

2018 BUSINESS
DIALOGUE

INTERNATIONAL ENTREPRENEURS



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SIR RICHARD CHARLES NICHOLAS BRANSON

BORN: JULY 18, 1950

BUSINESS: FOUNDER OF VIRGIN GROUP

Born on July 18, 1950, in Surrey, England, Richard Branson struggled in school and dropped out at age 16, a decision that ultimately led to the creation of Virgin Records. His entrepreneurial projects started in the music industry and expanded into other sectors, including the space-tourism venture Virgin Galactic, making him a billionaire. Branson is also known for his adventurous spirit and sporting achievements, including crossing oceans in a hot air balloon.

His father, Edward James Branson, worked as a barrister. His mother, Eve Branson, was employed as a flight attendant. Richard, who struggled with dyslexia, had a hard time with educational institutions. He nearly failed out of the all-boys Scitcliffe School, which he attended until the age of 13. He then transferred to Stowe School, a boarding school in Stowe, Buckinghamshire, England.

Still struggling, Branson dropped out at the age of 16 to start a youth-culture magazine called *Student*. The publication, run by students, sold \$8,000 worth of advertising in its first edition, launched in 1966. The first run of 50,000 copies was disseminated for free, with Branson afterward covering the costs through advertising.

He is best known as the founder of Virgin Group, which comprises more than 400 companies. At the age of sixteen his first business venture was a magazine called *Student*. In 1970, he set up a mail-order record business. In 1972, he opened a chain of record stores, Virgin Records, later known as Virgin Megastores. Branson's Virgin brand grew rapidly during the 1980s, as he set up Virgin Atlantic and expanded the Virgin Records music label.

<https://www.biography.com/people/richard-branson-9224520>

ELON MUSK

BORN : JUNE 28, 1971

BUSINESS :

CEO, LEAD DESIGNER OF SPACEX

CEO OF TESLA, INC.

CEO OF NEURALINK

FOUNDER OF THE BORING COMPANY

Elon Musk is a computer programmer, designer of rockets and electric cars, and entrepreneur who founded or co-founded PayPal, SpaceX and Tesla Motors. In his late teens he came to Canada to avoid the draft in his native South Africa, and in his 20s he earned degrees in physics and economics. In 1995 he quit a doctorate program at Stanford to market Zip2, a software system that became a widely-used publishing platform for newspapers' on-line editions. Four years later he sold his interest in Zip2 for more than \$300M, and used the proceeds to found X.com, a system for processing payments via email. In 2000 X.com acquired its cross-town rival in Palo Alto, Peter Thiel and Max Levchin's Confinity, and in 2001 X.com was renamed PayPal. In 2002 PayPal was sold to eBay for \$1.5B, and as Musk was majority owner before the sale, he presumably walked away with \$700M or so.

In 2002 he established Space Exploration Technologies (also called SpaceX), a company that offers transport services into outer space, and has successfully launched rockets of Musk's design, placed a satellite into Earth orbit, and delivered a cargo payload to the International Space Station. In 2004 he provided the funding to establish Tesla Motors, manufacturer of all-electric vehicles which have sold briskly among those who can afford the rather steep price tag.

For fun he owns and flies a unarmed test version of an Aero L-39 Albatros military jet fighter, and he has said that he intends to retire on Mars. Jon Favreau, director of the original Iron Man movie, has said that Musk was his inspiration for the movie's characterization of eccentric inventor and billionaire Tony Stark.

<http://www.nndb.com/people/021/000245283/>



STEVEN PAUL JOBS

BORN: FEBRUARY 24, 1955

BUSINESS: CO-FOUNDER, CHAIRMAN,
AND CEO OF APPLE INC.

PRIMARY INVESTOR AND CHAIRMAN OF
PIXARFOUNDER CHAIRMAN, AND CEO OF NEXT

Born in San Francisco, California, to parents that were unable to care for him, Steve Jobs early life was a struggle for identity. An adopted child raised by caring parents, one of the early wishes of his biological parents was academic success. The Apple Inc cofounder reflected on this publicly in one of his famous speeches, explaining how important academic success was to his biological family.

