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**PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS**  
FOR FILIPINO INDIVIDUALS AND  
ORGANIZATIONS OVERSEAS

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*The cover page design is from the Baybayin Alphabet,  
an ancient Philippine Script which means Gawad ng Pangulo.*

*References:*

*National Historical Commission of the Philippines  
Sentro ng Wikang Filipino*

*The facts and accounts of circumstances that are contained in the profiles  
of the Year 2014 Presidential Awardees were taken from the materials  
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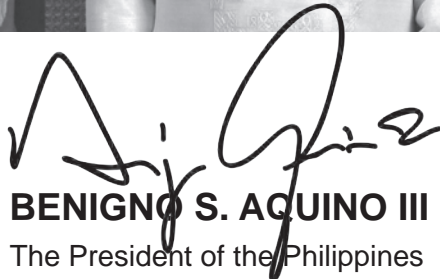






# Message



  
**BENIGNO S. AQUINO III**  
The President of the Philippines

MANILA  
5 December 2014

My warmest greetings to the organizers, partners, nominees, and recipients of the **Year 2014 Presidential Awards for Filipino Individuals and Organizations Overseas**.

The Philippines now enjoys its rightful place in the global community due to our determination to seize all opportunities for growth, uplift lives, and help restore the Filipino's distinction in this highly competitive climate. It has been four years since we began to transverse the straight and righteous path, and we have come far: Change has indeed set in. We have regained our people's confidence in our bureaucracy and institutions; we have endeavored to establish the necessary reforms to empower our citizenry; and we have transformed our country from the "Sick Man of Asia" into one of the top performing economies in the world.

We have achieved all these because of our solidarity towards equitable progress, ensuring that, as we move forward, no man is left behind. This is why we in government promote volunteerism and social corporate responsibility: To cascade the benefits of our socio-economic programs to the grassroots level and enable more of our countrymen, especially the poor, to lead dignified lives.

I join the **Commission on Filipinos Overseas** as you hold this search to pay tribute to Filipino individuals and organizations that have contributed greatly to Philippine development initiatives and have served the interests of Filipino communities overseas. I congratulate your *Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino*, *Kaanib ng Bayan*, *Banaag*, and *Pamana ng Pilipino* Awardees as well, for your efforts to better the conditions of our kababayans here in the Philippines and abroad, and represent the Filipino talent and industry in your adoptive homelands.

Again, congratulations to all of you, and keep up the good work.



# Message



COMMISSION ON FILIPINOS OVERSEAS



*Imelda M. Nicolas*

**SECRETARY IMELDA M. NICOLAS**

Chairperson  
Commission on Filipinos Overseas

MANILA  
5 December 2014

There is no better life lived for the good and betterment of others. Truly, this has been demonstrated by our 10 million Filipino diaspora who continue to be the country's source of joy and pride. Their remarkable contributions are immeasurable – from the remittances which reached US\$25 billion in 2013, philanthropic assistance in times of disasters and calamities especially during the Typhoon Haiyan, transfer of skills and knowledge, advocacies supporting migrant rights and welfare, to being the Philippine's honorary ambassadors of goodwill in more than 200 countries worldwide.

In observance of the Month of Overseas Filipinos this December, we congratulate and pay tribute to this year's recipients of the 2014 Presidential Awards for Filipino Individuals and Organizations Overseas.

Because you embody the best that a global Filipino can be, we salute all of you for your commendable efforts, exceptional professional accomplishments, and civic and humanitarian involvements that have contributed to the advancement of the adopted countries you serve, and the home country you love. We deeply appreciate your sacrifices and struggles as you support your families back in the Philippines and contribute to the noble task of nation-building. We also applaud your families and friends who have motivated and supported you in your efforts to be of service to others. And to our foreign friends and partners whose altruistic spirit knows no bounds, our wish is for your continued success and perseverance in the work you have initiated so you may help more marginalized and less-fortunate people.

After more than thirty years of public service and under the leadership of President Benigno Aquino III, the Commission on Filipinos Overseas remains committed in partnering with you and strengthening ties with our overseas Filipino communities. We encourage you to continue sharing your energy, your talents, and your resources for the development of the country. Be the source of inspiration and model worthy of emulation for the younger generation, as you help lighten the burden of others or give light to those in the dark.

Let us work together so that we can effectively transform our commitments into doable programs and projects for the benefit of all who have a stake in the successful transformation of a developed Philippines.

Magbalik-bayanihan para sa Inang Bayan! Mabuhay at Maligayang Pasko!



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CONFERRED ON FOREIGN INDIVIDUALS OR  
ORGANIZATIONS FOR THEIR EXCEPTIONAL  
OR SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO  
PHILIPPINE RECONSTRUCTION, PROGRESS  
AND DEVELOPMENT, OR HAVE SIGNIFICANTLY  
BENEFITED A SECTOR OR COMMUNITY IN  
THE PHILIPPINES, OR ADVANCED THE CAUSE  
OF OVERSEAS FILIPINO COMMUNITIES.

## A W A R D E E S

**American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC)**  
Israel

**Wako Asato**  
Japan

**Humana Child Aid Society  
(HCAS)**

**Dominiek Segaert**  
Belgium



## AMERICAN JEWISH JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE



During World War II, propaganda was the weapon of mass destruction. It was a powerful instrument that instilled racial stereotyping with dire historical consequences especially on the Jewish people. Against this backdrop, the special relationship between the Israel and the Philippines was forged.

To-date, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) has sustained the strong ties between the two countries. As the world's leading Jewish humanitarian assistance organization, it is responsible for providing relief and long-term support for 70 countries and rescuing victims of global emergencies. In addition, it is focused on saving the world's poorest Jews and, by developing its youth leaders, the JDC serves as an important medium for revitalizing Jewish life.

Together with the Israeli Foreign Ministry's Center for International Cooperation, it promotes the interest of overseas Filipinos by conducting capacity building programs which enable Filipino migrants to participate in development projects in the home country. The Federation of Filipino Communities, Inc. in Israel facilitates the conduct of courses which are primarily held in Tel Aviv. In 2011, JDC introduced a new module which involves a one-day training on financial literacy for Filipino migrants to ensure the judicious utilization of their remittances. This intervention is in line with their advocacy on Migration and Reintegration.

Due to the current crisis in Israel, JDC is set to implement a training program for Israel-based Filipino organizations so that they can build their own emergency network. They will be briefed on the ongoing conflicts, state emergency procedures, and the available government resources that will enable the citizenry and the resident foreign community to respond effectively in a crisis situation.

JDC actively participates in the Philippines' development initiatives. In the wake of Typhoon Yolanda, they launched a fund-raising campaign to facilitate the immediate delivery of assistance to disaster-

***In conferring the Kaanib ng Bayan Award to the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, the President recognizes its generous philanthropic assistance and sustained support of the rebuilding and rehabilitation efforts especially in the regions devastated by Typhoon Yolanda.***

stricken areas. In partnership with the Israel Defense Forces Field Hospital, they were able to purchase essential medical equipment which served the needs of 2,868 patients. Together with the Afya Foundation, they shipped 13 containers of food, shelter, hygiene, and medical supplies. It serves as a monitoring arm to ensure that the supplies are delivered to the beneficiaries. As a result of their efforts, 438, 500 survivors had access to safe water and 137, 000 survivors were given hygiene kits.

JDC continues to help in the rehabilitation initiatives by implementing two-year post-disaster recovery program in the Visayan islands of Cebu, Bohol, and Panay. It focuses on four strategic program areas: education, community-based disaster risk management, psycho-social support, and livelihood.

To help the education sector, JDC plans to rebuild 12 devastated classrooms in 2 elementary schools which are located in the town of Daanbantay in Northern Cebu. Another 4 pre-schools in Capiz province will be repaired while 2 new schools on Panay Island will be rebuilt. The 1,200 student beneficiaries are also supported by the Ramon Aboitiz Foundation, Inc. and Aklat Gabay, Aruga, Tungo sa Pag-angat at Pag-asa.

The community-based disaster risk management project of JDC in Panay and Bohol islands is being conducted in tandem with the International Institute of Rural Reconstruction and the Philippine-based Center for Disaster Preparedness. It is designed in such a way as to provide an inclusive recovery by capacitating not only the victims but also the individuals who are in-charge of the local disaster risk reduction infrastructure.

Experts from the Israel Trauma Coalition (ITC) were deployed to focus on the psycho-social support program of JDC. They are deployed to evaluate and implement community resilience trainings for three types of participants: individuals and their families, professionals and response teams, and local authorities. The ITC has been providing a three-part psychological training at the Department of Education in Roxas City together with Norwegian-Filipino Foundation, Inc.

To hasten the recovery of the victims, the livelihood programs of JDC provide local fishermen with new boats. The livelihood assistance has been launched in cooperation with the Negrense Volunteers for Change Foundation, Inc.

In June 2014, JDC and UNICEF tackled the roadblocks and assessed the impact of the assistance given to the disaster zones. The meeting validated the complementation of attitudes and sentiments manifested by the victims and the volunteers: the optimism and resilience of the Filipino and the bravery and compassion of the Jews in the midst of a crisis situation.





# WAKO ASATO



**W**ako Asato considers the Philippines as one of his favorite destinations. He has learned to speak some Visayan languages fluently much to the surprise of people he meets for the first time. His interest in international migrant research has involved him in academic exchanges such as conferences, research and cross-cultural immersion trips between Japan and the Philippines with the end-in-view of promoting the welfare of Filipino migrants in his country.

From 1997-99, Mr. Asato took up post-graduate studies at the Asian Center of the University of the Philippines under a scholarship grant from the Okinawa Prefecture. He took special interest in gender and development studies which intersected with his earlier research on migration owing to the growing number of Filipino men and women in the Japanese labor force. In his book, *Collapse of Closed Japan*, Mr. Asato argued that his country should welcome the annual influx of foreign workers due to the decline in Japan's fertility rate over time. Because of his expert analysis of the interrelationship between migration, welfare and development, he has become a much sought-after speaker at international conferences.

Mr. Asato was instrumental in the establishment of the Bohol-Japan Friendship Link, a non-government organization that provides scholarship grants to underprivileged but outstanding students of Central Visayas State College in Bohol, the University of Bohol and the Bohol College

***In conferring the Kaanib ng Bayan Award on Mr. Wako Asato, the President recognizes his extraordinary concern for the welfare of Filipino migrants and their families in Japan and his persistent efforts in raising public awareness on the important linkage between migration, welfare and development in the formulation of policies affecting health-care professionals.***

of Science and Technology. Established in 2000 by the Japan International Cooperation Agency, the program has benefited fifty students.

Another issue that was of concern to Mr. Asato was the revision of the nationality law of Japan, which resulted in the increased number of single mothers with dependent children. The Japanese government took a non-interventionist posture on cross-border marriages since the state considers it as a private matter. This resulted in the exclusion of Japanese-Filipino children from the mainstream of Japanese society. Mr. Asato advocated for integration programs and worked hard to raise funds from the Toyota Foundation and Kyoto University. In collaboration with the Kyoto City Education Bureau and the elementary schools of the Kyoto University Asian Studies Unit, he was able to recruit student-volunteers who taught Japanese language and culture to the Japanese-Filipino children to facilitate their socio-cultural integration.

He has been involved with the Commission on Filipinos Overseas as a resource person in the orientation seminars for migrants bound for Japan. His intervention in a reported case of inhuman service at a nursing home in Osaka Prefecture drew the attention of the Japanese Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare.

The resulting unemployment of Filipinos as a result of natural disasters that hit Japan in recent years has also become a concern for him. He coordinated with a non-governmental organization that helped provide training for care workers. He believes that the health-care programs of Asian countries must be developed on regional and global levels instead of limiting these opportunities for human resource development to their own nationals. Given that demographic realities have spurred a demand for health-care professionals, especially in developed countries, these programs serve to ensure that quality service providers are available to meet requirements across borders.

Japan and the Philippines may be miles apart but therein lies a binding component, which is maintaining a harmonious relationship and a show of goodwill, as exemplified well by Mr. Asato.



## HUMANA CHILD AID SOCIETY

**D**ata estimates indicate that there are more than 9,000 children of Filipino and Indonesian ancestry in Sabah, majority of whom are Filipinos. They are the offspring of migrant plantation workers but they do not have official documents that prove their identity or nationality. As stateless children, they cannot show any record of birth if and when they choose to leave due to poverty or armed conflict situations. Referred to as “halau” (Tr: driven away), they have no access to basic government services such as health and education.

In line with the spirit and letter of the United Nation’s Child Rights Convention, the Humana Child Aid Society (HCAS) was founded in 1991. Its mission is to reach out to the thousands of out-of-school youth whose development potential cannot be realized otherwise. As “orang osang” birth certificate holders, these children of plantation workers are not admitted into public schools. Instead, like their parents, they end up in the plantations where, because of this ineligibility, it is reported that 50% of the laborers are minors.

The organization took the necessary steps to keep these children off the streets. They established learning centers where they were taught regular

***In conferring the Kaanib ng Bayan Award to the Humana Child Aid Society, the President recognizes its efforts in extending humanitarian assistance and social services through its learning centers to enable marginalized children to escape from poverty and exploitative living conditions.***

subjects like Mathematics, Geography, English, and Bahasa. Children were made to participate in sports and cultural activities such as dramatics and in singing and dancing competitions just like their peers. Dedicated teachers were trained to look into the children’s health condition as well. From a small-scale project, the HCAS learning centers have mushroomed to 120 learning centers with 220 teachers on board. With the help of Wilmar’s Sabahmas Plantation, the organization formed the Teachers’ and Parents’ Association. Regular dialogues are conducted so that the parents can understand the educational process and keep track of their children’s performance.

Aside from the children of the plantation workers, HCAS has also been deeply concerned with the “bajau lajut” (Tr: sea gypsies), the children from the east coast who roam the seas of Southern Mindanao. Together with the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), they implement projects to train them as reef guardians and prevent their recruitment by gangs who conduct blast-fishing. Given its commitment to protect these children, HCAS has received the support of the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) in soliciting more help from private enterprises and strengthen its campaign on the children’s right to education.



## DOMINIEK SEGAERT



**D**ominiek Segært's annual visits to the Philippines from Belgium have proven that love and concern for others know no bounds. In 1998, he married Leah Gallego from Davao but, as an educator, he realized that he could contribute to the improvement of quality education in the province. He readily volunteered to teach for a year in one of the schools in Padada, Davao del Sur.

It did not take much time for Mr. Segært to operationalize his ideas and his foundation, Friendship For The Philippines (FFTP), which was formally established soon enough to mobilize support from his Belgian friends. They conducted a fund-raising campaign to provide scholarships for the less-privileged students as well as the construction and renovation of school facilities, book donations, and halfway houses for the street children.

For twelve years, FFTP has already disbursed P 4.7 pesos for their various programs and services. Mr. Segært personally monitors FFTP's projects

***In conferring the Kaanib ng Bayan Award to Dominiek Segært, the President recognizes his important role in the upgrading of educational facilities in Davao Del Sur as well as his pro-active support of the ongoing campaign to attract more tourists to Philippine shores.***

personally in order to assess their impact on the children's lives. Because of his hands-on monitoring of their multiple interventions in the area, he has become a popular figure in Davao del Sur. When super typhoon Yolanda hit the Philippines, Mr. Segært personally brought in the 10,000 euro donation from the city government of Knokke-Heist in Belgium.

Simultaneous with the multifarious educational initiatives of FFTP, Mr. Saegert ha been writing articles that help in the promotion of Philippine tourism. He emphasizes the country's natural wonders and the extraordinary hospitality of the people whenever he is invited to address public forums. As a well-respected opinion maker, his enthusiastic support of the country's cultural tourism program has contributed significantly to the improvement of European perceptions about the Philippines.

Mr. Saegert's and his foundation's commendations speak for themselves. In 2012, Belgian Ambassador to the Philippines, Christian Meerschman, conferred the award of Knight of the Crown of the Kingdom of Belgium and he also became a Knight Grand Officer of the Knights of Rizal. And, as FFTP president, he definitely has the wherewithal to serve as an important link between his own motherland and the motherland of his lady love which has now become his second love.







# LINGKOD

## SA KAPWA PILIPINO

THE LINGKOD SA KAPWA PILIPINO (LINKAPIL) AWARD IS CONFERRED ON FILIPINO ASSOCIATIONS OR INDIVIDUALS FOR EXCEPTIONAL OR SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO RECONSTRUCTION, PROGRESS AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE PHILIPPINES.

### A W A R D E E

**Serenata**  
Saudi Arabia



SERENATA  
Saudi Arabia

Serenata is a non-stock, non-profit organization based in Jeddah committed to raise funds for Bantay Bata 163 and other foundations. It was founded in 2005 by Ms. Sylvia de los Santos, Ms. Desil Manapat and Mr. Louis Bautista. Given their common interest in music and their belief in the importance of education, they decided to use music as a philanthropic instrument. The organization has a String Chamber Orchestra, a Choral Group and a Working Committee.

In 2008, Serenata's String Chamber Orchestra was formed. It brought together fledgling violinists, violists and cellist, including some members of the Choral Group. They got together on Tuesdays to polish their pieces and improve their skills. In this manner, they met one of their important objectives: to enable members of the orchestra to execute a variety of pieces, with perfect tone, timber and texture.

Serenata's Choral Group, composed of children of Overseas Filipino Workers whose ages range from 8 to 16 years, underwent a strict selection process. Their passion for music and singing was the driver that led to their deep involvement in charitable works. Without fail, they have dutifully attended choral trainings on Saturdays.

By promoting Filipino culture, talent, and sense of discipline, Serenata enhances the image of Filipinos in the global scene. The variety of songs they can perform impresses their Filipino and foreign audiences. They perform renditions of traditional and modern songs -- from Filipino classics such as Sitsiritsit and Leron Leron Sinta to more modern songs like Sugar, We're Going Down and Heal the World. In 2007, the group participated in the Philippine Arts Festival. Reachin' Out, Serenata's major concert, was their activity-entry for the said event.

Their versatility and the diversity of their repertoire prove the existence of a talent pool of artists in overseas Filipino communities. They are not only in pursuit of excellence in the musical field; they have a deep concern for others, especially the underprivileged. It is their strong sense of values that led to their involvement in the project of Bantay

***In conferring the Lingkod sa Kapwa ng Pilipino Award to the Serenata, the President recognizes its dedication to excellence in music and the significant fruits derived from successful fellowship that have generously supported the education of less fortunate students in the Philippines.***

Bata 163, the Bantay Edukasyon Program, whose beneficiaries are students in the Philippines in need of financial aid.

Serenata is led by its Working Committee which determines the direction of its fund-raising efforts for underprivileged Filipinos as well as the quality of their performances. Through their collective efforts, they have produced two concerts per year under the direction of Ms. De los Santos. To-date, they have planned, arranged and executed productions for 9 seasons, all of which meet world-class standards.

Altruism is the guiding spirit of all their endeavors. Serenata chooses several beneficiaries each season. On March 3, 2006, their first major performance was conducted by Mrs. De los Santos with Ms. Reneegrace Villarosa-Divina as the choreographer. They worked hard to raise P100,000 pesos in Season 1 for the 2005 landslide victims in Southern Leyte. Season 2 proceeds sponsored four underprivileged schools in the Philippines: M. Casho Elementary School, Cantuyoc Elementary School, Linantangan Elementary School, and Jamaitu Dhikra Al-Islamia School. In Season 3, they supported Al Jamelah Organization in Cotabato City.

As a result of their successful initiatives, they set up the Foundation for a Sustainable Society to further streamline the organization's activities. Subsequently, Seasons 4 – 9 receipts supported the education of 26 students from all parts of the Philippines. Among Serenata's scholars are Kristel J. Nicolas, Rotsen Jay Medina, Radzma L. Abdulhalim, and Monica Blackwell – all of whom completed their tertiary education in 2013.

Even with the noblest of intentions, the organization still had to overcome hurdles. During the preparation of Serenata's Season 9 concert, the Working Committee had difficulty finding a venue in time for the scheduled performance. Season 9 was already called off when Jeddah Prep and Grammar School provided a clean and secure place for rehearsals and the final performance in February 2014.

Among Serenata's performances were: Harana sa Bahay-Kalinga, Harana... Alay ng Serenata. Harana...a Mini Concert, Serenata... Journeyin' On, Himig Handog, Serenata... With Strings Attached, FILCOM Night, Serenata... Shines at Seven, and Serenata... Celebrates 8. They also performed for the Order of Knights of Rizal.

