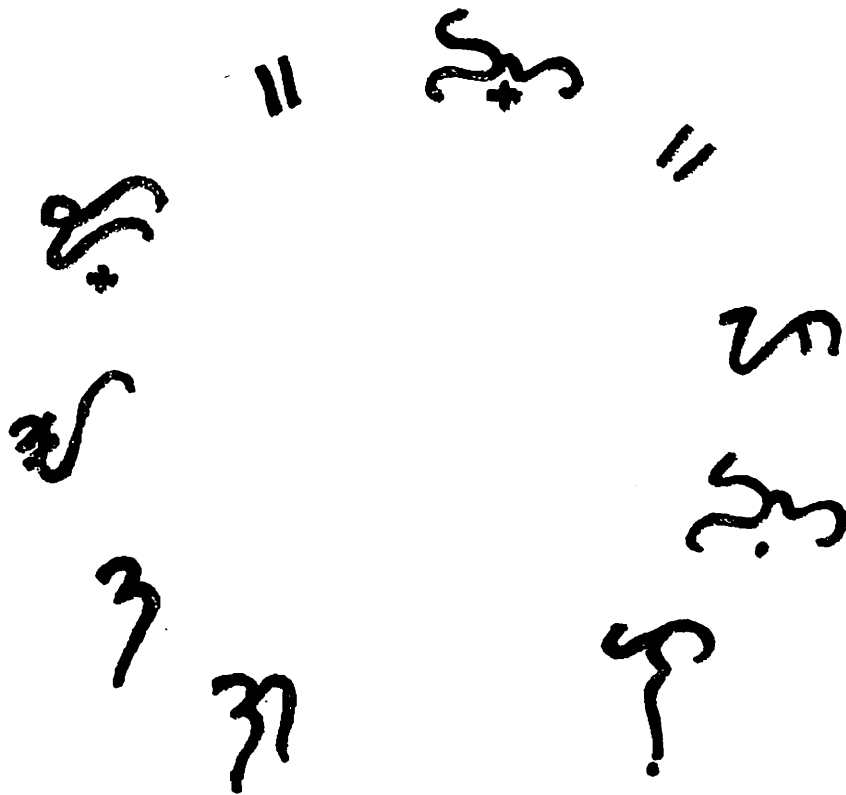


Year 2000
Presidential Awards
for
Filipino Individuals
and
Organizations Overseas

(The facts and accounts of circumstances that are contained in the profiles of the Year 2000 Presidential Awardees were taken from the materials submitted to the Awards Secretariat for the consideration of their nominations.)



Scriptures above are "alibata" or syllabary characters used in the Philippines, denoting "Gawad ng Pangulo", or Presidential Award.



THE PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS SYSTEM

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

The awards system was institutionalized in 1991, with the signing of Executive Order No. 498 by then President Corazon C. Aquino. The awards have so far been extended to ninety-seven (97) Filipinos and private organizations overseas since its establishment. The first set of Presidential Awards for 22 individuals and organizations was given by Fidel V. Ramos in December 1993. The second set of Presidential Awards was presented by Fidel V. Ramos to 45 individuals and organizations in December 1996. In 1998, the awards were conferred by Joseph E. Estrada on 30 awardees. Some 59 individuals/organizations overseas are slated to receive the Presidential awards in December 2000.

The Presidential awards consist of five categories. The *Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino* Award is conferred on Filipino associations or individuals for their significant contribution to Philippine national development efforts. The *Kaakabay ng Bayan* 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. The *Kaanib ng Bayan* Award is accorded to foreign organizations for their contribution to Philippine progress and development. The *Banaag* Award is given to Filipino and foreign individuals or associations for contributions which have significantly benefited a sector or community in the Philippines, or advanced the cause of Filipino communities abroad. The fifth category, the *Pamana ng Pilipino* Award is conferred on Filipinos overseas who have consistently pursued their work or profession with excellence and distinction.

The millennium awardees were selected from 187 nominations endorsed by Philippine Embassies and Consulates in 32 countries. Of the 59 awardees, 43 are individuals and 16 are organizations from Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Belgium, Canada, China, Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, Egypt, France, Germany, Hong Kong SAR, Hungary, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Libya, Oman, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Spain, Switzerland, Taiwan, Turkey, and the United States of America.



MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA



MESSAGE

I take pride in congratulating the recipients of the Year 2000 Presidential Awards for Filipino Individuals and Organizations Overseas. I am more proud to once again stand witness to the talent, resilience, and the indomitable spirit of overseas Filipinos.

Early in my Presidency in 1998, we gathered on the same occasion to celebrate these sterling qualities that allow us to make positive contributions to peace and stability in the global community. We take comfort in the fact that the nation continues to move forward through the challenges and uncertainties of the new millennium. As your President, I am duty-bound to lead our people. As Filipinos, however, we are all obliged to live by the principles of our constitution and to be united in pursuing a better future for our country.

We gather today to recognize the personal achievements and selfless dedication of 59 Filipino individuals and organizations overseas to Filipino communities worldwide and to the development initiatives of the Philippine government. The growing number of awardees from 30 in 1998, bodes well not only for the awards system that remains unalloyed in prestige, but also for a nation where the number of its nationals overseas is the equivalent of about 10% of its total population.

As we appreciate their profiles and empathize with their struggles, personal challenges and glories, we can only but identify with the same ideals, traditions, and convictions that make a nation. Suffice it to say that the awardees whom we honor today are those who dared to stand tall over seemingly insurmountable odds.

Sa ating mga kababayan sa ibayong dagat, malugod ko kayong binabati at pinapasalamatan.

Maligayang Pasko at Manigong Bagong Taon!

Mabuhay!


JOSEPH EJERCITO ESTRADA

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Department of Foreign Affairs



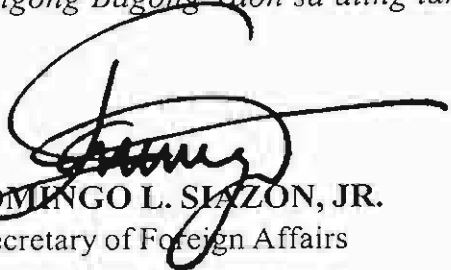
MESSAGE

As we celebrate the first *Month of Overseas Filipinos* in this new millennium, it deeply pleases the Philippine government to accord well-deserved recognition to distinguished Filipinos overseas, as well as to other individuals and organizations abroad, who, by their exemplary efforts and achievements, have given honor and prestige to the entire Filipino nation.

In our people's quest for enhanced prosperity and development, the contribution of each Filipino is invaluable. Despite their distance from the Philippines, our awardees have proven that the spirit of *bayanihan* continues to flourish, inspiring others to help uplift the lives of Filipinos.

