Succession, Professionalism and Governance in Philippine Family Corporations

AAPBS Conference, Oct. 28, 2010

Keio University, Japan

Ricardo A. Lim (ralim@aim.edu)



Basic Dynamics

Family

Goal: To care for and develop family members
Membership: Blood and Marriage

Ownership

Goal: To invest in a profitable enterprise **Membership**: Capital

(Healthy Family ∩ Healthy Business)
Succession,
professionalism,
governance

Management

Goal: To run operations for efficiency / profit Membership:

Management Competence

Board

Goal: To establish policy and monitor execution of strategic plans **Membership**:

Business Expertise

Copyright © 2010 Asian Institute of Management

Core Issues

- **Succession**
- Professionalism
- Governance



Succession "How To" Issues

- How to...
 - Keep the family members or next generation involved in the business?
 - Select the successor--family and/or non-family?
 - Train the successors?
 - Sustain the founder's vision?



Key Concerns: Succession Planning

Founder

- Reluctant to face own mortality and loss of self image.
- Cannot let go of power.
- May perceive self as indispensable.
- May be jealous of potential rivals and successors.



Key Concerns: Succession Planning

- Second generation
 - Fears parental death, abandonment.
 - Wants to avoid disruption of family harmony
 - Feels it is impolite to discuss founder's "passing."
 - Goes into denial: future will not change.



Key Concerns: Succession Planning

- Managers
 - Reluctant to change personal relationships.
 - Fear aging, retirement.
 - May be seen as over-ambitious or confrontational
- Board
 - Do not want to appear disloyal.
 - Set unrealistic measures for possible successor.
 - Like managers and family, cannot leave "comfort zone."





Professionalism

- Expansion impels family to...
 - ...increase competence and performance measures
 - ...hire professional non-family managers,
 - ...substitute systems for the founder's handson approach.

Characteristics of Non-Family Managers

- Applies formal business training, e.g. standards, systems, analytical tools.
- Builds on the founder's business legacy.
- Assumes multiple roles:
 - Expert (engine for growth).
 - Turn Around "Corporate Doctor" (crisis period).
 - Business Strategist (MBA types).



How Family Members view NFMs

- Supplementary skilled labor
- Expert
 - Legal Matters, Mergers and Acquisitions.
- Buffer to Family Influence
 - "sounding board" among different groups
- Symbol
 - that there are careers in the family business
- Mentors to the next generation

NFMs: Why Stay?

- Usually quicker exposure to a wide variety of decision-making situations.
- Speed of decision making on policy issues.
- Can be a more personal and satisfying work environment.
- Offers immediate opportunity to interact with key decision makers (owners).





Board Governance

- Responsible for the corporation.
- Exert critical independent judgment.
- Made up of independent, high-achieving individuals

Multiple Boards

Trusted

"Advisory"

Board

Formal &
Often Inutile
"Statutory
Board"

Trusted
"Advisory"

Board

Internal
"Family Council" &/or
Holding Company

NFM CEO as Non- Voting Participant

"Nominal" Family: Christmas Cards, Funerals, Banquets

"Intimate" Family: Includes "adopted" NFMs

"Connected" Family:
More frequent & regular meetings, smaller groups,
nuclear in-laws here