Most of Steve Jobs' life was not a very happy one. His early life was filled with confusion, chaos, and search for his biological parents for whom his Education was an imperative thing. His faith and belief got turned on its head more times that one can count, and he faced several issues in his life for being the Outstanding Individual that he was. He was quirky, lived in his head, way too intelligent for his own good, and thought very differently than most people. Although at times, it almost made him a pariah, his life's journey is a story of a man who made his life count for something, and gave to the world as best he could.

<https://successstory.com/people/steve-jobs>

BILL GATES

BORN: OCTOBER 28, 1955

BUSINESS : PRINCIPAL FOUNDER OF MICROSOFT CORPORATION.

Bill Gates is one of the most famous entrepreneurs of our era. The richest man in the world, Gates has a net worth estimated to be over \$79 billion. He's held the title of "world's wealthiest individual" for 16 of the past 21 years.

Co-founder of the world's largest PC software company, Microsoft, Gates was one of the defining figures of the personal computer revolution.

Gates showed an interest in computer programming at a very young age, spending all of his free time creating programs on the teletype terminal computer his

school had donated. Gates went on to create Microsoft and develop the Windows operating system, which continues to be tremendously popular.

Bill Gates is, like many other famous entrepreneurs, also known for his philanthropic activities, donating very large amounts of money to charitable organizations and scientific endeavors. Gates established the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in 2000, a private philanthropic foundation dedicated to reducing poverty, enhancing health care, improving education opportunities, and providing access to technology worldwide. Gates himself has donated over \$28 billion to the foundation, which he continues to work for.

<https://www.inc.com/larry-kim/11-most-famous-entrepreneurs-of-all-time-and-what-made-them-wildly-rich.html>



MARK ELLIOT ZUCKERBERG

BORN : MAY 14, 1984

BUSINESS : FOUNDER AND CEO OF FACEBOOK

Mark Zuckerberg, in full Mark Elliot Zuckerberg, (born May 14, 1984, Dobbs Ferry, New York, U.S.), American computer programmer who was cofounder and CEO (2004–) of Facebook, a social networking Web site.

After attending Phillips Exeter Academy, Zuckerberg enrolled at Harvard University in 2002. On February 4, 2004, he launched thefacebook.com (renamed Facebook in 2005), a directory in which fellow Harvard students entered their own information and photos into a template that he had devised. Within two weeks half of the student body had signed up. Zuckerberg's roommates, Dustin Moskovitz and Chris Hughes, helped him add features and make the site available to other campuses across the country. Facebook quickly became popular as registered users could create profiles, upload photos and other media,

and keep in touch with friends. It differed from other social networking sites, however, in its emphasis on real names (and e-mail addresses), or "trusted connections." It also laid particular emphasis on networking, with information disseminated not only to each individual's network of friends but also to friends of friends—what Zuckerberg called the "social graph."

In 2008 Zuckerberg's new worth was estimated at about \$1.5 billion. After Facebook's initial public offering (IPO) of stock in 2012, Zuckerberg's net worth was estimated at more than \$19 billion.

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Mark-Zuckerberg>



KIICHIRO TOYODA

BORN : JUNE 11, 1894

**BUSINESS : FOUNDER OF TOYOTA
MOTOR CORPORATION**

Kiichiro Toyoda was the son of famed inventor and entrepreneur Sakichi Toyoda, and the driving force behind establishment of Toyota Motor Corporation. As a young man he studied engineering at the University of Tokyo, then traveled to England, where he worked at Platt Brothers and Company, a leading manufacturer of textile machinery. He later came to the United States, where he studied American manufacturing techniques. After returning to Japan he worked at his father's loom-making business, Toyoda Industries Corporation, where he engineered improvements to the looms' high-draft spinning frames, and patented a carding machine. He began his research into automobiles by dismantling and reassembling an imported motorcycle, and briefly considered the feasibility of a charcoal-powered engine.

After his father's death, he convinced Toyoda Industries' new president, his adoptive brother Risaburo Toyoda, to fund research into auto-making. Kiichiro Toyoda purchased a new Chevrolet and brought in several of Japan's top engineers to disassemble and reassemble it. By 1934 Toyoda and his team had designed and built their first gasoline-powered

engine, and convinced stockholders to fully fund his new division. In 1935 Toyoda built the prototype for its first car, combining Japanese components with Ford and Chevy parts under a Chrysler body to construct what they called Model A1. According to legend, Kiichiro Toyoda drove the prototype to his father's gravesite, to show what he had accomplished.

