



PINAY'S TALK TECH PODCAST

VIDEO TRANSCRIPT

RENE: You're listening to Pinay's Talk Tech Podcast. The podcast for future-forward Filipinos.

Hi, my name is Rene from Accenture Philippines and this is Episode 2 Pinay's Talk Tech.

Join me as we engage with in lively conversations with Pinays in technology.

From young innovators to industry leaders, this podcast will show you how Pinays in tech are leading through change.

This is Pinay's Talk Tech Podcast. (Brought to you by Accenture)

RENE: What do you get when you combine determination, a great love for code and a passion to solve problems? The answer will be shared by Fritz, who built an app called Tingog. It's a reading and speech application for children with repaired cleft palate. She and her team bested other students in Accenture's Program The Future Innovation Contest. Today, she's currently leading her own mobile administration team for a project that she's part of.

Here with us today to talk about her journey in the technology industry, please welcome to the podcast Fritz.

Welcome to the podcast Fritz. How are you feeling today?

FRITZ: Thank you so much for having me today Rene. I feel very excited for today's talk. And I hope I'm passing the same energy to our listeners right now.

RENE: Thank you. So, it's been over a year since the pandemic. I remember everybody at the start of the pandemic, they were gung ho about okay let's

connect with everyone and people stopped creating new hobbies. So can you tell me, is that different for you? What's been keeping you busy as of late. How has this month been for you so far?

FRITZ: So these past few weeks, I've been continuously upskilling. So just this morning, I had my, I had a recent talk for inclusive design and for a design tech-base. We were sharing our journey for inclusive design and I had a fun time preparing for this event and it really kept me busy, thinking of how I can share my journey in design and inclusivity. And this month has been a very busy month for me, but at the same time it has been very very fun.

RENE: I love that. I'm a big fan of inclusive design. I think in the last few years, people started really talking about it, right? And so much so in Accenture in a big way. Now before we get into the details with that, in your experience in inclusive design, this podcast is all about women in tech. So I wanna ask you, kinda like a quick fire question, what is your favorite new app as of late the one you always go back to, whether new or old.

FRITZ: My favorite app as of late, aside from the usual online shopping applications that we have, is a productivity app. Where if you successfully, you know, complete your work without picking up your phone or checking up your phone, it will plant a tree. And from a design perspective, from a developer perspective, it made me appreciate its take on how it relates digital advancements in making our world a better place. So it's a very impressive application. And I've been going back at it everyday both in tasks, as for work, or for personal tasks.



RENE: So, you have an app that you like but it's still about your productivity. That is incredible. I'm very very impressed. And I like the green aspect of that. Do they plant an actual tree for you?

FRITZ: Yes, they fortunately plant an actual tree. It depends on the location that you'd pick or on the free locations on the applications. So it's actually impressive that there is this type of application that helps you, as an individual, as you work on your task or whatever you're working on, and at the same time, there is this counter product that is happening in the real world. They were planting trees, helping the ecosystem. So it's quite an impressive feat.

RENE: Yeah, I think that's a very interesting take on going green through technology, right? That it's huge, as on a day-to-day. Imagine what would happen if a hundred thousand people actually do that, a hundred thousand trees. That would be incredible.

So, I really wanted today to talk about innovation and excellence in the field of technology. And we couldn't think of a better person than you to talk about these things. Because your journey has been nothing but inspiring to us. So walk me through what happened at the very beginning. How and at what age did you start developing an interest in tech?

FRITZ: My interest in tech actually started in the family. I have an uncle who is a computer engineer and we're very close. And he's the type of person that shares his thoughts and stories. So when he started to talk about his work in technology, it piqued my interest. And this is when my question started about what opportunities I should have or I could have, if I pursue a career in tech. And from then on, all of the conversations that we had, I really got interested in pursuing a career in tech.

RENE: So this sounds like a mature person talking to an uncle. But really how old were you when this was happening?

FRITZ: This dates way back when I was still in elementary school, when I was still in grade school. So, I think I was roughly in Grade 6 at this time. Just a shy, just a few weeks shy from being a high school student. It was kinda, yeah it was kind of a mature conversation to have with, in the family. But having that conversation in the family also really helped me in choosing my career in life.

RENE: You are showing wisdom beyond your years definitely. But, a lot of things happened, from when you were in elementary then going into college. So walk us through your thought process, and tell us what degree you actually chose when you got into college.

FRITZ: I took up a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science at Cebu Institute of Technology University. It was quite a ride of a college experience, because Computer Science is not something that you'd take lightly. I think for me, it's one of the hardest courses out there to take on and while it was challenging, for me at that time, it was a very very fun college experience.

RENE: Yeah, I don't envy you 'cause I am also in Computer Science. I remember the exams, and I remember needing to code using yellow pad.

FRITZ: Yes, definitely.

RENE: So, when you actually started working, your coding is nearly perfect. Because you're used to just writing it. So less, I think, issues in the semicolons and all that.

FRITZ: Yes.