I extend most sincere congratulations to you, recipients of the *Year 2000 Presidential Awards*. May your initiatives and achievements—contributing tremendously to the cause of national prosperity, development, and peace—serve as edifying models for all our countrymen.

Maligayang Pasko at Manigong Bagong Taon sa ating lahat!



DOMINGO L. SIAZON, JR.
Secretary of Foreign Affairs
and

Chairman, Commission on Filipinos Overseas



Department of Foreign Affairs
COMMISSION ON FILIPINOS OVERSEAS



MESSAGE

The Commission on Overseas joins the entire Filipino nation in paying tribute to the Year 2000 Presidential Awardees, whose exemplary deeds and achievements give pride and glory to our country.

When we speak about the Filipino nation in this third millenium, we envisage a society of people who work, travel or live in different parts of the world, yet share a consciousness of their origins from a single country. More than at any time in the past, the Filipino nation is evolving into a visible transnational community of people in different places. It is this very condition of community that makes possible and relevant the ties we maintain and the honor we bestow upon our fifty nine awardees this year.

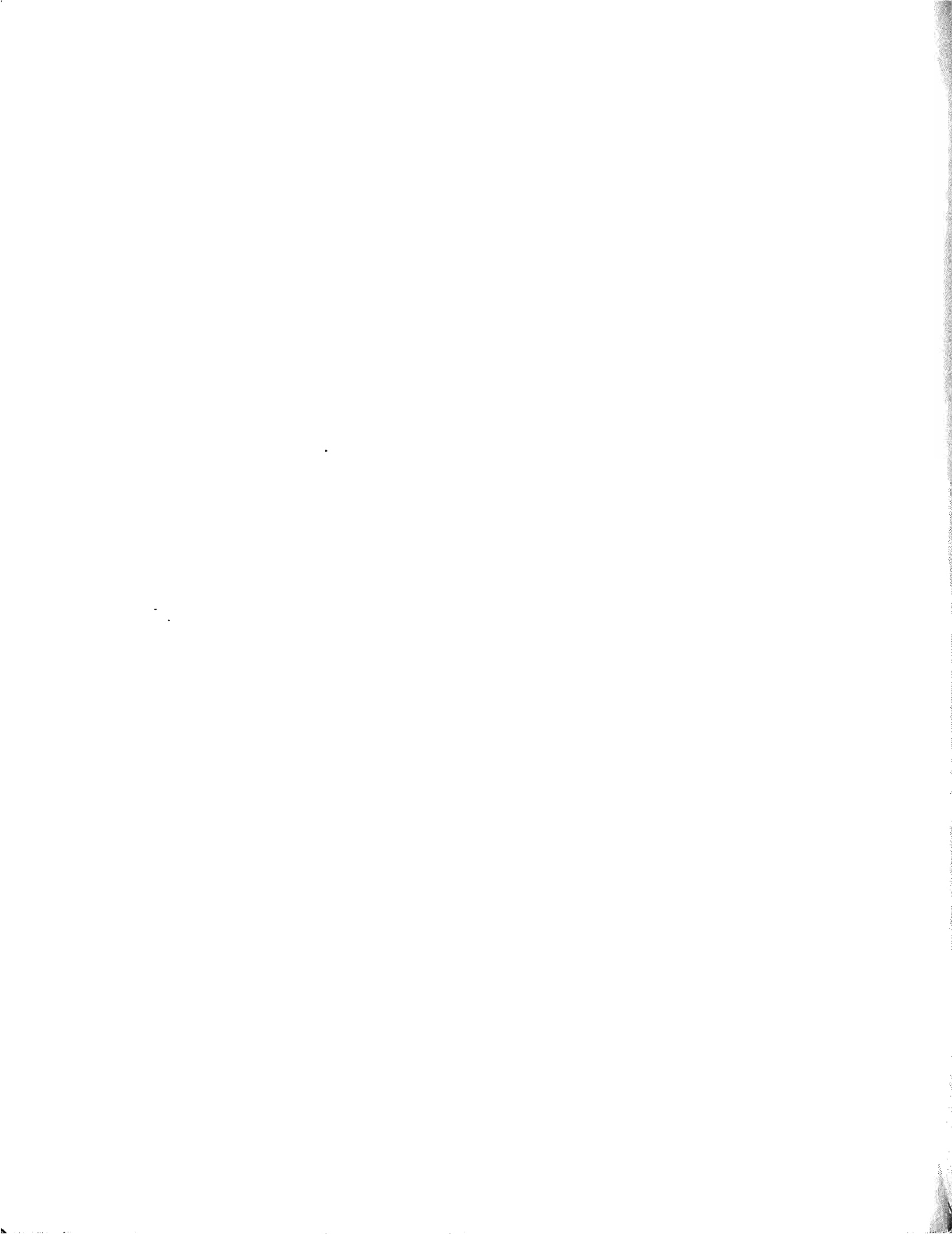
We are truly heartened by the eloquent examples of these distinguished men and women because *bayanihan* and *kagitingan* have followed the path of their lives in other lands. Our first awardees of the millenium reinforce the vision that the Filipino transnational community has a future that is bright, tremendous and exciting.

Congratulations, and *mabuhay tayong lahat!*

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large loop and a horizontal line extending to the right.

JOSE Z. MOLANO, JR.
Executive Director

Manila, December 2000



Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino

*The Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino is conferred on
Filipino associations or individuals for their contribution
to Philippine national development efforts*

AWARDEES

Juan M. Montero, II
United States of America

Victoria C. Navarra
United States of America

Elton See Tan
Taiwan

Juan M. Montero, II

Dr. Juan M. Montero, II is guided by a simple principle in life—that of *sharing his gift with others*. Sharing is his way of life, so that others in need may have a part of what he was lucky enough to possess.

Determined to acquire more knowledge relevant to his chosen profession, this surgeon from Surigao del Sur went to the United States in 1966 to pursue postgraduate training in general surgery at De Paul Hospital in Norfolk, Virginia, and a fellowship in Thoracic Surgery at the University of Virginia Medical Center. Ten years later, his excellence in general and thoracic surgery practice earned him an American Board of Surgery Certification and a fellowship in the American College of Surgeons.

The desire to share his knowledge and skills drove Dr. Montero to be actively involved in various socio-civic and cultural activities in the community and even national levels, such as the Association of Philippine Physicians in America and the Society of Philippine Surgeons in America.

The needs of some 5,000 migrant workers in eastern Virginia was a compelling factor in his crusade to provide medical assistance to those who cannot afford treatment or medication for their illnesses. For this purpose, Dr. Montero launched a mobile clinic that he and his colleagues used to deliver medical services to the needy. Eventually, Dr. Montero opened the Chesapeake Care Free Clinic, a facility that costs \$700,000, which provided free medical services to those not covered by medical insurance.