Many people have been impressed not only by Serenata's musical offerings but especially because their philanthropic mission. This exceptional combination of talent and social concern gives it a distinction worthy of adulation but especially of emulation.

As the saying goes, music is an expression of the soul. This must be the reason why the music of Serenata does not fail to touch hearts; because each note articulates the pureness of each member's souls.





THE BANAAG AWARD IS CONFERRED ON  
FILIPINO INDIVIDUALS OR ASSOCIATIONS  
FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS WHICH HAVE  
SIGNIFICANTLY BENEFITED A SECTOR  
OR ADVANCED THE CAUSE OF OVERSEAS  
FILIPINO COMMUNITIES.

## **A W A R D E E S**

**Daegu Filipino Community Council (DFCC)**  
South Korea

**Danilo M. Favor**  
United Kingdom

**Institute of Integrated Electrical Engineers of the  
Philippines – Central Region Chapter (IIEE-CRCSA)**  
Saudi Arabia

**Rosa Angelica C. Libron**  
South Korea

**Augusto I. Mercado**  
United States of America

**Migrant Heritage Commission (MHC)**  
United States of America

**Victoria B. Navarro**  
United States of America

**Anita A. Sasaki**  
Japan



## DAEGU FILIPINO COMMUNITY COUNCIL



**T**he Daegu Filipino Community Council (DFCC) is a non-profit organization that promotes Filipino camaraderie through spiritual engagement, social involvement, political and welfare services, and charitable works. Its four-fold approach in the service of the Filipinos in Daegu and nearby cities enriches all aspects of a migrant's life.

Operating under the guidance of the Daegu Catholic Migrant Worker's Center, the organization reconnects Filipinos in Daegu to their cultural roots. Together with spiritual organizations such as El Shaddai Prayer Partners Group and Loving Mothers Association, the DFCC enables Filipinos to profess their faith in a foreign country. Since the majority of the Filipinos based in South Korea are Catholics, the DFCC conducts spiritual activities such as Sunday Masses and facilitates the celebration of Catholic holidays such as the observance of Holy Week rituals and Christmas festivities.

Civic holidays are also celebrated. The significance of Independence Day or the Araw ng Kalayaan is highlighted as a chance to publicly reaffirm their sense of nationalism and their distinct Filipino identity. For cross-cultural enrichment, they organized the local Chuseok Festival

***In conferring the Banaag Award to the Daegu Filipino Community Council, the President recognizes its commendable work of safeguarding the welfare of Filipinos based in Daegu, South Korea, as well as its noteworthy initiatives in giving back to the Philippines in time of need.***

with a Filipino twist and encouraged the intermingling of both traditions during Korean and Filipino holidays. The DFCC promotes diaspora participation in social activities to foster community loyalty. Fellowship activities have taken the form of Friendship Games among the Filipino migrants in South Korea.

The Council attends to the political, administrative, and welfare needs of Filipino families living in Daegu. With the cooperation of volunteers, it serves as an information disseminator of laws and services related to immigration, health care, social security, housing loans, job opportunities, and counseling which are provided either by the Philippine Embassy and/or the South Korean government. To promote the physical well-being of migrants, community medical missions are likewise conducted.

The campaign to ensure that migrants' exercise their voting power is a significant undertaking of the DFCC. They also conduct labor conferences to update them on changes in policies, laws and regulations. By assisting in the delivery of the quarterly mobile consular services, they help migrant Filipinos access information and regulatory processes at less expense. In dealing with other labor issues, the DFCC works with the Daegu Catholic Migrant Workers' Center. They protect the rights of migrant workers by facilitating the receipt of unpaid wages, providing financial assistance to injured workers, and supporting the families of deceased workers. The Council also participates in Migrant Workers' Day celebrations led by the Philippine Embassy.

DFCC takes care of migrant Filipinos as well as those in the home country especially during periods of devastation. Donations in cash and in kind have been sent to families affected by tragedies such as typhoons and other natural disasters.

The translation of organizational goals into effective action programs has shown that DFCC plays an instrumental role in the betterment of the lives of its members and their beneficiaries.





## DANILO M. FAVOR



United Kingdom

**D**anilo Favor is a registered nurse and an elected public official in the United Kingdom. His colleagues, friends, and patients consider him as an excellent leader -- a kind, caring, reliable, considerate, and hardworking professional who has led worthwhile projects that have significantly contributed to the well-being of his fellow Filipinos and constituents.

Mr. Favor met his wife while working in Saudi Arabia. A decade later, in 2000, they migrated to the United Kingdom. By 2011, he got elected as a councilor in East Grinstead. As the first Filipino councilor, his victory was a dream come true. It was a source of honor, encouragement, and inspiration not only for the Filipino communities in England but for the Philippines itself.

He did not regard himself as a politician but rather, as a public servant and the spokesperson of his constituents and countrymen. As the vice- chairman and a member of various committees, Mr. Favor linked them up with different government agencies and non-government organizations. He successfully organized various events that promoted wellness, sportsmanship, and unity among many communities.

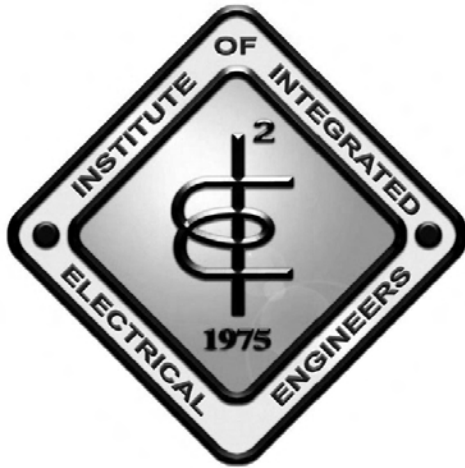
***In conferring the Banaag Award to Danilo M. Favor, the President recognizes his historic achievement as the first elected Filipino councilor in East Grinstead, United Kingdom, and his commendable pro-activism for the improvement of the health and well-being of his constituents as well as his beneficiaries in the Philippines.***

As the founder, managing director, and chairman of Filipino-British Nurses Extra Care East Grinstead Ltd., a registered public and charitable club composed of health care professionals, registered nurses, health care staff, and volunteers, Mr. Favor spearheaded free health screening check-ups and health education for community groups and local organizations. Public and charitable services were designed to help improve awareness and access to health care, with an additional emphasis on social, cultural, educational, and sports activities.

Mr. Favor also established the first Nurse-Led Post-Operative Cataract Clinic at Queen Victoria Hospital NHS Foundation Trust to improve the quality of patient service. The clinic provided professional growth and development opportunities for nurses, reduced patients' waiting time, freed doctors for more complex cases, and generated additional income for the Trust.

In all these endeavors, Mr. Favor has surpassed his calling as a registered nurse. He was an exemplary colleague and received the wholehearted nomination of his patients and their relatives for the Nursing Standard Patient's Choice Award in 2009. When super typhoons Ondoy and Yolanda hit the Philippines, his team held various fund-raising events for the relief operations and school rebuilding projects in some of the badly hit areas. Together with his Dementia Respite Club of Age UK East Grinstead & District Organization, he organized several fund-raising events and social functions to support its members. A community education program to raise awareness and understanding of dementia was also conducted under his guidance.

The many pursuits of Mr. Favor have extended unselfishly for the benefit and well-being of his constituents and countrymen in England but they also serve as a testimonial to the *bayanihan* spirit that is deeply ingrained in every Filipino soul.



## INSTITUTE OF INTEGRATED ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS OF THE PHILIPPINES – CENTRAL REGION CHAPTER SAUDI ARABIA



Saudi Arabia

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is renowned for its oil reserves. As a leading producer and exporter, it has drawn Filipino electrical engineers and other contract workers in significant numbers to help manage its bounteous resources.

Being away from home, overseas Filipino electrical engineering practitioners long for a community of their own. This desire to belong, especially in a land where they remain marginal and perforce lead a highly functional life, was one of the main reasons for the founding of the Institute of Integrated Electrical Engineers – Central Region Chapter Saudi Arabia (IIEE-CRCSA).

As an organization of professionals, it aims to unite all overseas Filipino electrical engineers who are currently working in Saudi Arabia and in the Central Region. IIEE-CRCSA is instrumental in the upskilling of its members by keeping them informed on new trends and advancements in technology. They also share this knowledge with colleagues in the electrical engineering profession in the Philippines.

The founding of the organization was encouraged by other IIEE foreign chapters in Saudi Arabia in view of their growth in numbers and the need for a professional organization of their own. On August 28, 1998, thirty-three active and inactive IIEE members formed the IIEE-CRCSA with the end-in-view of maintaining linkages with IIEE National Manila in order to work together towards the common goal of enhancing the competencies of the members of their profession in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Philippines.

Its efforts in stimulating interest in the advancement of electrical engineering professionals have been noteworthy and fully appreciated by the community. Its members regularly conduct technical and management seminars. They implement programs designed to provide

***In conferring the Banaag Award to the Institute of Integrated Electrical Engineers – Central Region Chapter Saudi Arabia, the President recognizes its commitment to foster unity and inspire fellow electrical engineers to improve technical proficiency and thereby enable one another to have the means to support even those in need of human development assistance in the Philippines and in their host country.***

electrical engineers with much-needed advanced training in supervisory and managerial skills. They facilitate the exchange of technical information, new knowledge, innovative ideas, best practices, and shared experiences across borders. A total of 68 technical seminars, 16 workshops, 5 factory visits, and 28 conventions have been implemented since its founding.

IIEE-CRCSA has responded to the needs of 132 professionals who attended their free review classes for the licensure examinations for Registered Electrical Engineer and Registered Master Electrician. The review sessions are scheduled every Friday, from April to October, between 8 am to 12 noon at the Elite International School, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, to ensure that participants are fully prepared in time for the examinations.

The IIEE-Manila recognized their invaluable contribution to the electrical engineering profession and awarded IIEE-CRCSA the distinction of being the Most Outstanding Chapter for 2011. It received the Chapter Excellence Award (Gold) for 2013.

The mission of IIEE-CRCSA to professionalize the electrical engineering field is contingent on its ability to extend its services to as many members and colleagues as possible and for its leadership to become the industry pillars. In line with this, individual members were cited by the IIEE-Philippines Board of Governors for their exceptional performance in their respective areas of expertise: Engr. Daniel G. Cabasa received the 2013 IIEE Most Outstanding Electrical Engineering in the fields of Electrical Contracting/ Project Management; Engr. Eutiquio M. Guantero, Jr. was awarded the 2011 IIEE Most Outstanding Electrical Engineer in the field of Consultancy; Engr. Renato A. Datuin was the recipient of the 2011 IIEE Most Outstanding Electrical Engineer in the field of industry.

To ensure the sustainability of their efforts, the organization donated P60, 000 to the Scholarship fund of the IIEE-Manila Chapter in 2011. Their humanitarian initiatives have extended beyond their own professional circles to include communities in the Philippines who are recipients of their donations coursed through Bantay Bata 163 and ABS-CBN's Sagip Kapamilya Foundation.

In Saudi Arabia, IIEE-CRCSA is also committed to help distressed Filipinos by providing financial and moral support. They continuously aid stranded fellow overseas Filipinos sheltered in Bahay Kalinga and send donations to Bantay Bata Foundation. Because of their generosity, the IIEE-CRCSA has earned praises from the Philippine Professional Organization, the core group of Filipino Overseas Professionals based in Riyadh, Central Region Saudi Arabia.

The proliferation of IIEE-CRCSA's commendable initiatives has proven that organized professionals such as the electrical engineers in their roster are not only notable for their technical contributions but are also instrumental in Philippine human development through the exercise of professional social responsibility.



## ROSA ANGELICA C. LIBRON



**A**fter obtaining her degree in tourism from the University of the Philippines in 1984, Sr. Rosa Angelica C. Libron took up courses on secondary education at the College of the Holy Spirit. However, her formal spiritual calling became more pronounced while completing her master's degree in education at the De La Salle University where she majored in religious formation. With Korea as her intended missionary field, she proceeded to study its language and obtained a Level 4 Certificate in Korean Language Proficiency.

As a regional leader of their congregation's mission, the Holy Spirit Sisters in Korea, Sr. Libron, popularly known as "Sister Angel," also attended to the multiple needs of overseas Filipinos in distress. Medical and financial assistance were provided mostly to the undocumented Filipino migrants and those who were married to Korean nationals. Luckily, she had the persuasive skills to successfully solicit help and convince different non-government organizations, including some Korean local government units, to

***In conferring the Banaag Award to Sister Rosa Angelica C. Libron, the President recognizes her self-less dedication which ensures that Korea-based Filipino migrants can lead peaceful and meaningful family lives and her inclusive missionary thrust that extends itself to both Korean and Filipino beneficiaries.***

support Filipino wives who were not eligible for benefits due to legal impediments. She made it a point to be on hand when her wards would undergo stressful medical procedures.

Through her intercession, Sister Libron helped homeless Filipino-Korean families find shelter. In 2010, she was instrumental in the establishment of the Filipino-Korean Community in Guri City. Currently, it is the only cross-cultural community with 100 Filipino-Korean families plus a well-trained leadership. Likewise, in 2014, she played an influential role in the organization of a Filipino community in Onam.

As a guidance counselor, Sr. Libron also addressed the marital concerns of Filipinos married to Koreans. She helped them work out their critical problems by dishing out sound advice which enabled them to cope and weather the psychological consequences of a breakdown in family relations. Through her interventions, she realized that language and culture differences were factors that worsened the state of inter-cultural marriages. In addition to counseling, she offered free language tutorials to help alleviate the problems related to miscommunication between partners. But more importantly, she emphasized to her beneficiaries that developing a sense of independence was important if one were to survive in a foreign land.

After a six-year stint as the congregation's leader, Sr. Libron was assigned to the HIV/AIDS ministry of the Korean government. Again, it was her primary function to look after the welfare of Korean nationals, but this did not prevent her from attending to her fellow Filipinos who caught the disease. They were put under her care and received attention, food and counseling. Her partnership with an American who ran a charitable institution has enabled Sister Libron to service the needs of Filipino survivors of HIV.



## AUGUSTO I. MERCADO



United States of America

The 9/11 terrorist attack on the United States led to the enforcement of stringent travel regulations which affected the ordinary lives of a group of Filipino airline mechanics. In the midst of this crisis, Mr. Augusto Mercado emerged as the defender of his countrymen who were accused of terrorism owing to minor infringements of immigration policy.

Mr. Mercado headed the National Federation of Filipino-American Associations (NaFFAA), Region VI. He led a nation-wide campaign that resulted in the release of the mechanics. He provided financial and moral support to his distressed kababayans by pooling funds for their legal defense and collecting 1,000 signatures needed to raise their appeal for clemency to President George W. Bush.

However, he was not an instant advocate of justice since Mr. Mercado had personally experienced the travails of escaping the Martial Law regime of Pres. Ferdinand Marcos early on. His concern for the welfare of migrants benefited not only overseas Filipinos but also other Asians residing in the state of Texas.

In recognition of Mr. Mercado's leadership and humanitarian initiatives, his region was the recipient of the first "Alex Esclamado Award" for being the Most Outstanding NaFFAA Region in the United States. His determination to push his cause against all odds won him the distinction of being the "Hero of the Texas 10."

Mr. Mercado's commitment to assist members of the overseas Filipinos has a unique multiplier effect. He is supportive of his wife, Mrs. Ethel Mercado, the State Chamber president and the National Chambers Federation chair, whose own project involved the funding 12 Consular Outreach projects in Texas. Through this initiative, 7,000

***In conferring the Banaag Award to Augusto I. Mercado, the President recognizes his exemplary dedication to the Filipino-American Texas community as well as to disaster victims in the Philippines and his successful application of his entrepreneurial skills that have contributed not only to his own success in business and technology but also to the success of a wide network of Filipino professionals in the United States.***

Filipinos have saved more than \$5 million by facilitating the transport of passport renewal and dual citizenship applications to the Philippine Consulate in Los Angeles. The records show that from 2009 to 2010, the Texas Outreach program attained the highest number of passport renewal and overseas voter registration from Filipinos residing in cities without direct consular services.

Notwithstanding his dedication to the Filipino-American community, Mr. Mercado has kept a soft spot in his heart for his motherland. He donated funds, medicine and clothing for the benefit of thousands of victims of Typhoon Yolanda. In addition, he contributed 100 new wheelchairs and assisted in organizing a medical mission that serviced 1,641 medical and dental patients in a single day.

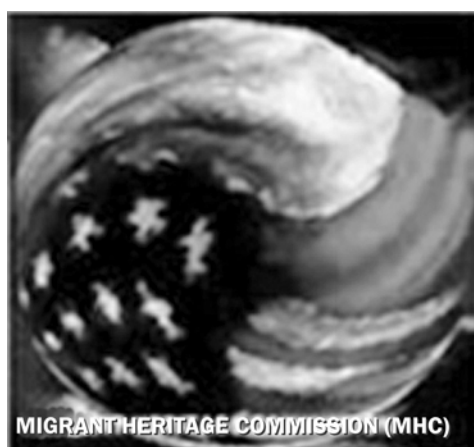
Mr. Mercado is also well-known as the founder of a wireless engineering business enterprise, the Datalogix. The corporation has an extensive international network and provides IT-related services. It has contracted more than 200 Associates throughout North and South America and maintains a workforce consisting of more than 300 engineers and IT professionals with excellent technical competencies. Datalogix has served as incubator and gateway for hundreds of overseas Filipino engineers who are now part of multi-billion companies such as AT&T, T-Mobile, Verizon, Ericsson, and Nokia. As the corporation's source of strength, Datalogix employees benefit from innovative programs designed to ensure a safe working environment as well as a profit-sharing system that promises a secure future for all.

Mr. Mercado applies his expertise beyond Datalogix. He is the publisher of an international business technology magazine, Business Horizons, which reflects his entrepreneurial nature and versatile writing skills. His article on the life of Pres. Corazon C. Aquino, "Intimate Portrait and Memories of Cory Aquino" evinces this extraordinary ability to document biographic material.

Mr. Mercado's successes have not gone unnoticed. He is the recipient of multiple awards: the Distinguished Service Award from Dallas Mayor Annette Straus; the Jaycee of the Year Award; the Twenty Most Outstanding Filipinos Overseas from Philippine Ambassador Willy Gaa and the Fil-Am Imagine Magazine in Washington DC; the Most Outstanding Fil-Am Businessman from the Great Chicago Philippine-American Chamber of Commerce; and the Gintong Pamana - Apolinario Mabini Award from the Fil-Am Megascene.

Given his strategic positioning in the American business scene, Mr. Mercado effectively led two U.S. Trade and Investment Missions to the Philippines in 2007 and 2010. These initiatives brought in more than US\$25 million worth of new businesses and forged partnerships between Filipino and foreign investors.





## MIGRANT HERITAGE COMMISSION



United States of America

To promote a culture of unity and service, the Migrant Heritage Commission (MHC)--a non-profit, service-oriented non-government organization--devotes time and money to help Filipino compatriots with their resettlement concerns without expecting any return for their support. Since 2006, it has helped more than five hundred Filipino trafficked victims to obtain U.S. visas as a pro-bono service.

MHC focuses its work on a range of critical social issues such as human and labor trafficking, discrimination, domestic violence, and many others. They won the celebrated case which involved four Filipina health workers who were terminated for speaking in Tagalog. They explored ways to safeguard the rights of the nurses. As a result, the ruling pertinent to racial discrimination, including the use of the Filipino language, was upheld by the U.S. Employment Opportunity Commission.

By providing legal, emotional and psychological support to detainees, MHC extends invaluable service to overseas Filipino workers. On behalf of undocumented Filipino immigrants, they initiated the Temporary Protective Status campaign which, upon approval and implementation, would allow the issuance of temporary work authorization and uphold the right to travel.

MHC is involved in raising community awareness on important issues such as the Filipino World War II veterans'

***In conferring the Banaag Award to the Migrant Heritage Commission, Inc., the President recognizes the significant impact of its pro-bono services that help in the protection and promotion of the human rights of Filipino migrants and their families in the United States, and its seamless support of a diversity of good works in the Philippines spearheaded by other Filipino-American organizations.***

demand for equity, full pension and benefits enjoyed by their American counterparts. The new Comprehensive Immigration Reform, which provides a venue for discourse for Filipino migrants who do not have legal immigration status, is a product of its effort to push the issue of recognition on the national agenda.

For their efforts, MHC was lauded by the Global Peace Foundation, the Pinoy Herald and the UST Alumni Association of America, Inc. for championing and safeguarding migrants' rights. However, their advocacy work has also extended to environmental issues by contributing research papers on the impact of disaster at the UN-sponsored meetings in New York and during the first Global Summit of Nurses in Manila.