RENE: How fun was college for Computer Science? I think everyone who's been through ComSci will remember yellow pad coding. So I understand. When you were in college, Accenture had, we had this annual event called Program The Future and you won.



So tell us number one what made you go and join the contest, and then what inspired you about what you built?

FRITZ: What made us join the contest was it was just a take on the challenge. We wanted to take on the challenge of making a solution for — The theme at that time is a Tech4Good. And the inspiration behind our entry at that time — it didn't really dawn to us or did not strike us as a snap of your fingers. It dawned to us as we observed our surroundings. And I think, at that time, we were just really observing the ongoing or the current customer experience. And at the same time, observing the pressing issues that we have right now in our society, especially in our country. The inspiration really for entry is when we had that interaction with our peer who had a repaired cleft palate. Only then that we realized that the lack of speech services in our country is an understated issue that we really needed to address. And that made the group, push forward with the research and project for our application or for our entry for PTF.

RENE: Incredible. I'm firmly a Gen Xer, definitely a Gen Xer. I think I'm nearly a millennial by a year. I think that's where I am. But what I really love about your generation is not only are you digital natives, you actually really want to do good for your environment, right? Like for the country. And I love that you did research before you actually said "Huh, this is an underserved community. Let's help them specifically. I love that. So, well done.

Tell me about what advice you can give young ladies, who are maybe in college or high school but want to pursue a career in tech in the future? How do they maximize their stay in the university? What should they move towards?

FRITZ: My advice usually for young ladies who are still in college or even those students who are still in high school or senior high school who would want to pursue a career in tech, is to go for it! There

shouldn't be anything holding you back. You start with the passion. I think as women, we are driven with passion so it could be anything. A passion could be anything. It could be for design, for art, or for whatever it is that you really enjoy. And, now that we're in a world or in a time where there are just numerous opportunities to put that passion and integrate technology into it. So there's just limitless opportunities for you to work on your passion. While at the same time, also working in the field of technology. If you feel like, if you think that a career in tech feels like it's too much, it's too challenging, they should think about this that there are already so many women in the tech industry that are enjoying, growing and striving in their careers. And, if you think that there are already women who have proven that they can take on big roles and become women tech leaders. So what's stopping you from the same thing?

RENE: Yeah, and I think it's a good point that when you said opportunities are limitless. I think people, when they think about tech, automatically it's all about programmers. But tech is more than that. I always wanna get people who maybe graduated from Accounting if I have an accounting project. Because we need people who understand what the business needs, translate that to the developers so we could do the right thing. Or maybe if you love design as you said, be a user experience designer which is huge these days. Everybody who uses applications, they expect excellence in the user experience that I could get to the info I need in only a couple of clicks. So it's a very very wide area I feel for people to come in and find who they wanna be.

So, here you are, you knew from sixth grade that you wanted to be in tech. In college, you took the fun course of Computer Science. Now, you got into Accenture. Tell us about from about then, when you joined and how long has it been? Has it been a couple of years that you've been in Accenture?

FRITZ: A little over two years since I joined.



RENE: Oh, brilliant! And so, can you tell us — So generally, the first time you get into a company, it's all about enhancing your own skills, right? But then, in a couple of years, you now need to think about stepping up the ladder. How did you become a new hire to what your current role is today?

FRITZ: For me, I'm the type of person that would really push myself out of my comfort zone. And, would seek first challenge or task or a responsibilities that you would think that are beyond my role. I'm that type of person. So in my current project, they appreciate this attitude towards my work, that I am the one that goes out of my way. In handling tasks or responsibilities. For the team, that's a good thing that I would be able to handle and I would be able to give the expectation or the result of what they're expecting. And this attitude is one of the things that, one of the factors that they really take into consideration. And aside from being consistent in the work that I do, and then eventually, pushed me to my current position right now, from being a new hire.

RENE: Wonderful. Are you handling a team now?

FRITZ: I'm an application development analyst, but I am the one handling a group in our team in terms of handling incidence and providing support.

RENE: Support is a very tough job.

FRITZ: Right, it's true.

RENE: It really is. Now, I'm thrilled for you. So, what excites you the most about now being in the lead role. And let me tell you, the experience that you said where, people are open for you kind of taking up the next level and really not preventing you from doing that. I would say, I've experience the same. And my friends, even from other countries, have experienced the same. Where it's okay for them. If you want to take more responsibility, we'll let you try it. No one's gonna stop you. I think that's a very

common experience for a lot of people in Accenture anywhere in the world. Because I've been, I have a lot of friends around the world. And we always talk about this. I have a friend who moved to Accenture when she was already I think in her 40's. And I said well "What's the difference here?" She said, in her previous company people don't teach her anything because they're afraid that she would take over their job. Whereas in Accenture, we would push you to the next level. Say "Hey, take this training!" "Do you wanna try this role out?" So you know, it feels very common. I'm thrilled that you have the same experience. 'Cause I've been here a few years and I'm just thrilled that it's still the same experience for you.

Let's go back to what role or activities excites you the most about your current role?

