for 2009, we are pleased to feature several other inspiring stories of the indomitable human spirit and people who overcame seemingly insurmountable odds to triumph. People like Chew Hua Seng, the Chairman of Raffles Education (see page 40), who almost went bankrupt with debts of US\$3.6 million. He struggled for more than 20 years to become the 12<sup>th</sup> richest person in Singapore and who recently pledged to give away S\$100 million to charity. We also tell the story of Italian school dropout Andrea Fanucchi who came from a poor family and now owns a collection of eight luxurious villas and has created one of Italy’s largest milk and cheese companies (see page 74).

With the financial crisis raging, many have fallen on hard times. Many more will fall in the worst financial storm of the century. Rather than get discouraged by the gloom and bleak news all around us, let us take inspiration from fighters the likes of David Chiem, Chew Hua Seng and Andrea Fanucchi who started virtually with nothing, gone through unimaginable hard times and have succeeded spectacularly.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Yim".

BRIAN YIM  
Group Publisher and Managing Editor  
*MillionaireAsia*