MHC is the first Filipino-American NGO to gain status in the Foundation in Support of the United Nations in 2011. They send legal representatives to international meetings and consultations on migration, human rights and global peace held at the UN Headquarters in New York.

When the Philippines experiences calamities, MHC never fails to respond by supporting medical missions and other charitable projects of several Filipino-American groups in the Philippines. They designate "MHC Envoys for Unity and Service" who are selected from different organizations and institutions to promote organizational policies and reach out to Filipino-American communities. In the wake of typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda, they launched the "*Tulong Pilipinas Mula sa Puso*" to provide relief and assistance to affected communities. The initiative was followed by Project REVIVE (Rebuilding Visayas with Vibrant Ecology) which involves the direct transfer through MHC of financial assistance to the families of the members of the Philippine Nurses Association in America based in Carigara, Leyte, and other municipalities in Samar. It also supports the medical missions and charitable causes of other Filipino-American groups intended for their own beneficiaries. The annual People's Ball is their important fund-raising mechanism that generates funds for its various institutional programs.



VICTORIA B.  
NAVARRO



United States of America

**A**s a professional nurse, Ms. Victoria B. Navarro's primary advocacy is to advance the cause of Filipino nurses overseas as well as in Philippine communities in dire need of quality health care services.

In 2012, Ms. Navarro was elected president of the Philippine Nurses Association of America (PNAA). Her platform was guided by her vision and mission: "empowering collaborations and sustaining healthy communities." This perspective resulted in the convening of the First Global Summit for Filipino Nurses in January 2014 in collaboration with other professional Filipino nursing organizations. The event culminated in the forging of a social contract among colleagues as spelled out in a memorandum of understanding to foster knowledge exchange and to build of learning communities among Filipino nurses worldwide.

Under Ms. Navarro's leadership, the PNAA is committed to collaborate with the Alliance for Ethical International Recruitment Practices to develop a "train-to-trainers" program on ethical recruitment of international nurses. She spearheaded the production of five video modules on topics designed to enlighten the participants on their rights, responsibilities and the language of contracts and other vital legal documents.

As a staunch supporter of partnerships between government and non-governmental organizations, and in line with her advocacies, she has forged linkages with the Philippine

***In conferring the Banaag Award to Victoria B. Navarro, the President recognizes her dynamic leadership at the helm of the Philippine Nurses Association of America that has significantly advanced the cause of Filipino nurses in the United States, and for unselfishly sharing resources, experiences and expertise through numerous philanthropic activities in the Philippines.***

Department of Health (DOH), the Alliance for International Ethical Recruitment Practices, the California Board of Nursing, and the Philippine Commission on Higher Education among others. Given her belief that no Filipino nurse should be left behind, she was part of the California Board of Nursing and the Commission on Higher Education's think tank that formulated curriculum concurrency standards to allow any nurse to retake courses in American community colleges. At least thirty Filipino nursing graduates have already benefited from this initiative and facilitated their application for licensure in a community college that PNAA has collaborated with. Under the DOH and PNAA partnership, the development and institutionalization of the DOH Anesthesia Care Nursing Program materialized and provided an inclusive platform for nurses in anesthesia care in rural areas. She also initiated the upgrading of hospital facilities for surgical and anesthesia services. Ms. Navarro linked the PNAA to the global community. In the 2014 Global Forum on Migration and Development, she collaborated with the International Office of Migration Director General William Lacy Swing and Swedish Ambassador Eva Akerman Borje on "Sharing the Alliance Code of Conduct for International Ethical Recruitment Practices and Educational Modules."

Not easily satisfied with her successful undertakings, Ms. Navarro facilitated the provision of technical assistance, resource persons and trainers who are experts in the field of nurse anesthesia through the "*Balik-Turo* Program" for Filipino health care service providers. She also took the lead in the construction of more than fifty housing units for the poor in Laguna and the completion of the PNAA Gawad Kalinga Village in Piel, Baliuag, Bulacan consisting of thirty houses. They raised more than US \$85,000 to help prevent the trafficking of typhoon Yolanda victims' orphaned children and combat the spread of water-borne diseases. Ms. Navarro was also instrumental in resolving cases of labor trafficking of nurses. To-date, solicitation for donations for sponsored communities and projects is ongoing.

In recognition of her efforts, President Barack Obama and other government officials commended her unfailing concern and devotion to those affected by disasters and health disparity. In fact, commendations had come even earlier. She was the very first recipient of the Nurse-in-Washington-Internship which allowed scholars to learn legislative practices.



## ANITA A. SASAKI



When the name of Ms. Anita Sasaki comes up in gatherings of the overseas Filipino community in Japan, it triggers appreciative comments about a warm and gracious woman who generously gives her time to help the needy among them.

For almost twenty years, Ms. Sasaki has been respected by fellow Filipinos for her leadership qualities. They admire her unselfish attitude, to the point of committing her personal resources just to be able to lend a helping hand to distressed Filipinos, especially women and their children.

Fondly referred to as “Nanay Anita” because of her nurturing character, she is someone who does not expect any payback for whatever help she extends. She conducts counseling sessions and trainings so that the participants can improve their parenting and leadership skills. As a music lover, she also assists in their musical and theatrical activities.

Ms. Sasaki pioneered diaspora youth development. She recognized the need of young Filipinos for solace in a strange land. She opened a half-way house called “Tahanan ni Nanay (TNN)” for those who have sought assistance from the Philippine Embassy in Tokyo. TNN also serves as a center for teaching skills to Filipino children to improve their academic performance in mainstream Japanese institutions so that they may eventually move on to take advantage of the many higher education opportunities in Japan.

Since TNN focuses more on the community, it fills the gap

***In conferring the Banaag Award to Anita A. Sasaki, the President recognizes her exemplary service and initiatives that have benefited the Filipino community in Japan, especially the marriage migrants and their children whose adjustment to a new culture has been her foremost concern.***

between the services of the Philippine Embassy and non-government organizations. The center also encourages cross-cultural contact and communication to ensure smooth interpersonal relations between Filipinos and Japanese. Taking note of the sharp increase in the number of diaspora youth in recent years, it was important to monitor and assess the behavioral patterns of Japanese-Filipino youth. It was evident that Filipino youth suffer from an identity crisis. Taking off from this observation, the center offered a Youth Empowerment Program, a learning module designed to address this weakness and develop their sense of responsibility.

Gifted with a caring nature, Ms. Sasaki can readily empathize with emotionally disturbed individuals. Her maternal and grandmaternal instincts enable her to relate to those in crisis or suffering from abuse, physical or psychological violence and abandonment – the typical concerns of Japanese-Filipino children and their mothers.

In 1997, Ms. Sasaki founded the Christian Association Serving the Laypersons Evangelization (CASTLE) and its youth arm, the Castle Youth. The organization started as a fast food restaurant owned by the the Sasaki couple in Tokyo. They treated CASTLE members like their own children. Initially made up of Filipinas married to Japanese nationals, it served as an important support group for marriage migrants adjusting to a new lifestyle. The Japanese-Filipino children are the most active members and with their involvement in CASTLE projects, they are able to assert themselves and resolve problems arising from their identity crisis.

The organization collaborates with the Philippine Assistance Group to fund the medical needs or deportation expenses of Filipino compatriots. At the same time that they attend to emergency cases, they also enjoy the opportunity to coordinate cultural activities like the Barrio Fiesta and annual Philippine Independence Day celebrations.

That there is someone like a Ms. Sasaki in the Filipino community in Japan is a welcome morale booster especially for the new arrivals. Her long years of experience in dealing with the hardships they encounter have had a multiplier effect that enables the survivors to replicate her good deeds.







# PAMANA NG PILIPINO

THE PAMANA NG PILIPINO AWARD IS CONFERRED ON FILIPINOS OVERSEAS, WHO, IN EXEMPLIFYING THE TALENT AND INDUSTRY OF THE FILIPINO, HAVE BROUGHT THE COUNTRY HONOR AND RECOGNITION THROUGH EXCELLENCE AND DISTINCTION IN THE PURSUIT OF THEIR WORK OR PROFESSION.

## A W A R D E E S

**Marianito O. Asperilla**  
United States of America

**Michael M. Cinco**  
United Arab Emirates

**Kristoffer L. Collo**  
United States of America

**Cristeta P. Comerford**  
United States of America

**Sheila S. Coronel**  
United States of America

**William D. Dar**  
India

**Roderick M. Dela Cruz**  
United States of America

**Filomenita M. Hoegsholm**  
Denmark

**Jonathan D. Irabagon**  
United States of America

**Jasmine B. Lee**  
South Korea

**Cecile B. Licad**  
United States of America

**Robert Lopez**  
United States of America

**Katherine R. Luzuriaga**  
United States of America

**Sheila Lirio-Marcelo**  
United States of America

**Baldomero M. Olivera**  
United States of America

**Alfredo R. Rocas**  
Australia

**Maria Lea Carmen I. Salonga**  
United States of America

**Lolia Valderrama-Savage**  
United States of America

**Paolo Antonio S. Silva**  
United States of America

**Ofelia Gelvezon-Tequi**  
France



## MARIANITO O. ASPERILLA



United States of America

**M**arianito O. Asperilla is a doctor-entrepreneur-philanthropist-community activist and much more. Given his personal qualities and sense of values, it does not take much to understand and appreciate the list of accomplishments linked to his name.

In his medical life, Dr. Asperilla is a multi-awarded expert on infectious diseases. His research work on disease prevention and treatment has contributed significantly in the fight against terrorism. Cognizant of the danger posed by bio-terrorism, in 2003, Dr. Asperilla organized a multi-county bioterror response team. The project involved the development of bio-defense systems in order to combat the release of harmful biological agents. The timeliness and relevance of the project was recognized by government officials. Dr. Asperilla received a citation from the Florida Secretary of Health and the Presidential Service Volunteer Award. During the visit of President George W. Bush, he was personally given the Point of Light Recipient Award, as well as the Florida Hurricane Heroes Award given by Governor Jeb Bush.

Highly respected by colleagues in the profession, Dr. Asperilla's research findings on virology, dermatology and medical process have been presented before national and international conferences such as the 90th Annual Meeting of the American Society for Microbiology in California (1990); the Meeting of the American Dermatology in Texas (1996); and in the 1990 International Symposium on Medical Virology in California. Along with other experts in the field, he co-authored publications that are vital academic references on disaster management: *A Prescription for*

***In conferring the Pamana ng Pilipino Award to Marianito O. Asperilla, the President recognizes his ingenuous application of his expertise in the prevention and treatment of infectious disease as an instrument against bio-terrorism and his unfailing support of humanitarian causes that have benefited national groups including his fellow Filipinos in the United States and in the Philippines.***

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*Terror (2004), Rx for Hurricanes: Lessons from Hurricane Charley (2004), and Cost Effective Management of Chronic Hepatitis C Patients in a Clinic Setting (2014).*

In addition to these prestigious accolades, he also received the Dux Award for Excellence in Medicine in 2004, the Filipino-American Society Community Service Award in 2005 and the Outstanding Filipino Award in the United States in 2008. His latest achievement is the Oscar E. Edwards Memorial Award for Volunteerism and Community Service, which was conferred by the American College of Physicians in 2014.

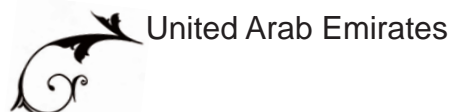
As a philanthropist and community activist, the list of Dr. Asperilla's initiatives is as impressive as it may seem exhausting to others, but not to a man with his vitality. He founded and co-founded various organizations: the Charlotte County HIV Clinic (Florida) ACCESS Care, Inc.; the FEMA Village Clinic; the HOPE Clinic Virginia B. Andes Community Clinic; the Charlotte Harbor Boxing and Fitness Club, Inc.; the Charlotte Harbor Hospitality Association LLC; the Multicultural American Nurse's Organization; and the Arts Academy Foundation of Charlotte County, Inc.

Fully committed to projects that eliminate poverty, societal problems, and difficulties in establishing dedicated healthcare systems, Dr. Asperilla's memberships in civic organizations serve as his outlet for his good intentions. As a member of Rotary Club of Harbor Heights/Peace River and Chairman of its international projects, he has been instrumental in planning and leading medical mission trips to Latin America and the Caribbean for the last twenty years. During these missions, over 2,800 patients were treated and over US\$50,000 worth of medical supplies and medicines were collected in the United States and delivered to patients in these countries.

Not forgetting his Filipino lineage, Dr. Asperilla's entrepreneurial ventures, the pomelo grove agri-business, two hotels, and two restaurants, have generated jobs for numerous Filipino-Americans with whom he maintains strong bonds of friendship. Through his membership in the UST Medical Alumni Association of America, he contributes to the betterment of the Filipino communities overseas as well as in the Philippines. In 2010, he sponsored a 32-unit Gawad Kalinga Village named after him in Towwerville, Bulacan. He was subsequently elected to the GK board of directors in 2014. In the same year, he convened a medical mission and spent ten days and US \$80,000 in Cebu to address the medical and dental needs of the victims of typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda. To maximize their intervention, they raised an additional US \$75,000 for the construction of new shelters for the homeless on Bantayan Island.



## MICHAEL M. CINCO



Weaving style and culture into one production is Mr. Michael Cinco's distinct contribution at a time when Filipino designers are gaining recognition on the international fashion scene. His flair for the intricate and the fabulous represents a fusion of influences drawn from his childhood years in Catbalogan with its Samareno sub-culture and the glamour and glitz resulting from the Hollywood mania that infected his generation. He was in awe of the classiness of a Grace Kelly and the finesse of Audrey Hepburn. Watching them in memorable Hollywood films created ripples in Mr. Cinco's creative mind.

In pursuit of his dream, he took up Fine Arts at the University of the Philippines Diliman and further honed his skills at Slims Fashion and Arts School. With determination to give full vent to his talents, he trained with esteemed designers who gladly took him under their wings. Thereafter, he was ready for Dubai in 1997.

His decision to settle in Dubai was an important factor in the development of Mr. Cinco's art. Being a city known for style and fashion, he landed a job in a local fashion house. He tapped into his innate talent and worked out redesigns of concepts with a vitality that resulted in trendy ideas. This milestone achievement set him on the path of recognition as an internationally acclaimed designer.

By 2002, he sought inspiration in Paris and London. Captivated by the latter's modernity and sophistication, he decided to study at Central Saint Martin's College of Arts and Design. This cultural immersion pushed Mr. Cinco's creativity to an even more exciting and higher level. New ideas raring to be realized prompted him to settle back in Dubai and find fruition as a fashion visionary.

He set up his own fashion house, the Michael Cinco Haute Couture in 2003. His designs are characteristically inventive, intricately designed and deftly shaped. His use of colors, enhanced by Swarovski crystals,

***In conferring the Pamana ng Pilipino Award to Michael Cinco, the President recognizes his exceptional accomplishment as a noted Filipino fashion designer in the Middle East and the unique creativity of his creations that have been featured and acclaimed on the international fashion scene.***

results in creations that have a surrealistic quality. Each expert cut, the numerous folds and countless seamless connections are sewn to merge and form designs that are at once contemporary and culture-bound.

A significant breakthrough in Mr. Cinco's career was his participation in America's Next Top Model (ANTM), an award-winning television reality show hosted by Ms. Tyra Banks. He was asked by a fellow Filipino, Mr. Michael Carandang, the show's producer, to submit sketches for Ms. Banks' approval. He was subsequently invited to design dresses made from eco-friendly materials and was eventually featured juxtaposed against a landfill. In this project, he worked with Mr. Nigel Barker, who was a professional photographer and judge of ANTM. This was followed by another appearance in an episode shot on location in Greece and featured the Filipino clothing brand Bench modeled by celebrity Georgina Wilson. The praises they received from an awed ANTM staff made Mr. Cinco very proud to be a Filipino. His stint with them earned him a branding as an eco-couturier and won him praises from Vogue Magazine's Andre Leon Talley.

With the establishment of his own couture house, Mr. Cinco gained a number of elite followers from the ranks of Arab royalty as well as Hollywood personalities. Celebrities such as Lady Gaga, Fergie, Paris Hilton, Sofia Vergara, and Britney Spears wore his dresses. The excellence of his designs was once again demonstrated during the 21st Annual Elton John AIDS Foundation's Oscar Viewing Party. Britney Spears, who was wearing one of Mr. Cinco's gowns, was nominated as one of the Best Dressed Celebrities.

Mr. Cinco's genius continued to receive approbation. The top crystal brand, Swarovski, gave him the opportunity to join its prestigious fashion occasion, the 7even Event. In 2010, he won the People's Choice Award during the Dubai Fashion Week, with a spot in Ahlan Hot 100. In 2011, he was nominated as Best Designer in Grazia Style Awards and was the Breakthrough Designer of the Year at the Global Fashion Awards in 2011. After making waves in the global fashion industry, Mr. Cinco was tagged as the Asian Couturier Extraordinaire by the Asian Couture Federation in 2013.

In spite of his many successes, Mr. Cinco has not forgotten his roots. He takes time to visit the Philippines at least twice a year. Through the Bench Celebrity Scents collection, he launched his own scent, Impalpable. He also takes part in the Style Origin show at Bonifacio High Street in the Fort Bonifacio Global City in Taguig and joins the bi-annual Philippine Fashion Week. To gain global recognition for the talent and creativity of Filipino couturiers, he represented the Philippines in World Fashion Week in New York in November 2011.

A firm believer in the capacity of Filipinos to become internationally competitive, Mr. Cinco has proven himself right by his very own achievements. As such, he has inspired others to follow his tracks and has remained a role model worthy of emulation and esteem by all. More importantly, he has also shown the way to make one's dream come true.





## KRISTOFFER L. COLLO



United States of America

Kristofer Collo belongs to a typical migrant family who believed in the American dream. His parents' search for 'greener pastures' influenced the future direction of his life in the United States. In a sense, his formative years as a Fil-American commenced when he was only a two-year old toddler and his parents decided to relocate overseas.

Mr. Kristofer Collo is a good example of the end-product envisioned under the ongoing nationwide institutionalization of the K-12 program as mandated by the Philippine government. As a precursor of this recent reform initiative, he has proven that secondary level schooling can suffice and enable a serious individual to assume responsible positions in the world of work.

After completing high school, Mr. Collo immediately sought employment and landed computer jobs in two companies. It did not take him long to realize that his experience had given him the wherewithal to start his own product-based contracting firm. The need to pursue a tertiary level education was out of the question.

When he turned twenty-one years old, Mr. Collo turned into a Fil-Am entrepreneur. With US\$15,000 plus augmentation from two credit card sources he founded Micropact. From a small start-up company, he transformed it into a software product company. It has now become the leading developer of enterprise case management and business process management software that services U.S. federal agencies and commercial organizations.

In his role as leader-manager, he developed the corporate vision and mission. He strongly emphasized core values that prioritized customer needs and satisfaction, especially the importance of building a solid reputation as a trusted provider of enterprise solutions. His goal was to adopt industry 'best practices' that would address specific customer requirements and improve the overall operation of the company.

Today, surveys indicate that Micropact's services and products are utilized by 97% of the federal agencies with more than 500 employees.

***In conferring the Pamana ng Pilipino Award to Kristoffer L. Collo, the President recognizes the extraordinary and exemplary ways and means he adopted to build up his company as a leading technology provider to major government agencies and corporations in the United States.***

The have reported a 96% satisfaction rating for its quality service delivery. In recent years, it averaged an annual growth rate of 33%. Notwithstanding the stellar performance of Micropact, Mr. Collo is driven to become 'the best his company can be' by reinvesting his earnings in research and development to gain insights and learn from case studies on the management of business process solutions.

Indirectly, Mr. Collo's enterprise plays an important role in the provision of humanitarian and social services to millions of government employees. He has enabled them to file complaints and obtain fair judgment through the use of iComplaint. The software manages the federal Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and generates Form 462 annual reports that each federal agency submits to the U.S. Congress. Through iComplaints, Micropact was able to monopolize the market and currently processes over 90% of all federal EEO claims.

Another profitable product of Mr. Collo's company is his Entellitrak software which is designed to help companies organize their cases. The platform makes it easier for federal agencies to modify their needs and allows them to be the architects of their own applications. Due to the effectiveness of the program, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) awarded its USAID Food for Peace Program contract to MicroPact. Under this agreement, Entellitrak is being implemented to help monitor and assess US Food Aid programs.

