

1996

Presidential Awards

for

Filipino Individuals

and

Organizations Overseas



Foreword

By virtue of Proclamation No. 276 of 21 June 1988, the Philippines once again commemorates the **Month of Overseas Filipinos** this December. As has been in past years, this observance is an expression of recognition for and acknowledgement of the untiring and unending efforts of Filipinos overseas as the country's invaluable partners and allies in the task of nation-building.

This year, the 1996 **Presidential Awards for Filipino Individuals and Organizations Overseas** highlights the commemoration of the Month of Overseas Filipinos. Institutionalized in 1991 through Executive Order No. 498, these awards were first conferred on 22 recipients in December 1993. This year's 45 awardees represent the second batch.

The Awards are conferred by the President in recognition of Filipinos and other individuals or organizations overseas for their significant contribution to progress and development in the Philippines, or for their exemplary service in helping promote the interests of the Filipino community overseas. They are also given to Filipinos overseas to recognize the honor they bring to the Filipino nation through excellence in their professional accomplishments.

There are five (5) categories of the Presidential Awards, namely: (1) *Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino (LINKAPIL) Award*, conferred on Filipino associations or individuals for their significant contribution to Philippine national development efforts; (2) *Kaakabay ng Bayan Award*, given to Filipino communities, groups of individual Filipinos, or Filipino associations overseas who have united for the common ideal and purpose of providing support to the progress and development of the country; (3) *Kaanib ng Bayan Award*, accorded to foreign organizations for their contribution to Philippine progress and development; (4) *Banaag Award*, given to Filipino and foreign individuals or associations for contribution which has significantly benefitted a sector or community in the Philippines, or advanced the cause of overseas Filipino communities; and (5) *Pamana ng Pilipino Award*, conferred on Filipinos overseas who have consistently pursued their work or profession with excellence and distinction.

Other Month of Overseas Filipinos activities include *Simbang Gabi*, a special mass on December 16 dedicated to overseas Filipinos, and *Walk-for-a-Cause*, proceeds of which will supplement the funding for *LINKAPIL* projects. The worldwide observance of the Month of Overseas Filipinos is marked by CFO's promotion of and overseas Filipinos' support to development and education-related projects such as *Adopt-a-Scholar*, *Adopt-a-Family Movement*, and *Tulong Pangkabuhayan*, all of which are aimed at benefitting fellow Filipinos in the less fortunate areas of the country.

With the purpose of documenting this year's commemoration of the Month of Overseas Filipinos, this Souvenir Programme specially focuses on the profile of each of the 45 recipients of the Presidential Award. In reading through these profiles, one draws out insights on patriotism, social consciousness, pursuit of excellence, nobility of heart, determination to succeed, and strength of character, all of which will continue to inspire overseas Filipinos today and in the future.



MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

Message

This year's recipients of the 1996 Presidential Awards for Outstanding Filipino Individuals and Organizations Overseas once again bring to our attention the Filipinos' exceptional talents and intellect. It is a fitting tribute to the country's best and brightest minds who show to the whole world that the Filipino can proudly stand shoulder to shoulder with the world's noted achievers and pioneers in business, politics, medicine, journalism, science and technology, culture, and the arts.

What we as a people have known all the while is proven by these truly outstanding individuals and organizations in the international arena: that with an abundance of determination and an intense desire to succeed, ordinary Filipinos can rise above a multitude of obstacles to make their mark in their chosen fields of endeavor. But what is truly remarkable among these individuals and organizations is that in the midst of success, they remember to share their blessings through selfless service and a boundless commitment to help the country and their fellow Filipinos.

It is therefore only appropriate that every December in celebration of the Month of Overseas Filipinos, these exceptional people are honored for showing to the whole world the best in the Filipinos.

This year's Presidential Awardees have shown that, indeed, we can be the best. With the pride and honor they have brought to the country, we as a nation can now face newer and bigger challenges of the coming century with even greater confidence and intensity.

Mabuhay and congratulations to all the Awardees! I commend you all for adding to our country's reservoir of nation builders whose continuing dedication to excellence and service is helping our beloved Philippines to win the future as a newly industrializing nation of Southeast Asia.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fidel V. Ramos', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

FIDEL V. RAMOS

President
Republic of the Philippines

MANILA
December 1996



Kagawaran ng Hignayang Panlabas

Department of Foreign Affairs

MANILA

M e s s a g e

It is my great pleasure to greet and congratulate the recipients of the 1996 Presidential Awards for Filipino Individuals and Organizations Overseas who will be honored by the Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO) at Malacañang Palace on 13 December 1996.

The Awards are our way of recognizing the continuing support and contribution of overseas Filipinos to our national development efforts, particularly through the allocation of their time, talents, energy, and resources to the upliftment of the welfare of our people both as family members and friends.

We appreciate their continuing concern for the "folks back home" and the maintenance of their ties with the nation. They have affirmed in the process the strength of their heritage as Filipinos and the power of the values bequeathed to them as a lasting legacy by their compatriots.

We are proud to declare their success as our success and to proclaim a bond and partnership undiluted by distance.

Allow me to wish them the best in their endeavors! Mabuhay!

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Domingo L. Stazon, Jr.'.

DOMINGO L. STAZON, JR.
Secretary of Foreign Affairs
Chairman, Commission on Filipinos Overseas



Department of Foreign Affairs
COMMISSION ON FILIPINOS OVERSEAS

Message

My warmest congratulations to all the Presidential Awardees, whose work and accomplishments make them truly deserving of the highest award for Filipinos and organizations overseas. I must add that this recognition becomes all the more eventful as it comes when Filipinos at home and overseas are looking forward to our nation's future with plenty of pride and optimism.

We at the Commission on Filipinos Overseas also extend our best wishes for their continued exemplary work in helping fellow Filipinos here and abroad, and in having demonstrated in many countries that, indeed, the Filipino professional is world-class. We have no doubt that our more than six (6) million compatriots who live abroad, as well as those in the Philippines, will find inspiration and encouragement in striving for the ideals and standards of excellence set forth by the 1996 Awardees.

We have great hope that the Awardees will be more than shining examples among their own peers. With the growing number of Filipinos overseas, more and more of the younger generations of Filipino youth abroad will need to find role models whom they could relate to; who could help in bringing out the best in the Filipino character; and who will help prevent their alienation from the Philippine homeland. This, I think, could be the Awardees' most important role in the many years ahead.

Again, congratulations and best wishes.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

JOSE Z. MOLANO, JR.
Executive Director
Commission on Filipinos Overseas

MANILA
December 1996



Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino

The Lingkod Sa Kapwa Pilipino (LINKAPIL) Award is conferred on Filipino associations or individuals for their contribution to Philippine national development efforts.



Awardees

Philippine American Foundation
United States (Washington, D.C.)

Philippine Children's Charity Fund
United States (California)

Philippine Economic and Cultural
Endowment (PEACE)
United States (New Jersey)

Science and Technology
Advisory Council – San Francisco
United States (California)

Gloria T. Caoile
United States (Virginia)

Jesus T. Ho
United States (West Virginia)

Emanuel N. Nacario
Canada

Isabelo S. Torio
United States (New Jersey)

Jose G. Vjungco
United States (Rhode Island)

PHILIPPINE AMERICAN FOUNDATION



The Philippine American Foundation (PAF) was established in 1986 as a non-profit organization with the primary objective of extending financial and material assistance for grassroots development. By assisting and funding the projects of different government and non-government organizations, international voluntary agencies and support institutions, PAF helps alleviate poverty in the Philippines.

Its other goal is to strengthen self reliance, responsibility, and accountability through its support to programs, organizations, and individuals. PAF serves as a bridge and facilitator in linking organizations to match project needs and expertise and funds programs which promote self reliance. It also serves as an information network for different organizations involved in development work in the Philippines and facilitates cooperation among them through greater coordination and sharing of positive experiences.

PAF has a two-pronged strategy: 1) to respond to disasters as they occur while providing immediate relief and rehabilitation assistance and 2) to consistently focus on long-term, sustainable growth through strategic loans. Among the programs and projects it implements are disaster relief grants and direct cash assistance, health and medical services, housing and infrastructure programs, fund-raising activities, and women-responsive programs.

The Foundation has channelled more than P5 million in direct cash assistance to the Philippines through the Office of the President, the National Disaster Coordinating Council, and non-government organizations for victims of disasters since 1990. In 1994, PAF sponsored the development of 90 bungalow houses in the Philippine American Friendship Village in Porac, Pampanga for the displaced families caused by the Mt. Pinatubo eruption. The village is a model housing project built in cooperation with USAID, with the units payable in 20 years at an affordable amortization rate of P400-P600 monthly.

Aside from directly providing cash grants, the Foundation has tied up with non-government organizations in spearheading a number of projects in disaster-stricken areas in the Philippines to assist in rehabilitation efforts. It also supports income-generating projects and stabilization programs among local cooperatives by granting them long-term payment loans. It has already donated over 50 forty-foot containers carrying more than P130 million worth of hospital equipment, supplies, and grants to programs such as Sponsor-a-Wheelchair Program, Riding for the Disabled Foundation, and Mindanao Heart-Lung Program.

PAF likewise has a particular concern regarding issues

on women empowerment. As part of this thrust, it financed a three-year study on issues facing women in the workplace to generate bases for policy formulation by the government. It has also implemented projects that are beneficial to women in development such as the Microenterprise Credit Program for Women by providing them interest-free credit for start-up businesses or business expansion purposes. It also has a similar program geared to benefit women in urban poor communities in Mindanao.

PAF believes that a united, coordinated effort among Filipino American organizations results in a more focused and direct impact on its beneficiaries in the Philippines. It serves more than a direct financier of these programs. It encourages mutual partnerships among beneficiaries and implementing agencies thereby promoting shared responsibilities and more meaningful results both for the beneficiaries and their support institutions. ❖

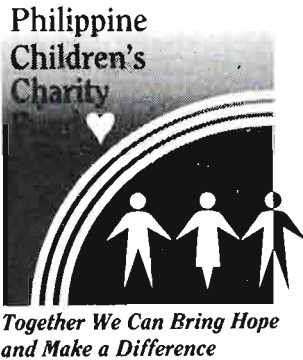


Completed houses and streets in the Philippine American Friendship Village



The PAF-funded Bad-ayan Vegetable Cooperative

Philippine Children's Charity Fund



The Philippine Children's Charity Fund (PCCF) is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing aid and support to street children, abandoned elderly, poor families, and disaster victims through various fund-raising and volunteer projects. The individuals making up the core of the PCCF are volunteers from different backgrounds and ethnicities wanting to make a difference in the lives of those who are in need.

PCCF contributes to and supports on-going efforts of other charitable agencies. It is also active in mobilizing and organizing Filipinos in the United States to reach out and share their resources, time, money, and blessings to the less fortunate.

One thing unique about PCCF is that the relief goods and other materials that they contribute are

purchased in the Philippines, thus promoting the growth of local trade, at the same time, helping those in need.

Since its establishment in 1991, it has helped thousands of families through its missions in the Philippines. Under its *Operation Brotherhood*, which provides funds to different feeding programs of its sister agencies in the country, more than 29 orphanages and welfare institutions have been assisted in their educational, medical, and nutritional needs.

PCCF also conducts an annual mission known as *Operation Christmas* for children in the charity wards of low-income hospitals and orphanages in the Philippines.

Under its Covenant Project, poor communities are provided with livelihood programs to make them self-reliant and realize the dignity of their labor. Hundreds of calamity victims are also provided with their immediate needs such as medication, food, and clothing which PCCF generates from the Filipino communities in the United States. Also, through the Archdiocese in San Fernando, Pampanga, PCCF continuously sends boxes of relief goods and clothes to the victims of the Mt. Pinatubo eruption.

True to its motto: "Bring hope and make a difference", PCCF is making a big difference in the thousands of Filipino lives it has touched. ❖



The PCCF and their bounty of toys for less-privileged children in orphanages and halfway-homes

Philippine Economic and Cultural Endowment



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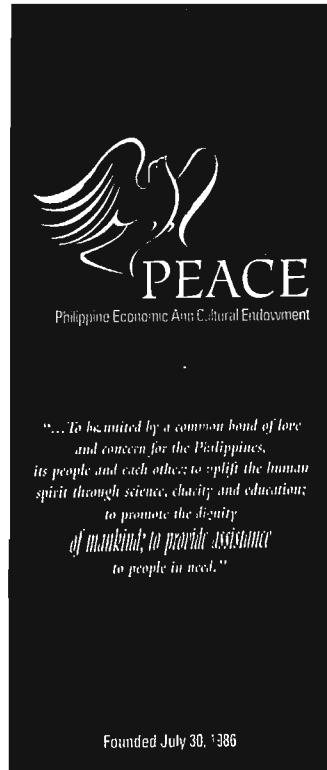
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water pumps and hand pumps, and shallow to deep wells in remote areas covering more than 25 provinces in the Philippines. It has since undertaken numerous immunization projects, in cooperation with the Association of Philippine Physicians in America-Philippine Medical Association and its local PEACE counterpart in the Philippines. It has raised and donated funds, coursed through the University of the Philippines-Philippine General Hospital Health and Psychiatric Foundation, for the victims of the Mt. Pinatubo eruption.

In 1990, it set up an Earthquake Relief Fund which raised a significant amount of financial aid in assisting the rehabilitation of the thousands of lives affected by the killer quake in Luzon. It also has a continuing program of supporting the displaced Aetas in Tarlac caused by the Mt. Pinatubo eruption in 1991.

Peace is in the hearts and minds of men. Humanitarian organizations like PEACE bring this kind of peace to the less fortunate people in the Philippines, and will continue to do so for as long as there are those in need of the assistance it offers. ❖

How can there be peace in the spirit when the basic necessities in life are hard to come by, and one cannot live even with the barest of dignity to survive day after day?

PEACE responds to this predicament in various ways. Organized in 1986 as a non-profit, non-political, non-sectarian, and non-discriminatory entity, it alleviates the hardships and poverty of less fortunate Filipinos in the Philippines. It provides assistance for the general and social welfare and public health of people in need.

PEACE has done a lot to help the disadvantaged Filipinos, particularly in their need for greater access to public utilities such as clean and potable drinking water. Since 1986, it has funded the construction of water tanks,

By alleviating the hardships and poverty of the less fortunate *kababayans* in the Philippines, PEACE has done a great deal in restoring "peace" in the hearts of its beneficiaries.

Science and Technology Advisory Council, San Francisco

The Science and Technology Advisory Council, Inc. (STAC) of the Silicon Valley and San Francisco Bay Area is an active group of over one hundred experienced professionals and businessmen with particular expertise in important areas of science and technology. Its primary purpose is to provide practical advisory assistance in science and technology, so that the Philippines could attain NIC-hood by the year 2000.

The original concept behind organizing STAC in San Francisco (STAC-SF) began in the late 1980s, when the Department of Foreign Affairs in the Philippines aggressively sought to identify and tap Filipino expatriates with substantial technical and management expertise as a resource in national development.

Since 1988, STAC-SF has been active in a number of advisory tasks involving science and technology that benefit the Philippines. Over the years, STAC-SF has given advice to public and private groups on technology-based industries such as electronics, telecommunications, semiconductors, software, biotechnology, and health care. It also holds consultations with agencies concerned in evaluating the Biotechnology Action and Implementation Plans of the Philippine Council for Advanced Science and Technology.

STAC-SF believes that emerging economies like the Philippines are currently faced with the exciting challenge of competing for industries that emphasize intensive scientific and technological inputs in dynamic global markets. It believes that there is a real opportunity of establishing, over the long term, substantial bases for domestic industrial growth.

STAC-SF encourages leading American companies to establish their manufacturing companies here in the Philippines through their continuing advocacy for US transfer of technology.

High-caliber STAC members participate in the *Balik Scientist* program of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) and in the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) project called TOKTEN or Transfer of Knowledge Through Expatriate Nationals.

STAC-SF has also launched its own development activities in the Philippines such as the Computer Literacy Program, and conducted scientific training seminars for schoolteachers and government technical staff. It is currently pursuing a Continuing Education for Science and Engineering project with Dela Salle University in Manila. It piloted the Philippine Rural Education Program in assisting teachers on how to effectively impart knowledge in the sciences and mathematics. It was also involved in the nationwide test on the use of televised lessons, experimenting in 36 rural schools around the Philippines.

STAC-SF has also donated personal computers and printers to various Philippine schools. It also funds education projects of the Philippine Science Centrum and allots money for expenses in trainings and activities in support of government's Science and Technology Agenda for National Development.

STAC-SF points the way towards the future. It will play a significant role in leading the Philippines toward greater competitiveness in the next millenium. ❖



Gloria T. Caoile

Gloria Caoile is a prominent, articulate, and well-respected leader in the Philippine American community, having given visibility to the issues and concerns of minorities and immigrants in the United States. In her position as Special Assistant to the President of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, she has proven her capacity as a catalyst for many of the issues and interests that are close to the hearts of many Filipino Americans.

The Filipino community in Washington, D.C. is proud to have her as one of the people in the nation's capital to push for the unity of all Filipino Americans as a relevant step towards its empowerment being a minority and towards gaining political relevance for the people's causes. She has shown that active involvement in community organizations goes a long way in establishing the needed clout to make bigger and large scale projects come to fruition.

She is considered as the unifying force in the Filipino American community in Washington, D.C. Proof of this is her successful recruitment of its many community organizations under the umbrella of the Philippine American Heritage Federation to work together for charitable, cultural, and civic goals. She was also involved in the formation and launching of a community newsletter, the *Tambuli*, which updates Filipinos on activities and on-going projects of other organizations in their area.

As past president of many prestigious organizations such as the Asian Pacific Heritage Council and the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance and as founding member of the Asian Pacific American Women Leadership Institute, she has fostered greater cooperation and productive working relationships among minority women in these Asian American groups. She has also brought together the community leaders of these minority groups to form a working network, and has coordinated their individual activities and common agenda. This unification has given them a powerful voice to influence even national policy-level deliberations.

As a board member of the Filipino American Civil Rights Advocates, she is an active lobbyist in protecting and promoting the rights of Filipino Americans in the U.S. Caoile also works tirelessly in holding special events, coordinating cultural festivals, spearheading fund-raising activities, and sponsoring seminars to benefit Filipino Americans and Asian Americans. She coordinated with major Filipino American political figures in order to put into their platforms and policy programs the many concerns of Asian Americans.

She represents the Filipino American community in many panel discussions, fora, and workshops that feature issues of

concern for the minority groups such as civil rights, immigration issues, and labor laws. Not confining her activities to boardroom meetings, she has gone out to the streets and marched in demonstrations for the cause of equal rights for women in the workforce, greater minority integration in the workplace, and even against apartheid.

More importantly, she maintains strong cultural ties with her native Philippines and is presently co-chairperson of the Philippine Centennial Coordinating Committee of Washington, D.C., which is preparing the activities of the Filipino-American community for the centennial of Philippine Independence.

In her individual capacity and as president of many organizations, she has channelled to the Philippines the proceeds of fund-raising activities in order to help the victims of natural disasters such as the Mt. Pinatubo eruption and the Luzon earthquake. The Filipino community in Washington, D.C., through the intercession of Caoile, is a major financier of Feed-the-Hungry Project, which is being implemented in coordination with the Commission on Filipinos Overseas.

As a founder and board member of the Foundation for Aid in the Philippines (FAPI), she emphasizes the need for greater cooperation and equal partnership of the governments of both the United States and the Philippines. She has been able to draw out the ideas of government and business leaders, professionals, and students on how to achieve social progress in the country by enabling the small communities to be a major factor in economic development. In this regard, FAPI is active in raising funds to be used as seed money to sustain and initiate livelihood and income-generating projects in the Philippines.

Gloria Caoile is a woman of many accomplishments. But she declares that all these are for naught if not for the support of the community for her initiatives. She is an outstanding example of the best in the Filipino. ❖

The Filipino community is proud to have her as one of the people to push for the unity of all Filipino Americans towards empowering itself as a minority and towards gaining political relevance for the people's causes.



Jesus T. Ho



Don't forget to remember.

Dr. Jesus T. Ho is a doctor who helps fellow Filipinos in need, because he never forgets to generously share with the less fortunate in the Philippines. In fact, he is well-known among the Filipinos in West Virginia as a "d o - g o o d e r", someone who will reach down his pocket and give

whatever he has to somebody whose needs are greater than his. On numerous occasions, he is at the forefront of fund-raising activities for the victims of natural disasters and calamities. For ten years, he has regularly returned to the Philippines, taking with him fellow doctors to conduct medical missions in the countryside.

