

Dileep Rao, PhD

Dileep Rao, PhD, was vice president of financing and business development and a board member at a venture development and finance institution for twenty-three years, where he financed the growth of hundreds of businesses and real estate projects.

Dr. Rao has started four businesses (including corporate ventures) and managed five turnaround businesses (four succeeded) where he was chairman and director of emerging ventures and financial institutions.

Dr. Rao advises on building big businesses with finance-smart strategies. His clients have included entrepreneurs; governments, including the US government; Fortune 1000 corporations, including Medtronic and General Mills; and financial institutions, such as banks and development financial institutions in the United States.

Dr. Rao is a clinical professor of entrepreneurship at Florida International University. Previously he was at the University of Minnesota. He has been awarded numerous awards for teaching at both universities. Rao has also taught at Stanford, INCAE (Costa Rica), and Harvard in addition to Executive MBA programs around the world. He is also a keynote speaker on how finance-smart entrepreneurs develop high-growth ventures with little or no venture capital.

Dr. Rao is a nationally acclaimed author and the [entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial finance blogger for Forbes.com](#), one of the world's largest online business sites. He has two engineering degrees and a doctorate in business administration from the University of Minnesota.