In an interview with WashingtonExec, Mr. Collo explained his entrepreneurial breakthrough succinctly, if not simply. He revealed that he was deeply inspired by the movie "Freakonomic." It taught him that the easiest way to achieve his desire is to align the individual goals of all members with the team goal. He applies this method on top of his down-to-earth approach in running his business. His management style has won for him the trust and respect of his employees, because as a CEO, he is committed to prioritize the work-life balance requirements of everyone.

The logical outcome of all his hard work is the outpouring of commendations: the SECAF Government Contractor of the Year, the Washington Technology Fast 50, and the Smart CEO Future 50. MicroPact received the GOV Star Award— this award is given to local contracting firms for their technological innovations, workplace environment, veteran support, and exceptional contributions to the industry and marketplace.

Mr. Collo's story is always a source of wonder and admiration. Even former "Pamana ng Pilipino" presidential awardee, Major General (Ret) Antonio Taguba, was so impressed with his accomplishments and his leadership-management style that he has encouraged Mr. Collo to always share his experiences with the younger generation of Filipino-Americans. There can never be enough role models in the diaspora community given its continuous growth and the challenges that have to be hurdled in the fast-paced era of globalization.



## CRISTETA P. COMERFORD



United States of America

Chef Comerford's culinary artistry was developed over a long period of time under the initial tutelage of her own mother, a good cook who dutifully prepared the family's meals.

What started off as an inspiration, wound up as a profession. It was something that Ms. Comerford did not even imagine would become a successful career in the future. Her father knew best and urged her to get her grounding in a culinary school. By following parental advice, she eventually carved her own niche in the culinary field but not after going through a series of remarkable, if not unprecedented experiences.

She migrated to the United States at age 23 when she was about to complete her degree in food technology at the University of the Philippines. It can be said that Ms. Comerford's remarkable journey as a culinary expert was premised not on formal schooling but on her innate cooking ability, capacity for hard work and topped by an inexplicable set of circumstances that can be lumped up into one term: destiny.

She started her career in the United States when she landed her first job at the Sheraton Hotel and, subsequently, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Chicago. Moving on to Washington D.C., she was hired as a chef in two restaurants and spent six months in Vienna as a rotating chef.

During President Bill Clinton's presidency, Walter Scheib, the White House Executive Chef, recruited Ms. Comerford to

***In conferring the Pamana ng Pilipino Award to Cristeta P. Comerford, the President recognizes her remarkable journey to culinary success and her unique and exemplary role as the first Asian and woman Executive Chef of the White House.***

work with him as a sous chef. When he retired, the incoming president's first lady, Laura Bush, began her own search for an executive chef who could manage all the detailed preparations for State dinners. As a sous chef, little did she realize that Mrs. Bush took note of her ability to work under pressure and relate well with the rest of the staff. The biggest challenge which she successfully hurdled was the State dinner in honor of visiting Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and the one hundred thirty six special guests invited by the White House.

Chef Comerford stepped forward as executive chef and introduced fusion recipes that excited the palates of state officials. Her expert handling of the needs of the first family and their guests was met with such praise that the Obamas have retained her to manage their own functions. She personally harvests fresh ingredients from the small garden on the White House's South Lawn in support of First Lady Michelle Obama's pet project to promote healthy and nutritious diets. During his visit to the Philippines, even President Barack Obama drew attention to his own introduction to Filipino cuisine by way of Ms. Comerford's delicious servings of lumpia and adobo.

Ms. Comerford has the unique distinction of being the first woman and the first Asian to be appointed as the White House Executive Chef in 2005. She reaped accolades during the 5th International Women's Leadership Conference in 2008 when she shared her empowering experiences on the way to the White House. She received the 2010 March of Dimes Chicago Chef of the Year Award which is given to outstanding chefs with career links to the city. She holds a membership in the world's most elite group of culinary experts, Cuisenaire's the Club des Chefs des Chef. It was formed by Gilles Bragard, a designer of chef's uniforms, to serve as an informal association of executive chefs of various heads of state.

Her extraordinary success caught the attention of the general public. In 2010, she appeared on the popular television show, Iron Chef America, and teamed up with Bobby Flay against the team of Emeril Lagasse and Mario Batali, all of whom are renowned celebrity chefs. After the show's prime time exposure, one of the impressed judges' remarked that the Comerford-Flay duo's chef d'oeuvre was so delectable and simply "not of this world."



## SHEILA S. CORONEL



United States of America

In the midst of all the turmoil attendant to the uncovering of graft and corruption in the upper echelons of government, investigative journalists always find themselves occupying center stage together with hordes of protestors from all sectors of Philippine society. Ms. Sheila Coronel belongs to this unique circle of brilliant minds who utilize the power of the pen and the mass media to expose the menace that is irresponsible governance. In particular, she was instrumental in drawing public attention to the illegal practices of the Estrada administration which eventually led to his downfall.

Ms. Coronel knew only too well the importance of collective action to effectively combat societal ills. She co-founded and headed the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism (PCIJ) whose existence is premised on a daring commitment: "We tell it like it is...no matter who...no matter what." Since 1989, the PCIJ's nine founders have gained the reputation for producing exposes that are at best fearless and at worst dangerously provocative that put their careers and personal lives at great risk.

As an independent, non-profit entity, the PCIJ has released more than 200 articles through leading broadsheets, published 2 dozen books and produced 5 full-length and scores of shorter documentaries which focus on critical issues affecting the nation. In the past twenty-five years, PCIJ's quality reportage has reaped over 150 major awards. These include nine National Book Awards, a Catholic Mass Media Award, more than two dozen Jaime V. Ongpin Awards for Investigative Journalism, and two institutional awards -- the Kate Webb Award from the Agence France-Presse and the AJA Award for Press Freedom from the Asia Journalist Association (AJA).

The premier journalism school of New York's Columbia University took cognizance of Ms. Coronel's exceptional ability to pursue the most critical of issues and influence populist movements to take action against the Philippine establishment's failure to address the never-ending cycle of poverty and corruption. Dr. Steve Coll, a former

***In conferring the Pamana ng Pilipino Award to Sheila S. Coronel, the President recognizes her proven capacity to influence socio-political change through peaceful means as a passionate investigative journalist and mentor to successor generations as the Dean of the Academic Affairs of Columbia University.***

dean of the Columbia School of Journalism, only has words of praise for Ms. Coronel's influential role even in their institution. Recognizing her excellence in the execution of her multiple roles as journalist, teacher and leader, she was conferred one of Columbia University's highest honors: the Presidential Teaching Awards.

Ms. Coronel's journalistic pursuits were incubated as early as 1979 when she completed her degree in political science at the University of the Philippines. Even before finishing her master's degree in political sociology at the London School of Economics, she had produced pioneering investigative works: "*Coups, Cults & Cannibals*," a collection of reportage; "*The Rulemakers: How the wealthy and well-born dominate Congress*;" and "*Pork and other Perks: Corruption and Governance in the Philippines*."

From the very start of her career as a professional journalist, Ms. Coronel was already relentless in her pursuit of political scandals regardless of presidential administration. Her insightful seminal works unmasked human rights violations during the Marcos regime; inspired the burgeoning democratic movement that ushered in the Aquino administration; and precipitated the end of the Estrada administration.

To effectively unveil the misdeeds of the politicians and government bureaucrats, Ms. Coronel joined reputable mainstream publishing houses. She was connected with *Philippine Panorama*, the magazine of the *Manila Bulletin*, which became her vehicle for recounting the abuses of the Marcos administration and fueled the anger of the anti-Marcos forces. She also worked for *The Manila Times* as a political reporter while at the same time writing special reports for *The Manila Chronicle*. As a stringer for *The New York Times* and the *Guardian of London*, she submitted stories that exposed the forces behind the attempted coup d'etats against President Corazon Aquino.

The boldness of her investigative reports distinguished Ms. Coronel and inevitably caught the attention of various award-giving institutions. In 2001, she received the Jaime V. Ongpin Award for Investigative Journalism and was recognized by the Center for Media Freedom and Responsibility and the Asiaweek Magazine as One of Asia's 50 Most Influential Communicators. She was the recipient of the Magsaysay Award for Journalism, Literature and Creative Arts given by the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation in 2003.

Given the extent and depth of Ms. Coronel's involvements through the years, she remains a vital force in the development of professional investigative journalists. She concurrently serves as director of Columbia University's Toni Sabile Center for Investigative Journalism and dean of Academic Affairs in the Journalism school.



# WILLIAM D. DAR



William Dar is the Philippines' horticulture champion and the first Filipino and Asian to hold the position of director general of the International Crops Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) over a fourteen-year period. Under his supervision, the institution prospered to a level that merited the Science Award for Outstanding Partnership with the World Vegetable Center. The ICRISAT was also the recipient of the King Baudouin Award for five consecutive years.

As a pro-active leader, Dr. Dar initiated measures that would strengthen the institute's research capability and ensure quality food security by increasing the productivity of mandated crops like pigeonpea, chickpea, sweet sorghum, pearl millet, and peanuts. ICRISAT introduced the Inclusive Market-Oriented Development (IMOD) approach that would enable poor farmers to increase their income through improved productivity and market opportunity. This initiative was recognized by a group of Indian scholars who adopted IMOD as a model for replication by other institutions.

Dr. Dar kept his motto foremost in his mind: "Science with a Human Face." He wanted horticulturists to be front-runners in the scientific work on food security. For two consecutive years, in 2006 and 2007, his forward-looking strategy and transformational leadership style were regarded as outstanding among the affiliated centers in the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR).

To-date, ICRISAT has provided the Philippines 3,302 samples of 2,786 germplasm (seed collection) accessions. From 2000 to 2012, it has also received 58 sets of trial plants, 901 advanced breeding lines of plants, 36 mapping population parents, and 72 segregating populations of plants.

***In conferring the Pamana ng Pilipino Award to William D. Dar, the President recognizes his exemplary leadership in successfully extending the frontiers of scientific research and technology to ensure food security for all and for his staunch advocacy of the important role of professional horticulturists in this endeavor.***

His desire to improve the quality of earthly life always alerted him to find ways and means whereby he could lend assistance to places in need of conservation, restoration, and maintenance. This conviction put him at the forefront of the Mt. Pinatubo Research and Development Program and, with his help, the region has gradually recovered since suffering devastation caused by the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo in 1991.

Because of his numerous accomplishments and service orientation, Dr. Dar has been involved in the work of agencies like the Department of Science and Technology's Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources Research and Development where he served as executive director. He was appointed acting secretary of the Department of Agriculture from 1998-1999 and, thereafter, served as presidential adviser on food security and rural development. He held the chair of the Committee on Science and Technology of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and of the Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions. He sat on the boards of the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center and the Policy Advisory Council of the Australian Centre of International Agricultural Research.

Noted for introducing agricultural innovation, Dr. Dar serves as a scientific adviser in India and the Philippines. He lends his expertise to help support various rice research institutes and strengthen their capacity to use scientific research for the sustainable management of horticulture resources. He also engages in a form of skills-transfer program by evaluating research proposals and helping young scientists improve their research plans. He does not only extend his knowledge through application, but also through mentoring aspiring scientists in his area of specialization.

The academic rigor which Dr. Dar has applied to his scientific work has earned him several honorary degrees: Doctor of Technology from Tarlac College of Agriculture, Doctor of Technology Management from the Bohol Island State University, Doctor of Humanities from the Pampanga Agricultural College, Doctor of Science from the University of Mindanao, Doctor in International Agricultural Development from the Central Mindanao University, Doctor of Technology from the Isabela State University, Doctor of Resource Management from the Benguet State University, and Doctor of Science from the Mariano Marcos State University.

For his excellent work as a horticulture specialist and advocate, Dr. Dar received the Special Award for Biotechnology and Life Sciences from the Federation of Asian Biotech Associations; the Excellence in Agricultural Leadership Award from the Association of Agricultural Technology in Southeast Asia; the MS Swaminathan Award for Leadership in Agriculture; and the Outstanding Professional of the Year Award given by the Professional Regulatory Commission.





## RODERICK M. DELA CRUZ



United States of America

**R**oderick Dela Cruz finished his degree in civil engineering in 1990 at the Mapua Institute of Technology. It was also at Mapua that his interest in schematic structures was cultivated. In 1994, he found his way to Singapore. Within a brief two-year period, he worked as a structural engineer at Rotary Engineering and joined the staff of Chong and Lee Consultants. His career flourished when he moved to the United States. In 1998, he landed a job as lead structural engineer with Applied Industrial Design in California. He is currently with Vistam, Inc., a testing and engineering firm that does consulting work and utilizes his own expertise in civil and dam engineering.

Mr. Dela Cruz holds an important position in the Power Production Department of the Southern California Edison (SCE) which is considered as one of the State's biggest electric utilities. He is in charge of the Hydro Division and plays a critical role in the operation of its vast power plants. As manager of SCE's 84 dams, he is responsible for technical engineering oversight, coordination and compliance with federal and state agency regulations as well as ensuring the availability of strategic plans.

He humbly admits that before he joined SCE, he was not familiar with dam operations and, therefore, he had to do

***In conferring the Pamana ng Pilipino Award to Roderick M. Dela Cruz, the President recognizes his expertise in dam engineering and management and his invaluable assistance in addressing dam and flood mitigation issues as a Balik-scientist and advocate of the much needed regulatory framework to resolve a recurring environmental problem in the country.***

his own updating on the subject. Through his hard work and diligence, he was able to build such a good reputation that he received the SCE Chairman's Award in 2013. Never too busy for community involvement, he assumed a senior role in Fil Barkada, the company's Filipino-American employee resource group. His widely recognized capacity for hard work has earned him the respect of his colleagues and made him the most effective and qualified person to lead their activities.

Mr. Dela Cruz also manages to publish papers and journals on dam engineering and dam remediation for technical societies and journals such as the Journal of Dam Safety and the Mapua World. He has been invited as resource speaker in various workshops and seminars to raise public awareness on the importance of dam safety and the critical need to improve emergency management.

When he sets his sights on the home country, the Bulaceño in him surfaces. He readily extended his helping hand when a calamity hit the town of Hagonoy and the floods seriously affected his own family and friends. When he returned to the Philippines in 2009, Mr. Dela Cruz accepted the invitation of the Governor of the Province of Bulacan to serve as the technical consultant on Angat Dam, one of the country's major dams located in the province. In 2013, the provincial government awarded Mr. Dela Cruz the "*Dangal ng Lipi Award— Expatriate Category*" in recognition of his invaluable contribution to their technical and environmental safety concerns.

Having witnessed the devastation experienced by his hometown, Mr. Dela Cruz focused his attention on how to help the country in resolving the various issues related to dam construction and management. Through the Department of Science and Technology, he completed a 30-day voluntary engagement in the Philippines as a "*Balik-Scientist*". He travelled across the country to share his expertise. His lectures and trainings zeroed in dam safety engineering, risk management and emergency planning, including the need for dam safety legislation.





## FILOMENITA M. HOEGSHOLM



**F**ilomenita Mongaya-Hoegsholm's calling in life is to be a woman for others. She takes on advocacies in line with her interests and competencies.

Her community service began in the field of arts and culture. As a music major at the University of the Philippines, Ms. Hoegsholm sharpened her skills further by joining the UP Concert Chorus and the UP Filipiniana dance troupe. For almost two decades, she was the anchor of the choral group during its bi-annual world tours under Prof. Rey Paguio.

Ms. Hoegsholm's next venture was into the field of communications as a film maker, who blended her artistry with feminist ideology. Her views on gender equality and the rights of women migrants found expression in several documentary films: *Invisible among Invisibles*, *Seven Glimpses of Magdalena* and *Between Generations*.

As she moved in diaspora circles in Europe, she became one of the founders of the Women and Global Migration Working Group. After serving as vice president for two terms, she was also elected chair of Black Women in Europe Network. In 1992, she co-founded the Babaylan Philippine Women's Network, the first of its kind to advocate for Filipino migrant women's issues and concerns in Europe. To her personal credit, it was Ms. Hoegsholm who founded the Danish chapter of Babaylan. She used her position to lobby for the inclusion of minority women in international conferences such as the Cairo UN Population Conference (1994), the UN Social Summit in Copenhagen (1995), the UN Women's International Conference in Beijing (1995), and the UN Habitat Conference in Istanbul (1996). Her advocacy for women's rights, gender equality, and related

***In conferring the Pamana ng Pilipino Award to Filomenita M. Hoegsholm, the President recognizes her versatility and creativity in translating her advocacies into action for the promotion of women's issues, especially the respect for Filipino migrants' rights and their gender fair treatment in the European community.***

migration issues placed her at the forefront of the Danish national committee against racism and xenophobia headed by the country's former prime minister.

In this capacity, Ms. Hoegsholm served as a bridge between Denmark and the Philippines. One of her successful undertakings is the Oslo Conference on Au Pairs which she co-organized with the Department of Foreign Affairs. In 2014, Ms. Mongaya entered into a memorandum of agreement with the Commission on Filipinos Overseas to assist on the effective implementation of the cultural exchange aspects of the Au Pair scheme.

To widen the scope of her influence, Ms. Hoegsholm saw the utility of the mass media, particularly print and radio, to communicate her expertise on the feminization of migration. She became a freelance journalist and contributed her views in the book, *In de olde worlde: views of Filipino migrants in Europe*, a collection of insights from practitioners, activists and researchers on the Filipino diaspora in European countries.

Ms. Hoegsholm sought alternative channels for her writings in the major Philippine broadsheets as well as in prominent international publications. She joined the staff of the *Manila Chronicle* and the *Manila Midweek* magazine. She also wrote for the San Francisco-based *Filipinas Magazine* and contributed articles for Arab publications such as the Cairo's weekly *Al Ahran*, the *Oman Daily*, Muscat's *Middle East on the Line*, and Copenhagen's *As Sununu*. She was appointed editor-in-chief of several newspapers and publications and served as mentor to asylum seekers at the Danish Red Cross who subsequently launched its own magazine, *The Times*. What is probably the best publication that showcases her writing finesse is her lifelong project, *Dialogues in Dignity*, which focuses on women of color who travel across continents and cultures.

Not satisfied with all her accomplishments, Ms. Hoegsholm found more energy to establish the Women's Action and Information for Filipinas, a telephone network assisting distressed Filipinas. In 2013, she was one of the founders of *Tinig Kababaihan*, a weekly program on the Danish local radio which tackles the concerns of Filipino women migrants. Her advisories are broadcasted on a global radio program, *Usapang Pinoy*.

Going back to her artistic avocations, Ms. Hoegsholm has seen it fit to also showcase Filipino creativity. She has introduced batik art and ecologically sustainable fabrics in the Swedish market such as the works of innovative designer of abaca fiber materials, Dita Sandico-Ong, whose pieces have reached a global audience from Japan to the United States and the Middle East.



## JONATHAN D. IRABAGON



United States of America

Jonathan D. Irabagon's transformation from a night club performer to a jazz virtuoso serves to inspire amateur musicians that a bright future awaits diligent and dedicated aspirants. However, his exposure as a fellow performer of jazz masters even before he attended New York music schools for formal training might not be a commonplace experience. Perhaps he was plain lucky or that indeed he was fated to join the likes of John Abercrombie, Richard Marx, the Pointer Sisters, and Michael Buble. His musical ability was also influenced by Chicago's best musicians: Ryan Shultz, Eric Montzka and Jerry Coleman while he was studying formally with Greg Fishman, Mark Colby and Bob Palmieri.

But first-hand experience with the masters of jazz did not make Mr. Irabagon complacent. Instead, he continued to study music in respectable New York institutions. By 2001, he graduated with high honors and earned a degree in music business with a minor in journalism. He also enrolled in the Manhattan School of Music where he studied with one his inspiring role models, Dick Oatts. He received his artist diploma in jazz performance from the prestigious Julliard School of Music.

Mr. Irabagon went on tours across the United States and overseas to display his exceptional talent. Playing as a sideman in many projects opened opportunities to begin recording as a leader. He became an integral member of such notable ensembles as Mostly Other People Do the Killing, the Dave Douglas Quintet and the Mary Halvorson Quintet. He later became an established bandleader due to his vibrant personality, which added a new twist to their songs and instrumentals.

The stiff competition in the music scene demanded creativity and innovativeness, so Mr. Irabagon decided to venture into the recording business. In 2005, he was featured in an album entitled "Confluence," a collaborative work of New York musicians. He played the saxophone

***In conferring the Pamana ng Pilipino Award to Jonathan D. Irabagon, the President recognizes his successful transformation of his musical talent into phenomenal successes in the recording industry, concert tours and jazz performances alongside the best of jazz professionals on the music scene and his generosity in guiding aspiring musicians to also become the best they can be.***

for the album, "The Observer," which was produced by Don Sickler. He was also a part of "The Killimanjaro Darkjazz Ensemble – Here Be Dragons" album.

