

Rico M. Hizon

Singapore

While half of the world is sleeping, the other half is waking up to the smiling face of international broadcast journalist Rico Hizon, the first and only Filipino male anchor of the esteemed *British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) World* in Singapore. For more than a decade now, captains of industries have come to rely on him for accurate information and in-depth analyses on the true state of the Asian region's



business and economy. Serving as a reporter and news anchor of *Asia Business Report*, Mr. Hizon is the acknowledged authority in Asian business news. His distinct style of hosting - relaxed but thorough, delivering the business news with a level of clarity - is appreciated even by those not adept with business jargon.

Beginning his career as a production assistant in a *GMA 7* children's show, Mr. Hizon started to make waves in the Asian region's cable news industry. Initially stationed in Hong Kong, where he worked for *CNBC Asia*, Mr. Hizon moved to Singapore in 1997, when *CNBC* merged with *Asia Business News (ABN)*. His talent and dedication to his profession did not escape the eyes of the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC). He eventually became a part of their family in November 2002 through *BBC World* in Singapore where he is still affiliated.

Mr. Hizon's work in *CNBC* is not purely business. He had the chance to talk to the movers and shakers in the world of entertainments, sports, business and politics such as Singapore's Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong, Philippine presidents Fidel Ramos, Joseph Estrada and Gloria Macapagal-

Arroyo, World Bank Head James Wolfensohn, Hong Kong Bank CEO David Eldon, San Miguel Corporation Chairman Andres Soriano III, Indonesia Satellite CEO Tjahjono Soerjodibroto, Former US Secretary of State Casper Weinberger, Broadway star Lea Salonga, jazz singer Diana Krall, opera singer Jessie Norman, and NBA superstar Grant Hill, among others.

Despite his hectic professional job, Mr. Hizon, together with his wife, is also actively involved with Art Sentral Asia, an art events outfit focusing on the promotion of Philippine visual arts. He was also the President from 2002-2005 of the Philippine Cultural Society, an organization that promotes Philippine culture in Singapore. He is also one of the board members of the Philippine Bayanihan Society in Singapore, which helps raise funds for charitable institutions and promote skills upgrading among Filipino workers in Singapore. He also developed the *Good News Pilipinas* (www.GoodNewsPilipinas.com), an information website and personal advocacy that spread good news about the Philippines.

Indeed, Mr. Hizon's indefatigable and charitable efforts has won him enormous respect from his compatriots and from the Singaporean community at large, and several awards which include *2006 Ten Outstanding Young Men*, *Outstanding Manilan for International Journalism*, *Most Outstanding Filipino Leader in Singapore*, and *Most Outstanding Kapampangan Awardee in Media*. His *Asia Nightly News* was awarded the *Highly Commended Best News Program* by the Asian Television Awards in 2000.

In conferring the Pamana ng Pilipino Award to Rico M. Hizon, the President recognizes his achievement as the first Filipino male anchor of British Broadcasting Corporation World in Singapore.