Dr. Montero's civic involvements also extended to the preservation and promotion of Filipino heritage and culture among the younger generation. He was



instrumental in the establishment of the Filipino-American Student Cultural Center at the Old Dominion University where he sits as a member of the Board of Trustees. He helped raise funds, which came up to US\$100,000 in less than two (2) years, for the establishment of the center.

Not content with just serving the poor of Virginia, Dr. Montero sought to share his medical expertise with his countrymen. Since 1981, Dr. Montero has been leading medical missions to remote areas in the Philippines. Aside from rendering free medical services, Dr. Montero and his team of foreign medical experts conduct lectures to impart knowledge to local doctors. At present, he also serves as coordinator of the Physicians for Peace for Asia and the Pacific. He continued with these commitments despite falling ill in 1996.

His accomplishments and community spirit have been recognized by various institutions and award-giving bodies such as the Old Dominion University (1996), Virginia Council on Social Welfare (1995-1996), Philippine American Community of Tidewater (1993), and Medical Society of Virginia (1992).

Truly, Dr. Montero has made the Filipino people proud.



Victoria Navarra

gave not only her services but also medical equipment and supplies, which she was able to source from various donors.

Her love for her country of origin is such that she continues to work for the alleviation of the plight of the needy by providing medical services and supporting various charities. With her at the helm, the Philippine Medical Association of Michigan raised a total of US\$214,000 in 1998-1999 to support various causes in the Philippines, in such areas as environment, scholarships, and medical missions. To take her commitment a step further, she established the Philippine Medical Mission Foundation with Dr. Fanny dela Cruz to help finance and equip medical missions to the country. The Foundation also aims to help in the training of medical workers and those in related fields for the benefit of poor people in the country.

Even in her adopted country, she continues to foster love for the motherland by supporting the *Paaralang Pilipino*, a school established for American-born Filipinos to give them the opportunity to learn about Philippine culture and language. She unselfishly offers her own resources to finance projects of the Filipino community.

No price can be attached to the verve and dedication of Dr. Navarra to the furtherance of causes for the good of her countrymen, whether in the Philippines or in the United States.

The use of God-given talents for the purpose of service to one's fellowmen is one of the best ways to glorify the Giver. Dr. Victoria Navarra, a medical practitioner by profession and a singer by avocation, has used her talents in many fundraising events to support civic activities both in the United States and the Philippines.

The singing doctor helped raise funds for the Philippine American Community Center in Michigan by recording an album of songs, the proceeds of which were earmarked for the construction of a cultural center. She led the Philippine Medical Association of Michigan Choir in its performances in the Philippines, raising P 400,000 to finance projects for the orphans. She likewise led her community in generating relief assistance during past calamities that struck the Philippines.

Dr. Navarra has led and participated in several medical missions held in different parts of the country, such as La Union, Quezon, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Bataan, Cagayan, Rizal and Bicol. In all these missions, Dr. Navarra

Elton See Tan

Dr. Elton See Tan is a businessman with deep compassion for the needy in the Philippines. He takes time for charitable causes and philanthropic endeavors even as his work as Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board of the Asiaworld Plaza Hotel (Taipei and Manila), America California Bank, and the Asia Trust and Investment Corporation keep him very busy.

An initial donation of P2.5 B from Dr. See Tan in 1989 established the Kingpaoguat Typoco Tanyu International (KTTI) Foundation. The KTTI serves as the philanthropic arm of the Asiaworld International Group (AIG) through which the vision of his illustrious ancestor, the late Doña King Pao Guat Typoco, "*from the society, for the society*" is realized. This vision covers a wide range of activities such as the provision of educational, infrastructure, and medical assistance to different beneficiaries in the Philippines. To date, the KTTI has awarded scholarship grants to some 5,000 poor but deserving students throughout the country. By giving them education, the KTTI helps its scholars to prepare for a brighter future.

Consistent with and complementary to the scholarship program, the KTTI also supports the "Operation-Barrio Schools" program of the Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Inc. (EFCCCI). A total of 40 public schoolhouses have been donated by the KTTI to economically depressed communities in Metro Manila, the Bicol region, Bulacan and Palawan under this program.

Dr. See Tan has spearheaded various private sector initiatives to address the needs of victims of natural calamities in the country. In 1990, he was



personally involved in providing aid to the victims of the devastating earthquake and typhoon, which occurred within a short period of each other. He also led the KTTI in responding to the needs of the lahar victims in the aftermath of the 1991 Mt. Pinatubo eruption.

In Taiwan, Dr. See Tan has been very active in the promotion of the Philippines and Filipino interests. He sponsors activities that showcase the richness of Philippine culture. He founded the Association of Philippine Professional and Executives in Taiwan, the first such organization of Filipinos in that country. He has been very supportive of the activities organized by the Manila Economic and Cultural Office (MECO) for the Filipino workers in Taiwan, such as the Palarong Pinoy 2000 and the 2000 Migrants Day Celebration. He has also been instrumental in the MECO Labor Office mobilization of food and medical supplies for the Filipino victims of the September 1999 earthquake in Taiwan.

Dr. See Tan is a fine exemplar of the Filipino value of "*pakikipag-kapwa*".

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 programs and development of the country

AWARDEES

Balikatan Sa Kaunlaran – Hong Kong Council
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

Filipino-American Community of Colorado
United States of America

Filipino Community in the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands
CNMI

Filipino Community of Guam
Guam



Balikatan Sa Kaunlaran Hong Kong Council



BSK-HK members during one of their entrepreneurship seminars on food processing

The Special Administrative Region (SAR) of Hong Kong is host to a large number of Filipino workers. Most of these workers are part of one organization or another, and most likely fall within the umbrella of the *Balikatan sa Kaunlaran Hong Kong Council* which is composed of about 30 affiliate organizations. The BsK holds the vision of uplifting the lives of its members in particular, and Filipinos in general. They have established a track record that has earned them the respect, not only of their fellow Filipinos, but also of government and non-government bodies in and outside Hong Kong.

Social and fund raising activities meant for the entertainment and fellowship of BsK members are usual undertakings for this group. However, the pursuit of its larger goals for its members and their homeland drove the BsK to launch bigger projects which have more impact on people's lives. Among such projects are the establishment of temporary shelter for BsK members, conduct of counseling sessions for members who seek such help, accessing of health and insurance services for its members and their respective families, and provision of legal assistance when needed.

Not content with responding to present needs, the BsK has also undertaken the conduct of skills training for its members in preparation for their eventual reintegration into the mainstream of Philippine society. Various courses are offered for their members, ranging from computer-related courses to those that would develop their entrepreneurial skills. Other courses such as news and features writing, flower arrangement and soap carving, among others, are also offered to members.