His partial engagement in the recording industry led Mr. Irabagon to eventually release his own albums: "Foxy," "Unhinged," the second volume of "Unhinged," and "I Don't Hear Nothin' But the Blues." Two of these were considered as the "Top 10 Jazz Albums of 2012" by Outside-Inside-Out. His recordings are also collaborative works with other performers. His album "Outright" is a joint-artistic production with his band members. In 2014, he recorded "It Takes All Kinds" together with the bassist, Mark Helias, and the percussionist, Barry Altschul. These unpredictable and daring improvisations opened more doors for him as a recording artist and a record-label entrepreneur.

After making a name in the U.S. music industry, Mr. Irabagon caught the attention of different award-giving organizations. He was recognized by the Downbeat Magazine's Student Music Awards in 2004 and 2006. The Jazz Journalists' Awards named him as the "Rising Star Alto Saxophone." He also earned the title "New York City's 25 Jazz Icons" from Time Out New York.

All his hard work and dedication to the music industry led to one of Mr. Irabagon's proudest moments: winning the 21st Thelonious Monk International Jazz Competition which was held in Los Angeles in 2008. For his exceptional talent, Mr. Irabagon received US \$20,000 plus a contract with the Concord Music Group, an American independent music company.

Mr. Irabagon continuously pushes himself to achieve not only as a jazz performer, but also as a philanthropist. In 2004, he ran free master classes and concerts in San Jose, Costa Rica. The program was a joint project of the Costa Rica International Affairs Committee and the Julliard School of Music. In the same year, he conducted an outdoor concert series in Pennsylvania. He gave a free saxophone and improvisation master class for children in Nagaoka, Japan. Together with his band, "Mostly Other People Do the Killing," he held a three-day workshop in Dusseldorf, Germany.

As an active and dedicated teacher, he inspires young people through his classes on improvisation, composition, and music business. Eli Yamin of Jazz at Lincoln Center has nothing but praises for his creative and effective teaching strategy. He adapts his methodology to conform to the students' interest in playing video games as a model for developing an effective practice routine.

Mr. Irabagon is a risk-taking, opportunistic visionary. His successes as an award-winning composer, bandleader and sideman are not just a product of luck. It is the product of a composite of qualities: patience, determination and ingenuity. All these are what it takes to become a phenomenon in the realm of jazz.



## JASMINE B. LEE



South Korea

Jasmine B. Lee's belief in the importance of multiculturalism is grounded on her own personal experience as a marriage migrant. She met her husband, Mr. Lee Dongho, while she was still a student at the Ateneo de Davao University. In 1998, she became a naturalized Korean. However, in 2010 she was widowed when her husband suffered a heart attack while saving their daughter from drowning during one of their family vacations. After recovering from her personal grief and re-engineering herself, she was elected as a proportional representative to South Korea's National Assembly. Ms. Lee is the first Filipina and naturalized Korean lawmaker.

Ms. Lee had media exposures even before her political career was launched. She was a TV personality who had hosted various local shows and appeared in movies such as *Secret Reunion* (2010) and *Punch* (2011). Being a migrant herself, she took interest in the lives of fellow migrants who sought to make it in South Korea. When Ms. Lee was invited as a panelist in the TV show, *Love Asia*, she gave sound advice to the viewers, and thereafter, she took the opportunity to tackle issues relative to multiculturalism as a form of public service.

After reinventing herself, she carried on and pursued other goals as a volunteer, a philanthropist and a civil servant with still a nagging concern for migrants in Korea. In January

***In conferring the Pamana ng Pilipino Award to Jasmine B. Lee, the President recognizes her pioneering achievement as the first Filipina and foreign-born citizen to be elected in the National Assembly of South Korea and her breakthrough initiatives that has raised public awareness of the importance of multiculturalism in this era of globalization.***

2012, she received the Korea Image Millstone Award from the Korea Image Communication Institute (CICI), the first Filipina to be given recognition for her social activism. One of her significant charitable undertakings was her successful initiative for the victims of typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda. She used her persuasive skills and convinced the National Assembly of South Korea to provide financial aid to the Philippines to the tune of US\$20 million, and another US\$5 million for humanitarian causes. She also called upon The 601 Habit, an organization of South Korea-based Filipinas, to donate boats and second-hand computers to the victims under its Life Boat and Hands-On Philippines projects. She is also the secretary-general of Water Drop, a charity organization of foreign spouses of Koreans.

As the incumbent proportional representative of the Saenuri Party to the Korean National Assembly, Ms. Lee has sponsored and ensured the passage of several bills in her first year in office. She has taken upon herself the responsibility of safeguarding the fundamental rights of undocumented foreign children. She gives lectures to teachers and emerging leaders on the subject of multiculturalism.

For fostering warm and cordial bilateral relations between the Philippines and the Republic of Korea, President Benigno S. Aquino III conferred on Ms. Lee the Order of *Lakandula* with the rank of Officer in 2013. She also received the 2012 Immigrant Human Rights Award, and the 2013 Constitutional Politics Award for Good Governance.

The relevance of Ms. Lee's political and humanitarian initiatives could not have come at more timely period in world history. With the marked increase of inter-cultural marriages, especially between Filipinos and Koreans, the importance of mutual understanding, negotiating cultural differences and discovering similarities as Asian peoples cannot be overemphasized. Her work is only at its inception stage and, given her proven skills, there is no doubt that the best is yet to come.



## CECILE B. LICAD



United States of America

As she unleashed the deepest parts of her soul, her eyes closed; her head tossed back; her body moved gracefully as she ran her fingers on the ivory keys. Cecil Licad's performance is a display of a sacred act that captures the rawness of the untamed human emotion. The world has been enthralled by her formidable technical capability that perfectly blends with the intensity of her music.

Ms. Licad began playing the piano at the age of three under her mother's guidance. At five, she underwent a formal piano training with Rosario Picazo of the University of the East, School of Music and Arts. The first display of her talent happened at the tender age of seven during her orchestral debut as a soloist with the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra.

Even after garnering distinction in the Philippine music scene, Ms. Licad decided to pursue her piano studies in the United States. She enrolled at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia. After three years, she studied at Rudolf Serkin's Institute for Young Musicians in Vermont. She was mentored by three of the greatest performers: Rudolf Serkin, Seymour Lipkin and Mieczyslaw Horszowski.

The competition for the Leventritt Award has been inactive for several years, but in 1980 Ms. Licad received the Gold Medal, even without competing for it. This feat launched her international career. The *Rachmaninov Piano Concerto No. 2* and the *Saint-Saëns Piano Concerto No. 2* are her earliest CBS recordings that made it to the Billboard classical charts. In 1989, she ended her career in CBS after recording an outstanding album of Schumann's piano music. She then became part of the EMI

***In conferring the Pamana ng Pilipino Award to Cecile B. Licad, the President recognizes her exemplary talent as a world renowned pianist and musician.***

where she recorded music with Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg. They also performed together at Lincoln Center.

When Ms. Licad was part of the MusicMasters label, she recorded some of her greatest works - the two discs of Chopin and Ravel. Music critics often acclaim her for perfectly exuding his music as though she has been part of his life. Her recordings of the F Minor Chopin concerto with Andre Previn and the London Philharmonic made her the recipient of the Grand Prix du Disque Frederic Chopin in 1985.

In the mid-90's, the classical musical market went to an economic downturn which ultimately caused the downfall of the MusicMarket. This shifted Ms. Licad's focus on her concerts and tours. She has been a soloist of 13 orchestras from different parts of the world - Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Philadelphia Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, London Symphony, London Philharmonic, Bayerisches Rundfunk Orchestra, Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, Moscow State Academy Symphony, Hongkong Philharmonic, New Japan Philharmonic, Tokyo's NHK Symphony and Philippine Philharmonic. She has also been part of long list of ensembles which includes the New York Chamber Symphony, St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, Guarneri Quartet, Takacs Quartet, Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, and Music from Marlboro.

Even after becoming a globally renowned soloist, she returned to the record market in 2003. Her comeback was marked by her brilliant piece of the composition of Louis Moreau Gottschalk for the Naxos label. This magnificent recording was featured in the film *Louis*, which honored the life of Louis Armstrong.

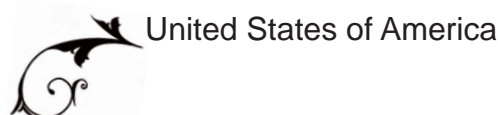
Her exposure in the international music scene earned her the distinction of "a pianist's pianist" from *The New Yorker*. In one of Ms. Licad's concert, a journalist from *The Washington Post* described her music as "the result of intellect warmed by emotion."

Some may perceive classical music as a thing of the past because most musical geniuses emerged during the early years. The artistry of Ms. Licad is the anti-thesis of the prejudice attached to classical musicians. Her brilliance as a modern day virtuoso is a testament that classical music will endure through ages.





## ROBERT LOPEZ



It is not always easy to explain what it takes to become an award-winning composer. To be prodded by one's mother to take up piano lessons at the tender age of six may not even be a unique experience in a big city like New York, with its countless youngsters and ambitious parents relocating there in hopes that a star would be born from among their offspring. If Mr. Robert Lopez might have been exception, this could be attributable to the fact that at seven years old, his piano teacher, Mr. Bennett Learner, urged him to write a piece he called "Oy Veh, What a Day." By the time he reached twelve, he had written an opening number and started trying his hand at other musical instruments such as the saxophone.

After Mr. Lopez graduated from Hunter College High School, he proceeded to Yale University and completed his Bachelor of Arts in English. During this period, his creative energy found fruition in a play and two musicales. He also found time to join the Spizzwinks, an A Cappella group.

Being of Filipino-American-Scottish parentage, Mr. Lopez was driven to assert his identity although mainstream America's entertainment world was a showcase of talented performers of diverse ethnicity. The characteristic diversity, plus the Big Apple's promise that "if you can make it there, you can make it anywhere," fired him up to claim his own share of the world stage as a lyricist and a composer.

He gradually built a reputation in the music field and partnered with fellow composers to produce *"The Book of Mormon"* and *"Avenue Q,"* a musical parody of the children's television series

***In conferring the Pamana ng Pilipino Award to Robert Lopez, the President recognizes his unique positioning among the equally talented EGOT awardees and the fine quality of his musical contributions that have gladdened the hearts of audiences of all ages worldwide.***

*"Sesame Street,"* which he composed with Mr. Jeff Marx. When *"Avenue Q"* opened on Broadway in 2003, Mr. Lopez was on the road to fame. He brought a new voice and perspective to the theater district and his original works made Broadway more appealing to younger audiences. His catchy musical scores gained the support of critics and led to his 2004 Tony Award for Best Score for Music and Lyrics. Success begot success when, together with his wife, Kristen Anderson-Lopez, they won the Best Achievement in Music Written for Motion Pictures and the Best Original Song Award at the 86th Academy Awards for the song "Let it Go" from the widely popular animated film, *"Frozen."*

Mr. Lopez was no longer a wannabe when he joined the ranks of the twelve people who have won an Emmy, a Grammy, an Oscar, and a Tony (EGOT) Award. He earned the further distinction of being the only person to win all four within a decade. His membership in the EGOT exclusive club was made even more unique because he was the youngest among his accomplished peers. He received the Tony and Grammy awards successively in 2011 and 2012 for writing the religious satirical musical, *"The Book of Mormon."* He won his two Daytime Emmy Awards for music direction and composition for the children's TV series *"The Wonder Pets."*

Mr. Lopez seemed unstoppable and his creative pursuits multiplied. He composed a song for *"The Simpsons,"* worked with Messrs. Matt Stone and Trey Parker in *"South Park,"* partnered to write two songs for the Disney Channel series *"Phineas and Ferb,"* wrote six songs for *"Winnie the Pooh,"* teamed up to write the musical adaptation of *"Finding Nemo,"* and wrote four songs for the hit TV show *"Scrubs."* Again, he received the Annie Award for Music in an Animated Feature Production for *"Frozen."*

The freshness of the words and music of Mr. Lopez has impressed the members of the critics circle and showered him with awards. But more importantly, he has brought joy to his youthful audience. On top of these, because of his remarkable success in mainstream America's entertainment industry, pride swells in the hearts of the Filipino-American community. He is an enduring proof that diaspora talent knows no bounds.



## KATHERINE R. LUZURIAGA



United States of America

**B**orn in Bacolod, Negros Occidental, to a Filipino father and an American mother, the family's decision to migrate to the United States became a major life-changing experience. Dr. Katherine R. Luzuriaga was schooled in the best institutions on the east coast. With a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, she proceeded to Tufts University School of Medicine and became a Doctor of Medicine by 1984.

Thereafter, Dr. Luzuriaga's career in medical research became deeply entrenched. She was a research fellow on infectious diseases at the University of Massachusetts (UM), as well as vice provost for clinical and translational research at the UM Medical School. She headed the Division of Pediatric Immunology, Infectious Diseases, and Rheumatology and, to-date, holds a professorship in the Department of Pediatrics and Program in Molecular Medicine.

Driven by a desire to develop a cure for HIV (human immunodeficiency virus), Dr. Luzuriaga tapped into her network of scientists to prove that, contrary to the prevailing public perception, the disease is curable. This pressing concern was a result of her earlier specialization, which focused on pediatrics and immunology. She wanted to curb pre-natal transmission by treating an infected mother before giving birth to her child. Anticipating the possibility that notwithstanding preventive measures the virus could still spread, she did further research on the treatment of HIV-1 infected infants. Her work centered on viral and immune-pathogenesis of viruses that infect children such as the Epstein Barr virus, HIV, and cytomegalovirus. She analyzed the viral-host relationship that occurs in patients infected by diseases. Over the

***In conferring the Pamana ng Pilipino Award to Katherine R. Luzuriaga, the President recognizes her significant achievements in the field of medical research particularly in pediatrics, immunology and the prevention and cure of the HIV/AIDS disease.***

years, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) supported her work through specialized funding. Fortunately, data showed that in the mid-90s, her research efforts resulted in a significantly diminished number of infected newborns by 90%.

A strong-willed woman of science like Dr. Luzuriaga remained even more determined to find a functional cure for HIV especially when the "Berlin patient" with HIV was cured after undergoing a bone marrow transplant for his leukemia in 2007. She pushed her research frontiers since she considered every preceding case as a catalyst for further achievements and future successes.

Dr. Luzuriaga was proven right when her team successfully cured an HIV positive infant born to a high-risk mother who was only diagnosed after she had given birth. Together with a pediatrician, Dr. Hannah Gay from the University of Mississippi, and a virologist, Dr. Deborah Persaud from Johns Hopkins Children's Center, she immediately administered stronger drugs. While the mother stopped coming for follow-up visits after eighteen months, the baby returned for treatment after five months. Their diagnosis showed that the baby had an "undetectable viral load." It was Dr. Luzuriaga who announced that the infant was no longer considered HIV-positive. To her, this was a great leap forward for their research and opened more avenues for arriving at more positive results in the future.

Her team's success in curing an HIV-positive infant put Dr. Luzuriaga on TIME Magazine's 100 Most Influential People in 2013, which coincidentally included Philippine President Benigno S. Aquino III. Together with Drs. Gay and Persaud, she was also recognized as one of Foreign Policy's 100 Leading Global Thinkers of 2013. Her passion for research was a valuable factor in her team's successes. To share her findings and to inspire other aspiring researchers to follow suit, she received the NIH Mid-Career Award (K24) under which grant she mentors junior scientists.

More awards and commendations followed suit. She was given the Research Scholar Award by the Pediatric AIDS Foundation, the Elizabeth Glaser Scientist Award from Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation, and the Research Scholar Award from the Charles Hood Foundation. Her research was featured in several publications that were usually patient-oriented and dealt with pediatrics, immunology, and their interrelationship.

Dr. Luzuriaga's determination and perseverance to rid the world of HIV is not only a source of pride and inspiration for many Filipinos involved in medical research, it has given the rest of the world a reason to be optimistic that solutions can be found for diseases deemed incurable in our time.





## SHEILA LIRIO-MARCELO



United States of America

The call for women empowerment and the application of gender fair principles in all aspects of modern life were important factors in the shaping of Ms. Sheila Lirio Marcelo's career. She founded Care.com, Inc. to enable women like herself to lead a double life as professional and homemaker efficiently and effectively. She saw the potential of an enterprise that provides much needed care options ranging from baby-sitting, pet-sitting, senior care, and overall home care.

Her own experience served as the template for Ms. Marcelo's business plan and advocacies. She had to take care of her children and her ageing parents while in pursuit of a career of her own. With a degree in economics from Mt. Holyoke College, an MBA from the Harvard Business School plus a Juris Doctorate from the Harvard Law school – she was a woman of substance whose success hinged on her ability to manage time and resources. Her early exposure to her family's diverse holdings in agri-business, transportation and coal production helped to put her on the entrepreneurial track.

With her legal background as an asset, Ms. Marcelo started off as an analyst in Hayes & Bartlett. She was a consultant at Pyramid Research Putnam & Monitor Company. She was appointed Vice President of Product Management & Marketing in Upromise and Vice President & General Manager

***In conferring the Pamana ng Pilipino Award to Sheila Lirio-Marcelo, the President recognizes her astute application of her business skills and the relevance of her vision and gender fair initiatives in support of the call for women empowerment.***

in TheLadders.com. Eventually, she landed a teaching job at the Harvard Business School and became Entrepreneur-in-charge in Matrix Partners.

With Ms. Marcelo ably setting its direction as Chief Executive Officer, Care.com's contribution to the improvement of the quality of family life was recognized as a relevant response to the needs of the time. It received the Seal of Distinction from Work-Life Progress, the Webby Award from the 17th Annual Webby Awards, 50 on Fire Healthcare from BostInno, Top Places to Work from Boston Globe, Best Places to Work from Boston Business Journal, Boston Business Hall of Fame and Technology Innovation Award from Junior Achievement of Northern New England, and as one of the Fast 50 Asian American Business from the U.S. Pan Asian-American Chamber of Commerce.

With women as the direct beneficiary of her initiatives, Ms. Marcelo also founded Women Up. The organization formed a sub-group called the Leadership Circle and conducts training and mentoring programs that prepare its members to master work-life balance techniques.

Her entrepreneurial talent and advocacies merited another series of commendations. Ms. Marcelo received the Alumni Achievement Award from the Harvard Business School, the Entrepreneur of the Year Award from the New England Venture Capital Association, the Pinnacle Award from the Boston Chamber of Commerce, the Digital Trailblazer Award from the National Association of Female Executives, the Leading Women Award from the Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts, the Strengthening Families Award from Room to Grow, the Leader in Diversity Award from the Boston Business Journal, and the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award. She was also included in the Top 50 in Digital Health from Rock Health, the 100 Most Intriguing Entrepreneurs from Goldman Sachs 2013 Builders & Innovators Summit, the Outstanding 50 Asian-Americans in Business from the Asian American Development Center, the Women of Excellence Award from the National Council on Ageing, the 100 Innovators and 10 Most Powerful Women in Technology from the Boston Globe, the Top 10 Women Entrepreneurs from Fortune's Most Powerful Women, and the 40 under 40 from the Boston Business Journal.



BALDOMERO  
M. OLIVERA



United States of America

**B**aldomero Olivera's outstanding contribution in the field of neuroscience and marine biology is the reversal of the damaging effect of venomous organisms -- cone snail toxins -- which redefined the rudimentary design of ecology.

His grounding in the field of neuroscience took place during his undergraduate years at the University of the Philippines where he received his Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry, *summa cum laude*. He completed his graduate studies in the biophysical chemistry of DNA at the California Institute of Technology and pursued a doctoral degree in biochemistry at the Stanford University School of Medicine.

He built a career in research and education and was affiliated with noted institutions such as the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, Stanford University, the University of the Philippines Medical School, and the University of Utah where he currently holds a professorship. Dr. Olivera devoted more than thirty years of his life as a researcher and co-founder of the Cognetix, Inc.