He has contributed millions of pesos worth of equipment, supplies, medicines, and medical instruments to various hospitals. His contributions include boxes upon boxes of relief goods to victims of Mt. Pinatubo and the 1993 typhoon which devastated Mindoro province; eyeglasses for a charity project of the Lions Club; toys and clothes for children in orphanages; generators and microscopes for provincial hospitals in the Visayas; musical instruments, sports equipment, flags, public school playgrounds, school stages, tennis and basketball courts in Mindanao; thousands upon thousands of books for the Brother-Brothers Foundation; and educational scholarships for deserving Filipino students.... the list is endless.

His leadership in the Association of Philippine Physicians in America, a 3,000-strong organization of Filipino doctors which he once served as president, has been his vehicle in spreading the generosity of the large Filipino community in the United States.

Back in West Virginia, Ho is an active community leader. A practicing doctor for more than thirty years, he

organizes free health clinics under the auspices of the West Virginia Lions Club, of which he was a past president, the Reynolds Memorial Hospital, and the West Virginia County Health Department. They conduct free eye, heart, lung, and blood checkups, pap smears, and cancer detection tests for the poor members of the community.

Ho is also a major figure in the local medical community. He was the first Filipino American to be elected President of the West Virginia Medical Licensing Board in 1986. He has also been actively involved in making the laws of West Virginia more flexible for foreign medical graduates to practice medicine in the state. He spearheaded the campaign which successfully abolished a law requiring foreign medical graduates in West Virginia to take temporary licensure examinations, instead of directly becoming eligible to take the state board and practice medicine. He sponsored foreign medical graduates in the State of West Virginia who have temporary licenses to acquire their permanent licenses. He organizes lectures on the board exams, the licensing process, and on the ethical, legal, and medical issues in the practice of medicine.

A12 (A5) News of Jan 10, 1994
SPOTLIGHT
PHILIPPINE

Jess Ho of WV is on the move

MOONSVILLE, West Virginia - The magic word in West Virginia medical circles points to Jess Ho.

Dr. Ho is the first Filipino American to serve as a member of the Board of Medicine of the State of West Virginia. He achieved this feat by getting "involved in politics" which means doctors for free care about. During the campaign of former Governor Moore of West Virginia, Jess gathered together a group of doctors as doctors in his global residence and asked their support for the Governor's campaign. Each doctor offered one \$1,000 to help out Moore. The endorsement gesture was and made Jess the first Filipino American member of the Medical Board.

Jess has shown that powerful doctors can be a force to be reckoned with in politics. Doctors can be the most effective lobbyists for any pending legislation before them. It

where that influence can be felt. They are located throughout the country and in many cases, are the only doctors who take care of the entire population of a small town of 1,000 to 2,000. If they have the inclination, doctors can establish a parent-to-parent relationship with their congressional or senate and be in a distinctive calling basis. The politicians would realize that doctors can influence their patients for their votes.

Jess Ho has shown the way.

DRIFTING FORCE IN APPA

As active members of the Association of Philippine Physicians in America (APPA), he over his situation. Dr. Jess, as he is often referred to by his admiring friends, is a trailblazer in an organization which has gone through growing pains. Indeed, the APPA has evolved into a mature organization with lower political struggles coming in several personal conflicts within its

care remain the most contentious, powerful and influential Filipino American organization in the country. It continues to present a united front in the face of a growing political climate for the good of all. While it is already powerful in its present membership of over 3,000, the potential membership for the APPA is at least 10,000 members. The membership grows as APPA shares with its yearly accomplishments.

MEDICAL MISSIONS

One of the most important and meaningful activities of the various chapters of the APPA are the annual Medical Missions to the remote hospitals and towns in the Philippines which do not have facilities. These missions go to areas where the name is more than just a name started by a government medical team. Thousands of the patients, being operated on during these missions, reportedly lived with their doctors accepting their eternal rest. But the Lippincott-James

WEST VIRGINIA MEDICAL MISSIONS

This issue features the Medical Missions recently conducted by the West Virginia Medical group. They went to Zanesville, Ohio and Fairport, Ohio, headed by Dr. and Mrs. Jess Ho. The team was composed of 27 doctors, 3 of whom were Americans while the rest were Filipino American physicians. The members of the Missions were physicians of various specialties: ophthalmology, eye specialists, pediatricians, anesthesiologists, cardiologists, orthopedic surgeons, neurologists, obstetric/gynecologists, internists, geriatric and family medicine specialists.

The missions start from many miles to southern Ohio, where they do their best. And after such hectic days, the team has been well served. Many families were made happy and healthy again.

Not only do the doctors perform their professional duties,

He was also successful in fighting for more foreign medical graduates to be members of the West Virginia Board of Medicine. Today, three out of nine board members are foreign medical graduates. He is also instrumental in further upgrading the quality of practicing doctors in the state by requiring them to undergo 50 hours of continuing medical education and renew their license every two years.

For his many contributions to the medical profession and his local community in West Virginia and for his unfailing charitable acts toward his fellow Filipinos, Dr. Ho will always be remembered. ❖



Emanuel N. Nacario

For many years, the Philippines had been depicted in the international business community as

the "sick man of Asia". But now, even the staunchest critic of the government cannot ignore the fact that the Philippines has made a dramatic turn-around for the better. And the indefatigable prophet of this good news in Canada is Emanuel Nacario.

The Canadian media has taken note of his tireless efforts to unite the Filipino business community and to forge agreements with its Canadian counterparts. Young, articulate, dynamic, and proactive, this businessman, who heads his own storage and moving company, is a vocal advocate of the objectives and goals for which the Philippine Chamber of Commerce-Toronto (PCCT) was established. He was an important part of trade missions sponsored by PCCT, introducing the new and vibrant Philippines just waiting for the entry of Canadian investments to further spur its growth.

It can be said that the increased trade relations between the two countries, which doubled the \$277 million level in 1992, had the hand of Nacario in it. It was during the period between 1992-1994 that trade between the two countries increased dramatically, with Nacario leading fellow Filipino businessmen to form local chambers of commerce such as those in Montreal and Edmonton. He was a significant mover in the successful signing of memoranda of understanding between these chambers of commerce for a stronger voice in projecting the economic progress taking place in the Philippines and in coordinating their business activities in Canada. These efforts yielded more opportunities to promote Philippine trade and Philippine-made products and services in Canada. This in turn encouraged Canada to invest more in the Philippines.

As the PCCT chairman elected in 1995, Nacario participated in business caravans that travelled all over

Canada to promote President Fidel Ramos' vision for *Philippines 2000*. In many presentations held for Filipino and Canadian audiences in Montreal, Alberta, Regina, Saskatchewan, Vancouver, Victoria, and British Columbia, he encouraged Canadian corporations and Filipino organizations in the area to see for themselves the potentials for business as well as the improved economic conditions in the country.

Nacario is also the publisher of a book compilation on one hundred years of Philippine-Canadian relations. The book is distributed free to all those interested to know more about commerce between the two countries.

In 1995, Nacario received an award as one of the Ten Most Outstanding Filipino Canadians in recognition of his achievements, leadership, and community involvement in projecting the best qualities of the Philippines. This year, we reward him with a Presidential Award.

The country needs people like Emanuel Nacario, with whom we can be assured that in the realm of international business, the Philippines cannot be far behind. ❖

PHILIPPINE-CANADIAN RELATIONS 1895-2020



PUBLISHED BY
EMANUEL NACARIO
President

Philippine Chamber of Commerce - Toronto

This book, published by E. Nacario, is a compilation of news releases, interviews, and speeches of Filipino and Canadian officials on Philippine-Canadian relations.

Isabelo S. Torio

Education opens doors of opportunities. Isabelo Torio, a practicing physician, respected community leader, and an active philanthropist, has given the gift of education to many young people.

The Foundation of Philippine American Medical Society (FPAMS) of New Jersey, which he founded and served as chairman from 1981 to 1995, implemented projects that encouraged the youth to succeed in their endeavors. Torio has been the person responsible for the establishment of educational programs and projects of FPAMS in the fourteen years of its existence. Under his leadership, FPAMS has established structured and perpetual scholarships; a recognition system for outstanding students in Sri Lanka, India, and the Philippines and for outstanding young Filipino Americans in New Jersey. He is also actively involved in the FPAMS' yearly medical missions to the Philippines where free clinical treatment and medical services are given to urban poor communities.

Torio is also an advocate for greater access to opportunities of Filipino Americans and other minorities in New Jersey. In 1972, as the chairman of the Philippine American Medical Society in New Jersey, he moved for the amendment of a law to allow foreign medical graduates to take the medical board examinations even

before acquiring American citizenship.

He was also instrumental in the establishment of the Philippine American Housing Research and Development, a non-profit organization

which aims to build and renovate homes for low-income and homeless Filipino Americans in the United States.

As an individual with an enviable track record of personal service and selfless commitment to the upliftment of the status of unfortunate fellowmen and as part of many civic organizations which became channels of his charitable works, Torio has been given many awards of recognition and appreciation not only from the State of New Jersey but also from the Filipino American communities that benefit from his continued patronage. The Filipino people now join in honoring him for his deeds.

Dr. Isabelo Torio helps people who can help themselves. His philanthropic commitment is to provide support toward self-empowerment. With his efforts, many have been given a chance to help themselves achieve a better future. His commitment to service is admirable, and his deeds for fellow Filipinos deserve recognition. ❖



*Education opens doors of
opportunities.*

— Dr. I. S. Torio

Jose G. Vijungco

The establishment of the Scholarship Project of the Association of Philippine Physicians in America paved the way for many brilliant Filipino students to study abroad and become full-fledged doctors.

Who says that one man cannot make a difference? Not Dr. Jose G. Vijungco.

This awardee has been a great benefactor of his alma mater, the University of Santo Tomas College of Medicine. His donation of modern medical equipment, medical supplies, and money from his many fund-raising activities is a shining example of selfless generosity not only to the recipient institutions but more so to the millions of Filipinos who have been able to seek affordable and quality medical treatment.

In his individual capacity as a noted doctor of Radiology at St. Anthony's Medical Center in St. Louis, Missouri and as President of the Philippine Medical Association (PMA) in Greater St. Louis, Vijungco was responsible for generating a significant amount of financial aid for the victims of Mt. Pinatubo in Zambales and for the typhoon victims in Ormoc, Leyte. He headed a medical mission sponsored by the PMA Greater St. Louis to Oroquieta, Misamis Occidental where the group performed cataract operations, plastic reconstructions

for harelip and cleft palate patients, general surgical and gynecological operations, and outpatient treatments. He also joined other medical missions to Cavite, San Juan, and Ozamis City, together with other members of the PMA. Under his leadership, the organization also donated hospital equipment to the Oroquieta Provincial Hospital.

As an officer of the UST Medical Alumni in America/ Midwest, he was able to generate hundreds of thousands of dollars for the use of the UST Hospital in beefing up its medical library and procuring hospital equipment and for the discretionary funds of the Alumni Association. For his outstanding contributions to the Association, he was recognized as its Most Outstanding Alumnus in 1993.

He also founded and chaired the Scholarship Project of the Association of Philippine Physicians in America (APPA) which gives medical scholarships to deserving doctors who wish to pursue higher studies in the United States. The APPA scholarship program has so far sponsored nine grantees who are now practicing their profession in different hospitals and schools in the Philippines.

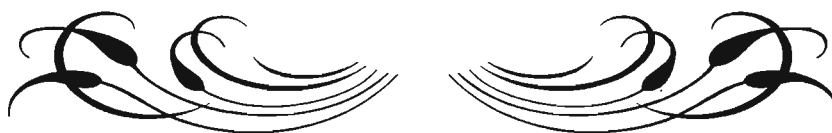
Jose G. Vijungco exemplifies genuine concern and generosity for fellow Filipinos. If individual efforts such as his can do so much, just imagine what a multitude of others doing the same deed could accomplish. Surely, the country would be a better place to live in. ❖





Kaakabay ng Bayan

The Kaakabay ng Bayan Award is given to Filipino communities, groups of individual Filipinos, or Filipino associations overseas who have united for the common ideal and purpose of providing support to the progress and development of the country.



Awardees

Aloha Medical Mission
United States (Hawaii)

Volunteer Business Counselors (VBC) of Doha
Qatar

Aloha Medical Mission

It is when you give something and not expect something in return that you truly feel a deep sense of personal satisfaction and accomplishment. This, in essence, is the real meaning of volunteerism.

The Aloha Medical Mission (AMM) is one such group of volunteers. It is composed of successful medical professionals who have reached the peak of their careers and have committed themselves to help the less fortunate who do not have access to medical care. When they go out to the mission field, they not only treat these people but also train the native doctors, and then leave behind their knowledge and equipment.

The AMM volunteers have been hailed by the Hawaiian legislature as "Ambassadors of Goodwill and Good Health". In December 1991, the Aloha Medical Mission was recognized by the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Commission on Filipinos

Overseas as Outstanding Overseas Service Organization for its continued service to the needy Filipinos in far-flung areas of the Philippines.

AMM was borne out of a doctor's passion to care for the poor for free. In 1969, when Dr. Ernesto Espaldon, a noted cosmetic surgeon, visited his homeland in Mindanao, he saw the desperate lack of medical care for the poor. From that time on, he returned home regularly to perform reconstructive and corrective surgery for free. His inspiring work prompted other doctors and medical professionals, largely of Filipino ancestry, to contribute to this noble undertaking, and with the help of Dr. Ramon Sy of the Philippine Medical Association in Hawaii, AMM came into being in 1983.



The Aloha Medical Mission in action



Aloha in Aklan Province, Philippines

Fired with the spirit of aloha, this Hawaii-based mission now involves over 900 dedicated medical and lay volunteers, bringing hope to and helping the poor in remote areas of the Philippines and other Asian countries, including China, Vietnam, Vanuatu, and Bangladesh.

A non-profit organization, AMM raises funds which are spent almost entirely on medicine and surgical supplies. Its volunteers pay for their own fare, food, and accommodation in all their trips. Every year, before the onset of the Christmas season, the AMM doctors and medical personnel pack their bags, and hie off to areas that do not have access to basic medical care. In the Philippines alone, since it began its regular missions of mercy here, AMM has given free medical and surgical care in more than 17 provinces. It has donated a total of P25 million worth of medical supplies from 1994 up to

the present. And not only do AMM volunteers extend medical services, they also train personnel of non-government organizations who work with victims of trauma due to rape, incest, and natural disasters. They have treated almost 70,000 patients and performed 5,000 surgeries in the thirteen years of their existence. All these symbolize not only success but also the task ahead because for every patient treated, a thousand others wait.

It is not surprising that this group has garnered other citations for their exemplary work. In 1994, it was given a Congressional Award from the United States Congress for "Outstanding Contribution to the Community, State and Nation". In 1996, the Aloha Medical Mission will be honored, this time, by the Filipino people, for truly, it deserves no less than a Presidential Award. ❖

Volunteer Business Counselors (VBC) of Doha



In 1995, President Ramos launched his economic reintegration program for overseas Filipino workers. Its primary aim has been to prepare returning overseas workers by equipping them with entrepreneurial and business skills.

The implementation of the Ramos Administration's program by the Philippine Embassy in Doha, Qatar has been dubbed as the most promising *Kabuhayan 2000* undertaking. One of the most important factors for its initial successes and breakthroughs has been its formation of an extraordinarily committed group of Filipino volunteers in Qatar who compose the Volunteer Business Counselors (VBC).

VBC, as more popularly known, is the epitome of Filipino *bayanohan* and volunteerism at work in a foreign setting. It is a non-stock, non-profit group composed of 14 committed individuals who help in the implementation of the *Kabuhayan 2000* program of the Philippine Government.

Immediately after their graduation from a Business Counselling Course at the Filipino Developmental and Cultural Center in August 1995, the members of VBC designed a syllabus on "Seminar on the Formation of Entrepreneurs and Creation of Enterprises" (SFECE) for its training program in feasibility studies and business planning. The first two batches of SFECE participants graduated last March, the following three batches in May, and two batches in June, and more batches are expected to enroll in the future.

VBC members conduct their own researches in different libraries for materials build-up; they practice their lectures and perform critiquing sessions to improve content and delivery; and they evolve their own methodologies which include co-creative lectures, workshops, case studies, and even stage presentations.

It is a common sight in Doha to see them together, or in sub-groups, happily and productively brainstorming, planning, and dividing tasks among themselves. They orient Filipino workers on the need for economic reintegration preparedness at least three times a week; conduct seminars on project feasibility studies and business planning twice a week; and they enrich their information stock, as well as skills on group and community work through developmental sessions or "DEVSES" at least once a month.

Although primarily devoting their time and energy in conducting livelihood development orientation and training programs, VBC has likewise emerged as a "multi-purpose" community group capable of assisting the Philippine Embassy in Doha in its development programs for Filipino communities.

The time that could be spent for leisure and recreation is instead spent by VBC members to bridge the gap among

The "Doha Experience" in Qatar....

...and the people behind the VBC



Filipino groups in Qatar and assist the Philippine Embassy in Doha in its socio-cultural undertakings. In the process, the government is brought closer to the lives of migrant workers. What is more impressive and has earned the admiration of those who have met and have come into contact with VBC is its being completely self-sufficient. Except for basic institutional and operational provisions, VBC is a self-contained and empowered group unselfishly and dedicatedly rendering volunteer services to the Philippine Government and overseas Filipino workers.

The "Doha Experience", as the implementation of the *Kabuhayan 2000* program is dubbed in Qatar, has already made its mark as a very successful application of the government's reintegration program; in fact, it is a model for others to follow. ❖



Kaanib ng Bayan

The Kaanib ng Bayan Award is accorded to foreign organizations for their contribution to Philippine progress and development.



Awardees

Consuelo Zobel Alger Foundation
United States (Hawaii)

Association Philippines International of Geneva
Switzerland

Tsakos Shipping and Trading, S.A.
Greece

Consuelo Zobel Alger Foundation

Founded in 1988, the Alger Foundation was born of a fateful meeting between Consuelo Zobel Alger and its present president and chief executive officer, Patti Lyons. United by a common goal of giving children a better life, together, they put up a foundation, the Consuelo Zobel Alger Foundation. This effort took inspiration from Consuelo's devotion to St. Therese of the Child Jesus and her pledge to care for children that she never had.

Phenomenal is a word that can best describe the accomplishments of this Hawaiian-based organization. In just six years, the Alger Foundation could boast of programs and projects that have benefitted the most marginalized families in the Philippines and in Hawaii.

The Foundation focuses on uplifting the status of poor families in the cities and the countryside by sourcing funds for decent, low-cost housing; for the development and/or enhancement of income-generating skills; and for access to medical, dental, and other social services.

In the beginning, the philanthropic works of the Alger Foundation was confined only within Hawaii. By 1993, however, it had linked up with the Philippine mainland, and began establishing its network among the many service organizations that are similarly involved in helping the underprivileged and needy children of the Philippines.

The Foundation has harnessed the potentials of many private socio-civic groups, non-government organizations (NGOs), religious groups, and even government agencies through direct partnership with them in the implementation of its projects in the country. It has also given them assistance by directly funding some of their programs.

This direct partnership has resulted in the success of some of the Foundation's 30 projects nationwide with a cost of almost P80 million. The beneficiaries have since availed of the services of the various programs of the Foundation ranging from rehabilitation, therapy, counselling to skills education, values formation, and health care.

This is one of the many ways in which the Foundation expanded the base of its beneficiaries while helping the local NGOs sustain their own activities. It also allocates funds to help increase public awareness about the issues and problems of children in the country and to professionalize and improve the ranks of those involved in social work and community development.

It has also established and maintained a network of effective children and youth programs by entering into a strategic partnership with the International Youth Foundation. An offshoot of this link-up is the creation of the Children and Youth Foundation of the Philippines (CFYP)



"What matters in life are not great deeds, but great love."

- St. Therese of the Child Jesus

which has generated a funding commitment of P250 million to support over 20 CFYP-accredited projects for the youth.

From the northern region of Luzon up to the southern tip of Sulu, the caring hands of Consuelo Zobel Alger has reached out and touched the lives of children and youth in desperate need of the love and generous deeds of the Foundation which bears her name.

Children who are victims of broken families, child abuse and sexual exploitation; abandoned, neglected and orphaned children; juvenile delinquents; children caught in armed conflicts; children who

are victims of natural calamities such as the Mt. Pinatubo eruption; children of tribal communities; children suffering from physical and mental impairments - all of them have been benefitting from the projects of the Consuelo Zobel Alger Foundation.

Perhaps, its biggest achievement to date is the generation of P250 million to fund community development projects started in 1995 in identified regional development centers. These areas located in Central Luzon, Northern Luzon Quadrangle, Caraga region, Cagayan de Oro-Iligan Corridor, and Socsargen necessitate a parallel effort in providing basic social services for those who may be affected by the changes brought by the entry of development.