Among the most important, and perhaps the most lasting, legacy of this group are the housing projects that have been initiated in Tanza, Cavite and Binangonan and San Mateo in Rizal. These areas also intend to make available livelihood activities for its residents. The BsK's pilot project in Cabuyao, Laguna, known as the Hong Kong Village, is already a thriving place where families of hundreds of BsK members now reside, enjoying the benefits of the livelihood projects and basic services that are available to them, and enabling them to live in dignity as befitting the new heroes of our times.



Filipino American Community of Colorado

A link to home. A home away from home. A need to find roots in a place thousands of miles away from Philippine shores. These were probably some of the thoughts that moved Filipino migrants in Colorado to put up an organization that would fill the void in their hearts.

Originally founded in 1954 as the Filipino Club of the Rockies, it was renamed and incorporated as a non-profit organization in 1974 as the Filipino American Community of Colorado. It was established primarily to provide charitable, cultural and educational services. As a bastion of the Filipino culture in Colorado, the FACC has been actively promoting the Philippines cultural heritage for close to 50 years. Its Performance Group, composed of over 100 members, provides instructions and conducts shows on traditional and contemporary dance and music. It holds an annual Filipino Festival which highlights Filipino culture—its music, dance, and cuisine. It also sponsors performing groups from the Philippines such as the UP Concert Chorus, Kontra-Gapi and the Philippine Children's Rondalla from Mandaue. Filipino language and computer classes are also held for its members. Through its Asian Youth Enrichment Program, it provides basic Asian cultural education to community youths.

Over the years, the FACC has evolved from a purely cultural organization to one which has taken on social and civic responsibilities. It has so far granted over 20 scholarships to eligible and deserving Filipino-American students from Colorado through the FACC Scholastic Achievement Award Scholarship. In 1994, it established the Student



Assistance in the Philippines Program (SAPP) which currently has 26 student-beneficiaries in the Philippines.

The first Filipino Cultural Center was established in 1988. It provides a "home" and source of information for new migrants from the Philippines. This Center, referred to as "Bahay Kubo", serves as the base of Filipino and Asian-American culture and education in Colorado.

The FACC also supports various charities through donations in cash and kind. Among the recipients of FACC's generous donations are the Uplift Internationale, National Federation of Filipino Associations (NaFFA), and the Aurora Asia Pacific Community Partnership, among others. It has also given aid to the victims of the Mt. Pinatubo and Mt. Mayon eruption.

It is admirable that though already steeped in everything American, the FACC members continue to promote their Filipino identity and culture, even sharing the richness of their heritage with other non-Filipino members of their community.

Filipino Community in the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands

The Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) is host to a growing number of Filipinos. The rapid economic growth experienced by CNMI in the 1980's opened up opportunities to overseas Filipino workers in different professions and lines of business, hence the steady growth of the Filipino community in this United States Commonwealth.

As the number of Filipino nationals in the CNMI increased, various aggrupations were also born. These associations were of varied orientations. Some were regional, while others were professional in nature. Among these Filipino organizations are the Visayas Mindanao (Visminda) Association, the Marianas Institute of Filipino Certified Public Accountants (MIFICPA), and the Marianas Filipino Association of Filipino Architects and Engineers (MAFEA).



Visminda is an association of Filipinos who hail from the Visayas and Mindanao whose main objective is to help uplift the lives of Filipinos in the CNMI by providing aid and comfort to each other and to the rest of the Filipino people. Over the last year, the Visminda has been



regularly donating to Bantay Bata 163. It has also given monetary death benefits to the families of its members who have passed away. As part of the bigger CNMI community, members of Visminda participate in the CNMI government's cleanliness program.

The **MIFICPA** is composed of accountants who are practicing their profession in the CNMI. It undertakes continuing education program to upgrade the knowledge and skills of its members. It is engaged in advocacy programs and lobbying efforts for the passage of a legislative measure that would create a Board of Accountancy in the CNMI to regulate the practice of the profession. If passed into law, this would give the Filipino CPA's the chance to be members of the prestigious American



MIFICPA



"Income Tax Help on Air" is one of the information dissemination activities of MIFICPA.

Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA). Seminar workshops and lectures are periodically sponsored to help members be updated on the latest

developments in the practice of accountancy, including familiarization with laws and statutes on taxation. The MIFICPA also renders community service for the benefit of the Filipinos in the area. One such undertaking is the conduct of lectures on the preparation of individual income tax returns to give Filipinos basic information needed to comply with CNMI's taxation policies.

MAFEA is another professional group that works to constantly hone the knowledge and skills of its members. This is achieved through lectures and workshops that aim to familiarize the association's



members with new trends in the field of engineering and architecture (such as new computer aided design or CAD software) that will help them improve their services. Like the MIFICPA, the MAFEA renders its

share of community service. It supports the undertakings of the United Filipino Organization (UFO), as well as the Philippine Consulate and Labor Office. It was also instrumental in the organization of the Saipan Association of Filipino Skilled Workers (SAFSWO), a pioneering organization of Filipino construction workers in Saipan.

Aside from OFWs, the CNMI also has Filipino entrepreneurs who have established businesses in that



MAFEA members discuss issues facing overseas workers during their recent induction of new set of officers.

state. The **L & T Group of Companies** is engaged in garments manufacturing, real estate, amusement and management consultancy, among others. The L & T group has interests in the USA, the Philippines, Hongkong and China, Cambodia, Guatemala and the Federated States of Micronesia. It employs about 400 Filipino in various positions in its Saipan operations alone. It has also made substantial investments in the Philippines where it has generated about 3,000 jobs. The company provides its employees opportunities for technical and managerial training in different countries which keeps them updated on latest trends in business.

Another CNMI - based Filipino businessman is **Engr. Rodrigo Ceron**, who owns Ceron Heavy Equipment and Parts, Ltd. This Company has had dealings with different CNMI government offices and has established a good track record for itself. Under Ceron's able management, the company has grown and now has branches in San Francisco, Hawaii, and the Philippines. Aside from Ceron Heavy Equipment and Parts Ltd., he also established Micronesia Power Systems, Inc. DBA.

Through his companies, Mr. Ceron has contributed to the development of the Philippines by employing OFWs in the CNMI. He is also a staunch supporter of various charities in the Philippines and makes contributions to such institutions as the Philippine National Red Cross, the Boys Town, and the Home for the Aged. On his own, he sponsors the education of some children in Antipolo and Camarines Sur and conducts annual gift giving activities among indigent residents of Antipolo.

The Filipinos in the CNMI are united in their diversity. The thread that binds the community is their sense of oneness of purpose—that of improving the lot of the Filipino people, whether in the Philippines or the CNMI.



Filipino Community of Guam



The FCG relief and calamity committee officers, members, and volunteers working hand in hand

The spirit of unity and nationalism among Filipinos seem to become more pronounced when they are far from home. Such is the case with the Filipino Community of Guam, an umbrella organization of all Filipino associations in this US territory which has been in existence since 1954.