FRITZ: For me, the excitement in my career, just in general, lies in the opportunity to learn and to grow out of the challenges that were given to me, and that my tasks and my responsibilities would give me. In my current role, I think what excites me the most, what I really look forward to every single time I work, is the opportunity to be closely working with you people. Getting to know new people, and growing my network, and getting to learn new skills, and taking on tasks and responsibilities that would really push me out of my comfort zone. And would make me uncomfortable because when I know I'm uncomfortable, that means I'm growing. I'm growing out of my comfort zone. So that's really the things that excites me the most in my current position right now in my current project.

RENE: Are you working with a global team?

FRITZ: Yes, all our clients are international clients. So, we're working closely with other their onshore teams. So, it's really a great experience to not just be working with Accenture people, but at the same time, getting to grow my network outside of the company, and getting to know all of these new



people and getting to learn from them. So, that's one of the rewarding things in my work.

RENE: I agree. One of my best mentors is actually a client, like for real. And I'm still friends with her to this day. She made me a fantastic project manager. I totally agree with learning from new people and really flexing your global network, right? Especially now, the world is so small. Everyone is just online. So, I'm thrilled for you.

If a fresh graduate or a new employee were to ask you, what does it take to be successful in this field? What's the first thing that comes to your mind?

FRITZ: The first thing that really comes to mind and really based from my experience, I'll talk from experience, is really your willingness to learn, and to challenge yourself, and push yourself out of your comfort zone, and your willingness to explore the numerous opportunities that we have in this field of technology. So it's whether or not you're willing to go out of your way to be one step ahead. And, know that there's so many things to do to be successful in this field. For me, it really starts with your appetite in learning and how much would you want or would you go for if you want to upskill or challenge yourself.

RENE: I totally agree with that. I feel that, I think maybe people would underestimate the amount of different things you can learn in tech. Not only can you learn new programming code, but also new industries. I've been in HR, I've you know, integrated major HR systems for thousands of employees. And also payroll, which was really fun. You can't make a mistake because if a dollar drops from someone's salary, that's huge, right? So a lot of learnings when you open yourself up to new things. I totally agree with that. Thanks for sharing that with us.

Now, let me stir the conversation towards an adjacent topic. This time around, tell me about innovation. Innovation has been such a big buzz

word for decades now. But do you still think it's the thing today? What's your take on innovation in tech?

FRITZ: I think it should be. Innovation has moved and changed lives in our society and with all our digital advancements that we have right now. Innovation has moved so many things that changed so many lives. For me, innovation really gives technology a greater meaning and a purpose. Technology, it could be a new tool or a new programming language, a new virtual experience. But when you put it into use, make use of it, with the meaning in mind, with the purpose in mind, with the target in mind to make an impact then it becomes an innovation. And that for me is how central the concept of innovation is in the field of technology.

RENE: Yeah, in a sense it is relentless. Especially today when the pandemic hit, remember how everyone scrambled and the first thing they turned to us "How can technology help us?" which was fantastic. And I think there's no better time to be in technology than now, right? It's never too late to change and move to tech.

So, I really really appreciate having you in today's session Fritz. And I'm sure the listeners learned a lot from you.

As we wind our conversation down, can we now focus specifically on the women in the tech industry in general. What unique opportunities do you think the tech industry holds for women?

FRITZ: I think you know, people in general should stop putting a box in technology and think that programming or being a programmer is the only future to anyone in the field of tech. Technology in fact is now in all industries. And as we are now in a digital world, a lot of businesses when I say a lot, a lot of businesses really now rely on technologies. So, for us women, the challenge here now is to see how technology can impact our lives, and have our career in tech start from there.



RENE: Wonderful, especially now in the pandemic, everyone had to pivot to digital. To paying digitally, to getting things delivered, so there's no excuse, right? It's in all industries now and I love that.

Now, Melinda Gates in her 2021 Generation Equality Forum said "That when we invest in women, we invest in the future." I know you've only been in technology for a few years but it's really been in your heart for over a decade now. Can you tell me yourself, what investment are you planning to make for the women that come after you? Have you thought about that?

FRITZ: Yes, I've really thought about this one. That was a very good question. The investment I am making for the young ladies, the young girls who are thinking of pursuing a career in tech. And the investment that I am making is by making sure that I am a role model and show them that a career in tech is not as scary as they think it is. And if they really think that it's scary and it's challenging, then they could see me as a role model that have overcome these challenges and these scary bumps that they think they'll also bump along the way in their tech career.

RENE: Oh, I love that. And in the same way that your uncle was your inspiration, we will now make you the tita for the young girls that come after you. You could be their Tita Techie and hopefully invite more young girls to choose tech, the same way that you did.

Thanks so much for your time, Fritz! And I really —

FRITZ: Thank you so much!

RENE: wish you more success in your career in tech. Thank you.

FRITZ: Thank you so much for having me here, Rene. And thank you for the wonderful questions this afternoon!

RENE: I love it! Thanks Fritz! Bye!

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