The Consuelo Zobel Alger Foundation has proven that a simple but genuine goal can be worth its weight in gold for the millions of children and youth in need of caring. ❖



The Kapatiran School in Negros for children displaced by military conflict

Association Philippines International of Geneva

*All great deeds come
from small
beginnings...*



The Association Philippines International of Geneva or API is an organization of Swiss, Filipinos, and other nationals living in Geneva, Switzerland, bound by a common interest in the Philippines and its people. API's main objective is to provide financial and other material support to assist in social progress and economic recovery in the Philippines.

Since its establishment in 1988, API has launched successful fund-raising activities to finance a wide variety of projects in the Philippines. Most of these projects focus on Christian works of charity which not only satisfy material needs, but also give solace to the spirit of people who are faced with the travails of an unfortunate life.

API has a special focus on assisting apostolate-sponsored programs such as those of the Er-Ma Ministry Center in Manila, the Emmaus Apostolate House in

Bulacan, the Alay Kapwa Christian Community in Manila, the Christ to the Orient Missions in Rizal province, and the many parish projects in Davao City and Rizal province.

Through these Christian ministries, API has channelled its resources to help in the establishment of income-generating projects for unemployed rural women. Some of these are the purchase of equipment for a soap-making factory, which employs 1,000 workers; food processing projects which generated additional income for their beneficiaries; vocational training in electronics for out-of-school youth; elementary and high school scholarship programs for children of tribal communities; the purchase of hospital beds for abandoned elderly people in Bulacan; the construction of public toilets for the use of an urban poor community; and the building of training centers and halfway-houses for street children in Malate, Manila.

API's undertakings may appear as small deeds compared to those of others, but the immeasurable happiness it has brought to its beneficiaries puts it at par with the biggest of charitable institutions. ❖



Tsakos Shipping and Trading, S.A.

Captain Panagiotis Tsakos has been a mariner all his life. At an early age, he had already served as deckboy on his grandfather's pine-planked coastal freighter. His love for the sea, combined with his family's business interests in shipping, has nurtured in him a deep admiration for those hardy souls who brave the elements aboard their sea-going vessels.

Perhaps, this is why Tsakos Shipping and its Filipino crew found themselves bound together in their common love for the ocean. In fact, Tsakos Shipping, formed by Panagiotis Tsakos in 1970, has over 1,000 Filipino regular crew members aboard its 40 ocean-going vessels.



The ship named after the late Commodore Jimenez. Inset: the officers of Tsakos Shipping led by Capt. Panagiotis Tsakos (second from right) during the inauguration of the ship

In May 1996, Tsakos Shipping named one of its gigantic tankers *Commo JC Jimenez*, in honor of the late Commodore Jaime C. Jimenez, a renowned Filipino ship captain. Such an honor given to the Philippines is the first in its maritime history.

Believing in the Filipino's competence and innate maritime skills, Capt. Tsakos helped establish the Mariners Polytechnic Colleges Foundation (MPCF) and currently serves as member of its Board of Trustees. MPCF is a private learning institution which offers marine engineering and nautical studies in the cities of Naga and Legazpi in the Bicol region. The establishment of these schools has given students from the provinces of Quezon, Camarines Sur and Norte, Albay, Sorsogon, Catanduanes, Masbate, and Samar an opportunity to avail of quality education without venturing off to distant Manila.

Tsakos Shipping is a major benefactor of MPCF. It has donated marine instruments, nautical and engineering equipment, various charts and training aids, marine instruments and books, marine engines, and generators. It is also involved in upgrading MPCF's academic courses to improve the watchkeeping, seamanship, and safety skills of the students. Needless to say, such assistance has gone a long way in enhancing the quality of maritime and nautical engineering education and graduates in the country.

Tsakos-owned vessels also accommodate MPCF graduates as apprentices and have hired many of these graduates as crew members and even officers. Remittances of Filipinos employed by Tsakos Shipping amount to US\$6 million annually. Through its Philippine manning agency, UNLAD Shipping and Management Corp., Tsakos Shipping has indeed contributed to the economic

development of the Bicol region and other areas of the country.

Tsakos Shipping is also helping in the development of the domestic shipping fleets that ply the Legazpi-Cebu-Cagayan de Oro route by starting a domestic shipping fleet to improve shipping services between and around the Philippine Islands. These fleets also serve as the local training ground of MPCF graduates before they go aboard in

Tsakos vessels as crew members.

But more than the business of running ships and carrying cargo, Tsakos Shipping has a heart of gold. It has its charitable arm, the KALAYAG Foundation, which was involved in assisting victims of natural calamities such as the Mayon Volcano eruption in 1992 and typhoon Rosing in 1995, which devastated a large portion of the Bicol region.

Tsakos Shipping truly stands out as one of the exceptional few that has integrated social service with its business concerns. Its generosity knows no bounds. Its commitment to improve the status of the Philippine maritime industry is represented by the Tsakos ship that crosses our waters to strengthen ties between two seafaring nations - Greece and the Philippines. These are certainly ties that go beyond love of the ocean. ❖



Banaag

The Banaag Award is given to Filipino and foreign individuals or associations for contribution which has significantly benefited a sector or community in the Philippines, or advanced the cause of overseas Filipino communities.



Awardees

Balik Bohol Medical Mission
United States (New York)

Filipino American Human Services, Inc.
United States (New York)

Penang Support Group for Migrant Filipinos
Malaysia

Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants
Riyadh Chapter
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Rizal-Blumentritt Society
Austria

H.E. Essa Mohamed Al Zedjali
Sultanate of Oman

Mohamed Ali Carlito Astillero
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Lilia R. Juele
United States (New York)

Angel T. Ramos
Hongkong

Mona Lisa L. Steiner
Austria

Emelio Y. Uy
Guam

Prospero C. Zamora
Guam

balik: a Filipino word which means "to return to one's place of origin."

The doctors of the Balik Bohol Medical Mission know where their roots are, and they come back to nurture it every year.

The Balik Bohol Medical Mission is a New York-based group of Filipino medical practitioners who "believe in caring and sharing by helping to provide immediate health care attention" to their *kababayans*. This medical outreach program is strongly supported by the Bohol Circle, a group of Filipinos from the province of Bohol. Hence, the name and beneficiary area of the medical mission.

It was established first in 1993, when Dr. Teofilio Recitas, a Filipino doctor practicing in the Big Apple, organized a medical mission to Bohol. He approached the Catholic Medical Mission in New York to help fund the conduct of its first medical mission the following year.

The ten-day medical mission was composed of some 200 doctors, nurses, and medical personnel. It covered fifteen towns in Bohol, successfully treated over 3,500



Balik Bohol Medical Mission

patients and performed over 300 major surgical operations. Four provincial hospitals were also recipients of donations such as hospital beds and medical supplies.

This year, the Balik Bohol Medical Mission, which assumed the new name of "Home Reach Foundation", went back to Bohol. Aside from going back to the towns where they first performed their free medical services, they donated modern hospital equipment such as EKG machines, heart monitors, and operating tables. They have also participated in medical missions to Cebu sponsored by the Philippine Medical Association in America.

The Mission's motto of "caring and sharing by helping" knows no territorial boundaries. Presently, it has plans to broaden its scope of operations to benefit not only Filipinos in the homeland, but also those in the United States and Canada. Every year at fiesta time, members of the Mission return to Bohol not only to join in the celebration, but more so to share their talents and blessings. Such a noble mission is truly deserving of a Presidential Award. ❖



Filipino American Human Services, Inc.

The Filipino American Human Services, Inc. or FAHSI is one of the organizations in the U.S. that assists Filipino immigrants in addressing their many concerns.

FAHSI, which was formed in 1993, was established as a formal intake and referral system for Filipino Americans in need of assistance. It provides immigration services including the conduct of regular workshops and consultations on citizenship and the rights of immigrants. Programs to help migrants access employment opportunities and existing welfare services are available. FAHSI is involved in processing benefits accruing to Filipino veterans of the second world war, and providing support to victims of domestic violence and substance abuse. It has also organized a Voluntary Lawyers Board to provide legal advice and assistance and address legal questions on immigration and citizenship.

To support the educational aspect in FAHSI's services, it has developed a Filipino American reference and demographic resource library on various available demographic information, and compiled a comprehensive index of all census tables and other information relevant to human services needs of Filipino Americans in New York.

Although FAHSI is mainly concerned with problems on immigration, it also has its pulse in the existing problems of the Filipino American community in New York. To help curb gang violence, drug addiction, and other social problems of the youth

today, it organized the Community Action Internships for the Youth. This program, which was given state funding by the Citizens Committee of New York as part of its Strengthening Neighborhood Assets Program (SNAP), involves Filipino American youth and other Asian Americans in community projects and activities that refocus their attention to more worthwhile concerns while teaching

them new skills. FAHSI also launched the Town Meetings Program for Filipino Americans, another SNAP-funded program, to serve as a venue for the Filipino community to come together and discuss varied concerns as immigrants in the United States.

FAHSI is also actively involved as a member organization of the Asian American Task Force on the Aging and a participant in the New York Immigration Coalition's Citizenship Task Force to popularize the issues of elderly Asian Americans who normally do not avail of services offered by the state due to existing cultural barriers.

Many Filipino Americans and various state agencies, which FAHSI has helped and worked with, have only the

highest praises for the efficient and culturally-sensitive manner by which it has reached out to and responded to the very real problems of the community. ❖



FAHSI representing Filipino American community in a rally against immigrant bashing

Penang Support Group for Migrant Filipinos

The Penang Support Group for Migrant Filipinos or PSG is a church-related volunteer group undertaking projects and services for the benefit of the Filipino workers in Penang, Malaysia and adjacent places. Its mission is to promote the human dignity and welfare of migrant Filipinos towards a living community of faith and service in the name of Christ. As a non-sectarian group, PSG welcomes people of other faiths and offers its services to all Filipinos regardless of their employment status, educational attainment, religious belief, gender, and economic standing.

PSG traces its beginnings from the visits to Penang by Fr. Pedro Montallana, a Filipino priest then assigned to Thailand in 1992. The number of Filipino workers was at that time estimated at 1,400, mostly women employed as household workers and fishworkers of Taiwanese fishing vessels. In cooperation with Fr. John Anandan, a Malaysian priest, a small group was formed to respond to the problems and needs of Filipino workers. In his many meetings and letters to his contacts in Penang, Fr. Montallana encouraged the Filipinos to keep their faith and abiding love and care for the Lord, especially as they go through the difficulties of work and life in a foreign land. PSG thus forged links with various sectors of the Filipino community in Penang, with the churches, and with the Philippine Embassy in Kuala Lumpur. Since then, numerous projects and services responding to the needs and problems of the Filipino workers were planned and carried out by PSG. To support its services, PSG organized its own volunteer group known as Pinoy Community Volunteers.

PSG has six major areas of endeavor. It organizes spiritual activities which include the bi-monthly masses, choir organization, Lenten recollections, and Bible seminars. It conducts prison visitations in liaison with the Malaysian authorities and other parties concerned. It also works for the release and repatriation of Filipino detainees, and provides pre-departure accommodations for those returning to the Philippines.

It likewise has regular forum activities in counselling, information drives on AIDS and other health issues, hostel

and hospital visitations, and referral services to the Philippine Embassy in Malaysia for Filipinos. It has a particular focus on women's counselling, in cooperation with the Philippine-based Women's Crisis Center. PSG is similarly active in the promotion of cultural and sports activities to further strengthen ties among Filipinos in Malaysia.



"Kape at Talakayan" with Malaysian labor officials

These six areas of endeavor have led the Penang Support Group to participate in on-going efforts to neutralize and stop inhumane activities of syndicates deploying tourists to illegally work in Malaysia. The other concerns of its anti-illegal recruitment activities include monitoring and documenting cases of recruitment of Filipinos for non-existent jobs in Malaysia, those entering the state with tourist papers, and the creation of counselling, complaint and repatriation assistance units as part of its overall strategy.

In 1995, PSG provided humanitarian assistance to 88 distressed Filipinos who were imprisoned in Penang for violating Malaysian immigration laws. It responded to the call for assistance from five fishworkers detained in Port Blair, India, who were charged with illegal fishing and worked for their repatriation to the Philippines.

The work of PSG does not necessarily entail serious undertakings all the time. Believing that there is a time for work and a time for leisure, it organized the *Pinoy Olympics sa Penang*, which was launched in 1995 and participated in by the Filipino community in Malaysia. Also, it holds regular fellowship sessions where Filipinos come and meet each other and share stories to further build unity among them.

The Penang Support Group is certainly one of the organizations which Filipinos in Malaysia can rely on to calm the soul and strengthen the will. To this group of selfless volunteers, the Philippines expresses its heartfelt gratitude. ❖



Left photo: Sunday Mass dubbed "Misang Pinoy"

Rizal-Blumentritt Society

Austria

Vienna is a place that conjures images of elegant European architecture, fairy tale forests, violins, flowers, and the Danube River. It is also in this Austrian capital where our national hero, Jose Rizal, spent some years of his literary life and cultivated a strong friendship with his Austrian friend, Ferdinand Blumentritt. The legendary friendship of these two great people, which has led to strong ties between the Philippines and Austria, is also the driving force behind the Rizal-Blumentritt Society.

The Rizal-Blumentritt Society was founded as a historical organization by Filipinos and Austrians to promote the well-being and interests of Filipino migrants, as well as strengthen ties between Filipinos in Austria and their native country, and maintain friendships with the local Austrian population. The organization's programs are designed to facilitate the assimilation of Filipinos into mainstream Austrian society and the attainment of a stable and harmonious relationship among Filipinos and Austrians in a multi-cultural society.

Some of its programs include the study and popularization of the teachings of Rizal through the conduct of classes in Philippine history, language and culture; the organization of commemorative programs in honor of the life and death of the Philippine national hero; the collection and solicitation of historical materials published in Europe; the establishment of a library; and the sponsorship of relevant talent and literary awards.

The Society targets both second generation Filipinos in Austria and the native Austrians in fostering awareness of and appreciation for Filipino culture which is now a regular activity. In July 1995, the members began a class (initially composed of twelve students, ages 6 to 12 years)

on Philippine history, language, and culture, which is now a regular activity. They also hold regular festivals that feature Filipino Austrian artists during the birth and death anniversaries of Rizal.

Research activities of the Society have led to the discovery of a folk song (from San Miguel, Bulacan) entitled *Condiman* which was contained in a book written by Dr. Karl von Scherzer and published in 1864 in Vienna. They also discovered in the Madras Museum in India, the original Seal of Intramuros, a special coat of arms taken from the Parian Gate in Intramuros.

Aside from collecting antique books and literature on Filipinos and the Philippines from the 1600s to 1915, the Society also translates works of Rizal and Blumentritt into English and German. The members have also translated the book *Ultramar*, written in German by Carl Arthur Tannert and published in Berlin in 1893. The

book discusses the Philippines at the turn of the century and includes a critique of Rizal's *Noli Me Tangere*.

As part of its effort to promote the Philippines as a scenic and historical tourist destination, the Society also produced a 100-slide compact disk featuring the Filipino way of life, regions in the country, historical sites, and the different ethnic communities. The Society is ready to go online in the Internet to launch a series of Rizal's letters to

Blumentritt as its contribution to the Philippine Centennial celebration.

The Rizal-Blumentritt Society is a commemoration not only of the encounter between the cultures of East and West, but also of the friendship and the commonality shared in one historical juncture. By bridging the gap between the past and the present, the Society also continues to enhance the friendship between Austrians and Filipinos. ❖



The officers of the Rizal-Blumentritt Society Austria

Moh'd Ali Carlito Astillero



Dr. Moh'd Ali Carlito Astillero is a doctor of medicine, but his caring goes beyond hospital doors. In fact, as a recognition for his "extra-curricular" activities outside the scope of his duties in the Al-Mishari Hospital, he was awarded the Bagong Bayani Award in 1991. In 1994, he was also the recipient of the San Lorenzo Ruiz

Award for Outstanding Overseas Filipino Worker.

And he is deserving of such recognition, because his accomplishments outside the field of medicine is exemplary. He is active in socio-civic work, heading many Filipino associations in Saudi Arabia, Libya, and Iran, and sitting on the board of the Philippine Embassy School in Riyadh.

He was born in Misamis Occidental, in the island of Mindanao. He finished his Doctor of Medicine at the Southwestern University in Cebu and went to Saudi Arabia in 1985. As a doctor and as a patriotic and selfless Filipino in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Astillero is known to have gone out of his way to help fellow Filipinos in need. He takes advantage of his being a Filipino Moslem to make it easier for his *kababayans* to avail of basic services in the Kingdom. At his own hospital, he successfully negotiated with its officials not to require any Filipino worker to pay for processing and placement fees when availing of medical services. He talks with local officials to make them aware of the plight of the many Filipino workers in the Kingdom on issues ranging from health to employment and employment-related grievances.

He manifests a strong community spirit and has displayed outstanding leadership in advocating unity among the many Filipino organizations in Saudi Arabia by mobilizing them to join cooperative and livelihood programs. He is active in many Filipino associations in the Kingdom, one of them an organization of Visayan-speaking Filipinos aptly called BISAYA. In fact, as its chairman, Astillero was instrumental in the establishment of the PICO-BISAYA, the first international multi-purpose cooperative of overseas Filipino workers. The cooperative aims to showcase Filipino entrepreneurship by assisting its members in availing of assistance for the establishment of small businesses with the use of the income generated by their employment as overseas workers.

He is also active in the move to push for the enactment of a law leading to the formation of an overseas Filipino workers' bank that will help in remitting their salaries back to the Philippines. This is a novel idea that has great potential in harnessing the significant amount of income generated by the workers in Saudi Arabia. The interest to be generated from the deposits in this proposed workers' bank could be used for many projects for the benefit of the Filipino workers in that country. Aside from this, Astillero is also an active supporter of giving Filipinos abroad the right to vote and the passage of laws that will protect the rights of Filipino workers in Saudi Arabia, particularly female domestic helpers who have been the most common victims of abuses.

Not only did he help form a multi-purpose cooperative, he also helped lay out the initial plans to establish a cooperative hospital which has a complete array of diagnostic facilities for the benefit of Muslims. The hospital will not only respond to the medical needs in its immediate area, it will also serve as the center of Islamic medical missions in the Philippines. To kick off the project, he donated his old clinic site in Pagadian City to generate interest and mobilize other civic-minded individuals in Mindanao and Saudi Arabia. As of now, the proposed cooperative hospital is awaiting funding from donors in Saudi Arabia.

Dr. Moh'd Ali Carlito Astillero is one of the exceptional Filipinos in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The country is proud that he is there to help his countrymen in their times of need. ❖

Envoy inducts BISAYA officers

By RODOLFO C. ESTIMO, JR.
Riyadh Daily Staff

RIYADH — The well-known Bisayan Igsoon sa Saudi Arabya (BISAYA) inducted the officers for the current year Friday night at the Philippine Embassy School in Riyadh (PESR) quadrangle with Ambassador Romulo M. Espaldon as the inducting officer.



DR. ASTILLERO

BISAYA's new president is Dr. Moh'd Ali Astillero of the Al-Mishari Hospital who replaced former cager Ralph Baladjay of Sea-Land in Riyadh.

H.E. Essa Mohamed Al Zedjali

His Excellency Essa Mohamed Al Zedjali is one of only two awardees in 1996 who does not have a trace of Filipino blood, but because he has distinguished himself in helping Filipinos beyond the call of duty, he might as well be a genuine Filipino in the eyes of our countrymen.

Most of the time, it is the stories of cruelty being inflicted upon our Filipino workers abroad, particularly in the Middle East, that are bannered in the Philippine media. The perception is that when Filipinos work in a foreign country, they suffer untold indignities and humiliation at the hands of their employers. What is not heard are the stories which tell a different tale: that of how the citizens of this foreign country work hand-in-hand with the Philippine Government to protect the rights of overseas Filipino workers.

Al Zedjali is a prominent citizen of the Sultanate of Oman. He is also the Honorary Consul General of the Philippines in Oman from 1988 to 1992. A Member of Parliament since 1986, he is a prime mover for the protection of the rights of overseas Filipino workers, and is a major supporter of their activities and projects in the Sultanate.

During his stint as the Honorary Consul General, he established the Philippine Honorary Consulate in Oman, thus opening the doors for the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Philippine Government and the Sultanate. It was the first time that the Philippines had formal relations with Oman, and this was the beginning of a mutually beneficial relationship between the two countries.

At present, he assists the staff of the Philippine Embassy in Oman in discussions with Omani authorities regarding various issues affecting the Filipino community in his country. In fact, the Philippines found a very strong ally in Al Zedjali in its on-going program to monitor incidents of human rights abuses against Filipino workers. He earned the respect not only of Filipinos but also of his fellow Omanis when he successfully fought for the imprisonment of a member of Omani royalty who was charged with the rape of a Filipina domestic helper under

his employ. This incident is unprecedented in the entire Gulf, and a landmark victory for the Philippine Government's drive to protect its overseas workers.