CASE STUDY: FILIPINO-CHINESE "CHINOY" FAMCORS

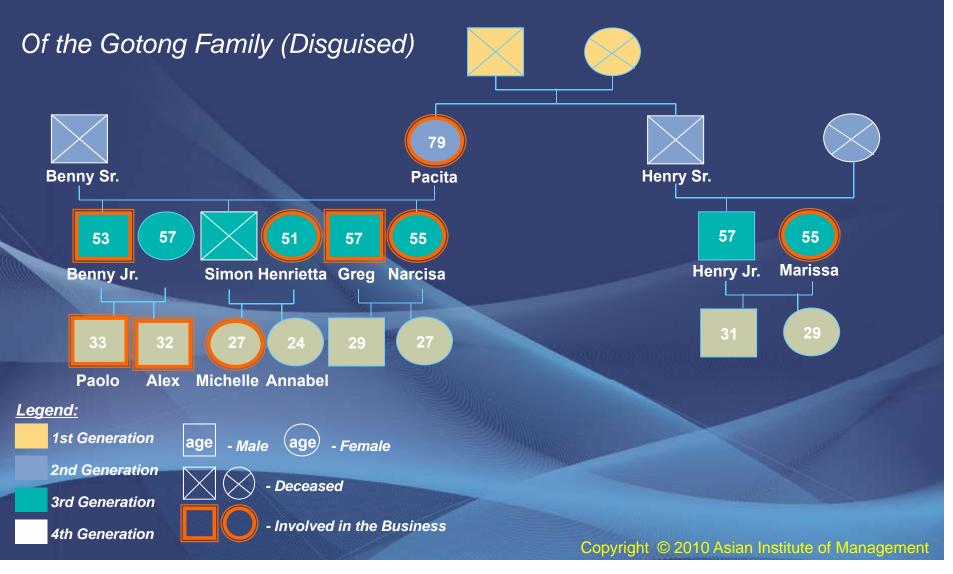
Lessons from Chinoy Famcors

- Thrift ensures survival.
 - A high, even irrational, level of savings is desirable, regardless of immediate need.
 - Must work hard (to exhaustion) to ward off hazards in complex world.
 - Trust only family
 - An incompetent relative is > than a competent stranger.
 - A business enterprise is the family's life raft.

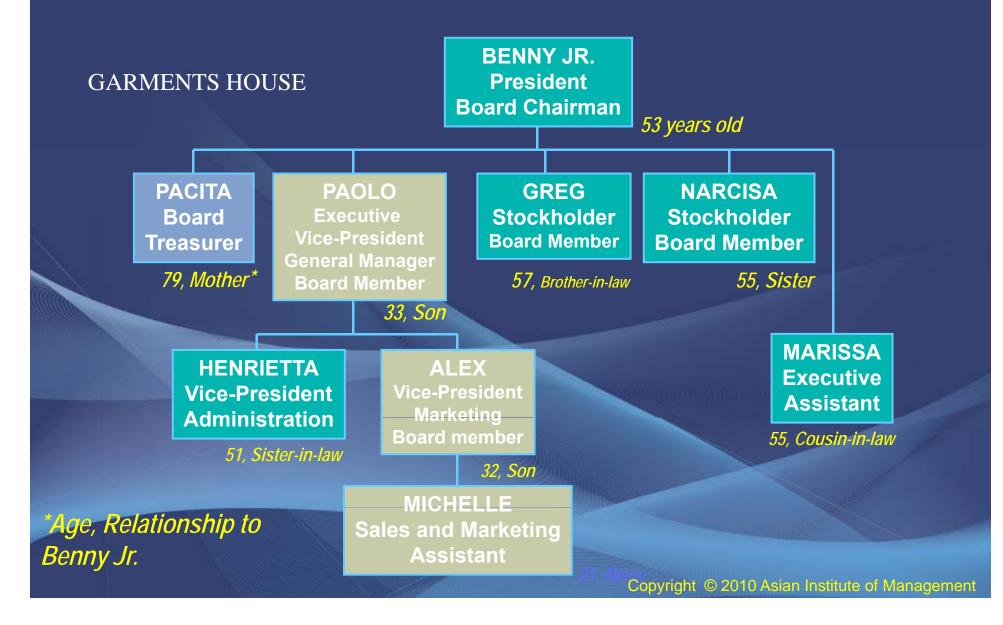
Chinoy FAMCORS 2

- Obedience is essential to maintaining coherence and direction.
- Investment must be based on kinship or a clan network, not abstract principles, e.g., NPV.
- Tangible goods like real estate are preferable to intangibles like intellectual property.

Genogram / Family Tree



Organizational Chart



Next steps, family

- Family
 - Vision clarification/vision exercises
 - Genogram family history/ trends
 - Parental/Family counseling
 - Personal career counseling
 - Formation of family council
 - Education on responsible ownership and management

Next steps, business

- Business
 - Management Training
 - Mentoring and Feedback
 - Programming work experiences
 - Realigning Incentives

Next steps, working with NFM

- Select the best.
- Compensate well
 - but be careful about giving shares.
- Involve key managers in decisions.
- Be clear: develop family
 - You want NFM to develop family managers and move non-family members to management positions.
 - Get their commitment to developing family talent.
- Support them when they protect the integrity of your business.
- Don't delegate family issues to them.

Copyright © 2010 Asian Institute of Management

Conclusions

Family

Goal: To care for and develop family members
Membership: Blood and Marriage

Ownership

Goal: To invest in a profitable enterprise **Membership**: Capital

CHALLENGE: To manage family transitions by balancing underlying dynamics of interacting systems.

FOUNDER/ Then Successor

Management

Goal: To run operations for efficiency / profit Membership:

Management Competence

Board

Goal: To establish policy and monitor execution of strategic plans **Membership**:

Business Expertise

Copyright © 2010 Asian Institute of Management