His breakthrough study on cone snail toxins centered on the development of highly structured peptides known as "conopeptides," a molecular component used for diagnostic and therapeutic applications. More importantly, it was developed into a drug that alleviates severe intractable pain. Initially, the research focused on the determination and characterization of the biologically-active peptides found in the venoms of the predatory cone snails. Dr. Olivera identified a large number of peptide neurotoxins that led

***In conferring the Pamana ng Pilipino Award to Baldomero M. Olivera, the President recognizes his ground-breaking research in cone snail toxins which represents an invaluable contribution in the field of marine drug discovery.***

the study to be integrated with molecular neuroscience. Through biotech and pharmaceutical companies, the conopeptides discovered by Dr. Olivera has been developed into therapeutic drugs. However, only the Prialt has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration since three of the drugs are still undergoing human clinical trials. The viability of the conopeptides is also being explored for the treatment of heart attacks, strokes, epilepsy, and other neuro-pathologies.

Even before he caught the attention of the scientific community, Dr. Olivera had already proven his excellence in the field of chemistry. In addition to his Fulbright Scholarship, he was the recipient of the Damon Runyon Fellowship from the Damon Cancer Research Foundation. His work on neuro-pharmacology earned him numerous commendations from Philippine and foreign institutions: the Outstanding Alumni Award of Caltech from the California Institute of Technology, the Redi Award from the International Society of Toxinology, the Harvard Foundation Scientist of the Year 2007 Award from the Harvard University, the Utah Governors' Medal for Science and Technology, the University of the Philippines Chemical Society Outstanding Alumnus Award, the American Cancer Society Faculty Research Award, and the Eli Lilly Unrestricted Research Award.

Dr. Olivera taught for forty-four years at the University of Utah where he has been cited as a Distinguished Professor of Biology. Because of his significant researches on DNA biophysics and conotoxins, he has been invited on the editorial boards of notable publications: the *Journal of Biological Chemistry* and the *Journal of Toxinology-Toxin Reviews and Toxicon*. He is on the review committee of the journal on Cellular and Molecular Basis of Disease; the visiting committee of the Department of Molecular Biology and Biochemistry of Harvard University; the advisory committee to the Director of the National Institutes of Health; the Toxicology advisory committee of the Burroughs-Wellcome Foundation; and the Searle Scholars advisory board.

Dr. Olivera recently launched his Chemistry to Biodiversity project which encourages second and third graders to explore and apply science in practical settings. The project incorporates local biodiversity and cultural traditions in the module. The younger students are mentored by undergraduates who assist them in the conduct of experiments. The Chemistry to Biodiversity program has been adopted in rural areas in the Philippines, as well as in progressive American schools in Salt Lake City.



## ALFREDO R. ROCES



**A**lfredo R. Roces migrated to Australia in 1977. When he once said that a “migrant is an exile” – he wittingly drew a conceptual self-portrait. However, even in his new environment, his interest in the humanities still found creative ways of expression while remaining emotionally connected to his country of birth.

He typifies the classic Renaissance man – someone who is well-rounded and excels in a multiplicity of fields: writing, criticism, painting, sculpture, book design, and photography. He belongs to the prominent Roces family of historic Manila, whose publishing house played an important role in the shaping of Philippine political life and popular culture. But Mr. Roces firmly believes that the success of a journalist like him should not be derived from one's pedigree and connections. Rather, it should be based on personal integrity and professional merit.

In Mr. Roces' case, excellence in writing was definitely in his genes. He started as a ghostwriter in the *Daily Mirror* and subsequently ran a column on arts and culture which eventually became his avocation in succeeding decades. For ten years, he was a daily columnist in the *Manila Times* until it was forcibly shut down in 1972 when Martial Law was declared and press freedom was curtailed. Given his diverse interests and writing skills plus his deep understanding of Philippine history and culture, he was a fitting choice to work on the 10-volume *Filipino Heritage* as its editor-in-chief. Before it could be published, Mr. Roces moved to Australia where his first major editorial work was with Australasia's quarterly geographic magazine, *Geo*.

A prolific writer with a passion for the arts, Mr. Roces authored more than fifteen books and received the National Book Award for *Kiukok: Deconstructing Despair*; *Felix Ressureccion Hidalgo* and

***In conferring the Pamana ng Pilipino Award to Alfredo R. Roces, the President recognizes his enduring passion for the arts and intellectual integrity that have won for him admiration and respect across generations.***

*the Generation of 1972; Legaspi: The Making of a National Artist; and Adios, Patria Adorada.* He received the Citizen's Council for Mass Media Award for Outstanding Columnist, and the Araw ng Pasay Heritage Award in Journalism. He was the recipient of a Harvard International seminar grant and was recognized as one of the Philippines' Ten Outstanding Young Men in the Humanities.

At an early age, Mr. Roces learned to appreciate the visual arts through his mentor Dominador Castañeda. He obtained his degree in Fine Arts at the University of Notre Dame in Indiana and took up further art studies and trained at the Student's League in New York under the guidance of George Grosz, a prominent German artist.

Mr. Roces won recognition in the Philippine art scene and mounted exhibitions in the Philippines and Australia. He developed a unique eye for satire and discernments, which are evident in his creations. He held eighteen major solo exhibitions in the Philippines and in Australia such as the 20-year Retrospective: Drawings at the Cultural Center of the Philippines and the Philippine Consulate in Sydney and *Sari Manok* and *The Rainbow Serpent*, an earthwork exhibit with aboriginal artist Kevin Duncan.

Mr. Roces' artistic excellence earned him a place in major Philippine group exhibits at the National Museum of the Philippines, the Cultural Center of the Philippines, the Metropolitan Museum, the Art Association of the Philippines Annual Show, the Kamalig Gallery, the Luz Gallery, and La Solidaridad Galleries. His works were also featured in the Watercolour Institute Annual Show, the John Irving Gallery, the International Art and Photo Exhibition, the Dorian Grey Gallery, the Mellow Mist Gallery, the Tatak Pinoy of Sancta Sophia University, the Images of the Museum of Contemporary Art, and the 4 Songs to Oz in the Arthouse Hotel.

As a visual artist, he was the recipient of commendations from the Filipino Australian Movement for Empowerment and the Art Association of the Philippines as Artist of the Year and was included in the Hall of Fame for Lifetime Achievement. In 1972, he was the Philippine Representative at the Paris Sud.

Today, Mr. Roces remains the creative genius that he has always been. He still explores alternative avenues for self-expression such as blogging, pottery and digital art. His practice of artisanal pottery was included in the Pottery Exhibit of Kamalig Gallery. He also held a one-man show called *Available Light*, a photography exhibit.



## MARIA LEA CARMEN I. SALONGA



United States of America

To have won the hearts of diverse audiences in the Philippines and received praises from discriminating theater-goers in London and New York for her remarkable performances – there seems to be no reason for Ms. Maria Lea Carmen Salonga to want for more.

Barely reaching the age of reason, Ms. Salonga debuted in 1978 in the *King and I*, a musical production of Repertory Philippines. At 10 years old, she received a gold certification for her album, *Small Voice*. At 12, she played the lead role in *Annie*. Since then, the invitations to take part in a number of well-known plays just kept pouring in: *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *The Rose T*, *The Goodbye Girl*, *Paper Moon*, and *The Fantasticks*.

A seasoned stage performer like Ms. Salonga was ready to take her successes to another level. She guested in a local teen variety show - *That's Entertainment*, starred in several movies and hosted her own musical show -- *Love, Lea*. In 2005, she received the Golden Artist Award from the Filipino Academy of Movie, Arts and Sciences.

Ms. Salonga was a Bergamo 1 Student at the O.B. Montessori Center where her academic preparation seemed to show that, based on their assessment of her capabilities, her destiny was in the field of medicine. Unwilling to shake off her deep-seated

***In conferring the Pamana ng Pilipino Award to Lea Salonga, the President recognizes her exceptional accomplishments as an international performer which has brought recognition not only to herself but also to the musical talent and ingenuity of her fellow Filipinos.***

love for music and song, she attended the extension program of the University of the Philippines College of Music. When she auditioned and got accepted to play the role of Kim in *Miss Saigon*, she packed up and headed for New York's Fordham University. It was no mere coincidence, but rather her strategic choice, to take up her philosophy and European history courses at the university's Lincoln Center campus on Broadway. The city's theater district was her staging ground to international fame.

Her superb performance as a Vietnamese bar girl in *Miss Saigon* was ground-breaking. It drew in not only the crowds but more acclamation such as the distinguished Olivier Award for Best Performance in 1991, followed by the Tony, Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle, and Theater World. She was on the cast of *Les Miserables*, *Grease*, *They're Playing Our Song*, *Cinderella*, and *Into the Woods*. She also got into music recording and animated movies. Atlantic Records billed her as the first Filipino artist to record music internationally. She was the singing voice of two Disney princesses, Jasmine in *Aladdin* and Fa Mulan in *Mulan* and *Mulan II* and is now recognized as a Disney Legend in 2011.

Being a world-renowned performer, she participated in many concerts including *Les Miserables in Concert* and *The Broadway Concert*. In 2000, she also performed in local concerts -- *The Homecoming Concert* and *The Millennium Concert* and other benefit shows -- *The Best of Manila*, *Songs from the Screen* and *Lea Salonga: Your Songs*. Ms. Salonga was named the ambassador of goodwill by the UN Food & Agriculture organization to address hunger alleviation and, likewise, performed this role on behalf of World Vision Philippines.

In spite of her busy schedule as a performer, from 2008 to-date, Ms. Salonga has found time to write *Backstory*, a column on arts, culture and travel for the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* and served as a coach cum judge for *The Voice Philippines* to share her experiences and expertise especially with aspiring vocal artists. Given her international exposure in the performing arts and her continuing involvement in global as well as national concerns, plus the conferment of the Order of *Lakandula* with the rank of Commander -- Ms. Salonga is truly an excellent role model of her generation and for generations to come.





## LOLITA VALDERRAMA-SAVAGE



United States of America

Lolita Valderrama-Savage completed her fine arts degree at the University of Santo Tomas. Although she was raised in urban Manila, her love for nature was nurtured during occasional trips to the provinces of Bulacan, La Union, and Ilocos Norte. However, it was the rustic scenes painted by Filipino master Fernando Amorsolo, which were mass reproduced on calendars, that moved her to also depict nature at its best and in her own way. Given her early exposure to the works of other distinguished Filipino masters like Juan Luna, Felix Resurreccion-Hidalgo, Leonardo Hidalgo, and Diosdado Lorenzo, it was inevitable that she would draw inspiration from them. Even her literary acquaintance with national hero, Jose Rizal, whose penchant for the arts is historically noted, served to further stretch her imagination and fueled her intense desire to join their ranks.

Ms. Savage was all set to pursue a teaching career in her alma mater when she received a scholarship from the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs that led her to the Accademia di Belle Arti in Florence, Italy in 1973. The guiding hands of Professors Silvio Loffredo and Staffan Hallstrom molded Ms. Savage into becoming a fine artist worthy of the *Licenza in Pittura* [Tr: licentiate in fine

***In conferring the Pamana ng Pilipino Award to Lolita Valderrama-Savage, the President recognizes the exhilarating freshness of her landscape artistry which have gained international acceptance and appreciation by discriminating art lovers in the Philippines and overseas.***

arts]. Her first exhibition was held at the *Palazzo Strozzi*, where her works were displayed alongside those of other foreign artists. She had several one-woman shows in different parts of Europe and was, in fact, the first Filipino who held an exhibition at the *Palazzo Medici Riccardi* and *Casa di Dante*. With a keen eye for the beauty of nature, her artworks, especially her nostalgic landscapes, exude a delightful freshness that appealed to art lovers in Europe, the United States, and Asia. For forty years, she exhibited internationally and was noted as the first Filipina to have presented her creations in Sweden, Italy, and Switzerland. In 1999, she was acknowledged as one of the eight globally-admired artists during the recognition event of the World Economic Forum in Switzerland.

In 2011, Ms. Savage finally had her artist's debut in the Philippines after thirty-eight years of living abroad. Her creations were displayed in the Ayala Museum in Makati and the UST Museum of Science and Art in Manila. In recognition of her excellence in painting, she received the Totus Tuus Award and The Outstanding Thomasian Alumni Award from her alma mater. However, even prior to these Philippine citations, she was already included in the Outstanding Women of America in 1987 and had received a commendation from the State of Connecticut for her contributions in their arts and community affairs.

Her art has also been instrumental in Ms. Savage's philanthropic works. Proceeds from art auctions benefited communities who have been victimized by natural disasters. She sits on the board of several non-profit organizations such as the MA-YI Theatre Company, the Namaskaar Foundation-World on Stage, the Thumbelina Fund, the Stamford Art Association, and the *Casa di Dante Circolo delgi Artisti* which help fund scholarships for young artists. She donated two of her works at the benefit auction in Rome, Artists for the Philippines. They raised a total of €3,200.00 for the rehabilitation of communities and the reconstruction of facilities in areas devastated by typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda.



## PAOLO ANTONIO S. SILVA



United States of America

**P**aolo Antonio Silva is an ophthalmologist and a retina specialist. In 2009, he was appointed as staff ophthalmologist and assistant chief of telemedicine of the Beetham Eye Institute in Boston, Massachusetts. He is also an attending staff at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary as well as an associate surgeon at Brigham and Women's Hospital. His involvement in the Ocular Telehealth Specialist Interest Group of the American Telemedicine Association as past chairman allows his continuous engagement with his professional network beyond hospital grounds.

Dr. Silva's expertise not only helps patients with visual complications. He has translated his extensive knowledge of ophthalmology into academic work that serves as invaluable medical references accessible to fellow practitioners, researchers, and students. His breakthrough studies consist of more than thirty-seven peer-reviewed articles and book chapters, including eleven review articles that have been published in prestigious journals. In his writings, Dr. Silva introduced extraordinary scientific and clinical methods to address diabetic eye disease and teleophthalmology. The National Institutes of Health recognized his expertise and appointed him as a reviewer of grant proposals. He is also a peer reviewer for over nineteen prominent scientific journals and sits on the editorial board of international medical journals.

Notwithstanding the intense competition for research grants, Dr. Silva has managed to attract funding for his own work. As co-

***In conferring the Pamana ng Pilipino Award to Paolo Antonio S. Silva, the President recognizes his exceptional professionalism in the practice of ophthalmology and his pioneering contributions in the area of retina research, which have helped colleagues and aspiring medical students to blaze new trails in telemedicine and ensure the provision of quality of health care in the United States and the Philippines.***

principal investigator, he received support from the Research Implementation and Development Office of the Philippine General Hospital. The Center for Integration of Medicine and Innovative Technology funded his research, "Point of Care Evaluation for Diabetic Retinopathy at the Time of Retinal Imaging." The U.S. National Institutes of Health approved a grant for his project, "System for Increasing Patient Access to Eye Exams for Diabetic Retinopathy."

For Dr. Silva, the Philippines is still 'top of mind' when it comes to the exercise of his professional social responsibility. Due to his extensive experience in patient evaluation, image capture, image evaluation, and reporting, his leadership role in the development of the country's telemedicine program is acknowledged by fellow practitioners at the Medical City and the Philippine Eye Research Institute.

Cognizant of the fact that by 2030 more than 1.2 million Filipino patients with eye complications caused by diabetes will need evaluation, Dr. Silva is exerting his best efforts to establish a retinal research center that will address the shortage of ophthalmologists and retina specialists. Already, his advocacy has borne fruit with the passage of the National Telehealth Service Act of 2009 which will regulate telehealth in the Philippines and set standards for its safe and ethical practice.

His academic excellence, professional reputation, and service contributions have not gone unnoticed. As early as 2006, Dr. Silva received a medal for academic excellence as the highest in overall rating from the Philippine Board of Ophthalmology. In 2012, the Asia-Pacific Vitreoretina Society conferred the Yasuo Tano Award, while the Center for Integration of Medicine and Innovative Technology (CIMIT) gave him the Young Clinician Award. As part of CIMIT's award, he was the recipient of the Eleanor and Miles Shore 50th Anniversary Fellows Program for Scholars in Medicine, a program which was established to enhance the quality and diversity of the Harvard Medical School faculty at all levels. He is also on the list of the Ten Outstanding Young Men, the Philippines' prestigious award conferred on young professionals who excel in their respective fields and have contributed to the welfare of their countrymen. Because of his interest in maintaining high standards in the practice of ocular medicine, Dr. Silva makes time to mentor aspiring doctors at the University of the Philippines Manila-Philippine General Hospital System and at the Harvard Medical School in Boston where he is an instructor.



## OFELIA GELVEZON-TEQUI



Ofelia Gelvezon-Tequi uses art to give vent to feral emotions. It exposes the fragility and weaknesses of government. In the Marcos era, her pieces were a commentary on the period's excesses. Her work resembled the painting, "Allegory of Good and Bad Government" by Ambrogio Lorenzetti, a 14th century Italian artist who depicted his own troubled times.

Ms. Gelvezon-Tequi perfectly combines the intricacies of ancient Western art with Philippine customs and traditions. She adopts foreign themes to express her views on significant events in her home country. In her series of paintings on silk, she incorporated pictures drawn from early European art and the concept of anting-anting [Tr: amulet] to creatively depict her life abroad and reminisce about her experiences in the Philippines.

Before her exposure to western art forms, her career in printmaking was incubated in the College of Fine Arts of the University of the Philippines where she completed her Bachelor of Arts in English. Her unfulfilled passion for the graphic arts motivated her to study at the Accademia di Belle Arti di Roma in Italy. In 1968, she finished her Special Studies in Graphic Arts at Pratt Institute in New York City. She also attended *La Taile Douce* printmaking workshop in Paris for further studies.

As a Filipino artist in France, her art could not have found a more fertile ground for its full expression. Her decision to stay in and live the rest of her life in Paris was an invaluable

***In conferring the Pamana ng Pilipino Award to Ofelia Gelvezon-Tequi, the President recognizes her expertise in the arts as exemplified by her renowned masterpieces as printmaker, painter, and ceramic artist all of which convey the subtle fusion of western and eastern themes that can only come from the creative hands of an expatriate with a truly Filipino soul.***

exposure replete with exciting experiences that only an art capital can provide. This fueled her eventual success and, for three decades, she poured forth her artistry to create her masterpieces.

Since migrating to Limeuil, France, she has thoroughly imbibed the lifestyle of the culturati. As a member of the Confluence of Arts and Knowledge, she helped in the live retransmissions of operas set by the Metropolitan Opera of New York, and ballets set by the Bolshoi Theater in Moscow. She holds a seat on its panel of jurists and curated painting exhibitions of French and international artists. Known for her discriminating eye when it comes to selecting the best artworks, these events always attract the crowd especially in the summer season. The Limeuil community has a high regard for Ms. Gelvezon-Tequi. She is a source of pride for the village since she has shown her own works twice in the exhibition hall of the castle of Limeuil and introduced Philippine culture and heritage to her adopted community.

The influence of Gelvezon-Tequi is expansive. Her creations have reached appreciative audiences worldwide. Since 1970, she has conducted forty-six solo exhibitions in Manila, Paris, and New York, and hosted sixty group shows in Tokyo, Jakarta, Tel Aviv, Sao Paulo, London, Florence, Rome, Munich, Bradford, Berlin, Coruña, Angers, Beijing, Hong Kong, and Singapore. Her artistry is widely recognized in a number of art books and publications in the Philippines and in other parts of the world.

Since 1968, the long list of awards she has received include: the Rockefeller Foundation Scholarship for Graphic Arts from the Pratt Institute, New York; the Gold Medal for Printmaking from the Art Association of the Philippines; and the Prix de l'Association Memoire et Traditions en Perigord from the Allessur-Dordogne, France.

Ms. Gelvezon-Tequi's creativity knows no bounds. From prints and paintings, she has found the ceramic arts as the next medium of choice. She has produced outstanding pottery for her solo exhibitions at the BenCab Museum in Baguio.







# Awarding Ceremony

Friday, 05 December 2014, 4 p.m.  
Rizal Hall, Malacañan Palace

**Mr. Atom Araullo**  
Master of Ceremonies

## Programme

### *Invocation*

**Bishop Noel A. Pantoja**

*Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches*

### *Welcome Remarks*

**Secretary Imelda M. Nicolas**

*Commission on Filipinos Overseas*

### *Presentation of Awards by His Excellency*

**President Benigno S. Aquino III**

*President of the Republic of the Philippines*

### *Response on Behalf of the Awardees*

**Ms. Jasmine B. Lee**

### *Musical Number*

**Ms. Maria Lea Carmen I. Salonga**

### *Introduction of the Keynote Speaker*

### *Speech of His Excellency,*

**President Benigno S. Aquino III**

### *Photo Opportunity*

### *Cocktails*



## 2014

PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS  
FOR FILIPINO INDIVIDUALS  
AND ORGANIZATIONS OVERSEAS

# The Presidential Awards System

The Presidential Awards for Filipino Individuals and Organizations Overseas is a biennial awards system intended to give recognition to Filipinos and other individuals or organizations that contribute to Philippine development and progress, or promote the interests of overseas Filipino communities. The awards are also given to Filipinos overseas who have distinguished themselves in their profession and have brought honor to the Filipino people.