He is also considered as the moving force and the spirit behind the establishment of the Philippine Community School in Oman. He provided the facilities to house the School, which is accredited by the education department of both governments.

He is also a staunch supporter of the many activities and projects of the Filipino community in Oman, willingly allowing the use of his properties and donating cash for their many sports tournaments. As the owner of the two largest newspapers in the Gulf, the English *Oman Times* and the Arabic *Al Shabiba*, he covers all the activities of the Filipino community and publishes all the press releases of the Philippine Embassy. Al Zedjali is also the first publisher in the entire Gulf to have hired a Filipino, Mr. Felipe Olimpo, to be

the editor-in-chief of the *Oman Times*.

He also facilitated the entry of Filipino food conglomerate, Jollibee, which opened its Omani franchise through his intercession. This is the first time that a Filipino corporation established its business in Oman, signalling the start of more Filipino business activity in the country.

In the midst of calamities that hit the country a few years ago, Al Zedjali was also one of the main organizers of the *Hatid Saya Program* in Oman, which raised over \$10,000 for the victims of the Mt. Pinatubo eruption.

Al Zedjali has broken barriers between two cultures, and has built bridges to reach across the seas to cement friendships between the Philippines and Oman. He represents the best of the Omanis, and he has shown Filipinos that he is their friend. For all these, we honor him with a Presidential Award as a manifestation of our gratitude. ❖



His Excellency Essa Mohamed Al Zedjali is one of only two awardees in 1996 who does not have a trace of Filipino blood, but because he has distinguished himself in helping Filipinos beyond the call of duty, he might as well be a genuine Filipino in the eyes of our countrymen.



Lilia R. Juele



Lilia Reyes Juele is the moving force behind the Association of Filipino Teachers in America or AFTA, which she co-founded in 1989 and in which she has served as president up to the present time. This organization, composed of Filipino professional teachers based in New York and New Jersey, was formed with a mission to promote the professional growth of the Filipino teacher and to achieve the highest level of competency in his/her profession.

AFTA was instrumental in the passage of the 1990 U.S. Immigration Act, a landmark legislation which, among others, allowed Filipino teachers holding H-1 working visas to extend their stay for another year beyond the five years previously required under the U.S. Immigration law. This legislation also paved the way for many of them to be granted permanent resident status, thus enabling them to practice their profession in the U.S. This giant stride could not have been accomplished if not for the lead efforts of Juele. She was at the forefront of

the lobbying and advocacy work for the inclusion of this change in the U.S. immigration laws. Juele worked hard toward legalizing the status of most of the Filipino teachers in the United States by writing and meeting with key senators

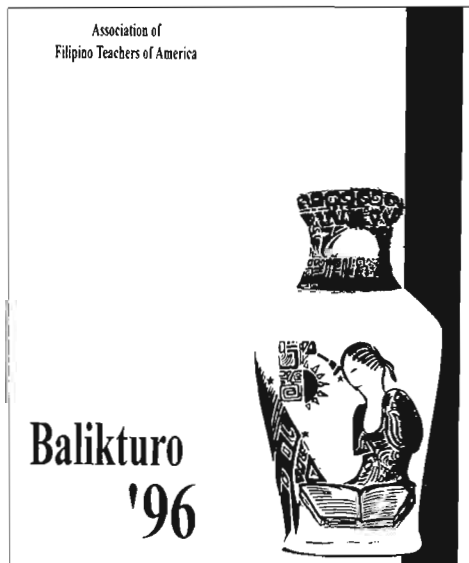
to improve and upgrade the professional expertise of its members by offering computer and information technology courses and integrating these in their teaching methods. She conceptualized, designed, and developed the Balikturo Teacher Training Project for teachers in the Philippines.

The Balikturo Project, which means "return to teach", enables AFTA to share with their counterparts in the Philippines, the latest information, knowledge and experience, and teaching technologies. They also come to find ways to adapt these innovations to the unique needs of the Philippine educational system.

This project, launched in 1994 with the help of the Commission on Filipinos Overseas and the UNIX Users Club of the Philippines, has been supported and participated in by teachers and other education professionals from established schools such as the University of the Philippines, the Ateneo de Manila University, the Philippine Normal University, the Centro Escolar University, and the Mariano Marcos University. Officials and members of the Department of Education, Culture, and Sports, the Philippine Association for Teacher Education, and other teachers' organizations have likewise participated in their lectures. Areas focused on by the project are Whole Language, Early Childhood Education, Computer Education and Information Technology, and Conflict Management.

Aside from her teaching duties at the Monroe College and at the Msgr. Scanlan High School in New York City, Juele is also an active participant in the many cultural activities that the Filipino American community regularly holds in the state. In 1993, she was the chairperson of a successful art and cultural exhibit participated in by Filipino artists in celebration of Philippine Independence Day. Also, as an active member of the New York Lions Club, she has adopted the Balikturo concept in the "Lions Quest" educational outreach program sponsored by Lions Club International.

Lilia Juele's contribution to helping in the development of quality educational and teaching methods in the Philippines, and in professionalizing the ranks of Filipino teachers in America, is exemplary. Through AFTA, her efforts to extend this educational outreach program to the country and to look out for the well-being of Filipino teachers abroad are indeed worthy of praise and recognition.



and congressmen in Washington, D.C. who are known supporters of Filipino causes.

Her leadership in AFTA has generated many training and development programs to further



Angel T. Ramos

Angel T. Ramos is no stranger to accepting awards. His pioneering work in the founding of Kabayan Center Philippines, a service-oriented organization catering to Filipino expatriates in Hongkong since 1985, has earned for it the recognition as one of the Outstanding Filipino Organizations Overseas in 1991 from the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Commission on Filipinos Overseas. His efforts have provided avenues for overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) to acquire additional livelihood and employable skills, and could be considered as a forerunner of the present Administration's reintegration program for returning overseas workers.

Not only did he seek to equip returning OFWs with additional employment skills; Ramos also embarked on a novel training program for Filipinos desiring to secure new employment in Canada as nannies and caregivers to the elderly and disabled. The Caregiver Training Program was developed to prepare potential recruits of the Live-in Caregiver Program of Canada and to provide employment alternatives for Filipinos working as domestic helpers in Hongkong.

It is exceptional to find a person as deeply involved as Ramos in endeavors that do not promise immediate returns on investment. An accountant by profession, he knows that any business venture has for it the necessary risks, more so for a Filipino starting a business in a foreign land. But he was undaunted by these odds. His entrepreneurial skills have reaped for him successes in his various undertakings.

In 1995, he established two schools that underscored his commitment to provide overseas Filipino workers additional skills that would prove useful to them upon their return to the country.

The Philippine Livelihood Center (PLC) offers affordable livelihood skills trainings to OFWs in such areas as fashion designing and dressmaking, meat processing, home and commercial baking, and western and oriental cooking. Last year, PLC had its first commencement exercises with 120 graduates. The future looks bright for this brainchild, and there are other courses in the works that it will offer to OFWs.



The Philippine International School (PIS), on the other hand, is a result of Ramos' efforts to link up with established and accredited schools in the Philippines such as the AMA Computer Learning Center, the Cora Doloroso Career Center and the Philippine Women's University.

The courses offered by PIS in computer software applications, computer secretarial courses, personality development, entrepreneurship, travel and tourism, and caregiver training programs have been validated by these schools, and their graduates are assured of on-the-job trainings with reputable companies in the Philippines when they come as returning OFWs. At present, PIS is also seeking to link-up with the University of the Philippines' Open University Distance Education Program to boost its educational curriculum.

The success of PIS encouraged Ramos to provide a secondary school program by December 1996 for children of Filipino expatriates. The graduates of PIS will be eligible to enroll in Philippine universities and colleges when they return home.

Recognizing that a large majority of the OFWs in Hongkong are trained professionals in different fields, Ramos also organized the Integrated Midwives Association, the Integrated Registered Nurses Association of the Philippines, and the Worldwide Society of Computer Professionals to provide them a continuing development program to maintain and upgrade their professional skills.

The common thread that binds together all the undertakings of Ramos is his goal of producing a productive and competitive Filipino workforce. This he does by giving Filipino workers access to schools and learning centers which

will allow them to continuously improve themselves through education and training. Certainly, he deserves this accolade, the Presidential Award, for such worthy endeavors. ❖



Signage of Ramos' Philippine Schools in Hongkong

Mona Lisa L. Steiner

Mona Lisa Steiner is not a Filipino, and yet, her love for the country can match that of any full-blooded native of the Philippines.

She is an Austrian by birth, but history led her to seek refuge in the Philippines in 1936 before the outbreak of the second world war, when Hitler's army began its savage trek across Europe and occupied her country. A doctorate holder in Botany at the University of Vienna, Steiner became a casualty of the war, but found her salvation in the Philippines where she immersed herself in the study of the country's native plants. She worked in the country as a graduate assistant at the University of the Philippines in its original campus at Padre Faura, while studying for a liberal arts degree specializing in tropical botany, languages, and history in 1940.

While in the Philippines, she was a regular columnist of the *Manila Bulletin*, *Manila Times*, and *Women's Weekly*, writing on the various aspects of Philippine plants from 1949 to 1961. She stayed on in the Philippines until 1962, proof enough that she has grown to love her second country, and was totally captivated by the various species of Philippine indigenous flowers and plants. In fact, she made more than 200 watercolors of Philippine flowers.

She is considered as a leading authority on Philippine ornamental plants, particularly orchids, and grows close to 35,000 different bromeliads and other flowers in her



A promotional brochure advertising Steiner's book, *Philippine Ornamental Plants*

own personal nursery. She has lectured on the various phases of plant life in the Philippines and in Europe and has represented the Philippines in different international horticultural congresses in Thailand, Brussels, and Honolulu. In 1958, she conducted lecture tours throughout the Philippines on community beautification, conservation, and general practices of horticulture. She also organized the Society of Plant Taxonomy with the main purpose of working out a Philippine flora project for Filipinos.

Steiner is now back in Vienna, but she still continues her lifelong work of identifying and collecting ornamentals of different countries. Her connection with the Philippines goes beyond her love for its plants; she has grown to love the country as much as she loves her own native Austria. And like her beloved blooms, her contributions to the botanical studies of the country's indigenous plants will remain as lasting memories of her many years of romance with the Philippines. ❖

Emelio Y. Uy



He is known as the Filipino counterpart of the Italian "godfather" to many Filipinos in Guam, but not in the sinister sense as popularized in Mario Puzo novels. Emelio Y. Uy is a second father to many Filipinos who have become the

beneficiaries of his generosity and concern. His many philanthropic activities are known throughout the tiny island of Guam not because he trumpets his achievements to all he comes across, but because of the sounding joy of the Filipino community in Guam for his magnanimity as he shares his blessings with the less fortunate Filipinos in the Philippines.

Born in the Philippines to parents of Chinese descent, he finished his degree in Commerce at the University of Santo Tomas. He went to Guam in 1980 to establish his family's business, successfully building it into a multi-million dollar enterprise that it is today, and serving the school, home, and office needs of Guam's 200,000 residents.

Although he has been living in this small United States territory for the past eight years, Uy still nurtures a strong nationalistic sense. An amiable, warm, and outgoing person, he is a popular and respected member and officer of many organizations in Guam. Among these organizations are the Make-a-Wish Foundation, which grants wishes of terminally-ill children; the Filipino Community of Guam (FCG), an umbrella organization of 45 Filipino organizations in the island; the Fil-Guam Charities Foundation; the Bayanihan Sports Association; and the Metro Manila Association of Guam (MMAG).

An indefatigable fund-raiser, Uy has been consistently assisting various worthy civic causes. As chairman of the FCG, he generated contributions for the purchase of a lot and building for its clubhouse in 1995, and continuously raises funds for its various community projects. He was instrumental in the immediate response of the Filipino community in Guam to aid the victims of the killer typhoon in Ormoc, Leyte and the Mt. Pinatubo eruption. He was

also instrumental in raising more than US\$50,000 in cash and two containers of relief goods for the victims of typhoon Rosing which devastated the country in 1995.

As an officer of MMAG, he spearheaded the campaign for various charities in Guam such as the Victims Reaching Out, American Red Cross, the Rape Crisis Center, the Alee Shelter for unwed mothers, and other projects initiated with First Lady of Guam, Ms. Rosanna Ada. He also chaired the Celebrity Wheelchair Race in Guam for five consecutive years which aimed to bring public awareness on the plight and concerns of people with physical disabilities.

In 1994, he was the director of the Miss Guam Beauty Pageant which raised funds for more than 70 charitable organizations in Guam. He was also involved in the successful basketball tournaments in Guam featuring the Philippines' top basketball players, and set up a similar basketball tournament participated in by Filipino Americans in Guam and neighboring countries to raise funds for educational scholarships for deserving athletes. Among these activities were the holding of Professional Basketball exhibition games, where Filipino basketball superstars from popular teams performed for the Guam audience, and the Guam International Invitational Tournament, where

*H*e is known to many Filipinos in Guam as the benevolent Filipino counterpart of the Italian "godfather".

goodwill games were played among the basketball teams of Guam, the Philippines, and Korea.

As could be expected of any civic-spirited and philanthropic soul, Uy is the recipient of many awards and honors in recognition of his altruism and boundless community consciousness. By his extraordinary performance as an outstanding Filipino business executive, civic leader, philanthropist, and patron of sports, he is fully deserving of the appreciation, admiration, and recognition of his native country. ❖

Prospero C. Zamora

To many Filipinos in Guam, he is known as "Popoy", the man behind the award-winning Filipino public service show on Guam's KGTF TV. He is a certified "showbiz" personality of the weekly program which has been airing for eighteen years in Guam and in Saipan. All his activities have been marked with that grand flair for entertainment, but Popoy Zamora has his heart in the right place. He combines this with more noble purposes other than giving enjoyment to his audience: to promote Filipino culture, to enhance Filipino unity in Guam, and to lend a helping hand to his countrymen in times of need.

He came to Guam in the early fifties and worked in the Andersen Airforce Base. He has served in different capacities in the military base in Guam and in the territory's local government. He served as president of the Filipino Club, a non-profit Filipino camp organization in the Andersen Airforce Base for six years, during which time he helped ensure that the rights of workers in the base were protected.

Through Zamora's television show, aid came pouring in the form of food, clothes and medicine which were donated to the victims of the Mt. Pinatubo eruption, the two killer typhoons that ravaged Mindoro and Leyte, and the earthquake that hit Luzon.

Zamora, however, is more known for his involvement in the formation of the Banda Filipina Society of Guam in 1961, the only all-Filipino marching and concert band in the Pacific region. This concert band is the first of its kind organized to perform in Guam and even in the Philippines during community cultural activities, religious public concerts, and annual *fiesta* celebrations. In the same year, he also formed the Little Bayanihan Dance Troupe, performing native Filipino dances all over the Asia Pacific.

In 1976, he was elected Vice Mayor of Guam's largest municipality, Dededo, and later on assumed the position of mayor of the town. During his term, he introduced many new projects to make community-based services available to the youth and elderly and resolve racial issues that beleaguer the multi-ethnic composition of his

constituents. He was instrumental in transforming Dededo into a peaceful town relatively free from ethnic conflict and in establishing friendly relations among its citizens.

You then ask: how did he do it? By offering novel ways to foster unity. Believing that nothing makes people grow closer together than involving them in enjoyable activities, he organized many beauty and talent contests, sponsored numerous basketball tournaments, led fund-raising drives, and held cultural shows. He did all these while attending to his main responsibilities as duly-elected vice-mayor.

During his stint as a board member of the American Red Cross, he realized the need to organize Guam's local blood supply. Thus, in 1976, he founded the Blood Exchange Center which is a non-profit, ambulant blood bank that was launched to augment the critical shortage of human blood supply, and to address the continuing need for safe blood donors. In three years, the Center was able to get the blood type of 6,000 Guam residents, of whom 2,000 were listed as potential blood donors, and are now included in the Red Cross list for its reference.

It was in the same year when his show, *Buhay Pinoy*, began airing on Guam's channel 12. As the only Filipino television show in Guam, Zamora was in a unique position to take advantage of his weekly media exposure in promoting Philippine culture to his audience.

But more than promoting the best of the Philippines, *Buhay Pinoy* became an important venue for sending out calls for assistance when the Philippines was deluged by natural calamities in the early nineties. Through Zamora's show, aid came pouring in the form of food, clothes, and medicines that were donated to the victims of the Mt. Pinatubo eruption, the two killer typhoons that ravaged Mindoro and Leyte, and the earthquake that hit Luzon.

It takes more than glitz and glamor to make a person's deeds truly commendable. To Popoy Zamora, this is the necessary mark of his trade. Truly, his contribution to the Filipino community in Guam has a deeper relevance than mere entertainment.

He goes beyond showbiz, and makes sure he serves a worthy cause. ❖





Pamana ng Pilipino

The Pamana ng Pilipino Award is conferred on Filipinos overseas who have consistently pursued their work or profession with excellence and distinction.



Awardees

Anacleto R. Alcantra
United States (Hawaii)

Jacob V. Aranda
Canada

Evelyn F. Panganiban-
Bebars
United Arab Emirates

Lilia Calderon-Clemente
United States (New York)

Paciente A. Cordero, Jr.
Sultanate of Oman

Frederic and Dorothy
Cordova
United States (Washington)

Jorge M. Garcia
United States (Maryland)

Ma. Cynthia J. Goh
Canada

Venancio C. Igarta
United States (New York)

Erlinda R. Layosa
Hongkong

Evelyn L. Mandac
United States (New York)

David C. Medalla
United Kingdom

Irene Natividad
United States (New York)

Rey D. Pagtakhan
Canada

Manuel V. Pangilinan
Hongkong

Mel Red Recana
United States (California)

Raul M. Sunico
United States (New York)

Romeo V. Tabuena
Mexico

Velma R. Veloria
United States (Washington)

Anacleto R. Alcantra

His story is one which can be the stuff of a good rags-to-riches movie.

In 1973, Anacleto Alcantra, a civil engineering graduate of the Mapua Institute of Technology, left for Hawaii to seek the proverbial "greener pasture". As an immigrant, he struggled to support his family as a janitor of Acoustics, Installation and Drywall, Inc. One day, while cleaning one of the offices, he found himself scrutinizing the blueprint of a construction project which the company was involved in. He then noticed an error which could have cost the company a significant amount of money had they proceeded with the plan. He informed his bosses about it, and at first they were reluctant to accept the advice of a simple "janitor". In the end, he was proven correct, and this stroke of luck put him on the path of success, fame, and fortune.

But it really was not all luck for Alcantra. He was a brilliant student, having graduated from Mapua Institute of Technology as a consistent scholar and a topnotcher in the licensure exams in Manila. He chose to give up a promising career in the Philippines when martial law was declared, believing that life would be harder for him and his family. So he went to Hawaii, and there he achieved success far beyond his dreams.

After that episode with the blueprint, he quickly rose up the ranks until he became the company's executive vice-president. But when Acoustics, Installation and Drywall, Inc. was sold in 1978, Alcantra was almost broke, had a large mortgage on his house, was unemployed and faced bankruptcy.

But, again, fate moved in.

A friend of his, Charlie Cook, who happened to be the former Executive Secretary of the Contractors Licensing Board in Hawaii, loaned him enough money to start his own business. Group Builders, Inc. was formed, together with Cook and Alcantra's five other co-workers from the defunct Acoustics, Installation and Drywall, Inc. Fifteen years from the time Cook loaned him seed money for the company, they had built Group Builders into one of the most successful construction companies in the Islands.

All over Hawaii, buildings stand proud as evidence of Alcantra's vision and perseverance. The City Bank Tower; the Chinatown Gateway Plaza; the Ritz-Carlton Kapalua Hotel; the Ritz-Carlton Mauna Lani Hotel; the Hilton Waikoloa Village-Palace Tower Hotel; the Westin Maui Hotel; the Honolulu Inter-Island Terminal; the Imperial Plaza; and the Ihilani Resort - all are monuments to a "janitor's" success.

Alcantra's Group Builders further distinguishes itself as having one of the most generous compensation packages for its workers in Hawaii. It offers a profit sharing program of 25% of the employee's annual wages and buys back their unused vacation and sick leave. Incentives such as these went a long way in keeping his staff intact, with hardly any turn-overs, proof

of just how much importance he puts into seeing to it that his employees are satisfied and well-compensated.

His leadership in Group Builders has earned for the company a U.S. Department of Commerce Minority Business Development Agency Award as



Alcantra in front of one of his projects, the Ihilani Resort and Spa in Honolulu

the Regional Minority Contractor Award in 1994.