The FCG's leaders and members continue to foster love for the motherland through various projects that keep them connected to home. One of the main objectives of this community is to strengthen the ties of Filipinos in Guam while striving to preserve the traditions of the Filipino people. Both tasks are commendable enough on their own, but the FCG goes beyond words by actually doing things for their fellow Filipinos back home.

In 1998, President Estrada commended the FCG for responding to the call for help in the aftermath of a devastating storm in the Philippines that left many families homeless. They sent two (2) forty-foot container vans of relief goods which were personally turned over to the President for distribution to the typhoon victims. They also gave P1.2 M for the victims' other needs.

The Office of the First Lady, which has projects for the needy, was given assistance in the form of

medical equipment, used linens, and books which were donated by the Government of Guam through the efforts of the FCG. In addition to this, the FCG also made its own donation to the Office of the First Lady to support her projects for the poor.

In their own home ground, the FCG is an active participant in the projects initiated by the Philippine Consulate in Guam such as the Philippine Independence Day celebrations. They initiated the organization of the *Sining Kayumanggi*, a choral group composed of Filipinos in the island which performs traditional Filipino songs and dances and undertakes numerous socio-civic projects for the Guamanian community. Since 1994, the FCG has been holding the annual Mr. and Ms. Filipino Community of Guam contest to raise funds to build the long-awaited Filipino Community of Guam clubhouse which will showcase the best of Filipino culture.

The FCG has not only extended help to those in need back home. The civic spirit is very much alive and their contribution is also felt in the Guamanian community. They have made themselves partners of both Americans and ethnic Guamanians, establishing a strong rapport between and among the members of these diverse cultures.

Kaanib ng Bayan

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

AWARDEES

Anesvad Foundation
Spain

Jules and Paul-Émile Léger Foundation
Canada

Operation Smile International
United States of America



Fundacion ANESVAD



Service to God through the sick and the abandoned: this is the thrust of the *'A NUESTROS ENFERMOS SERVIMOS VIENDO A DIOS'* (ANESVAD), which literally means, "We serve our infirm through seeing God".

ANESVAD, a non-government, non-profit organization, was founded in Bilbao, Spain 32 years ago primarily for the purpose of carrying out sanitary action and social development projects in least developed countries. It was recognized as a National Association in 1970 and later as a "Public Utility Entity". It was subsequently conferred the Cross of the Civil Order of Charity. In 1992, the ANESVAD became a Foundation and was classified by Ministerial Order as a "Particular Charity Institution to Provide Assistance".

The work of ANESVAD in the Philippines is inspired by the trail blazing apostolate of Fr. Javier Olazabal, S.I., a Spanish Jesuit who worked among the lepers of the Culion colony in Palawan. In the 1970s, Culion was considered the biggest leper colony in the world, with a population of more than 14,000 lepers, family members and health workers. Fear of the disease practically isolated the colony from the rest of Philippine society. It was with the view of mainstreaming the village of Culion with the rest of society that ANESVAD set out to do its work.

The reintegration of Culion into society started with the Leprosy Care and Treatment and Community Rehabilitation which was undertaken from 1971-1975. It was during this period that lepers and their dependents were given appropriate medical treatment. Livelihood projects for the residents were initiated through the donation of farm implements, including farm animals under the Culion Agricultural Rehabilitation Program. The problem of education was addressed by providing additional school buildings.

In 1976, the Leprosy Control and Community Building phase was launched. Values and attitudes reorientation among patients and their family members was undertaken during the 10-year period covered by this phase. The ANESVAD implemented this program through the Culion Foundation, Inc. in order to drive home the message that those with the disease could be productive members of society. This was complemented by programs covering health, leprosy research, medicine distribution, nutrition, and the Integrated Family Farm Projects.

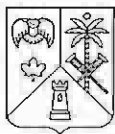
The success of ANESVAD's programs in Culion may be gauged by the fact that in 1986, the Leprosy Eradication and Community Capability Building was launched. During this phase, cured patients were reintegrated into society though involvement in productive undertakings such as handicraft, footwear and furniture making, salt farming, piggery and hog dispersal, seaweed farming and other micro enterprises.

From a high of 508 registered patients in 1987, the number of patients in Culion has been reduced to 30 with the introduction of the Multi Drug Treatment (MDT) and the Enzyme Linked Immuno Sorbent Assay (ELISA) method. These schemes are now being applied in other leper colonies in the country such as the ones in Bicol and Cebu.

ANESVAD has expanded its charitable activities in the Philippines to include the provision of medical assistance, training and food to abandoned children in Manila, while counseling is given to young migrants in the city of Muntinlupa. In Mindoro, the Iraya Mangyans are the beneficiaries of development projects of the ANESVAD and in Iriga City, health care and assistance is offered to the people.

The Philippines is only one of the beneficiaries of the ANESVAD. Its presence is felt in countries where aid is sorely needed, the third world or developing countries like Vietnam, Cambodia, Myanmar, Liberia, Rwanda, Ghana and India, among others.

The pioneering efforts of ANESVAD in the care and cure of lepers has resulted in the acceptance and mainstreaming of this previously marginalized group. The disease and the victims are no longer feared. If only for this humanitarian act, the ANESVAD deserves the Filipino people's thanks and appreciation.



Jules and Paul-Émile Léger
Foundation

Jules and Paul-Émile Léger Foundation

The Jules and Paul-Émile Léger Foundation was created by virtue of a legislative action of the Canadian Parliament in 1981, to honor two (2) men whose lives had great impact on the Canadian people: the late Jules Léger who served as Governor-General of Canada from 1974 to 1979 and his brother, Cardinal Paul-Émile Léger. After the Cardinal's death in 1991, Jules Léger's wife, Madame Gabrielle, served as the Foundation's honorary president. It is a non-profit philanthropic foundation committed to assisting poor and disadvantaged people in developing countries. It aims to, among others, alleviate sickness, hunger and suffering experienced by orphans, lepers, the elderly, the handicapped and those who are ill-treated.

The Philippines is fortunate to be among the beneficiaries of the Léger Foundation. The Philippine Development Assistance Program (PDAP) came about 14 years ago as a result of the support that the Canadian government extended to the administration of then President Corazon C. Aquino. It is through the PDAP that the Foundation channels its support for the social and economic development, particularly of the agriculture sector in the rural areas of the Philippines. Thus far, the Foundation has donated over \$6 M to the PDAP.

The Foundation also extends assistance to some 3,500 families in 10 farming communities in the provinces of Bukidnon, Davao del Sur, Iloilo, Camarines Sur and Negros Occidental through the PPSE (Promoting Participation in Sustainable



Enterprises). Under this program, the family-beneficiaries are trained to identify, produce and market their own crops, optimize land and labor, diversify crops, as well as improve seed quality, with the view to developing self-reliance and improving their lives. The PPSE aims to reduce poverty among the marginalized farming communities while helping them to be self-sufficient.