The awards system was institutionalized in 1991, with the signing of Executive Order No. 498. The awards have so far been extended to 403 Filipinos and private organizations overseas since its establishment. President Corazon C. Aquino conferred the first set of awards to 36 awardees in 1991. President Fidel V. Ramos conferred the second and third sets of Presidential Awards to 22 and 45 awardees in 1993 and 1996, respectively. President Joseph Estrada conferred the fourth and fifth sets of Presidential Awards to 30 and 59 awardees in 1998 and 2000, respectively. President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo conferred the sixth, seventh, eighth and ninth sets of awards to 34 (with one special citation), 45, 48, and 31 awardees, in 2002, 2004, 2006, and 2008, respectively. President Benigno S. Aquino III conferred the tenth set of awards to 24 awardees in 2010 and the eleventh set of awards to 29 awardees in 2012.

The Presidential Awards consist of four categories. The Kaanib ng Bayan Award is conferred on foreign individuals or organizations for their exceptional or significant contribution to Philippine reconstruction, progress and development, or have significantly benefited a sector or community in the Philippines, or advanced the cause of overseas Filipino communities. The Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino Award is conferred on Filipino associations or individuals for exceptional or significant contribution to reconstruction, progress and development in the Philippines. The Banaag Award is conferred on Filipino individuals or associations for their contributions which have significantly benefited a sector or advanced the cause of overseas Filipino communities. The Pamana ng Pilipino Award is conferred on Filipinos overseas, who, in exemplifying the talent and industry of the Filipino, have brought the country honor and recognition through excellence and distinction in the pursuit of their work or profession.

On 05 December 2014, President Benigno S. Aquino III will honor 33 distinguished Filipino individuals and organizations based in 12 countries, who, because of their exceptional achievements or humanitarian efforts, have given form and substance to Filipino excellence and the time-honored values of pakikipag-kapwa, pagtutulungan, and pagkakaisa.

The awards include exemplars of Filipino excellence, individuals who have dedicated their work in the service of the Filipino people, stewards of community initiatives that promote cooperation for the common good, and advocates for the promotion and protection of the rights of others. Civil society organizations based overseas, whose programs for intervention have helped improve the lives of others, particularly the marginalized, will also be honored in observance of the timeless tradition of utang na loob and bayanihan.

This year's awardees were selected from a total of 157 nominations from 29 countries through 40 Philippine Embassies and Consulates. Of the 33 awardees, 27 are individuals while 6 are organizations. The awardees came from Australia, Belgium, Denmark, France, India, Israel, Japan, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom and the United States of America.

## Executive Committee

### CHAIRPERSON

MS. MARY GRACE AMPIL-TIRONA  
Executive Director  
*Commission on Filipinos Overseas*

### VICE CHAIRPERSON

MR. RAFAEL E. SEGUIS  
Undersecretary  
*Department of Foreign Affairs*

### MEMBERS

MS. CONNIE R. KALAGAYAN  
Assistant Vice-President for Corporate Affairs  
*Philippine Daily Inquirer*

MR. MELITO S. SALAZAR, JR.  
Chairman  
*International Center for Innovation,  
Transformation and Excellence in Governance*

BISHOP NOEL A. PANTOJA  
National Director Designate  
*Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches*

MS. MA. REGINA ANGELA G. GALIAS  
Director  
*Commission on Filipinos Overseas*

## Technical Committee

### CHAIRPERSON

MS. ANDREA LUISA ANOLIN  
Executive Assistant  
*Commission on Filipinos Overseas*

### MEMBERS

MR. SULPICIO M. CONFIADO  
Executive Director  
*Department of Foreign Affairs*

MS. LUNINGNING E. SAMARITA-DOMINGO  
Executive Director  
*Department of Science and Technology*

DR. ALLAN A. EVANGELISTA  
Chief Health Program Officer  
*Department of Health*

MS. MARLENE RUTH S. SANCHEZ  
Deputy Executive Director  
*National Commission for Culture and the Arts*

DR. STELLA P. GO  
Chair  
*Philippine Migration Research Network*

ENGR. FRANCISCO S. AGUILAR, JR.  
President  
*Filipino Migrant Workers Group*

MR. RODRIGO V. GARCIA, JR.  
*Officer-in-Charge, Policy, Planning and Research Division  
Commission on Filipinos Overseas*

# Gallery of Presidential Awardees

## 1991 AWARDS FOR FILIPINOS AND PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS OVERSEAS

### LINGKOD SA KAPWA PILIPINO AWARD

Clemente, Lilia C.  
Cuenco, Juliet A.  
Cunanan, Leonardo B.  
Filipino Children's Fund (FCF)  
Foundation of the Philippine-American Medical Society of New Jersey, Inc.  
Halo, Hugo H.  
Philippine-Australian Sports Club, Inc.

### KAABAYAN NG BAYAN AWARD

Council of Filipino Associations in Belgium  
Filipino Community of Guam  
Filipino Community in Greece  
The Filipino Community of Thailand  
Philippine Emergency Relief

### KAANIB NG BAYAN AWARD

Continental Air Micronesia  
World Opportunities International

### BANAAG AWARD

Association of Caviteños in Canada  
Baron, Zayda O.  
Barranger, Luzviminda B.  
Binavince, Emilio S.  
Coniega, Roger  
De Guzman, Remigio L.  
De Villa, Guillermo Jr.  
Filipino-American Council of Chicago  
Filipino Club of Bahrain  
Juanta, Reynaldo Dante  
Kabayan Center Philippines  
Littaua, Ferdinand Z.  
Lubang-Looc International (LLI)  
Mendachic Club of Chicago  
Nayan, Teofilo  
Nora, Rena M.  
Pama, Ricardo P.  
Ruivivar, Marina G.  
Santiago, Jovenal R.

### SPECIAL AWARD

Gatbonton, Corazon  
Lega Italo-Filippina Filippini Emigrati

## 1992-1993 PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS FOR FILIPINOS AND PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS OVERSEAS

### LINGKOD SA KAPWA PILIPINO AWARD

Philippine Cultural Organization in Saarland, e.V.  
World Bank / IFC-IMF Filipino Association

### KAABAYAN NG BAYAN AWARD

Foundation for Aid to the Philippines, Inc. (FAPI)  
Pagkakaisa Samahang Pilipino/Confederation of Filipino Overseas Organization

### KAANIB NG BAYAN AWARD

Books for the Barrios  
Pag-Asa Group  
"Salamat Po Kai"

### BANAAG AWARD

Covarrubias, Grace Fe N. (Posthumous)  
Evangelista, Jose L.

Filipino Ladies Association of Guam (FLAG)  
Helbig, Aurea G.  
Hernandez, Carmencita R.  
Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate

### Concepcion

Paterno, Ramon A. P.  
Seguritan, Reuben S.  
Tahanan (Diocesan Center for Filipino Migrants)

### PAMANA NG PILIPINO AWARD

Banatao, Diosdado P.  
Carlota, Lupo T., M.D.  
De Guzman, Rodolfo A., M.D.  
Kelly, Angelita Castro  
Menez, Ernani G.  
Palis, Rosendo K.



# 1996-2012 PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS FOR FILIPINO INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS OVERSEAS

## LINGKOD SA KAPWA PILIPINO AWARD

1996

Caoile, Gloria T.  
Ho, Jesus T., M.D.  
Nacario, Emanuel N.  
Philippine American Foundation  
Philippine Children's Charity Fund  
Philippine Economic and Cultural Endowment (PEACE)  
Science and Technology Advisory Council  
San Francisco  
Torio, Isabelo S., M.D.  
Vijungco, Jose G., M.D.

1998

Feed the Hungry, Inc.  
H.O.P.E. Foundation International

2000

Montero, Juan II M., M.D.  
Navarra, Victoria C., M.D.  
Tan, Elton See

2002

Cagas, Cosme R., M.D.

2004

Ablaza, Saniel G.G., M.D.  
De Venecia, Guillermo B., M.D.  
Filipino Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii, Inc.  
Ileto, Benjamin A., M.D.  
International Network of Filipinos Overseas  
Martin, Arsenio R., M.D.  
Nihei, Marie Bernabe  
Tesalona, Alfredo T.  
University of the Philippines Medical Alumni Society in America  
Visayas-Mindanao Cultural Association e.V.

2006

Adams, Gloria Ysmael  
Association Lending Assistance in Exigencies at Home, gem e.V.  
Evangelista, Stella S., M.D.  
FEU - Dr. Nicanor Reyes School of Medicine Alumni Foundation  
Society of Philippine Surgeons in America  
Tria, Honesto R.

2008

Association of Philippine Physicians in America  
Enverga, Tobias, Jr. C.  
Filipino Women's Association United Kingdom  
Stichting Kapatiran

2010

Alarcon, Teresita Calderon  
Martinez, Ruth C.  
North Central Virginia Association of Philippine Physicians  
Philippine American Association of Connecticut  
Philippine German Community Oberberg e.V.

2012

Aguman Kapampangan UK  
Cacdac, Manuel A., M.D. (+)  
Guerrero, Christopher M., M.D.

## KAABAYAN NG BAYAN AWARD

1996

Aloha Medical Mission  
Volunteer Business Counselors (VBC) of Doha

1998

Filipino Community in Thailand (FCT)

2000

Balikatan sa Kaunlaran – Hong Kong Council  
Filipino-American Community of Colorado  
Filipino Community in the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands  
Filipino Community of Guam

## KAANIB NG BAYAN AWARD

1996

Consuelo Zobel Alger Foundation  
Association Philippines International of Geneva  
Tsakos Shipping and Trading, S.A.

1998

Association Alouette  
Philippine Development Assistance Programme (PDAP)

2000	Anesvad Foundation Jules and Paul-Émile Léger Foundation Operation Smile International	Docoy, Fr. Eugene Jr. Dasodas, Catherine D. Hongkong Bayanihan Trust Kawayan Philippine Language and Cultural School Mataac, Celso Jr. T. Miyake, Chiyo Philippine Heritage Band Quiblado, Conrada P. Sabio, Fr. Raymond T. Tendencia, Benita B.
2002:	International Medical Help for Children (A.M.I.E.)	
2004	-- no awardee	
2006	California Technological Care, Inc. CORA - Filipino American Task Force/Advisory Board Hanazaki, Misao Ma'Ma Children's Center of Norway Martens, Robert Sommer, Ph.D. Operation Rainbow Australia Limited Social Welfare Corporation Raphael Clinic	2000 Acebuche, Nestor A. Andes, Phoebe Cabotaje Angelical, Lilia Bayoumi, Mohammad Ahmad Bulos, Alice P. Cueto, Alex M., M.D. Cunanan, Aguedo Q. Cunina Organization Dela Paz, James Allan Filipino Coalition for Solidarity, Inc. Florentino, Sr. Magdalena S., FMM (+) Ginete, Alex Jose R. Go, Mildred Aires Halasz, Fr. Luis, SVD Ick, Claire R. Kanagawa Women's Space Ms. La Kinderhilfe Philippinen, E.V. Lädelli, Theresa Lammawin, Francis L. Lubang-Looc International March, Marina Roma, M.D. Natividad, Cornelio Ruiz Paragas, Rodolfo DL. Philippine School Bahrain Racinez, Sr. Olivia, WCW Sirmata (Vision) 2004 Tenorio, Pedro P. Tordjman, Paul Semo Vargas, Orlando R. Victorian Community in Belgium
2008	Catholic Medical Mission Board Children's Chance CT Heetens Helpgood Center Philippines Ligier, Laurence C.	
2010	Caritas Lebanon Migrants Center Lam, Phoebe Bik Che Lam, Sunny Kai Chor Salpeter, Simha	
2012	Haba, Gonen, M.D. Löehlein, Christian, M.D.	
<b>BANAAG AWARD</b>		
1996	Al Zedjali, H.E. Essa Mohammed Balik Bohol Medical Mission Filipino American Human Services, Inc. Penang Support Group for Migrant Filipinos Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants-Riyadh Chapter Rizal-Blumentritt Society Astillero, Mohamed Ali Carlito, M.D. Juele, Lilia R. Ramos, Angel T. Steiner, Mona Lisa L. Uy, Emelio Y. Zamora, Prospero C.	2002 Babaylan-Switzerland Beatty, Estrella C. Benzon, Norma R. Centre for Philippine Concerns-Australia Compas, Lolita B. Concepcion, Zenaida S., M.D. Dechavez, William D. De Guzman-Formoso, Ruby L., M.D. Del Rosario, Sonia S. Filipino Association in Brunei Filipino Communities Council of Australia, Inc. Filipino Community Center, Inc. Fojas, Marcos R., M.D. Kalayaan Lew, Bridget Maharlika-Switzerland
1998	Acosta, Rodrigo C. Aranilla, Leticia R. Bautista, Antonio C. Cheng, Dr. Sian Chun	

Manglona, Benjamin T.  
National Organization of Professional  
Teachers-Hong Kong  
Philippine Association of Metropolitan  
Washington Engineers  
Ravindranathan, N., M.D.  
Talangbayan, Francis V., M.D.  
Tomelden, Benjamin Jr. S.

2004

Berdos, Imelda Vollenweider  
Buhain, Wilfrido J., M.D.  
Casamina, Roland C.  
Centre for Filipinos  
Cuizon, Virgilio G.  
Fiesta Filipina Dance Troupe of Canada  
Filipino Cultural Club  
Godicke, Charlotte  
Home-Reach Foundation, Inc.  
Hyehwadong Filipino Catholic Community  
Kinderhilfe Philipinen  
McGuinness, Amor Ilao  
Natividad, Alicia Ll. B.  
Natividad, Evelyn D.A., Ph.D.  
Nemivant, Emma Balquiedra  
Panday Tinig Choral Ensemble  
Philippine Australian Sports and Culture, Inc.  
Philippine Cultural Foundation of Hawaii  
Pilapil, Virgilio D.R., M.D.  
Salazar, Lourdes A.  
Search to Involve Pilipino Americans  
Verstraeten, Jean Paul

2006

Bagong Kulturang Pinoy, Inc.  
Buchholdt, Thelma Garcia  
Farmer, Lolita L., Ll. B., OAM  
Filipino American Medical, Inc.  
Filipino Association of Singapore  
Go, Engr. Roman Ting  
Iskwelahang Pilipino, Inc.  
Lahing Kayumanggi  
Manuel, Vladimir James M.  
Markham Federation of Filipino Canadians  
Navarra, Eduardo J.  
Philippine American Group of Educators and Surgeons  
Philippine Cultural Foundation, Inc.  
Quinto, Edgardo R.  
Reed, Loline Lualhati  
Sales, Justina L.  
Tigno, Rosario B., M.D.  
Tuluyang Pinoy (Philippine Centre Zurich)  
Veterans Equity Center

2008

Asuncion, Alexander E.  
Berberabe, Patricia A.  
Carandang, Angeles R.  
Casambre, Sr. Mary Aida C.

Derpo, Esperanza R.  
Filipino Korean Spouses Association  
Garcia, Lamberto S.  
Ho, Eleanor B.  
Magdalena, Joseph I.  
Muzones, Santiago Jr., L.  
Noblejas, Dr. Antonio N.  
Overs, Lilian Y.  
Philippine Community Council of New South Wales  
Philippine Nurses Association of America  
Philipsen, Adelina R.  
United Filipino Council of Hawaii

2010

Abagat, Dr. Emely D.  
Computer Society of Filipinos International  
Congress of Visayan Organizations  
Federation of Filipino Communities in Israel  
Gange, George G.  
Kasimieh, Marilyn Wafa R.  
Kinding Sindaw  
Olalia, Sr. Lucia C.  
Ybo, Evangelina V.

2012

Alpay, Carlito E.  
Argel, Maria Imelda L.  
Avendaño, Tomas P.  
Castaños, Rafael S.  
Filipiñiana Europa V.Z.W.  
Filipino Community of Seattle, Incorporated  
Filipino Digerati Association  
Micabalo, Luzviminda S.  
Perez, Alfonso Jr., S.  
Quema, Eric Michael B.  
Santos, Robert N.  
Tsai, Ma. Luzviminda C.  
Stichting Bayanihan

#### PAMANA NG PILIPINO AWARD

1996

Alcantra, Anacleto R.  
Aranda, Jacob V., M.D.  
Bebars, Evelyn Panganiban, M.D.  
Clemente, Lilia Calderon  
Cordero, Paciente Jr. A.  
Cordova, Frederic and Dorothy  
Garcia, Jorge M., M.D.  
Goh, Ma. Cynthia J.  
Igarta, Venancio C.  
Layosa, Erlinda R.  
Mandac, Evelyn L.  
Medalla, David C.  
Natividad, Irene  
Pagtakhan, Rey D., M.D.  
Pangilinan, Manuel V.  
Recana, Mel Red

Sunico, Raul M.  
Tabuena, Romeo V.  
Veloria, Velma R.

1998

Alih Salih, Sharifa Zeannat  
Balcos, Ophelia G.  
Bobis, Dr. Merlinda  
Castrence, Pura Santillan  
Castro, Salvador P.  
Chen, Anita B.  
Garcia, Dr. Manuel M.  
Hagedorn, Jessica  
Lewis, Loida Nicolas, LI.B.  
Maulana, Nasser B.  
Sagun, Teresita B.

2000

Abad, Pacita  
Aguirre, Bayani S.  
Antonio, Camilo C.  
Armit, Amelita Aranas  
Camara, Jorge G., M.D.  
Cielo, Angel B., M.D.  
Del Rosario, Remedios K.  
Diaz, Jose Duddley  
Fitzsimmons, Edith Dizon  
Flores, Eddie Jr.  
Haley, Ma. Luisa Mabilangan  
Ho, Anita Magsaysay  
Llamas, Antonio Garcia (+)  
Moguel, Milagros K.  
Rodriguez, Manuel Sr. A.  
Santos, Emmanuel T.  
Soriano, Edward  
Tabalba, Camilo M.  
Zwaenepoel, Rev. Paul P.

2002

Abella, Manolo I.  
Aquino, Belinda A., Ph.D.  
Cayetano, Benjamin J.  
Chai, Arlene Joan  
Ciani, Lina L.  
De Asis-Benitez, Joanne  
Dela Cruz, Cesar M.  
Garcia, Renato B., MBE  
Guingona, Michael Patrick L.  
Natori, Josie C.

2004

Abinsay, Felipe Jr. P.  
Bernardo, Rodolfo S., Ed. S.  
Buhay, Wilfredo R.  
Cadawas, Eliodoro C.  
Esclamado, Alejandro A.  
Fernandez, Jovelle Laoag, M.D., Ph.D.  
Fuentes, Dante C.  
Lim, Lenore R.S.

Quiambao, Rodolfo C.  
Taguba, Maj. Gen. Antonio M.  
Uy, Constanca S., M.D.  
Velasco, Gundelina A.  
Viola, Arturo T.

2006

Acosta, Adolovni P.  
Ardiente, Editha M.  
Asera, Larry L.  
Asmundson, Mayor Ruth U., Ph.D.  
Baisas, Armando V.  
Cantos, Olegario VII, D. LI.B.  
Cunanan, Zenaida F.  
Dadap, Michael A.  
Dietrich-Hall, Vellie  
Lamagna, Carmen Z., Ph.D.  
Macabenta, Gregorio B.  
Magsino, Romulo F., Ph.D.  
Manuel, Consorcio Don  
Ostrea, Enrique Jr., M., M.D.  
Rustia, Jeffrey P.  
Tomimbang-Burns, Emme A.

2008

Besa, Amelita C. and Dorotan, Romeo G.  
De Leon, Bayani M.  
Esguerra, Carlos D.  
Hizon, Rico M.  
Pelayo, Libertito P.  
Ramos, Teresita V., Ph.D.  
Villarin, Engr. Nilo L.

2010

Caña, Lilac L.  
David, Angelito DL.  
De Asis, Fred S.  
Gener, Bernard Randy G.  
Navarro, Lillibeth E.  
Totengco, Rafe

2012

Al Mahdi, Mary Jane Alvero  
Amaya, Delia B. Rodriguez  
Bernal, Samuel D., M.D.  
Fernando, Antonio III T., M.D.  
Gilles, Almira Astudillo  
Lhuillier, Diane Monique L.  
Mabanglo, Ruth Elynia S., Ph.D.  
Ortoll, Jorge Z.  
Pineda, Allan  
Spoelstra, Erik C.  
Velcek, Francisca T., M.D.