With all his success as a Filipino immigrant in the United States, he is well-liked by all those who come in contact with him. He has remained humble and unassuming. Perhaps this is because Alcantra knows how to

look back and cherish his own beginnings and the hardships that he went through to reach his present position. He gives back to the community what he has gained from its continued patronage of his company's services.

He is an active participant in many Filipino American cultural activities. His company has generously donated material resources for the construction of the Bayanihan Health Services which provides free medical treatment to new immigrant families who do not have medical insurance. He is a consistent donor to the annual Aloha Medical Mission. During his term as president of the Filipino Chamber of Commerce in Hawaii, he initiated the establishment of the Filipino Community Center which now serves as the venue for many Filipino socio-cultural activities. He is a strong advocate of giving assistance and recognition to the contributions of Filipino veterans who fought with American soldiers during World War II. He plans to bring new construction technologies to the Philippines to upgrade the status of the local construction industry.

He is an awardee of many citations from the United States local and national legislature for his many contributions to the business community.

A native Filipino who did good, a local boy who became a success - that is Lito Alcantra. ❖

Jacob V. Aranda

Revue canadienne de médecine

NÉONATALE et PÉRINATALE



Néonatalogie: compétences, attentes, ténacité, exaltation, évolution

Par Jack V. Aranda, m.d., Ph.D., FRCPC

Dr Aranda est directeur, Centre de recherche en pharmacologie du développement et de périnatologie, Institut Lady Davis, Hôpital général juif - Sir Mortimer B. Davis, et professeur de pédiatrie, de pharmacologie et de thérapeutique, Faculté de médecine, Université McGill, Montréal, Québec.

Il n'y a pas longtemps, j'ai trouvé dans une librairie de livres anciens un ouvrage de référence intitulé *Traité pratique des maladies des nouveau-nés, des enfants à la mamelle et de la seconde enfance*, écrit par E. Bouchut et publié il y a plus d'un siècle (Paris, 1873). Ce livre fait de la néonatalogie une «centenaire» — un contraste important avec l'opinion répandue qu'il s'agit d'une sous-spécialité récente.

C'est un volume de 1 092 pages sur les maladies et le traitement des nouveau-nés et des enfants. Certaines des méthodes proposées pourraient nous sembler cocasses, mais l'humilité doit nous faire penser que les pratiques actuelles en médecine néonatale seront aussi jugées «amusantes» par les néonatalogistes de demain.

De ce point de vue, on ne peut qu'être ébahi par la somme et l'ampleur des progrès remarquables des connaissances et des compétences dans le domaine des soins aux nouveau-nés. Non seulement avons-nous diminué la mortalité néonatale jusqu'à la mar-

laire pourrait constituer une autre étape marquante des progrès réalisés dans le domaine de la néonatalogie.

À mesure que nous approfondissons nos connaissances sur les mécanismes au niveau cellulaire et moléculaire dans nos recherches pour combattre la maladie ainsi que pour changer et corriger les anomalies physiologiques et biochimiques, nous constatons l'importance de partager ces progrès thérapeutiques pour en optimiser l'application dans les soins néonataux. Le présent bulletin est né tant de ce besoin de partager l'information que des défis importants liés à la pratique de la néonatalogie.

Forte d'une subvention offerte par Burroughs Wellcome, la Section de la médecine néonatale et périnatale de la Société canadienne de pédiatrie (SCP) a jugé nécessaire de créer une tribune pour que nous puissions mettre en commun nos compétences, discuter des grandes questions qui nous préoccupent et trouver des solutions applicables, faire découvrir nos

Aranda is mostly credited with pioneering researches on novel drug treatments for newborn babies. His groundbreaking works have led to the acceptance of caffeine (from coffee) and theophylline (from tea) as a proven safe and effective standard treatment for breathing problems in premature infants. These breakthroughs have resulted in a higher survival rate of premature and sick newborn babies.

His current studies of ibuprofen as a possible treatment for brain hemorrhage in premature babies, and his other works on pain control for newborns and the pathology of sudden death infant syndrome have yielded promising results. He is also working with other national and international medical associations such as the World Health Organization to promote the health and well-being of newborn babies.

Aranda is the author of more than 300 research books on neonatal drug therapy, pharmacology, general neonatology, and pediatrics. Two medical books which he co-authored - *Textbook of Pediatric Pharmacology* and *Neonatal Clinical Pharmacology* - are standard reading literature for medical students. He is also the founding editor-in-chief of the *International Journal of Perinatal/Pediatric Drug Therapy*, the official organ of the European Society for Developmental Pharmacology, the Japanese Society of Developmental and Therapeutic Pharmacology, and the International Union of Pharmacology. He is also the present editor-in-chief of the *Canadian Perinatal-Neonatal Review* of the Canadian Pediatric Society, and has been in the editorial board of numerous other medical journals and publications. He has lectured and conducted presentations in more than 200 academic symposia, national and international medical conferences.

For his pediatric research and other meritorious investigations on drug therapy for infants and newborns, Aranda was awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Research Scientist for Diseases of Children; Research Scholar and Career Scientist of the Fonds de Recherche en Santé Québec; Prix Excellence Award; and the Mead Johnson Pediatric Award for Excellence in Research, among others.

We are indeed proud of this distinguished Filipino who has made his mark in the field of child medicine. His contributions to make infant's lives better has a universal impact. ❖

The future of the next generation lies in our children, and Dr. Jacob V. Aranda is there to make sure that today's infants will grow up to be strong and healthy individuals.

A graduate of the Manila Central University, Aranda is a distinguished Filipino doctor who has dedicated his life to working and caring for tomorrow's people. He is one of the world's noted medical specialists in the field of pediatrics, pharmacology, and therapeutics.

Concurrently, he is professor of pediatrics and therapeutics at the McGill University, assistant director of the Department of Newborn Medicine at the Montreal Children's Hospital in Canada, and attending neonatologist at the Jewish General Hospital, the Royal Victoria Hospital, and the St. Mary's Hospital, all in Montreal.

Lilia Calderon-Clemente

Forbes Magazine dubbed her as "the very hottest of global managers". Fortune magazine named her "one of the world's fifteen top money managers for high net worth investors". Asiaweek magazine singled her out as the "Wonder Woman of Wall Street". Financial World tagged her as the "Philippine Tigress". Scores of other international publications such as the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Businessweek, Euromoney, Los Angeles Times, USA Today, ad infinitum are all praises about this diminutive woman from the Philippines who came, saw, and conquered the financial world.

Lilia Calderon-Clemente is one of the first business persons who had a vision of the emerging global trend of money markets and investments, and she literally cashed her chips and bet her considerable expertise on this trend, the fruits of which she is now reaping. Even before establishing the tremendously successful Clemente Capital Inc. (CCI) in 1977, she already had a hefty portfolio of enviable achievements in what was once considered an exclusively male-dominated field of world finance and big business.

A graduate of the University of the Philippines College of Business Administration and born of an influential and well-to-do family, Clemente ventured out on her own to the United States and lived on slave wages stacking books at the University of Chicago while finishing her masteral degree in economics. On her first job at Chicago's CNA Corporation in 1967, she rose to a managerial position in less than two years. At age 28, in 1969, she was the first woman and youngest insurance director ever in the history of Ford Foundation. After seven years of managing this organization's investment research operations and increasing its portfolio to a bulging US\$3 billion, she decided to venture on her own.

When Clemente started Clemente Capital, she was already considered as the foremost authority on high growth economies in the Pacific Basin, predicting the enormous profits to be gained from emerging foreign markets in the East, particularly Japan and the new Asian tiger economies as early as the 1980s. Her sharp business acumen has earned for her praises and immense respect of her fellow investment managers.

With a US\$5 million start-up fund, she made Clemente Capital's assets soar into a whopping US\$1.7 billion in just ten years. Her first major achievement was in 1983, when she was contracted to provide global investment management services to Mitchell Hutchins, a subsidiary



of Paine-Webber. She beefed up the Paine Webber Atlas Fund of US\$66 million to US\$206 million in a record time of two years, making the fund the no. 1 in the field of global investment in 1985. This achievement sealed her reputation as a global investor *par excellence*.

Under her stewardship, CCI performs active global and international investment management services for individual and institutional clients, including public and private tax-exempt funds invested in equities or fixed incomes. Currently, she is managing the more than US\$7 billion fund of the Georgia-based American Family Life Assurance.

Aside from being chairperson and chief executive officer of Clemente Capital, she also serves as the chairperson of Clemente Global Growth Fund, Inc. (CGGFI), a diversified, closed-end management company, and the first Filipino American stock to be listed in the New York Stock Exchange in the year 1987.

She was also instrumental in the establishment of the first Philippine Fund in 1989, in the effort to marshal development funds for the Philippines in its path of economic recovery. The US\$110 million fund is one of only three listed Filipino stocks traded in the New York Stock Exchange, the other one being CGGFI, which she also heads.

Clemente has also been deeply involved in the Philippine American Foundation since 1987 as founder and present vice-chairperson. PAF has been active in raising funds for victims of disasters and in supporting livelihood projects in the Philippines.

She is the recipient of numerous awards for her extraordinary achievements in the field of business and international finance, and she rightfully deserves all of them. ❖



Paciente A. Cordero, Jr.

This achievement paved the way for Cordero to be one of the recipients of the Ten Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) of the Philippines award in 1979.

Aside from his work at the National Museum, Cordero is well-known in the academic community as a lecturer in botany at the Far Eastern University, the University of Santo Tomas, the University of the Philippines, the Philippine Women's University, and the de la Salle University. He has participated and lectured in over 17 international conferences on marine life and 39 conferences in the Philippines over a span of more than 20 years.

Among his scholarly works are seven researches on Philippine seaweeds and marine algae as project leader and two research projects on aquatic resources as a technical consultant, all of which were funded by the Philippine Government, in coordination with the Japanese Government. From 1967 to 1993, he published 5 semi-technical papers and 62 technical papers on marine plant life.

In 1986, he worked for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Philippine Commission as the vice-chairman of its National Committee on Marine Resources. In 1988, Cordero was invited to the Sultanate of Oman to work at the Biology Department of the Sultan Qaboos University as Chief Technician. From 1989 to the present, he has been its Acting Superintendent. At the University, he continues his research and studies, this time, of marine vegetation of Muscat, Oman.

Outside of his academic duties, Cordero was instrumental in the establishment of the Philippine Community School in Oman, serving as its chairman for two terms. For his indispensable assistance to the community school and for being a respected marine biologist in Oman, he was given the Bagong Bayan Award in 1991. He also serves as the present chairman of the Philippine Government's Science and Technology Advisory Council (STAC) in Oman.

The study of marine biology and the utilization of other marine resources have been the lifelong work of Dr. Paciente Cordero, Jr. His works contribute to universal knowledge and benefit mankind as a whole. ❖

Aquatic resource maximization is of paramount importance, particularly among countries with a rich marine resource base. A developing country must maximize benefits from its natural resources to the fullest and tap its many potentials, hence, a flourishing marine research program would not only benefit the scientific community, but also those whose livelihood depend upon the sea. It is in the field of aquatic research, particularly in plant life, that Dr. Paciente Cordero, Jr. has become well-known in the international scientific and academic community.

Born in the island of Leyte, Cordero finished his botany course at the Far Eastern University in 1963, finished his masteral degree in biology (majoring in phycology, the study of marine vegetation) at the Kagoshima University in 1972, and completed his doctorate and post-doctorate work at the Kyoto University. From 1963, he worked for the National Museum as a botanical specimen collector, researcher, technician, until he became division chief in 1983, and concurrently officer-in-charge of the National Science and Technology Authority in Eastern Visayas. He supervised the first National Museum Biological Research Station in Aklan, and served as the Coordinator of its Biological Services Projects in 1985.

His academic research on the different species of seaweed, marine algae, sea grasses, and vegetable algae has resulted in the expansion of the number of seaweed species now known to have commercial and industrial potential. He published several articles from his research on the types of seaweeds that can be used for food, medicine, and fertilizers which could benefit both the common fishermen and bacteriological laboratories.



The Cordovas: Chroniclers of Filipino American history

Frederic and Dorothy Cordova

Dorothy also studied at Seattle University, where she finished her degree in sociology. She obtained her degree in community development from the Western Washington University. After graduation, she worked as a Hearing Officer of the Seattle Public Schools. Like her husband, she, too, was a lecturer in Asian American Studies at the University of Washington and in Filipino American Studies at the Seattle Central Community College.

Sharing her husband's passion for Filipino American history, she has also written and published papers which include *Voices From the Past...Why They Came*; *Filipinos: America's Largest Asian Group*; *Filipino Elderly in America*; *Filipino Americans in the Northwest*; and *Filipino Women in America: 1870-1995*. She has also developed a radio series on the history, culture, and contributions of Asia Pacific women in Washington.

This husband and wife team has been at the forefront of making known not only facts about migration of Filipinos to the United States, but also those of the earliest documented Filipino presence in the U.S. mainland on October 18, 1587, when the Philippine-made Spanish galleon, the *Nuestra Señora de Esperanza*, sent ashore a landing party with Filipinos as scouts at Morro Bay in San Obispo County, California.

As a team, they have also been active in the formation of different organizations that likewise propagate Filipino American history. Among them is the Filipino Youth Activities in Seattle, which is the only Filipino American organization that provides continuing multi-programmed services to Filipino youth by giving them an opportunity to learn more about their native country through language lessons, historical lectures, documentary film showings and other cultural activities. Another is the FANHS, which now has 20 chapters across North America. The historical information on Filipino American history and culture gathered by this organization has been used throughout the years by schools, universities, educators, scholars, and students in the U.S.

The Cordovas have given so much to the study and chronicling of Filipino American history. The Filipino people shall be forever grateful for their invaluable contributions to the study of Filipino history and culture in America. ❖

Frederic and Dorothy Cordova are second generation Filipinos in the United States with an intense love for the Philippines. As far back as they remember, they have continuously nurtured their interest in their ancestral country, its rich history and vibrant culture. They have worked all their lives in encouraging other Filipino Americans to trace their roots and appreciate their personal history as Filipinos in a foreign land. They are active in tracing the beginnings of Filipinos in the United States, the history of their socio-cultural development, and the challenges that they face as an Asian minority. They have also been documenting the migration of Filipinos to America, along with their founding of the Filipino American National Historical Society (FANHS), the oldest, most well-known and recognized organization engaged in the documentation of Filipino American history.

Fred is a social science graduate from Seattle University. He joined the *Seattle Post Intelligencer* and the *Catholic Northwest Progress* as a staffwriter-reporter in 1951. He has since worked exclusively within the halls of the academe, continuously seeking to update and improve the documentation of the history of Asian Americans, particularly of Filipino Americans to the United States. He was a lecturer for fourteen years on Filipino American history and culture in the Department of Ethnic Studies at the University of Washington. In 1983, he published a meticulously written and authoritatively researched book, *Filipinos: Forgotten Asian Americans*, which documents the waves of early Filipino migration to the U.S. In 1984, he became the president of the National Pinoy Archive and the FANHS.

Jorge M. Garcia

Of all the praises heaped upon this world-renowned surgeon, "the doctor with a heart of gold" is the closest to describe just how much Dr. Jorge M. Garcia values his work of saving the lives of his cardiac patients.

In 1994, when Garcia successfully performed the first ever human heart transplant surgery in the Philippines, Filipinos became aware for the first time that this famous surgeon in the United States had in fact chosen to retain his Philippine citizenship.

His rise to the top of the medical profession is meteoric, to say the least. A graduate of the University of Santo Tomas College of Medicine and a board examination topnotcher in 1964, he went to the United States to pursue higher studies in surgery. At the famous Washington Hospital Center where he trained as its head surgeon, Garcia's team was responsible for 90 per cent of all the successful coronary bypass operations of the hospital.

Barely one year after he joined the Center, he became its resident general surgeon, then, its chief resident. At present, he is the Cardiac Division Chief and Senior Attending Surgeon of the Center. These achievements are enough to command respect and admiration among his peers.

But it seems that the fame Garcia already gained in Washington was not enough. As luck would have it, on the day that a network television crew was supposed to film a relatively simple operation, the patient suffered a heart attack, necessitating an emergency cardiac surgery. Garcia performed the surgery amid the bright television spotlights and overnight, he became a sensation after the film coverage was aired on the U.S. six o'clock news.

He has since attracted patients from all over the world, including the Philippines. The instant popularity that the coverage brought him enabled Garcia to cross paths with a surgeon from the Makati Medical Center, who became one of his patients. It was then that the invitation was extended him to visit the Philippines and



Garcia: World-class Filipino surgeon

perform surgery in the country, in coordination with the Makati Medical Center's resident doctors. Because he had long been planning to bring his talents home to serve his country, Garcia did not hesitate in accepting the invitation.

This initial and chance encounter led to the establishment of the Makati Heart Foundation. The Foundation is a non-profit organization supported primarily by income from the practice of the Makati Medical Center's cardiovascular surgery group and voluntary contributions from the Philippines and the United States. Fifteen per cent of the MHF's patients are indigent patients, and this is a particular source of personal satisfaction for Garcia, who believes that the practice of medicine must always have a social conscience.

He has established similar Heart Foundations in Xian, China, and Cairo, Egypt which are designed and fully equipped to provide the kind of services and facilities offered in the U.S. He also maintains a cardiac surgical team that regularly conducts medical missions to these countries. Four times a year, Garcia visits the Philippines and performs free heart surgeries. He also does annual working visits in Beijing and Cairo.

Garcia is a man who has reaped almost all the important awards that the American medical community could give to someone of his talent and accomplishments. Yet through it all, he remains simple and unassuming. Dr. Jorge Garcia is a rare Filipino the country can be truly proud of, a world-class surgeon with a humble spirit to match an equally golden heart. ❖



Ma. Cynthia J. Goh

Dr. Ma. Cynthia Goh is one of the youngest recipients of this year's Presidential Awards. At 34, she has achieved what would normally take other people an entire lifetime to accomplish.

Our awardee is a brilliant chemist, a product of the best schools in the country: the Philippine Science High School, where she enrolled as an eleven-year old freshman, and the University of the Philippines, where she finished her degree in chemistry as a government scholar when she was barely eighteen. Without missing a beat, she went to the United States to pursue graduate studies at Cornell University and the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA), where she received her doctorate degree. After her post-doctoral research associateships at UCLA, Columbia University, and University of California at Berkeley, she joined the University of Toronto as Assistant Professor in Chemistry in 1990. Last year, when she turned 33, Goh became the Associate Chair of the University's Graduate Studies.

As a researcher, her interests are multi-disciplinary in nature, embracing chemistry, physics, and biology. Her current research centers on questions of structure-property relationships, with emphasis on understanding the fundamental principles that govern the formation of complex structures. This research has led her along different directions, including the development of new techniques such as the improvement of scanning probe microscopy as a tool for studying polymers (a type of plastic) and biological systems.

The studies of Goh on probe microscopy have revolutionary impact on the study of Alzheimer's Disease, a brain disease that afflicts thousands of people worldwide. It is in this field of study that she became well-known in the scientific community not only in Canada but in the whole world. This significant breakthrough has made her an

overnight celebrity, and was even featured in Canada's *The Sun* as "one of the best and brightest under the age of 40".

Her other researches are also of great importance in certain industries such as semiconductors. This technology is used in the development of calibration standards and schemes for the improvement of atomic force microscopy or AFM. AFM, which allows a new and better view of microscopic structures is important in the study of surfaces. It assists quality controllers in examinations of fabrications that this industry produces. In the area of environmental protection, she has begun a series of very sophisticated experiments aimed at determining the location and nature of air pollutants dissolved in water.

Her body of scholarly work includes the publication of more than 40 articles, book chapters, abstracts and manuscripts. She has visited many universities in Canada, United States, Germany, and Poland, and delivered lectures on her current research work and fields of interest in the sciences.

If there is an impression that Goh lives in her own world, she dispels this by inviting students to share the wonders of science with her. Against the preconceived notion that chemistry and the other physical and natural sciences are boring and frightening academic subjects, Goh consciously breaks the stereotype. She had involved young student chemists in her research for the past six years, making advanced research studies in the field accessible to them at an earlier period in their budding careers. Outside the university, when she has appeared in Discovery Channel to talk about the mysteries of chemistry and physics, she showed the public that science can be fun.

In 1991, she won an Outstanding Teacher Award from the Senior Alumni of the University of Toronto for her instruction of general chemistry. Her teaching style reaped for her excellent reviews from her chemistry students, making the subject not only interesting but enjoyable to learn.

