

## *What Makes Silicon Valley so Unique and Successful?*

Many countries have, or are in the process of creating, their own “Silicon Valley”. So far, none has as yet threatened the **preeminence** of the US **prototype**. What makes Silicon Valley such a unique entity? There are several crucial factors.

First and foremost, it has the largest concentration of brilliant computer professionals and best supporting services in the world, and **easy access to** world-class research institutions, like Stanford University, which continuously **nurtures would-be geniuses** which the industry needs to move forward. Without these advantages, the Valley would be a different place.

Secondly, it actively encourages, or even **exalts**, risk-taking. Hence, failure holds no terror and there is no **stigma** attached to a failed effort. On the contrary, they will try even harder next time round. Such **never-say-die** approach is the **sin qua non** for the ultimate triumph in entrepreneurship and technological breakthrough.

A third decisive factor is the vital role of venture **capitalists** who willingly support promising **start-ups** with urgently needed **initial capital** to get them started. Some would even give failed entrepreneurs a second chance if convinced that a fresh concept

might lead to eventual success.

The Valley's professionals are among the most hardworking people anywhere. A 15-hour day and 7-day week is not uncommon, especially during the start-up stage. They would give up social life, and **curtail** their family life too, in order to **pursue the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow**. It is this **single-minded** pursuit of excellence, supported by strong **ethos** of teamwork and **esprit de corps**, that sustain them until their mission is accomplished.

Paper qualifications, though useful, **is not to be all and end all**. More weight is given to a candidate's proven abilities and **aptitude** for the job. This is **amply** demonstrated by **industry icons** like **Apple's Jobs Wozniak and Microsoft's Gates**, all colleges dropouts who might not have emerged in a **qualification-conscious community**.