### Special Citation

2002

Filipinas Magazine



# Directory of 2014 Awardees

## LINKAPIL AWARDEE

### SERENATA

Mr. Teodoro V. Delos Santos  
99 Mohamad Shenkar Street, Aziza District  
Jeddah, KSA  
Tel. No. +966-12-6657388, +966-12-6606200,  
Mobile No. +966-567296086, +966-508962799  
Email: ted\_delosantos@yahoo.com  
serenatajeddah@gmail.com

## KAANIB NG BAYAN AWARDEES

### AMERICAN JEWISH JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE (JDC)

Ms. Maya Kroitoru  
Joint Hill, Jerusalem, Israel  
Tel. No. +972-2-665-7285  
Mobile No. +05-4631-2985  
Email: mandiwew@jdc.org, mayak@jdc.org

### WAKO ASATO

68-301 Nishimachi  
Kitashirakawa, Sakyo, Kyoto City, Japan  
Tel. No. 81-90-1142-2526  
Email: asatowako@gmail.com

### HUMANA CHILD AID SOCIETY

Mr. Torben Venning  
Email: tvenning@gmail.com

### DOMINIEK SEGAERT

Jozef Nellenslaan 145,  
8300 Knokke-Heist, Belgium, Europe  
Tel. No. 003-250-6013  
Mobile No. 47-969-1865, 0032-479-691865  
Email: dominiek.segaert@skynet.be,  
fb705897@skynet.be

## BANAAG AWARDEES

### DAEGU FILIPINO COMMUNITY COUNCIL (DFCC)

Ms. Alice Lipata Cho / Mr. Marlon Arevalo  
Daegu Gwang Yokshi Dalseong Gun Daja Eup  
Daegu City, South Korea  
Tel. No. 958-6479, 253-1313  
Mobile No. 010-9884-5122  
Email: dfcc2014@yahoo.com

### DANILO M. FAVOR

7 Barn Field Place, East Grinstead  
West Sussex RH19 3FD, United Kingdom  
Tel. No. +4413-4241-0244  
Mobile No. +447-8678-46495  
Email: danmabelUK@yahoo.com

### INSTITUTE OF INTEGRATED ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS - CENTRAL REGION CHAPTER SAUDI ARABIA (IIEE-CRCSA)

ABB Saudi Arabia Ltd., King Fahad Cor. Thaleya Sts.,  
Oleya District, Riyadh, KSA  
Tel. No. 00966-11-218-1887, 00966-50-216-4907  
Fax No. 0096-11-476-9622  
Email: daniel.cabasa@sa.abb.com

### ROSA ANGELICA C. LIBRON

Convent of the Holy Spirit  
206-21 Myeongnyundong 4ga  
Chongno-gu, Seoul, Korea  
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Email: angelssps@yahoo.com

### AUGUSTO I. MERCADO

8315 Navisota Drive,  
Latana, Texas 76226, USA  
Tel. No. +1-940-728-0152  
Mobile No. +1-972-814-7548  
Email: gmercado@datalogixtexas.com

**MIGRANT HERITAGE COMMISSION, INC.**

Ms. Grace Valera-Jaramillo  
Executive Director  
3930 Walnut Street, Suite 200, Fairfax  
Virginia 22030, USA  
Tel. No. +20-263-1885, +70-3273-1196  
Mobile No. +20-2247-0117  
Email: gdvalera@gmail.com,  
migrantheritage@gmail.com

**VICTORIA B. NAVARRO**

705 Wiseburg Road, White Hall, MD 21161, USA  
Tel. No. 410-357-0191, 410-464-6520  
Mobile No. 410-245-9372

**ANITA A. SASAKI**

Hirai 6-19-3 Isuzu Sou 101, Edogawa-Ku  
Tokyo City, Japan  
Mobile No. +8180-4914-8868  
Email: castleanita@ymail.com

**PAMANA NG PILIPINO  
AWARDEES**

**MARIANITO O. ASPERILLA**

4040 Lea Marie Island Dr., Port Charlotte  
Charlotte, Florida, USA  
Tel. No. 941-624-4499  
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## The Commission on Filipinos Overseas

Established on **16 June 1980 through *Batas Pambansa 79***, the Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO) is an agency of the Philippine government under the Office of the President tasked to promote and uphold the interests, rights and welfare of overseas Filipinos, and strengthen their ties with the Motherland.

### **B.P. 79 mandates CFO to:**

- *Provide advice and assistance to the President and the Congress of the Philippines in the formulation of policies concerning or affecting Filipinos overseas;*
- *Develop and implement programs to promote the interests and well-being of Filipinos overseas;*
- *Serve as forum for preserving and enhancing the social, economic, and cultural ties of Filipinos overseas with the Philippine motherland; and*
- *Liaise on behalf of Filipinos overseas with appropriate government and private agencies in the transaction of business and similar ventures in the Philippines.*



## CLIENTELE

The passage of Republic Act 10022 amending the Migrant Workers and Other Filipinos Act and its implementing rules in 2010 expanded the definition of the term overseas Filipinos to refer “to migrant workers, other Filipino nationals and their dependents abroad.” This definition includes generally all Filipinos working and living overseas, whether long term or short term. The expansion of the clientele of CFO emphasized the inter-agency coordinative character of the Commission which includes in its board and all the Secretaries of migration-related government agencies ranging from the Department of Foreign Affairs to the Department of Labor and Employment, from the Department of Tourism to the Department of Education, from the National Commission on Culture and Arts to the Department of Justice and to Press Secretary.

Thus the expanded CFO clientele includes the following:

- *Filipino permanent residents abroad*
- *Filipinos overseas who have become naturalized or dual citizens*
- *Filipino spouses of foreign nationals*
- *Descendants of Filipinos overseas*
- *Filipino youth overseas*
- *Exchange Visitor Program participants*

## VISION, MISSION, GOALS

### *Vision*

**The Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO) envisions a community of well-respected and proudly competitive Filipinos overseas who contribute significantly to the productivity and well-being of the countries where they reside or work while maintaining strong political, economic, and cultural ties with the Philippines.**



### *Mission*

**To be the Philippines' premier institution in promoting policies, programs, and projects with Migration and Development as a framework for the strengthening and empowerment of the community of Filipinos overseas.**



## 10-POINT GOALS OF THE COMMISSION ON FILIPINOS OVERSEAS, 2010 – 2016

### A. Policy Advocacy

1) To advocate for coherent, coordinated and clear development policies to be mainstreamed in the policy-making process of government: on international migration, its cost-benefit implications and the need for both national and local governments to maximize migration's gains while minimizing its socio-economic costs, that while international migration is a reality, government must create an environment that would make migration an option rather than a matter of necessity and that the government's primary responsibility remains focused on sustainable, integrated, equitable, nation-wide development taking into consideration the country's economic, political and social structural problems and issues especially in relation to employment, poverty alleviation, equitable distribution of wealth and the benefit of development and improvement of all its citizens' quality of life.

2) To support and strengthen a favorable rights-based policy environment for the promotion and protection of rights, welfare and status of overseas Filipinos; to assist in the formulation and implementation of policies and programs relevant to their rights, welfare and status.

### B. Socio-economic Development

3) To develop and implement, in coordination with and with the support of other government agencies, a streamlined and facilitative entry and directional process for "development assistance" in the form of resources, knowledge, skills and technology from Filipinos overseas, that will be strategic and responsive to existing development issues and needs of the country and will optimize the assistance's development potentials.

4) To provide mechanisms for various stakeholders to coordinate, forge partnerships, upscale and leverage diaspora funds (e.g. remittances and savings) and investments, broaden donors' and investors' base and replicate best practices especially in financial literacy, microfinance and social enterprises, in order to make these funds more effective tools for the country's development and economic growth.

### C. Integration and Reintegration

5) To assist in the integration of migrating Filipinos in their host countries by educating them on the realities

of international migration, preparing them to meet the practical, cultural and psychological challenges attendant to migration and providing them other services as may be developed and needed, mindful of the social costs of migration to the overseas Filipinos themselves (especially for the women who are most vulnerable to abuse, discrimination and exploitation), to the families (especially the children) they have left behind and to their local communities.

6) To assist in the productive and seamless re-integration of returning overseas Filipinos and their families in the country, recommending policies, programs and measures to transform brain drain to brain gain, to enhance the returnees' earning capabilities and for better incentives' package for overseas Filipinos to return, retire and invest.

### D. Culture and Education

7) To ensure that Filipinos overseas remain rooted in their Filipino culture by developing, implementing, promoting and coordinating with other institutions, global awareness and appreciation of Filipino language, culture and heritage.

### E. Institutional development and organizational strengthening

8) To promote the leading role of CFO on the formulation of policies and in addressing key issues on migration and development

9) To improve and enhance CFO's institutional capabilities for lobbying and advocacy for policy-setting, formulation and reform; in coordinating and building consensus with all migration-related government agencies on issues/policies/programs of major concern and critical to overseas Filipinos; and mobilizing stakeholders in the migration and development sector, especially for regular multi-stakeholder consultations and collaboration.

10) To provide accurate, timely and comprehensive data on international migration of Filipinos through linkages with government agencies and other stakeholders essential for policy formulation and protection of overseas Filipinos.

## ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The CFO is composed of a nine-member Board of Commissioners:

- *Secretary of Foreign Affairs (as Vice-Chair)*
- *Secretary of Trade and Industry*
- *Secretary of Labor and Employment*
- *Secretary of Education*
- *Secretary of Justice*
- *Secretary of Tourism*
- *Press Secretary*
- *National Commission for Culture and the Arts*
- *Executive Director, CFO*

The CFO is supported by a Secretariat headed by an Executive Director. It consists of five (5) offices:

- *Migrant Integration and Education Division (MIED)*
- *Project Management Division (PMD)*
- *Policy, Planning and Research Division (PPRD)*
- *Management Information System Division (MISD)*
- *Administrative and Finance Division (AFD)*

## COMMISSION ON FILIPINOS OVERSEAS

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Website: [www.cfo.gov.ph](http://www.cfo.gov.ph)

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Executive Director

**Mr. Rodrigo V. Garcia Jr.**  
Officer-in-Charge, Policy, Planning and Research Division

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Projects Management Division

**Ms. Ivy D. Miravalles**  
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Migrant Integration and Education Division

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Management Information Systems Division





DIASPORA TO DEVELOPMENT:  
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***"Ang pagbabalik ng mga bayani"***



## Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino (Link for Philippine Development Program)

[www.cfo-linkapil.org.ph](http://www.cfo-linkapil.org.ph)

### *Give back and help your kababayan.*

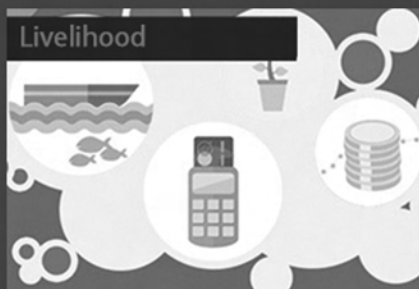
Partake in causes that will benefit Filipinos in need. **LINKAPIL** facilitates the flow of assistance from overseas Filipinos to specific beneficiaries in the Philippines.



Education is one of the components of the Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino (LINKAPIL) Program where overseas donors may support the education of Filipino children and youth interested to go to school but are hindered by poverty.



Under the small-scale infrastructure component of the Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino Program (LINKAPIL), overseas donors may sponsor the construction of facilities needed to achieve quality living.



The Livelihood project aims to improve the socio-economic conditions in disadvantaged communities in the Philippines by encouraging the establishment of small-scale or alternative income-generating activities, while fostering the concept of self-help.



The health and welfare or “Tulong-Pangkalusugan” component of the LINKAPIL involves the promotion of health care among Filipinos especially in rural and disadvantaged communities.

The program also enables indigent groups, i.e., orphans, street children, the elderly, abused women and children, and persons with disabilities, to have greater access to health services.



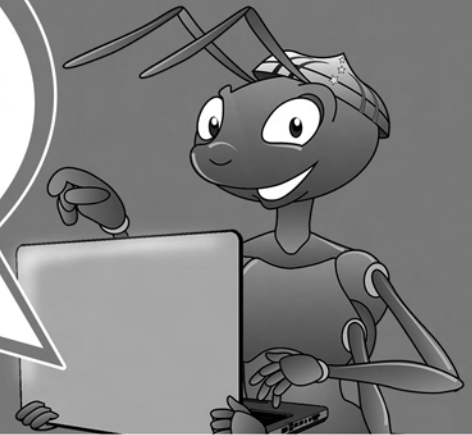
[www.facebook.com/linkapil](https://www.facebook.com/linkapil)



# BaLinkBayan

Overseas Filipinos' One-Stop Online Portal for Diaspora Engagement  
[www.balinkbayan.gov.ph](http://www.balinkbayan.gov.ph)

**"Magbalik-bayanihan tayo!"**  
Kaalaman at kakayahan ibalik  
sa bayan



**BaLinkBayan** comes from the Filipino word "balikbayan" (a returning overseas Filipino) and the English word "link" (with its internet connotation).

Now Filipinos all over the world can stay connected with the Philippines and get involved in diaspora-driven initiatives in entrepreneurship, investments, philanthropy, technology and skills transfers. Information is usually at the provincial, city and town level.

## BaLinkBayan Features



### START A BUSINESS

Explore business and investment opportunities in your hometown and other parts of the country.

### DONATE & VOLUNTEER

Donate and volunteer based on the needs of the localities. **BaLinkBayan** will facilitate assistance from you to specific beneficiaries at the local level.



### ACCESS GOVERNMENT ONLINE SERVICES

Access Philippine government services from anywhere in the world. **BaLinkBayan** will provide you online links to national services tailored fit for overseas Filipinos.



### VIEW INTERACTIVE MAPS

View interactive maps that show you local products, business competitive indices of selected cities, classroom shortages, poverty indicators and medical mission activities at the level of provinces and municipalities.



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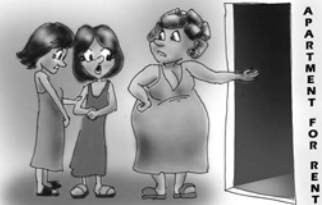
# Ano ang Human Trafficking?



Ang paghihikayat ng mga tao...



Ang pagbibiyaha o paglilipat ng mga tao...



Ang pagtanggap o pagkanlong ng mga tao...



Ang pagpapa-anunsiyo, paglalathala o pamamahagi ng materyales na nagtataguyod ng human trafficking...

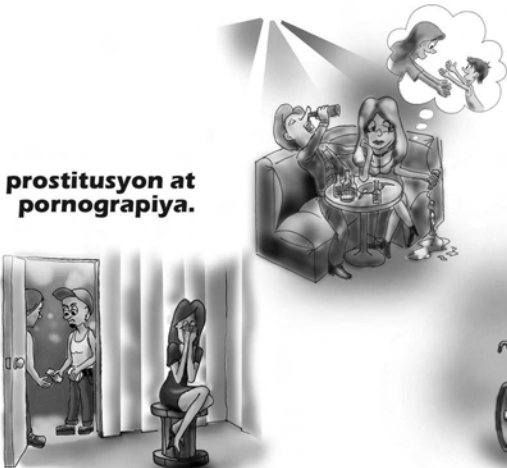
Ang pagkukop o pag-ampon ng mga bata...



Ang pag-aalok sa isang dayuhan ng isang Pinay upang pakasalan, kapalit ang pera o ari-arian...

**sa paraang pananakot, pagdukot, paglinlang, paggamit ng dahas o kapangyarihan, at pagsamantala sa kahinaan ng isang tao, upang isadlak sila sa alinman sa mga sumusunod...**

prostitusyon at pornograpiya.



pagbebenta o pagtanggap ng anumang bahagi ng katawan ng tao.



sapilitang paggawa.



sa armadong pakikibaka sa Pilipinas o sa ibayong dagat.



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**AGAINST HUMAN**  
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ng bawat pagdiriwang!



# Walk with them on their special moments.



***With The Medical City's "Lakad Muli" Program,  
you continue making wonderful memories.***

There are moments that happen once in a lifetime – moments you share with your family and become part of your wonderful memories together. Don't let severe hip and knee pain stop you from enjoying these moments.



The Medical City's "Lakad Muli" program offers hip and knee joint replacement surgery at almost half the price. That's CustoMed Care made affordable!

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*For inquiries, call The Medical City's  
Orthopedic Multispecialty Clinic,  
988-1000 ext. 6521 or 6522.*



## THE MEDICAL CITY

Where Patients are Partners

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P006N040314T



Accredited by the  
Joint Commission International



# The Medical City Offers High Quality, Cost-Effective Joint Replacement Surgery

Anita Colendra, 63, was diagnosed with severe osteoarthritis. The pain in her knees prevented her from doing her usual activities. Climbing the stairs, even walking, became too painful for her.

Osteoarthritis is the most common type of arthritis and is frequently experienced by people over 40. It is a degenerative condition caused by wear and tear on the joints. People with osteoarthritis often experience joint pain and reduced motion.

Osteoarthritis patients like Anita no longer have to suffer in silence. Something can be done.

According to Dr. Rafael Claudio, Chairman of the Department of Orthopedics at The Medical City, osteoarthritis can be mild, moderate or severe. Oral pain relievers like analgesics and nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) are common first treatments. Physical therapy is also part of the treatment for osteoarthritis.

When these conservative measures fail, Dr. Claudio says the patient may consider joint replacement surgery. Joint replacement surgery is an advanced surgical procedure where the arthritic or dysfunctional joint surface is replaced with an orthopedic prosthesis. The two most common forms of joint replacement are those for the hip and the knee. Anita underwent total replacement of both knees in June 2012. After five days, she could already walk

using a walker. She continued her physical rehabilitation sessions for one month.

"By August, I could already walk by myself. I was back to my normal activities, doing household chores and attending to my mini store. Now, my knees don't hurt anymore. I feel a lot better and younger because I can now go on long walks," said Anita.

Joint replacement is considered as a treatment option when severe joint pain or dysfunction is not alleviated by less invasive therapies.

Dr. Claudio said joint replacement is recommended for advanced joint disorders manifested by three criteria – chronic pain unrelieved by other measures, significant deformity of the joint and severe disability preventing ambulation.

The procedure is being offered at The Medical City through the Department of Orthopedics with its team of well-trained and experienced reconstructive surgeons in coordination with other related specialists.



**Colendra shares how The Medical City helped treat her osteoarthritis.**



For more information, please call The Medical City Orthopedic Multispecialty Clinic (OMC) at telephone nos. 988-1000 or 988-7000 ext. 6521.

"Our joint replacement specialists were trained in foreign joint replacement institutions and training programs in the United States, Europe and Australia," said Dr. Claudio. The Medical City uses cutting-edge technology and state-of-the-art prosthetic implants for both knee and hip replacements.

Asked what sets The Medical City apart from other health institutions offering joint replacement, Dr. Claudio cited The Medical City's multidisciplinary approach and customized care.

"We offer an experienced team of Orthopedic Surgeons, Internists, Rehab Doctors, Nurses, Physical Therapists and even Nutritionists, all dedicated to getting the patient back to his normal walking pattern," he says. "At The Medical City, we exhaust every possible treatment option before resorting to joint replacement. We consider it as the last, rather than the first, treatment option for patients with severe osteoarthritis," added Dr. Claudio.

Thus, each patient is carefully evaluated and prepared mentally and physically for the procedure.

For some patients, physical rehabilitation starts even before the joint replacement surgery.

Another unique offering of The Medical City for joint replacement is its adjustable pricing.

"The cost of the procedure can be adjusted depending on the capabilities and needs of the patient without sacrificing the highest standard of care," said Dr. Claudio.

The Medical City recently launched LAKAD MULI, a joint replacement program aimed at delivering high-quality total hip and knee replacement surgery under the most affordable conditions to serve the vast population of Filipino arthritic patients.

The package covers hospital ward admission, surgery and anesthesia, joint prosthetic implant and early post-operative rehabilitation. Surgery is offered in a controlled, packaged set-up to render it significantly more affordable to patients with severe hip or knee osteoarthritis in need of surgical joint reconstruction.

To avail of the program, interested patients may consult with their orthopedic surgeon at The Medical City.

Patients with no previous joint surgery or hip or knee replacement, those with limited resources, and are relatively healthy may be eligible for the Lakad Muli program.



*Lakad Muli Program: A hip and knee joint replacement surgery that is more affordable.*