The assistance of the Léger Foundation is also extended to the street children and other urban poor in Manila and Cebu through the Kaibigan Ermita Outreach Foundation with which it established a partnership in 1991. The Foundation provides half the funds of Kaibigan to ensure that its beneficiaries are provided with basic needs, protection, and opportunities for personal development.

Undoubtedly, the Léger Foundation has touched many Filipinos' lives. To some, it may have made the world of difference between merely surviving and being given the chance to live and be hopeful for their future.

Operation Smile International

The story of Operation Smile is the story of selflessness and love of people for their fellow men. Such extension of love and care is translated into better chances at life for children and young adults who have benefited from the free reconstructive surgery offered by Operation Smile.

Operation Smile was started almost two (2) decades ago by a couple who were part of a volunteer team that rendered free surgery for children afflicted with facial deformities. While that team was able to help about 150 children in the Philippines in 1981, a few hundred more could not be served. The realization of the magnitude of the prevalence of cleft palates, cleft lips and other deformities in the Philippines drove Dr. William P. Magee, Jr., a plastic surgeon, and his wife Kathleen, a nurse-clinical social worker, to vow to return and help the many others who were not accommodated by that medical mission.

Thus, began the lifelong work of raising funds, inviting volunteers, and ultimately making life better for many children all over the world. From the vision

of Dr. Magee in 1981, Operation Smile has grown into a network of 24 chapters throughout the United States of America. It conducts annual missions in 46 sites in 19 countries. To this day, the Philippines remains the biggest beneficiary of the services offered by this group. Proof of this is that the OS volunteers have performed 10,740 surgical procedures between November 1982 and February 2000 on 10,049 patients in various places throughout the country. They have likewise set-up partnerships with local hospitals and volunteers who help their foreign counterparts in the conduct of various medical missions in the country.

The beneficiaries of Operation Smile are those who cannot afford medical treatment, and are relegated to living a life avoiding contact with other people because of their deformities. The gift offered by the OS volunteers to these poor people cannot be quantified. To put a smile on a face that has not known it is beyond price, both for the patient and for the doctor.

This is the end-all and be-all of this organization. The men and women of Operation Smile do not seek any reward beyond the smile that they are able to draw from the children and young adults whose lives they are able to change drastically: from one of shame, hopelessness and helplessness, to one of promise; from simply existing, to actually living.

While these are enough rewards for Dr. Magee and the other OS volunteers, their efforts have not gone unrecognized as evidenced by the various citations and awards bestowed on the organization. It is therefore only befitting that the Philippine government bestows the Kaanib ng Bayan Award to Operation Smile for giving thousands of Filipinos a reason to smile.



First Lady Luisa P. Ejercito Estrada aboard the OS' "The Flying Hospital" in Manila

Banaag

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

AWARDEES

Nestor A. Acebuche
Turkey

Alex M. Cueto
United States of America

Phoebe Cabotaje-Andes
United States of America

Aguedo Q. Cunanan
Sultanate of Oman

Lilia Angelical
Switzerland

Cunina Organization
Belgium

Mohammad Ahmad Bayoumi
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

James Allan Dela Paz
Canada

Alice P. Bulos
United States of America

Filipino Coalition for Solidarity, Inc.
United States of America

Sr. Magdalena S. Florentino, FMM (+)
Libya

Alex Jose R. Ginete
Bahrain

Mildred Aires-Go
China

Fr. Luis Halasz, SVD
Hungary

Claire R. Ick
United States of America

Kanagawa Women's Space Ms. La
Japan

Kinderhilfe Philippinen, e.V.
Germany

Francis L. Lammawin
Taiwan

Lubang-Looc International
United States of America

Marina Roma-March
Canada

Cornelio Ruiz Natividad
United States of America

Rodolfo De Leon Paragas
Sultanate of Oman

Philippine School Bahrain
Bahrain

Sr. Olivia Racinez, WCW
Switzerland

Sirmata (Vision) 2004
United States of America

Pedro P. Tenorio
Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands

Theresa Lädeli
Switzerland

Paul Semo Tordjman
France

Orlando R. Vargas
Australia

Victorian Community in Belgium
Belgium

Nestor A. Acebuche

The Filipino Community in Istanbul, Turkey, is lucky to have its own guardian angel in the person of Mr. Nestor A. Acebuche. A native of Lao-Ang, Northern Samar, Nestor currently works as executive sous chef at the Istanbul Hilton. He has also worked as chef in the Philippines, Canada, and Egypt and prior to this job, in Ankara, Turkey.

While it is his culinary skills that earn him his wages, it is his love and concern for his fellow Filipinos that has earned him praise. Nestor has been president of the Filipino Community in Istanbul from 1994 up to the present, proof that he enjoys the trust of the members of the community. He attends to the needs of Filipinos beyond the call of duty.

Nestor regularly visits detained Filipinos in detention centers in Istanbul and tries to work for their release since the Philippine Embassy in Ankara is about 500 miles away. Because of his network with the Filipino community, he is often the first to be informed about the arrest of a Filipino national and takes the initiative of informing Embassy officials for them to take action.

Under the leadership of Nestor, the Filipino community extends assistance to distressed workers such as those who are abused by their employees. They also provide emergency aid to those in need, like those who were affected by the August 1999 killer earthquake in Turkey. During such times, Nestor and the Filipino community make no distinction as to the nationalities of those to whom they extend their assistance. This earned them the praise of a Turkish TV station when they organized a relief campaign for those affected by the earthquake, mostly native Turks.



A devout Catholic, Nestor helped organize Filipino choirs which now sing regularly at the Sunday masses in two Roman Catholic Churches in Istanbul. With the support of his family, Nestor also took the lead in founding a Chapter of the Couples for Christ in their area.

Nestor has helped organize regular events for the Filipino community in Istanbul, including Philippine Independence Day Celebrations, Sports Festivals, an annual "Filipino Night" at the Hilton, as well as consultations between Embassy officials and the members of the community. He also tries to increase awareness and appreciation of the Philippines and its culture among the Turkish people through an annual week-long Filipino Food Festival held at the Istanbul Hilton.

The services rendered by Nestor for fellow Filipinos do not require anything in return. If there is any overseas Filipino worker who deserves to be called a hero, there is no argument that Nestor Acebuche should be it.



Phoebe Cabotaje-Andes

Association in the State of New Jersey in 1976. This led to the founding of the Philippine Nurses Association in the United States in 1979. Her leadership in these organizations have contributed to the recognition of Filipino nurses in the United States, resulting to better working conditions and pay equal to that of their American counterparts. Eventually, the respect earned by Filipino nurses merited their representation in various policy-making bodies such as the State Board of Nurses. The Association also promoted the professional growth and competence of its members through educational programs.