Goh is also active in various aspects of university life, including administrative ones. She has been very active in encouraging women in science, in serving on the Dean's Committee for Women in Science, and in involving herself in the production of a video entitled *Discovering Science* which is distributed to public schools to encourage girls to study science. She is also an active member of the Science and Technology Advisory Council (STAC) - Toronto Chapter.

From Puerto Princesa, Palawan to the halls of the University of Toronto, Dr. Cynthia Goh travelled thousands of miles across the oceans to make her mark in the academic world. She is a model for the youth who dare to dream young, start young, and succeed young. ❖

Venancio C. Igarta

Although Venancio C. Igarta is considered an American artist today, he maintains links with the land of his birth, cherishing the memories and experiences of his youth in the Philippines. These memories have lingered on to influence the thinking and painting of Igarta up to this day.

Born in Sinait, a town of Ilocos Sur in Northern Philippines, to poor peasant parents, Igarta was forced by circumstances to consider prospects outside his country. In 1930, he went to the United States, where he sought his destiny. He was only eighteen years old then.

Igarta arrived in California and, like all other Filipino workers, he had no recourse but to "follow the crop" as it was described then, in the way they moved from plantation to plantation - picking lettuce heads, oranges, okra, tomatoes, grapes - backbreaking, mind-numbing work. When the Great Depression hit the plantations, Igarta left California for New York. Undaunted by bread lines in a city as grand as Manhattan, Igarta rolled up his sleeves and worked as a janitor and dishwasher, and did other menial jobs, the only ones open for "his kind".

Art opened doors for him at an unlikely place - a nursing home catering to affluent whites with psychiatric problems. One day, Igarta saw his supervisor decorating food trays by painting flowers, leaves, and trees on their corners. When she left on an errand, Igarta picked up the paintbrush and finished what his superior had left half-done. The flowers that he painted on those trays that day - "The Act" as the painter himself describes it - changed his life forever. His supervisor, awed by the sheer talent displayed on such an unlikely canvas, encouraged him to study art.

Without patronage and guidance, Igarta embraced the life of a painter. His initial efforts at drawing enabled him to move on to the National Academy of Design then to the Art Student's League of New York City. In his first year, he received official recognition of his potential when his watercolor was accepted in a jury competition of the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts.

In May 1942, *Fortune Magazine* featured him, along with contemporary American masters, Maurice Sterne and Rockwell Kent. Shortly thereafter, Igarta's painting, *Northern Philippines*, was exhibited at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Up to this time, he is the only Filipino ever to have exhibited his work at the prestigious Metropolitan Museum of Art.

But sadly, the critical acclaims and patronage of his exhibits did not amount to any financial remuneration which Igarta hoped he would get through the sale of his paintings. Although sweet to the ears and heavenly on the ego, it did not feed the stomach and pay the bills. Setback followed setback until one day, the landlord gave him an eviction notice, and his British wife shortly thereafter divorced him, demanding alimony payments. This ushered in the dark period of Igarta's life. He totally lost all desire to paint, and became so depressed that poverty could make him turn away from creating art.

In one of his dark moods, he burned his precious paintings, a form of self-annihilation as he was, according to him, "too

cowardly to kill himself". He totally shunned his artistic life and became a recluse, working fulltime as a color specialist, over a hiatus of almost two decades.

But it was during his days at Color Aid that he got a deeper understanding of color, and he found himself spending time experimenting, formulating and

painting again. He did not realize that even in this obscure occupation, he was creating ripples in the art world with a Color Pak advertisement he developed for Color Aid.

It was in the early eighties that Igarta's artistic juices began flowing again. It was as though he needed the sabbatical leave, for the suffering of those years had a profound effect on his work. Igarta found a powerful means in abstraction to transcend his mundane existence and achieve the sublime. By concentrating on geometrical forms, he was able to investigate the deeper nuances of color mutation.

What followed is a renewed passion to create the art which he shunned for such a long time. We can weep for the masterpieces he burnt a lifetime ago, but art lovers the world over are grateful for the second chance at seeing a genuine master at work once more. He is a prolific painter even at his age; perhaps making up for the time he lost, and giving a chance for everyone to savor his genius.

In the last ten years, his work has evolved from experiments in color interaction into more complex statements about color objects and design. His more recent works now speak of a new element creeping into his art: a sense of time, of capturing a moment too precious to be lost in the approaching twilight of his years.

To own an Igarta is to have good taste in art. Stating it further, feting Venancio Igarta with this Presidential Award is to render an honor long delayed for the finest colorist ever produced by the Philippines. At 84 years old, willpower is the only thing that keeps this grand old man to continue painting. Let us as one nation pay tribute to him as one of the best painters this country has ever produced. ❖





Evelyn L. Mandac



Filipinos have long been known to be lovers of music and great musical performers, and some of them have reaped international acclaim for their exceptional talents and abilities.

Evelyn Mandac is an internationally acclaimed lyric soprano who has established a name and an enviable reputation for herself in the world of music. Based in New York City, Mandac holds the distinction of having been the first Filipino to sing with opera star Placido Domingo, and the first Filipino to star at the Metropolitan Opera in New York City.

Born in Malaybalay, Bukidnon, she is one of six children of an army general and a home economics teacher. Mandac has been vocal of her deep gratitude to her fourth grade teacher, the late Lourdes Razon, who patiently tutored and coached her in singing and stage performance.

Endowed with an extraordinarily beautiful voice, she began her journey to fame as the gingerbread girl in the production of *Hansel and Gretel* of the University of the Philippines Integrated High School during her freshman year.

Her first big break, however, came when she won first place in the Jeunesses Musical Competition in Manila in 1963, where Ed Mattos, then the United States cultural attache to Manila, convinced then U.S. Ambassador and a former

president of Ohio's Oberlin College, Robert Stevenson, to give her a music scholarship. A product of the University of the Philippines Conservatory of Music, she became a Fulbright scholar at the Oberlin College School of Music. She continued to study and finish her masteral degree at the Juilliard School of Music under a Rockefeller Foundation scholarship.

Mandac made her triumphant international debut at the Metropolitan Opera in the 1975-1976 season of *Gianni Schicchi* as Lauretta. She dazzled audiences not only in the United States but also in Europe where she performed Mozart's *Marriage of Figaro*. This led to several other performances around Europe with various companies which held performances during the Promenade Concerts at the Royal Albert Hall in London, during the prestigious Glyndebourne Opera Festival in England, and during the Salzburg Opera Festival.

Other starring roles quickly followed, the most memorable of which, according to her, is *L'Africaine*, where she starred in with Placido Domingo and Shirley Verret. She returned to her native homeland, where her journey to international stardom in the world of opera began, in 1994 to perform with the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra.

Evelyn Mandac, an accomplished Filipina, has truly carved her niche among the world's finest artists. ❖



The renowned performance artist David Medalla (right) with his equally accomplished friend, painter V.C. Igarta

David C. Medalla

Most famous of his pieces were the *Autocrative Sculptures* of the 1960s which is described as "art in motion". The famous Bubble Machines that are part of these sculptures are, according to art critics, the true precursor of kinetic or moving art that became the trend in the sixties when he launched it in Europe. His works were exhibited in prestigious art houses in Switzerland, London, Italy, The Netherlands, and the United States. His works continue to attract audiences wherever they are shown.

David Medalla is an internationally known innovator of avant-garde art. Over the last forty years, as fellow artist Guy Brett described in his book on Medalla, "his work has embraced a multitude of enquiries and enthusiasms, forms and formats to express a singular yet deeply coherent vision of the world". Proud of his effort to remain independent of the commercial and bureaucratic pressures of the art world, he has been an international creative force: creating his art, travelling all over the world to share and exhibit his works, encouraging artists, creating groups and exhibition spaces, and evolving his own art which strives towards the emergence of a new kind of polymorphic culture.

Medalla is not a trained artist in the technical sense. His genius in the art of painting, however, demonstrated itself at an early age. He began to paint at age twelve when he was in New York. In 1957, he attended art lectures by Fernando Zobel de Ayala and held his first solo exhibition of his paintings, sculptures, and sketches at age fifteen. He was selected as the youngest painter ever in a United Nations' survey of Filipino artists.

Very much a central figure in the artistic world from the sixties onwards, Medalla was at the forefront of new movements, such as participation and performance art which had their heyday in the seventies and eighties. During these two decades, he was all over Europe, introducing, showing, testing, and refining some of his pioneering works of participation art, as well as his other performance pieces.

His increasing stature in the 1970s brought him invitations to teach in various art institutions such as the Slade School of Art in London, the University of Southampton, the Royal College of Art, the Sorbonne, and the University of Amsterdam. In the 1980s, he was involved in organizing international art festivals in London, where he is based, and has helped launch several art societies/organizations and art venues such as the Center for Advanced Creative Study (later becoming Signals London), Exploding Galaxy, The Buddha Ballet, the Arts Council of the Philippines, and the Artists for Democracy.

In the decade of the nineties, Medalla's influence is still being felt, and he is still performing his art and lecturing to art students about his particular styles. An avid admirer of the works of Mondrian, he continues to dazzle his audience with renditions of his works in honor of this artist, in exhibits he entitled *The Secret History of the Mondrian Fan Club, Part I & II*. He opened this exhibit in participation with different dancers, film-makers, architects, writers and other artists, giving them space to interact with his works in the true spirit of performance and interactive art.

It is true that while his kind of art is sometimes difficult to find appreciation among ordinary people, what is plain and clear for anyone to see is that David Medalla is a legend in his own right. His works are saluted as innovative, daring and pioneering in artists' circles worldwide. ❖

Irene Natividad

When Irene Natividad joined a political rally as a college student in 1968, it never occurred to her that such an activity would lead her to a lifelong commitment to political activism and the espousal of basic civil and fundamental rights.

Natividad has been an achiever since her youth. Born in the Philippines, her family was constantly on the move due to her father's job as a mechanical engineer, living intermittently in Japan, Iran, Greece, India, and Canada before settling down in the continental United States. This upbringing has taught her to be adept at dealing with different kinds of people, a skill she displays in the positions of influence that she holds now.

She is a recognized power broker in American politics, heading the single largest women's organization in the country. When she assumed the leadership of the National Women's Political Caucus (NWPC), she became the first ever Asian American to be elected and re-elected in 1987 for an unprecedented second term as chairperson of an organization dedicated to training, electing, and appointing more women to public office.

As chairperson of NWPC, a nationwide organization (with 77,000 individuals and 44 state organizations as members) supporting the welfare of women and the fight for women's empowerment and advancement, she pushed for women's appointments in a greater number of positions in the federal and state legislature. She engineered the development of significant programs and groundbreaking studies such as post-election surveys that analyze the trends of women's involvement in politics and the training of women candidates for the state legislature and other public positions. She also developed a "Minority Candidate Program" specially designed for women from minority groups, who plan to run for public office, to prepare them for their chosen career. Through NWPC, she provided Asian-Pacific women from different professions the venue to develop a network to further strengthen unity among themselves.

While serving as NWPC chairperson, she also heads the National Committee on Working Women and works as the director of the Global Forum on Women. She is likewise co-founder of the Asian American Professional Women and the National Network of Pacific American Women. In this capacity, she helps identify priority issues that affect Asian Pacific women in the United States. She also assisted in creating a network of 23 Asian Pacific women's organizations that encourage the exchange of ideas and strategies from a broad spectrum of women from ethnic minorities.

As the executive director of the Philippine American Foundation, an organization dedicated to assist her native country, she was at the forefront of the Foundation's effort to establish long-term links with government and non-government organizations that will address immediate and strategic needs of the Filipino people. PAF, under her directorship, has also contributed tremendously in many livelihood and housing projects for the victims of the Mt. Pinatubo eruption.

As a member of an ethnic minority in the United States, she has been a consistent advocate of greater integration of the minority groups, particularly Asian Americans in the nation's politics. She has initiated the development of the first Minority Women Candidates' Training Program and other similar endeavors, which aim to provide women belonging to minority groups, the necessary skills to be an effective public servant. This project hits two birds with one stone: empowering women and empowering the minority by giving them a voice in the running of government.

She juggles the immense tasks of the organizations that she heads. She gives more than what is expected of her as a testimony of her great skill being an organizer and a person who is very precise with the details of her work. She is also known as a fighter for her causes and as being vocal of her concerns everywhere she goes. This has gone a long way in her advocacy of women's rights, particularly women empowerment.

She is a great believer of the role of women in politics, both as individual power brokers and as a significant power bloc that could shape the face of politics in the United States and elsewhere. Not only is she an active player in the American women's movement, she is also known to be a consistent participant and mover in the many international conferences for women in recent years.

Through it all, Irene Natividad is a wife and mother. One can say that she has it all: a complete woman and resoundingly successful career. ❖





Normally, politics and medicine do not mix. However, Rey Pagtakhan, M.D., found the way to mix these two, with him coming out on top, a winner in more ways than one.

He obtained his Doctor of Medicine degree from the University of the Philippines in 1961, and in 1963, he went to Missouri, in the United States for further training in the field of pediatrics and lung diseases. Upon the invitation of a fellow doctor, who heads the pediatric respirology of the University of Manitoba, he went to Canada where he finished his masteral degree in Perinatal Physiology.

It was not part of Rey Pagtakhan's plan to stay and live abroad. In fact, he had plans to return home after his studies to establish his practice here. But the times were not conducive for him to simultaneously practice medicine and continue his research work, because in 1972, the Philippines was already under martial law. Forced by this circumstance, he decided to stay on in Canada with his family.

While in Canada, he practiced medicine and became a member of the medical faculty of the University of Manitoba, the Washington University, and the University of Arizona in the United States. He immersed himself in various socio-cultural, civic and educational activities of the Filipino community in Manitoba, and it was with his involvement in these activities that Pagtakhan discovered that something totally different lay ahead for him.

Even as a doctor, Pagtakhan had an innate talent for oratory and writing. The former, he does exceptionally well at the podiums of lecture halls during medical classes. The latter, he practices in the many papers and research works that he has contributed in medical journals. But he never quite expected that these skills would find another avenue of expression in the halls of the Canadian legislature.

His leadership skills and commitment to the different activities of the Ethnocultural Cultural Council, an amalgamation of 38 minority groups in Canada and which he chaired in 1985; the Canadian International Development Agency Program Planning Mission to the Philippines, where he served as member in 1987; the

Rey D. Pagtakhan

Manitoba Educational Liaison Program Evaluation Committee from 1987-1988; and the Winnipeg School Board for two years (1986-1987) caught the attention of Canadian politicians in 1988. He was then offered a rare chance to become the first Filipino to run and possibly be elected into office.

He did not simply win, but he won big. Like the classic David and Goliath battle, Pagtakhan unseated the incumbent federal representative of twenty-six years. In 1988, when he was re-elected with an overwhelming margin of almost 9,000 votes over his nearest opponent, he proved that his victory was not an accident but a solid vote of trust from his constituents.

As a member of Canada's House of Commons, Pagtakhan distinguishes himself as a leader who will fight for issues closest to his heart and to his constituents. He has served in the various legislative committees in the House of Commons for Industry, Science and Technology, Regional and Northern Development, Human Rights and the Status of Disabled Persons, Immigration and Employment, Aboriginal Affairs, Communication, Culture, Citizenship and Multiculturalism, Health and Welfare, Social Affairs, and Seniors and the Status of Women. At present, he is the Secretary to the Prime Minister. Throughout his first five years in Parliament, he has consistently adhered to his deep social commitment as he speaks of freedom, democracy, and human rights in the legislature. He continues to do so until the present.

A known journalist has written this of our distinguished Presidential Awardee:

"Dr. Rey Pagtakhan is the sole Doctor in the Canadian Parliament. His history is that of every successful Canadian immigrant: a combination of hard work and community values, leavened with humour and enthusiasm for his adopted country."

He is truly an outstanding role model for the 200,000 Filipinos in Canada and millions of other Filipinos overseas. ❖

Manuel V. Pangilinan

First Pacific Company is a world-class corporation with its headquarters in Hongkong and operating in 25 countries in Asia, Europe, and North America. It has a staff of 30,000 distributed among its twelve major subsidiaries. In its fifteen years of existence, First Pacific has had one financial success story after another, scoring highly in ventures such as soap flakes in Amsterdam, caviar in Canada, and potato chips processing in China. It has a stake in the Dutch giant Hagemeyer NV which operates in 40 countries and does everything: from the distribution of electro-mechanical materials in Europe to manufacturing fishing gear and selling a leading brand in the specialty and ethnic food market.

In India, it owns 49% of the rights to build and operate cellular phone networks in three major states. In Australia, the company has its subsidiary Tech Pacific Holdings Ltd.; in the United States, the United Savings Bank. In the Philippines, First Pacific is a major player in real estate, construction, and cellular communications thru Smart Communications. Another company, Metro Pacific, leads a multi-billion dollar consortium set to turn the sprawling 214-hectare Fort Bonifacio into Metro Manila's premier district.

Manuel V. Pangilinan, who is 48 years old, is the founder and managing director of this billion-dollar corporation.

His rise to the top in business is not surprising. Coming from a family involved in finance and banking (his late father was the vice-chairman of Traders Royal Bank), it was but natural for the son to also be in the world of business.

His academic background is impeccable. He is a product of the Ateneo de Manila University with a bachelor's degree, *cum laude* in economics. He finished his graduate studies in business administration at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Finance and Commerce; after which, he set out on the rough and tumble world of the big money players.

His involvement and expertise in financial and industrial management for the past 23 years include stints in senior executive positions and directorates with prominent companies in Hongkong and the Philippines, including the Philippines Investment Management Consultants (PHINMA), Bancom International Holdings

Ltd., Annex Asia Ltd., and American Express International Banking Corp.

As the head of First Pacific, Pangilinan supervises the operations of his subsidiaries worldwide, coordinates with business partners in on-going projects, and oversees planning and operations for the company's global expansion. He is proud to say that despite its transnational character, First Pacific is basically an Asian company, which sees the great potential of Asian countries as key investment areas. He is keenly interested in development trends in the Philippines and at this juncture, believes that it must play an important part in propelling the nation's economic development towards the new millenium.

A true Filipino at heart, he is not immune to the plight of overseas Filipino workers in Hongkong. To help his *kabayans* in Hongkong, he established the Hongkong Bayanihan Trust to provide venues, organize vocational, social, and cultural activities for Filipino domestic helpers, and raise the requisite funding in support of these activities. Recently, he has been appointed member of the National Advisory Board of the Presidential Commission on the Urban Poor, where he is in a position to recommend policies that would help in uplifting the status of the nation's urban poor communities.

In 1994, Manuel Pangilinan was awarded one of the Ten Outstanding Young Men of the Philippines (TOYM). This year, he is recipient of a Presidential Award for his achievements as an outstanding Filipino in the world of international business. ❖





Mel Red Recana



appointment to the judiciary was the highest achievement ever for a Filipino lawyer in California, a position that many believe he eminently deserves.

Aside from his judicial duties, he also taught law at the Pacific Coast University in Long Beach, California, handling courses in trial techniques and procedures. He has also attended various judges' seminars and taken post-graduate courses in criminal and civil litigation at the University of Southern California and other special educational concerns for professional improvement. He is co-author of the *Judicial Officers Bench Book*, a guidebook for all judicial officers in California.

Mel Red Recana, "the first Filipino American judge in the Western Hemisphere", is a man of many firsts.

A native of Guinobatan, Albay and a 1964 alumnus of the University of the East, Recana became a member of the Philippine Bar in 1965 and made history when he was appointed in 1981 as municipal court judge in Los Angeles District. In 1996, he was elected as presiding judge of the Los Angeles Municipal Court, which has 89 judges, 23 commissioners, and 11 courthouses serving more than 3.5 million people. He is also the Supervising Judge of the Central Civil Operations of the Municipal Court.

In 1974, he became the first Philippine-educated lawyer to pass the California bar exams (reputedly the most difficult in the United States) without first attending an American law school. Recana relates that years of exposure to California's trial court system and self-studies on the intricacies of the California legal process made him confident enough to take the exams.

Recana carved a niche for himself in the legal profession of America when he became the first Philippine-trained lawyer to be admitted to practice law by the United States Supreme Court. He then became the first Filipino to be appointed deputy district attorney in 1977, being one of only 12 applicants from a field of 3,000 hopefuls who hurdled the difficult examinations. In 1988, he passed another difficult examination, this time, the State Bar Examination for Specialists in Criminal Law. His

In 1992, Recana sought a year's leave to attend the Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, but he was not allowed due to a state law barring judges from leaving the state for more than 90 days. He arrived at a brilliant solution. He drafted a proposed legislation permitting judges to take a "sabbatical leave" of up to one year for studies that would aid in the administration of justice. This is now adopted into law as California Government Code Section 68544.