Toyota vehicles were manufactured beginning in July 1935, and in 1936 the spelling of the nameplate was altered from Toyoda to Toyota, as Toyoda himself believed the new name was easier to pronounce (the family name, when presented in English, remains Toyoda). The auto division was quickly successful and was spun off as a separate business, the Toyota Motor Corporation, in 1937, with Toyoda as Vice President. He became president in 1941, but in 1950, with the business near bankruptcy in Japan's post-war recession, Toyota Motor Corp announced massive layoffs and its workers went on strike. To settle the strike, Toyoda and other top executives tendered their resignations, and Toyoda died two years later.

<http://www.nndb.com/people/433/00173911/>



JEHANGIR RATANJI DADABHOY

BORN : JULY 29, 1904

BUSINESS : TATA AIR LINES AND TATA MOTORS

A visionary ahead of his times, bestowed with India's highest civilian award Bharat Ratna – Jehangir Ratanji Dadabhoi Tata was truly a multi-faceted personality. An avid aviator, he became the first person to obtain the first ever issued pilot license in India. It was his passion for flying that gave birth to India's first commercial airline, Tata Airlines which later became Air India.

JRD Tata was born on July 29, 1904 in Paris. He spent his childhood in France and attended the Janson De Sully School in Paris. He also went to the French Foreign Legion, a unique military unit in the French Army. JRD Tata belonged to affluent family and the parents had the means to fulfill all his desires. Despite of being from the wealthy family, on his father's wish, JRD Tata started working as an unpaid apprentice in the Indian company Tata & Sons. In 1938, at an early age of 34 years, he rose to the position to head the company as its Chairman for next 50 years. Under his able and insightful guidance Tata Group touched the newer heights

of financial success while maintaining strong ethical values.

Under his chairmanship the assets of the Tata Group raised from \$100 million to \$5 billion. He started with 14 enterprises under his leadership – Tata Motors, TCS, Tata Telecommunications, Tata Tea, Titan Industries, Voltas – which till date, are India's one of the best business entities. From information technology to automotive, from electronic appliances to house hold items, JRD Tata expanded Tata groups in various spheres.

More than being just a successful business, the group played a very active role in making the Indian society better. He launched host of initiatives in the employee welfare, education and healthcare.

In 1992 he was honored with United Nations Population Award for his incessant endeavors towards initiating and prosperously implementing the Family Planning Movement in India.

<http://success-stories.in/jehangir-ratanji-dadabhoi-tata/>

INDU JAIN

BORN : SEPTEMBER 08, 1936

BUSINESS : BENNETT, COLEMAN & CO.LTD

A strong supporter of women's entrepreneurship, equal rights and empowerment in society, Indu Jain, has shown not only the whole nation but the whole world that a woman can make her story unique and powerful by herself and she doesn't need to sacrifice her family, culture and ethics to do that. Today she is known as the chairperson of the Times Group.

Besides being an entrepreneur, she is also known as a great educationalist, spiritualist and a believer of the values of arts and culture. She belongs to the Sahu Jain family which is one of the leading industrialist families of the country. Her dedication put her on the list of Top 20 richest person in India while at the global level she ranks 317 in terms of monetary value. Born in Uttar Pradesh, Indu Jain, with her knowledge, experience, vision and hard work, made the Times Group one of the largest media industries. Bennett Coleman & Co. Ltd, which is the foundation associated with

the Times Group, was founded in the year 1838 under the ownership of Ram Krishna Dalmia. The Company reached new heights when his son-in-law Sahu Shanti Prasad took it over. Currently, it is running under Sameer and Vineet Jain, the two sons of Indu Jain.

The Times Foundation today is the proof that care, focus and sincerity about building a company can make anything. The foundation has clinched many awards and acclaims nationally as well as internationally and the main reason behind that was Indu's hard work and sheer determination.

<http://passionconnect.in/articleview/articleid/How-Indu-Jain-has-taught-us-the-real-meaning-of-entrepreneurship-and-women-empowerment>