The leadership skills of Phoebe Cabotaje-Andes is something that is truly remarkable. A nurse by profession, Phoebe has made her mark in her pioneering civic activities.

Born in Solano, Nueva Vizcaya, Phoebe graduated with the degree of Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of the Philippines. She also has a Master of Arts degree in Nursing Education from the Teachers College, Columbia University, as well as a Post-Graduate Certificate in Gerontological and Newborn and Maternity Nursing.

Armed with impressive academic qualifications, Phoebe taught for more than 20 years and also practiced her profession for 39 years in the United States. Her long years of experience both in the clinical and theoretical aspects of nursing earned her an appointment to serve in the New Jersey State Board of Nursing from 1993 to 2000. The Board monitors and regulates the practice of nursing licenses, and the School of Nursing in New Jersey, and deals with disciplinary matters to ensure the safety of the public and health consumers. At present, she still works as a nurse at the Greenbook Manor Retirement Home.

While practicing her profession, Phoebe's civic spirit led her to establish the Philippine Nurses

Phoebe also trained her efforts to improving the communication between nursing organizations and agencies in the Philippines and in the US. This had direct bearing on the educational preparation for nurses and the strict standards to be followed by recruitment agencies. These efforts resulted in the opening of more opportunities for Filipino nurses in the US.

The civic involvements of Phoebe are not limited to nursing related organizations. She was involved in a high school students exchange program with Brazil and Spain for four (4) years. She also headed the Solano (Nueva Vizcaya)-USA, an organization which provided economic support to the needy. Phoebe also became the president of other organizations such as the Federation of Philippine Societies of New Jersey and the U. P. Alumni Association of New Jersey.

An active member of the United Methodist Church of South Plainfield, Phoebe served as member of its Council of Ministries, Chair of Mission, and Sunday school teacher. She is presently a volunteer in the church's homeless project.

Phoebe's life has been dedicated to serving others, a rare and precious quality recognized by many individuals and organizations as evidenced by the numerous awards and citations she has received. She deserves every one of them.

Lilia Angelical



Humble beginnings have many times inspired people to strive for a better life. Such is the story of Lilia “Lily” Angelical, eldest of ten (10) children of laborers who worked in a sugar plantation in Panay Island.

The drive of Lily to carve a better life for herself and her family drove her to leave her family to work in the big city of Manila where she found a job as a bus conductress. She moved on to become a domestic helper in Madrid, Spain, where she found herself a victim of an onerous contract. She then escaped to Switzerland where she has been based for the past 20 years.

Lily is known as a highly dependable, trustworthy, capable and dedicated household staff in the diplomatic circle in Berne, Switzerland. She has served in the service staff of various members of the diplomatic corps, and at present, is in the employ of the Chancery of the Embassy of Ghana.

Through the long years that Lily has worked abroad, she always kept the welfare of her family in mind. She has since helped all her siblings find employment abroad and improve their own lot. Having assisted her own family, Lily has now turned her attention to helping other people in need. To this day, she continues to give financial support to efforts

of religious organizations to provide basic education necessities to poor children in selected schools in the Philippines. Among these schools are Colegio del Santisimo Rosario and Sta. Clara Academy in Camarines Sur, and several of those run by the Council on Education of the Congregation of the Dominican Sisters of St. Catherine of Siena.

Her own experiences early in her occupation as a domestic helper have taught Lily precious lessons in life. She came to value the support provided by other people when one is in need, as she found herself many years ago. This drove her to commit herself to the service of fellow domestics who find themselves in difficult situations. This commitment led her to join *Babaylan Switzerland* and to advocate for its causes.

As a member of Babaylan, Lily helped in the production of a documentary film on the lives, struggles and hopes of some Filipina domestic helpers. This documentary entitled “**Breaking the Silence – Invisible No More**” was meant to encourage domestic workers to stand up for their rights and to survive the many challenges they face. She represented Babaylan in the NGO Forum on Women held in Beijing in 1995. She is also a member of the Coordinating Council, Agbayan, a Filipino Fellowship.

Lily has gone a long way from the life she knew in Panay. She has dedicated herself to the service of others, especially migrant women like herself. She has served as resource person in various fora, which tackle issues pertaining to domestic helpers such as the Symposium on Filipino Domestic Helpers in Switzerland where she was one of the discussants. She was also invited to speak before the International Congress on Women’s Role in History and Nation Building held in Manila in December 1998, where she shared her life story to serve as a role model for fellow migrant workers.

Mohammad Ahmad Bayoumi

Since 1986, Mr. Mohammad Bayoumi has been the General Manager of TEC Air and Sea Cargo Services in Jeddah and of the Al Haddaf Sports Wear, also in Jeddah. Before he became general manager, he was manager of Manifest Department of Gulf Agency in Jeddah from 1980 to 1986 and Executive Secretary of the General Manager of Gulf Agency from 1975 to 1980.

Mr. Bayoumi, a Sudanese national who is married to a Filipina, has been a generous benefactor to the Filipino community in the western region of Saudi Arabia. He provides funding for various sports activities, which in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia are highly valued by the members of the Filipino community as a means to foster camaraderie and friendships, ease boredom and homesickness, maintain physical and mental fitness, and reinforce positive Filipino values. In addition, Mr. Bayoumi extends his help in sponsoring seminars and cultural activities of several Filipino groups.

Mr. Bayoumi is known by the members of the Filipino community in Jeddah not only for his support in the field of sports and other socio-cultural undertakings, but also for humanitarian assistance extended to OFWs in difficult situations in the Kingdom. He contributed funds for the legal assistance of Filipino workers and intervened in negotiations with employers. He even provided employment to Filipino workers who were untimely laid off. Through his company, TEC Air and Sea Cargo, Mr. Bayoumi worked for the free shipment of



the personal belongings of undocumented Filipino workers who were repatriated to the Philippines in view of an amnesty program of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

In 1998, he received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Philippine Consulate General in Jeddah for *"unselfish assistance and dedicated service to the Filipino community particularly in the field of sports and other socio-cultural undertakings."* A Plaque of Appreciation was also given to him by the Sangkapbuhay New Era University for *"his dedication to service and valued contribution for the welfare and prosperity of the Overseas Filipino Workers in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia."* in January 1998. He is also a recipient of several certificates and plaques of appreciation from the Overseas Sports Administration and other sports organizers in Jeddah.

Mr. Bayoumi can be commended for all his efforts in promoting a sense of community among Filipinos in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Alice P. Bulos



or election of more Filipinos to various social and political institutions. Alice herself was appointed to the Federal Council on Aging in 1993.