But more than personal achievements, for which he received countless awards and commendations, Recana is a symbol of how far the Filipino can go in America's justice system. His consistent and outstanding professional performance and accomplishments broke down the barriers for Philippine-trained lawyers and all other professionals. He demonstrated the high quality of Philippine education and exemplifies the intellect, talent, and superior qualities of the Filipino in his field of endeavor. His accomplishments have brought honor and recognition to the Philippines, letting everyone know that Filipinos can be at par with the best in the world.

He has come a long way from his rustic and poverty-stricken hometown in the Bicol region, where in his youth he would walk 14 kilometers to go to school, and, as an aspiring lawyer, would work by day and burn the midnight oil in law school. He has reached the zenith of his career, and Filipinos in the United States and in the Philippines are so proud to have him as their own. ❖



Raul M. Sunico has established a solid and enviable reputation as a piano virtuoso both here and abroad. A graduate of the University of the Philippines Conservatory of Music, he also holds degrees in Mathematics and Statistics. He obtained two

masteral degrees in Music from the famous Juilliard School of Music of New York in the mid-seventies.

Excelling in a number of musical competitions, he won a silver medal at the Viols International Competition in Verceili, Italy; a finalist's diploma in the Busoni International Competition in Italy; and a Henry Cowell Prize in the University of Maryland International Piano Competition. He also served as a member of the jury board of the Bergen Philharmonic Competition in New Jersey, the Manila Symphony Concerto Competition, and the Jeffrey Ching Competition, both in Manila. For all his accomplishments, he was awarded one of the Ten Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) of the Philippines in 1986.

Sunico has been active in the international concert scene, having given solo recitals in Europe, the United States, Canada, Mexico, and India, as well as in the Philippines. He has performed in prestigious performance venues such as the Lincoln Center and the Carnegie Hall, both in New York. He has performed as guest soloist with different orchestras in about twenty piano concertos.

Although professionally based in New York, Sunico makes it a point to come back to his native Philippines to perform with the country's famous orchestras such as the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra, the Manila Symphony Orchestra, the University of the Philippines Symphony Orchestra, and the University of Santo Tomas Symphony Orchestra.

Through the years, this exceptional pianist has ripened and mellowed into a full-bodied virtuoso. He acquired the insight and sensitivity to guide and balance his ever-growing technical capabilities. The difficulty and novelty of the works he has premiered and included

Raul M. Sunico

in his programs within the past decade prove that Sunico is one of the most innovative, if not the most daring of the Philippines' internationally established performing artists.

He popularized Philippine musical works through his recordings of classical piano arrangements of vocal and instrumental music. Aside from recording feature works of the masters such as Chopin, Ravel, Liszt, Debussy, Schubert, and Rachmaninoff, he also went the way of pop music and recorded famous American love songs set to the piano.

In 1986, he launched a recording of his own arrangements of Filipino folk and love songs in *Raul Sunico in a Classical Mood*. He also did the musical arrangements for the book series *Himig*, a collection of Filipino folk songs set to piano, which is endorsed by the Department of Education, Culture and Sports. He also finished a piano and choral recording featuring the songs of the Philippine Revolution (1896-1898) as his contribution to the nation's celebration of the Centennial of Philippine Independence.

Aside from performing and recording classical piano pieces, Sunico is also a fulltime teacher in the United States with Filipino and non-Filipino students under his tutelage. It is particularly noteworthy to cite that he teaches his students practically for free, asking only that they dedicate themselves fully to the perfection of the craft in order for him to realize his dream of making them successful artists in their own right. To date, he has presented eight students in solo recitals, some of whom have won competition prizes in New York.

Apart from his teaching job, Sunico also helps organize the presentations of visiting Filipino cultural groups, including the Kayumangging Kaligatan of the late famous Ernani Cuenco, violinist Gilopez Kabayao, soprano Gloria Coronel, flutist Antonio Mague, and duo pianists Della Garantilla and Anamaria de Guzman. He is also co-founder of the Foundation for the Musical Filipino (FMF), a non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion of the arts and Filipino artists.

Mr. Raul Sunico is another shining star in the world's musical firmament. We are proud to claim him as our own, a Filipino artist of the highest caliber. ❖

Romeo V. Tabuena

He is a painter included in the "who's who" list of internationally renowned artists. A painter whose art is rooted in eastern sensibility, Philippine-born Romeo V. Tabuena has been a resident of Mexico for more than two decades.

Born in Iloilo in 1921, he finished architecture at the Mapua Institute of Technology and a fine arts course, majoring in painting, at the University of the Philippines. He also studied at the Art Students League in New York and at the Academie dela Grande Chaumiere in Paris.

Tabuena decided to settle in Mexico and to make it the base of his painting career. But he has maintained links with his country through participation in its major art projects, and despite his long residence in Mexico, he has retained his Philippine citizenship.

One of his major works since 1957 is a government-commissioned mural, *Filipiniana*, exhibited at the Philippine Embassy in Washington, D.C. His other exhibits include a ten-year retrospective show in 1959 at the Philippine Art Gallery in Manila. In 1962, his successful one-man show, which was sponsored by the Philippine Government at the International Salon of the Palace of Fine Arts in Mexico City, "further elevated the status of Philippine painting in the world of contemporary art". In 1965, he participated in the Eighth Biennial of Sao Paulo, Brazil as the official Filipino artist and art commissioner from the Philippines.

Tabuena held his second major one-man show in Manila in 1973, followed by another in 1975 in Mexico City, and still another in the Galerie Bleue in Manila in 1981. He was also involved in the exhibit *El Nigromante* of the Mexican Institute of Fine Arts in celebration of 30 years of artistic life in Mexico.

Mexico profoundly affected his vision and in its fusion with his Oriental heritage, he crystallized his personal and maturing style. His effort toward unity and contemporary awareness served to define his unique quality as a painter.

In his Philippine paintings and in his constant returning to his native images, Tabuena reveals a disciplined sensibility of human poetics, refinement, fragility, transparency of color, piled perspectives, lightness of stylization, and economy of suggested abstraction. Radiant colors prismatically envelop his figures, obliterating their solidness and breathing into their existence an aura

of poetic mirage. As his horizons expand and his vision deepens, his paintings reflect a converging unity of personal recreation. Spread throughout his recent canvasses is a textural cohesiveness suggestive of the diverse influences of time. Figures caught in archetypal poses and ritual groupings, human conditions lifted into an eternal resilience through light and fluorescence. The total is a unity receding and advancing, strong in its structural depth, light in its delicacy of line. It is as if they were murals etched upon rock by endlessly recurring human reflections, joyful in the very moment of their being.

In October 1995, Tabuena was honored with a major exhibit sponsored by the Instituto de Bellas Artes, Centro Cultural Ignacio for his 40 years of residency and dedication in the artistic life of Mexico in the Mexican artist's colony in Guanajato. A similar exhibit in his honor was launched in November 1996 in Mexico, in cooperation with the Philippine Embassy.

He is the recipient of various awards and citations, including the Golden Centaur Award from the Accademia Italia, Master of Painting *honoris causa* from the International

Seminar of Modern Art, Bannierre Europeanne des Artes, and Medaglia al Merito from the International Parliament. He is also an elected fellow of the International Biographical Center (IBC) in Cambridge, England and the American Biographical Institute (ABI). In 1987, ABI awarded him Medal of Honor, World Decoration of Excellence Medal in 1989, and Man of the Year Award in 1991. IBC elected him to the Center's 1991 International Order of Merit, and in 1993, conferred him the Medal of Excellence for the 20th Century.

Romeo Tabuena reaps these awards not only for himself, but for his country as well. He is a national treasure, and his works undoubtedly stand out among the finest artistic legacies of the Philippines. ❖

As an artist, I find that the best way to express myself through my work is by striving to paint universal objects in a thoroughly personal way. What is most valuable in Art lies in things whose essence is universally appealing in space and time. My work is aimed at communicating the essence of life itself, human feelings and beauty in Nature. These are to me perennial truths and I claim them as such in my Art. By being honest to myself, I make sure that my personal print will be present in my whole work, as each of my paintings being a personal document. To be sure, I favor Art with no hindrances, with no limitations. It is the testimony of a universe existing within the context of time and which emanates from the innermost part of the painter's being.

— Romeo V. Tabuena





Hers is another success story that is worth telling again and again.

As an eleven-year old immigrant, Velma R. Veloria found that the American dream - a life where all people are treated with respect, dignity, and equality - did not come easily to non-whites. Taunted by other children because of her limited knowledge of English and her strange Ilocano

accent, she learned that discrimination is prevalent against those who are different. Years later, when she began working, she directly experienced the pains of discrimination when, although deserving, she was bypassed in promotion because of her country of origin, the color of her skin, and the native language she speaks.

So began her long route to fight for equality through grassroots organizing and community empowerment. Her life has all the requisite elements of a Filipino soap opera - her mother dying of cancer; raising her three other siblings; caring for an ailing father while studying for her medical technology degree at the San Francisco State College; and organizing a union in the hospital where she worked as an organizer for the Northwest National Union of Hospital and Health Care Employees.

But at the end of her personal journey, she found her pot of gold: Veloria became the first Filipino to be elected as State Representative of Washington and the second Filipino woman to be a member of the United States legislature. More importantly, Veloria won an unprecedented third consecutive term in the just concluded national and state elections in the United States held in November this year.

As the first Filipino American and the first Asian American in the Washington State Legislature to break the racial barrier, she continues the same grassroots empowerment she had practiced before being elected. Her office is an open door to her constituents, encouraging people to bring legislation to her doorstep and frequently seeking their advice on bills that have direct impact upon her district.

The open door policy worked well for Veloria. In her first term alone, she passed more legislation than any other freshman state representative. She has fought for living wage jobs, a decent educational system, tax assistance for small businesses and expanding trade relations between Washington State and the Pacific rim nations.

Velma R. Veloria

Environmental issues are also at the forefront of her priorities. In the last two years, she served in the Justice Advisory Council of the Environmental Protection Agency, and has become a vocal spokesperson on environment. Through her trade network and ties and together with the countries that are looking for safe and unique ways to redevelop their areas, Veloria brings about innovative businesses. More importantly, she works with her district's environmental justice organizations to bring in grant money and funding for programs.

Perhaps, the greatest impact she made in the last four years is the strengthened relationship between Washington State and the Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia, Cambodia, and Vietnam. In 1993-1995, Veloria led trade missions to these Pacific rim countries, with a goal to enhance current trade and economic ties, as well as assist small businesses which previously had limited access to international trade. The trade missions were very successful, generating over US\$2 million in revenues for Washington's small-to-medium and minority-owned businesses.

Aside from becoming active in international trade, she also strengthened other economic, as well as cultural ties, with the Philippines, reinforcing a mutually beneficial relationship. In 1994, she vigorously lobbied for the retention of the presence of the Philippine Government in the Pacific Northwest, resulting in the opening of the Philippine Trade Office in Washington after the Philippine Consulate in Seattle closed in 1993. Most recently, she began work with several community leaders to establish a sister state relationship between Washington and her native province of Pangasinan. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed by the governors of the sister states to promote trade, tourism, and cultural and educational exchanges. The promotion of mutual prosperity, friendship, and understanding among the peoples of Washington and Pangasinan was the high point of this effort.

Never far from her roots, she had been active in the Filipino community where she lived in California. She had participated in countless Filipino cultural events, and her work with the Northwest Folklife Festival and Children's Museum had helped thousands of Pacific Northwest residents learn about Filipino culture and lifestyle.

Her father, Apelino Veloria, passed away even before she ran for office. Though he did not live to see his daughter take office, his legacy of hard work, determination, and perseverance is alive and unmistakable within Velma R. Veloria. ❖

1996 Presidential Awards for Filipino Individuals and Organizations Overseas

Awarding Ceremonies

Friday, 13 December 1996, 10:00 a.m.

Heroes Hall, Malacañang Palace, Manila

P R O G R A M M E

Philippine National Anthem	Led by Holy Trinity College Grand Chorale
Doxology	By Holy Trinity College Grand Chorale
Welcome Remarks	Hon. Domingo L. Siazon, Jr. Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs Chairman, Commission on Filipinos Overseas
Presentation of Awards	His Excellency President Fidel V. Ramos
Response	Ms. Lilia Calderon-Clemente Pamana ng Pilipino Awardee
Introduction of Guest of Honor	Hon. Domingo L. Siazon, Jr.
Message	His Excellency President Fidel V. Ramos

Ms. Cecilia L. Lazaro

Master of Ceremonies

1996 Presidential Awards for Filipino Individuals and Organizations Overseas

Testimonial and Recognition Dinner

Friday, 13 December 1996, 7:00 p.m.
Harana Ballroom, Hyatt Regency Manila

P R O G R A M M E

- 7:00 p.m. Reception
- 7:40 p.m. Philippine National Anthem
Led by Holy Trinity College Grand Chorale
- Doxology
By Holy Trinity College Grand Chorale
- 7:45 p.m. Dinner
- 8:40 p.m. Opening Remarks
Hon. Jose Z. Molano, Jr.
Executive Director, Commission on Filipinos Overseas
- Musical Number
Foundation for the Musical Filipino Quartet
Marjorie Antig - Violinist
Chino Bolipata - Cellist
Jeremy Dadap - Violinist
Regina Medina - Violinist
- Presentation of Awardees
Hon. Marciano A. Paynor, Jr.
Chief, Protocol Office, Office of the President
- Musical Number
Foundation for the Musical Filipino Quartet
- Introduction of the Guest Speaker
Hon. Jose Z. Molano, Jr.
- Message
Hon. Domingo L. Siazon, Jr.
Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs
Chairman, Commission on Filipinos Overseas
- Dance
- 9:30 p.m. Mr. Ernesto Noel P. Calleja
Master of Ceremonies
-

Observance of the Month of Overseas Filipinos

Many Filipino organizations abroad have signified their intention to participate in the activities of the Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO), in observance of the 1996 Month of Overseas Filipinos this December. Some of these on-going projects are the following:

Adopt-A-Scholar Program. This program facilitates the provision of scholarship grants from overseas Filipinos to underprivileged but deserving youth in the Philippines, who desire to pursue a vocational course or college degree, either through an endowment fund or regular periodic allocation.

Adopt-A-Family Movement. This activity is a concerted effort between government and the private sector to provide a more permanent solution to the problem of resettling and rehabilitating the victims of Mt. Pinatubo's eruption through the adoption of families by donors/sponsors.

Tulong Pangkabuhayan Program. This program is primarily aimed at improving socio-economic conditions in less-developed communities in the country by encouraging the establishment of small-scale or alternative livelihood projects. It seeks to provide beneficiary groups with financial support in the form of loans to be used as start-up capital or supplemental funds.

In this year's commemoration of the Month of Overseas Filipinos, the organizations who have pledged to support CFO's activities are: **Philippine Women's Organization** of Norway (Adopt-a-Scholar Project, Adopt-a-Family Movement); **Filipino Overseas Workers** in Singapore (Adopt-a-Scholar Project, Tulong Pangkabuhayan Program); **Arsan Catholic Community-Seoul** in Korea (Adopt-a-Scholar Project); **Philippine Ladies Association** in Japan (Adopt-a-Scholar Program, Tulong Pangkabuhayan Program); **Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry** in Japan (Adopt-a-Scholar Project, Adopt-a-Family Movement); **Association of Filipino Wives** in Tokyo, Japan (Adopt-a-Scholar Project, Adopt-a-Family Movement); **Barangay sa Alemanya, e.V.** in Germany (Adopt-a-Scholar Project, Adopt-a-Family Movement, Tulong Pangkabuhayan Program); **Rizal-Blumentritt Society-Vienna** in Austria (Adopt-a-Scholar Project, Tulong Pangkabuhayan Program); **Pangasinan Province Association** of Australia (Adopt-a-Scholar Project); **Maharlika Switzerland Basel** in Switzerland (Adopt-a-Family Movement); **Kawanggawa-Pinagbuklod ng mga Manggagawang Pilipino sa Francia**

in France (Adopt-a-Family, Adopt-a-Scholar); and the **Bayanihan Mutual Aid Foundation for the Filipino Community** in Milano, Italy (Adopt-a-Scholar, Adopt-a-Family).

In keeping with Filipino tradition, CFO will also commemorate the Month of Overseas Filipinos by sponsoring a *Simbang Gabi* at the San Agustin Church in historic Intramuros at 4 a.m. on the 16th of December.

The predominantly Catholic Filipino people usher in the onset of the Christmas season with the traditional *Simbang Gabi*. Also known as the *Misa de Gallo*, this early morning mass (as it is celebrated in the dawn, or the time the cocks crow) is a tradition which traces its roots to Spanish times. In this Mass the prayers will be said for our fellow Filipinos abroad, for their continued safety, comfort, success, and for the hope that they will return to their native land.

In observance of the Month of Overseas Filipinos in December, CFO has also initiated the holding of *Walk-for-a-Cause* on December 16, 1996. The activity is a three-kilometer brisk walk along the historical sites of the Walled City of Intramuros in Manila.

Along with the objective of raising funds to support the projects under the *Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino (LINKAPIL)* Program, particularly the *Adopt-a-Scholar* and *Tulong Pangkabuhayan* projects, CFO is undertaking this project as an opportunity to disseminate to the public the various community projects and outreach programs in the country being supported by overseas Filipinos.

The *Walk-for-a-Cause* will be participated in by all returning and visiting overseas Filipinos and their families. For every US\$10.00 contribution extended by an overseas Filipino, one local counterpart participant will walk the distance to support educational and livelihood-related activities. Participants from the local community will include students from universities and colleges in Manila, CFO institutional partners, representatives of line agencies of the government, as well as *LINKAPIL* program sponsors and beneficiaries.

A steering committee chaired by the Office of the Mayor, City of Manila with members representing the National Parks Development Committee, National Commission for Culture and the Arts, Intramuros Administration, Alay Lakad Foundation, Philippine Information Agency, and Philippine Sports Commission was formed to help coordinate the holding of the activity.

COMMISSION ON FILIPINOS OVERSEAS

Primer

The Commission on Filipinos Overseas is an agency of the Philippine Government which was created by law in 1980 to promote and uphold the interests and well-being of Filipinos overseas.

FUNCTIONS

The major functions of CFO as mandated by law are:

- 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 programmes 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.

ORGANIZATION

CFO is composed of an eight-man Board of Commissioners, headed by the Secretary of Foreign Affairs as Chairman and the Secretary of Trade and Industry as Vice-Chairman. Other members of the Commission are the Secretary of Labor and Employment, Secretary of Education, Culture and Sports, Secretary of Justice, Press Secretary, Secretary of Tourism, and the CFO Executive Director. The Board of Commissioners is supported by a Secretariat which *transforms government policies into actual programmes* for Filipinos overseas. The Secretariat is headed by an Executive Director and assisted by a Deputy Executive Director.

The Commission on Filipinos Overseas is presently attached to the Department of Foreign Affairs.

CONSTITUENTS

Batas Pambansa 79, the law which created CFO, defines Filipinos overseas as "Filipinos who are permanent residents abroad, including Filipino emigrants who are either already citizens of foreign countries or are still Filipino citizens awaiting naturalization, recognition, or admission, and their descendants".

The issuance of A.O. 182 has also involved CFO,

through membership in the Assistance-to-Nationals Task Force, in policy and programmes concerning overseas Filipinos in general.

In addition, Executive Order No. 346 has given CFO the specific mandate to actively preserve and enhance ties with all Filipino youth overseas.

PROGRAMME FRAMEWORK

The Commission on Filipinos Overseas aims to promote and uphold the interests and well-being of all Filipinos overseas and enhance their active participation in all-Filipino unity and sustainable national development. The CFO envisages that by the year 2000, Filipinos overseas will be more widely recognized as a competitive world-class community who have an important and productive role in the countries where they live, and who continue to actively maintain their strong political, economic, and cultural ties with the Philippines.

In carrying out its mandate, the CFO has identified and designed a framework consisting of four main programme areas into which its own resources, together with those of other cooperating agencies and organizations, would be channeled and allocated to *initiate or support specific sub-programmes, projects, or activities*. They are (1) **Migrant Social and Economic Integration**, (2) **Filipino Education and Heritage**, (3) **All-Filipino Unity and Sustainable National Development**, and (4) **Policy Development and Data Banking**. Following are the summary description of the four programme areas:

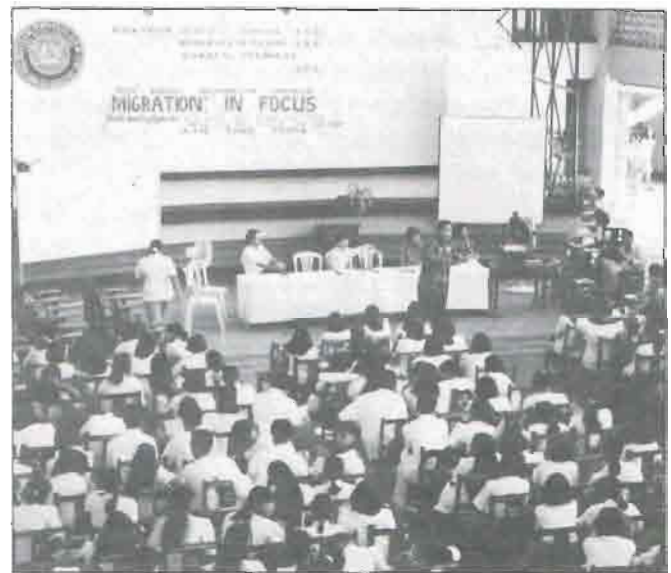
I. Migrant Social and Economic Integration. The overall objective of this programme is to ensure that all Filipinos migrating to other countries are adequately prepared to meet the practical and psychological problems attendant to international migration. The Migrant Social and Economic Integration Programme will undertake activities designed to provide Filipino emigrants with adequate structured information and advice about all aspects of migration to their countries of destination, as well as assistance in achieving early

social and economic adjustment within their new environment. This programme also provides for a continuing linkage with registered Filipino migrants, and a means by which migrants can be assisted by cooperating organizations in the process of adjustment and settlement in their host countries. It will also assist in promoting and facilitating the reintegration of returning migrants into the Filipino national mainstream.

II. Filipino Education and Heritage. This programme will promote, under the auspices of the Commission and also in cooperation with other agencies and institutions, the provision of critical educational services as well as the continued exposure of younger generations of overseas Filipinos to Philippine history, culture and institutions. It will assist in efforts to provide necessary schooling for children of overseas Filipinos with the view of facilitating, among others, their eventual integration/reintegration into the Philippine educational system. This programme will also include efforts to promote and advance in an appropriate manner the teaching and study of the Filipino language at various levels of learning within and outside the schools system overseas, particularly in countries or territories which have a high density of permanent overseas Filipino residents. In addition, the Filipino Education and Heritage Programme will promote projects and activities which will bring younger generations of overseas Filipinos to the Philippines, to encourage them to know the country and its institutions better, and to inculcate in them the ideal that their identity and interests will best be served in the context of preserving their cultural moorings with that of an all-Filipino community.

III. All-Filipino Unity and Sustainable National Development. This programme aims to foster better cohesion and a unity of purpose within and among the various overseas Filipino organizations so that their own interests and well-being could be promoted, supported or enhanced within a greater, more formidable all-Filipino community. The task of promoting more cohesiveness and unity of purpose will be undertaken mainly by providing the fullest possible support and encouragement to initiatives of overseas Filipino community leaders in fostering Filipino national unity. In this, government will mostly provide a supportive role so that the movement for all-Filipino national unity is consistent with free enterprise, people empowerment and becomes sustainable on its own in the long term. This programme will also undertake a parallel effort to instill a sense of Filipino national pride to overseas Filipinos/Filipino communities, and provide appropriate

public recognition to those who have made a significant contribution to progress in their countries of residence or to the Philippines. The other dimension of this programme maintains the objective of sustainable national development and accordingly, the professional and technical expertise, financial resources, capital goods, as well as training and information resources at the disposal of overseas Filipinos will be systematically encouraged to flow into economically active sectors in the Philippines. Furthermore, as the world's economic gravity shifts to the Asia-Pacific basin, overseas Filipino professionals will be enjoined to contribute to Philippine sustainable development as advocates of the Philippines, and as resource persons in their countries of residence which now seek expertise to guide policy making and



investment decisions in the Asia-Pacific region.

IV. Policy Development and Data Banking. This Programme will provide a continuing study and review of the economic, social, legal and administrative environment which have a bearing on the status of overseas Filipinos. It will undertake multidisciplinary research to enable informed advice and assistance to the Executive and Legislative branches of government in the formulation of measures and policies affecting Filipinos overseas, including those pertaining to their political, economic and social rights and obligations. It will also provide policy advice to other agencies of the government on matters such as assistance to Filipino nationals abroad, security and contingency plans, and policies on personal professional services and donated materials from overseas. Pursuant to the objectives of this programme, a continuing exchange of information with other government agencies, non-government

organizations, independent researchers, academic institutions, international organizations and other centers of excellence will be maintained. A comprehensive databank and information system on overseas Filipino communities will also undergo expansion within this programme. A major endeavor will be initiated to validate and refine all available data and information on overseas Filipinos, arrive at a more sophisticated economic and demographic profile by countries/territories of residence, and maintain a computer-based system for ensuring accessibility of up-to-date information about overseas Filipino communities.

PROGRAMMES, PROJECTS, AND ACTIVITIES

PROGRAMME I: MIGRANT SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC INTEGRATION

Ensuring that all Filipinos migrating to other countries are adequately prepared to meet the practical and psychological problems attendant to international migration.

Pre-Departure Registration

Registration of all departing Filipino emigrants and processing of data to provide a resource base for policy formulation and programme/project development.

Pre-Departure Orientation Seminars

Conduct of regular and structured orientation seminars for departing Filipino emigrants, covering such topics as travel and settlement, conditions in countries of destination, Filipino identity and heritage, employment matters, and rights and obligations of immigrants in host countries.

Counseling Services

Providing counseling services to Filipinos emigrating as fiancées or spouses of foreign nationals, to help them develop informed decisions about intermarriage and life overseas, covering topics such as cultural differences and harmonization, available welfare and support services overseas, and rights and obligations of migrants overseas.

Peer Counseling

Providing counseling services by younger persons to departing children of Filipino emigrants to respond to the needs of Filipino migrants under 20 years of age, in order to help them cope with change in their social environment.

Clientele Feedback Mechanism

Maintaining linkages with overseas Filipinos through feedback procedures, and exchange of correspondence between CFO staff and emigrants to identify critical areas where government or other intervention or assistance might be necessary.

Public Information and Assistance

Assisting target clientele through development and distribution of information materials and packages, and conducting community education activities to inform the public about migration-related problems and issues.

Post-Arrival Orientation and Assistance

Extending through cooperating organizations post-arrival orientation for newly-arrived Filipino immigrants in their host countries and linking them with employment agencies, migrant resource centers, support groups, and Filipino associations overseas.

PROGRAMME II: FILIPINO EDUCATION AND HERITAGE

Promoting, in cooperation with other agencies and organizations, the provision of critical educational services, as well as the continued exposure of younger generations of overseas Filipinos to Philippine history, culture and institutions.

Lakbay-Aral

Informing and educating the children of Filipino migrants in other countries about their heritage and culture through an intensive study-visit and cultural immersion programme in the Philippines.

Establishment of Philippine Community Schools Abroad

Encouraging and providing assistance in the establishment of Philippine schools abroad where there are large Filipino populations and strengthening the operational features of existing ones to provide children of overseas Filipinos with education that will enable them to be readily integrated or re-integrated into the Philippine educational system.

Philippine Resource and Information Centers

Promoting the establishment of Filipino Centers Overseas, in coordination with Philippine Embassies and Consulates and Filipino organizations, to serve as repository of information about the Philippines and center for socio-cultural activities of Filipino communities abroad.

Filipino Language for Children of Filipino Migrants

Promoting and advancing the teaching and study of Filipino language at various levels of learning within and outside the school system overseas, particularly in countries or territories which have a high density of permanent Filipino residents.

Philippine Studies Programme

Generating awareness and knowledge about Philippine history, culture and institutions in various parts of the world by promoting the inclusion of Philippine studies in different learning institutions abroad.

Survey of Filipino Cultural and Heritage Resources

Undertaking a worldwide survey of existing Philippine schools, language classes, Philippine studies programmes, library and information centers, and other institutions overseas which provide a continuing exposure to Philippine history, language, and culture.

PROGRAMME III : ALL-FILIPINO UNITY AND SUSTAINABLE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Fostering better cohesion and a unity of purpose within and among the various overseas Filipino organizations so that their own interests and well-being could be promoted, supported, or enhanced within a greater and more formidable all-Filipino community.

Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino (LINKAPIL) Program

Harnessing the partnership between Filipinos overseas and those in the homeland by providing a mechanism for the transfer of financial, material or technical assistance in support of development activities in the country.



Dialogues for Partnership

Providing a forum for the exchange of ideas and information among Filipino professionals and entrepreneurs overseas and their counterparts in the Philippines, and encouraging overseas Filipino groups to pursue joint ventures with local groups in the country to accelerate national development.

Observance of Month of Overseas Filipinos

Generating special activities for December each year to involve Filipinos overseas and their local counterparts in constructive endeavours to promote commemoration of the *Month of Overseas Filipinos*.

Awards and Recognition for Overseas Filipinos

Effecting appropriate recognition through Presidential Awards for the many contributions of overseas Filipinos to development in the Philippines, for the honor brought to the country by their professional excellence, and for their contribution to the enhancement of Filipino communities abroad.

Balik-Turo Project

Involving overseas-based Filipino professional teachers in sharing and exchange with their counterparts in the Philippines, their knowledge, skills, expertise, technology and experiences to contribute in the further development of the teaching profession in the Philippines.

Adopt-A-Scholar Project

Involving the participation of Filipino associations/ individuals overseas in providing scholarship grants to less privileged but deserving students in the Philippines who are qualified to pursue tertiary level education or training.

Exchange Visitors Programme

Coordinating policy and implementation of the Philippine participation in the U.S. Exchange Visitors Programme (EVP), and ensuring that the benefits derived from the EVP accrue to the best interests of the country.

Filipino Ties

Publication of the CFO newsletter, *Filipino Ties*, on a regular quarterly basis to provide a vehicle and forum for the interchange of news, information, and opinions of relevance and interest to overseas Filipinos, and to serve as a vehicle for fostering unity of purpose.

Science and Technology Advisory Councils

Serving as the DFA's focal point in establishing and maintaining links with Science and Technology Advisory Councils (STAC) among Filipino scientists and

KDD SUPER WORLD CARD

Mabibili na ngayon!

Mula Japan sa bahagi nang mundo.



"Malaking tipid!"

Isang "prepaid card" na may dagdag-diskwento ang halaga.

Tatlong klase ng card ang mabibili : ¥1,000 card na may ¥50 ang halaga ng dagdag-diskwento, ¥3,000 card na may ¥200 ang halaga ng dagdag-diskwento, at ¥5,000 card na may ¥350 ang halaga ng dagdag-diskwento.

Napakaraming gamit!

Magagamit kahit kailan at kahit saan mang push-tone phones, Puwede.

Puwede niyong gamitin ang mga super phone cards na ito sa mga public pay phones, sa bahay, sa opisina, sa mga hotels at marami pang ibang lugar na ang mga telepono ay push-tone.

KDD

professional groups overseas, for the purpose of encouraging the flow of scientific knowledge, information, and other resources into Philippine sustainable development.

International Network of Filipinos Overseas

Establishing and institutionalizing a mechanism for networking and exchange of information and development news among Filipino associations and communities worldwide.



Book on Filipino Migration

Historical research and documentation of early and contemporary migration of Filipinos to various parts of the world, including outstanding contributions of Filipino settlers in their host countries.

Special Centennial Activities

Specific activities to ensure the active participation of overseas Filipinos in celebrating the Centennial of Philippine Independence in 1998, such as their investment in the development of the Overseas Filipino Forest Park, as well as the holding of a special Filipino-American National Historical Society (FANHS) Convention in the Philippines in 1998.

PROGRAMME IV : POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND DATA BANKING

Providing a continuing study and review of the economic, social, legal, and administrative environment which have a bearing on the status of overseas Filipinos.

Policy Review and Formulation

Undertaking multi-disciplinary research, providing policy advice and formulation of policy initiatives and measures pertaining to the political, economic and social rights and obligations of overseas Filipinos.

Assistance-to-Nationals Programme

Assisting DFA, on a continuing basis in developing the policy and programme framework for assistance to

nationals, to provide a mechanism to protect and assist Filipinos who are in need of legal, welfare and logistical assistance abroad.

Overseas Programme Evaluation and Formulation

Undertaking review and evaluation of various programs and services of the government in general and the CFO in particular, to serve as inputs to the formulation of programs and projects for overseas Filipinos.

Multi-Sectoral Support Programme for Overseas Filipinos

Developing a multi-sectoral support system involving the identification of specific services for Filipino migrants, and ensuring accessibility of services to address their specific needs and interests through institutional arrangements with relevant agencies in the Philippines and the host countries.

Data Banking and Computerization Program

Developing and maintaining a data banking system on Filipino emigration to support policy recommendation and formulation initiatives.

Demographic and Economic Profile of Overseas Filipinos

Establishing an economic and demographic profile of overseas Filipinos/Filipino households by major localities and countries of territories or residence to involve the adoption of a more sophisticated, up-to-date, and accessible computer based population estimation system.

Data Support and Liaison Service

Providing data and information to Philippine Embassies and Consulates and various Filipino associations overseas about arriving migrants, as well as program and policy developments affecting overseas Filipinos.

Development of Security Procedures

Developing a comprehensive security manual and other procedures to provide foreign service posts and relevant government agencies with basic guidelines on management and implementation of security measures to protect and safeguard Filipino nationals overseas during calamity and crisis situations.

Operation of a 24-hour Public Assistance, Counseling and Information Center

Assisting DFA in establishing and maintaining a round-the-clock center which will ensure prompt assistance to nationals in distress through direct service, effective coordination, and inter-agency networking.

Local and Global Electronic Linkages

Expanding CFO's comprehensive data bank and information system on overseas Filipinos through access to electronic linkages and networks. ❖

Directory of Awardees

Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino

Philippine American Foundation (PAF)
1211 Connecticut Ave. NW 502
Washington, D.C. 20036
TN 202 4665799/466-6195

Philippine Children's Charity Fund
(PCCF)
55 Montgomery St., Ste. 518
San Francisco, California 94105 USA
TN 415-5434581/5434582

Philippine Economic and Cultural
Endowment (PEACE)
801 Albury Court, Moorestown
New Jersey, USA
TN/FN 304-8453542

Science and Technology Advisory
Council—San Francisco
P.O. Box 51565 Palo Alto
California 94303 USA
TN 415-7083039
FN 415-3377-021

Gloria T. Caoile
8339 Terra Grande, Springfield
Virginia 22173 USA
TN 202-4291101
FN 4291102
E-MAIL: gcaoile@afscme.org

Jesus T. Ho
101 First St., P.O. Box 370
Moundville, West Virginia 26041 USA
FN 304-8453242

Emanuel N. Nacario
2710 Rosewood Lane, Oakland
Ontario, L65 7M8 Canada
TN/FN 905-829-4285/6705572

Isabelo S. Torio
316 Fourth Ave., Bradley Beach
New Jersey 07720 USA
TN 908-9889077

Jose G. Vijungco
529 S. Main St. Woonsocket
Rhode Island 02895 USA
TN 401-7662553
FN 401-7660126

Kaakabay ng Bayan

Aloha Medical Mission
Interstate Bldg., 1314 South King St.
Suite 503, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814
TN/FN 808-593-9696/5911266

Volunteer Business Counselors (VBC)
of Doha
Philippine Embassy - Doha, Qatar
TN/FN 88-3858/870487

Kaanib ng Bayan

Association Philippines International
Geneva
Case Oistak 168, 1211 Geneva 19
TN 022-738-7634
FN 022-739-7336

Consuelo Zobel Alger Foundation
110 N. Hotel St., Honolulu
Hawaii 96812, USA
TN 808-53223936/532-3939

Tsakos Shipping and Trading, S.A.
367 Syngrou Ave. P. Faliro
175 64 Athens, Greece
TN 938-0700-9 / 938-0710-2

Banaag

Balik Bohol Medical Mission
24 Birchlane, Port Washington
NY 11050 USA
TN 516-627-3173/516-365-2960

Filipino American Human Services,
Inc. (FAHSI)
95 Madison Ave., Suite 1309
New York, New York 10016 USA
TN 212-7253840
FN 212-7256629

Penang Support Group for Migrant
Filipinos (PSG)
c/o Our Lady of Sorrows
33 Jalan Macalister 104000
Penang, Malaysia
TN 04-2291396
FN 04-2286506

Philippine Institute of Certified Public
Accountants—Riyadh (PICPA)
Arthur Andersen Al Mohandis & Co.
P.O. Box 18366, Riyadh 11415
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
TN 9661-4787801
FN 9661-4773836

Rizal—Blumentritt Society Austria
Stephonsograsse 1/2/8, 1210 Vienna
TN 431-2594560
E-MAIL mbanke@site 103.ping.at

H.E. Essa Mohamed Al Zedjali
Times of Oman, P.O. Box 770
Ruwi, Sultanate of Oman
TN 968-701953
FN 968-799159

Moh'd Ali Carlito Astillero
Aramah, P.O. Box 56929, Riyadh 11564
Saudi Arabia
TN 4657700
FN 4625040

Lilia R. Juele
56 Pondfield Rd. N2B Bronxville
New York, NY 10708
TN 914-9614568
FN 914-9612952

Angel T. Ramos
2/F, Luen Shing Bldg.
118-120 Queens Rd., Central Hongkong
TN 252-14954/25438059
FN 852-28512894

Directory of Awardees

Angel T. Ramos
2/F, Luen Shing Bldg.
118-120 Queens Rd., Central Hongkong
TN 252-14954/25438059
FN 852-28512894

Mona Lisa L. Steiner
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Vienna, Austria
TN 7136381

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Tamuning, Guam 96911
TN 671-644456
FN 671-6492640

Prospero C. Zamora
149 Raven Way, Ypaopao Estates
Dededo, Guam 96912
TN 671-6325787

Pamana ng Pilipino

Anacleto R. Alcantra
Group Builders, 2020 Democrat St.
Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
TN 808-8320888
FN 832-8320890

Jacob V. Aranda
McGill University-Lady Davis Institute
3755 Cote Ste. Catherine Rd.
Montreal, Quebec H3T 1E2Canada
TN 514-3408260 ext. 5292
FN 514-3407565

Evelyn Panganiban-Bebars
Al-Mafraq Hospital, P.O. Box 2951
TN 72171521-23100 ext. 301/285/286
FN 5121549

Lilia Calderon-Clemente
500 East 77th St., New York, NY 10021
USA
TN 212-2881830

Paciente A. Cordero, Jr.
Dept. of Science, Sultan Qaboos University
Oman
TN 968-513415

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2621 Interlaken Blvd., Seattle
Washington, USA
TN 1-206-324-9011/543-2580

Jorge M. Garcia
10709 River Road
Potomac, Maryland 20854

Ma. Cynthia J. Goh
Dept. of Chemistry, University of Toronto
80 George St., Toronto M5S 1A1
TN 416-9786254
FN 416-9788775

Venancio C. Igarta
97 Chrystie St. New York 1002
TN 212-4313154

Erlinda T. Layosa
1902 Centre Mark, 287 Queens Rd.
Central, Hongkong
TN 25779331
FN 28907287

Evelyn L. Mandac
601 13th St., 11C
New York, NY, USA 10025
TN 212-7496126

David C. Medalla
c/o The Filipino, 90 Hodford Hall
Golden Green, London
TN 0181-7317195
FN 0181-7317195

Irene Natividad
c/o Philippine American Foundation
1211 Connecticut Ave., NW 502
Washington, D.C. 2003
TN 202 4665799/466-6195

Rey D. Pagtakhan
825 Confed, House of Commons
Ottawa, Canada K1A OA6
TN 613-9927148
FN 613-9939125

Manuel V. Pangilinan
First Pacific Co.
24/F Two Exchange Square
8 Connaught Place, Hongkong
TN 2842-4388
FN 2877-0039

Mel Red Recana
110 N. Grand Ave., Los Angeles
California 90012 USA
TN 213-9746204
FN 213-6264584

Raul M. Sunico
c/o Foundation for Musical Filipinos
420 E. 64th St. (W3E)
New York, NY 10021
TN 212-4866741

Romeo V. Tabuena
Sto. Domingo 12, San Miguel de Allende
Guanajuato, Mexico
TN 415-21061

Velma R. Veloria
1511 South Ferdinand St.
Seattle, Washington, WA 98108
TN 206-7627855
FN 206-7679803

1996 Presidential Awards for Filipino Individuals and Organizations Overseas

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Commission on Filipinos Overseas

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR CULTURE AND THE ARTS



VISION:

A Filipino national culture, evolving with and for the people, instilling pride and a sense of identity among Filipinos, and unifying them as a nation.

Established in 1992 through Republic Act 7356, the National Commission for culture and the Arts was created to act as a policy-formulating and coordinating body mandated to help develop, promote and preserve the nation's cultural and artistic heritage. For inquiries, contact tel. nos.: 527-2198, 527-2197 and 527-2210.