The active participation of Alice in community affairs led to the achievement of a number of milestones for Filipino veterans. Among others, she was instrumental in the adoption of a provision in the Military and Veteran Code that states that no time limit shall be imposed for the filing for benefit claims by Filipino veterans. It was also through Alice's efforts that the Federal Council on Aging passed a resolution in support of the Equity Compensation for Veterans (House Bill 1136) that would benefit Filipino soldiers who fought alongside the Americans during World War II.

While rendering service to Filipinos in the US, Alice has not forgotten the needy back home. As President of the Filipino-American Council of San Mateo County, she spearheads the organization's undertakings such as the educational sponsorship of a number of street children in the Philippines.

Alice's accomplishments have merited her various awards and citations from different institutions. She has been inducted in the "Women's Hall of Fame" in San Mateo County and featured in "Profiles of Excellence", a KGO-TV Program. Mayor Willie Lewis and the City Council of San Francisco even declared 31 March 1999 as Alice P. Bulos Day in recognition of her role as godmother of the Filipino American community politics, as role model, and as a mentor.

Alice is a magna cum laude graduate of Social and Behavioral Sciences from the University of Sto. Tomas. Prior to migration, she worked as a professor of Sociology and Chairman of the Department of Sociology at the UST.

Few people can lay claim to have a day named in their honor, but Alice Bulos can and undoubtedly deserves it.

Alice Bulos, a widow and grandmother, is still actively involved in government and community affairs. A social and political activist, Alice serves in the Federal Council of Aging, a post to which she was appointed by President Bill Clinton.

The political and community involvement of Alice began in 1978 in Sacramento, California. It was at this time that she became part of the Congress of Filipino American citizens and later of the Asian Pacific Women's Network. In 1982, she became a member of the California Democratic Party of Asian Pacific Islander Caucus. The following year, Alice and her husband Donnie, together with other Filipino-Americans, organized what is now known as the "Filipino American Democratic Club of San Mateo County", of which she became Charter President.

It was after the establishment of the Fil-Am Democratic Club that Alice became deeply involved in the Democratic Party Affairs. She was a delegate to its national conventions in Atlanta in 1988 and New York in 1992. In 1993, she was elected State Chair of the California Democratic Party Filipino-American Caucus.

The social and political involvement of Alice resulted in the political empowerment of the Filipino-American community. The increased political clout of the Filipino-Americans later resulted in the appointment

Alex M. Cueto

Dr. Alex M. Cueto, a practicing physician, is the only Filipino-American ever appointed to the position of Vice-President (1997-2001) of the Seamen's Institute of Pennsylvania in its 150 years of existence. As officer of the Institute, he helps provide a safe haven, for distressed seamen on the docks of Pennsylvania. In June of this year, Dr. Cueto received information on the miserable working conditions of Filipino sailors on board the M/V Epic. He alerted the Coast Guard, and joined a team that inspected the conditions on the ship. He extended free medical assistance to the crew, and with the support of the Institute, helped break the impasse between management and the sailors.

The socio-civic involvements of Dr. Cueto are varied. In 1986, Dr. Cueto served as President of the Philippine Medical Society of New Jersey. During his two-year tenure, he led the Society in raising funds for the needy in the Philippines. He also worked towards the procurement of high tech equipment and tools for the University of Santo Tomas during his term as President of the UST Alumni National Medical Society Foundation in 1991-1993. Dr. Cueto was elected President of the Association of Philippine Physicians in America (APPA) for 1993-1994. It was this association that united Filipino medical practitioners in the United States.

Dr. Cueto is currently the Chairman of the International Network of Filipinos Overseas (INFO), a group of overseas Filipino community leaders whose objective is to form meaningful alliances among all Filipinos in the service of the mother country. INFO, under the leadership of Dr. Cueto, and with the support of other community leaders in the Philadelphia and New Jersey, organized the INFO 2000 Conference to provide a venue for meaningful development cooperation and service-oriented partnerships among Filipinos abroad and with Filipinos in the mother country.

Dr. Cueto also had a substantive contribution to the successful celebration of the Centennial of Philippine Independence in 1998 in the Tri-State area



of Delaware, New Jersey and Philadelphia. He served as Chairman of the Philippine Centennial Celebration which orchestrated all the activities for the occasion. Among others, he helped instill a consciousness of Philippine history and culture among Filipino-Americans. Related to this, he was also instrumental in the establishment of the Jose Rizal Monument in Cooper Park's Memorial Grove in Cherry Hill, New Jersey, which serves as a constant reminder of Dr. Rizal's nationalism to all Filipinos. He is founder and Chairman of the Filipino Community Alliance of South Jersey for Political Empowerment of Filipino-Americans (1992-2001).

Dr. Alex Cueto hails from Calapan, Mindoro Oriental. He obtained his Associate in Arts degree and Doctor of Medicine from the University of Sto. Tomas. He pursued his post-graduate training in the Philippines, and from a number of hospitals in the US such as the Sacred Heart Hospital, St. Agnes Hospital, Ancora Psychiatry Department, and Mercy Douglas Hospital.

The professional and civic accomplishments of Dr. Cueto have been given recognition by numerous institutions and award-giving bodies. It is but fitting that Dr. Cueto be conferred this award as the Filipino people extends their gratitude to this modest and unassuming gentleman who has constantly dedicated and shared his time, talent and resources in the service of Filipinos and his country.

Aguedo Q. Cunanan

Service to other people without expectation of reward is one of the most noble things that a man can do in his lifetime. Aguedo "Dong" Cunanan has given a great part of his life to the service of his fellow Filipinos in Muscat, Sultanate of Oman, where he has been working since 1983.

Dong has been a prime mover of the Filipino community in Muscat. He has initiated projects which have benefited members of the community, even if the same would entail shelling out personal resources. As board member of the Kooperatiba ng Manggagawang Filipino sa Middle East (KMPME), he and the 14 other board members donated personal funds to the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) Office in Muscat for the purchase of personal computers which are now being used for free training of overseas Filipino workers.

As Chairman of "Kapwa Ko, Mahal Ko" of Muscat, Dong has helped a number of Filipinos with different needs. He has spearheaded fund raising campaigns for Filipinos in need of financial help such as the five-year old child of an OFW; who had to undergo treatment for a life threatening disease. Another fellow OFW who was suffering from primary alveolar cell carcinoma was also a beneficiary of Dong's fund raising efforts.



The involvements of Dong in community affairs extend to concerns of the Philippine Community School (PCS), the Filipino Sports Commission, and the Filipino Christian Fellowship Church (FCFC). He was a board member and the Public Relations Officer-Business Manager of the PCS from 1994 to 1998. As such, he was instrumental in the school's transfer to bigger premises and the setting up of its high school department. He organized the school's science laboratory, library and computer classes, as well as negotiated for scholarship grants from various sponsors. He served as the official coordinator between the Philippine Embassy and the Filipino community in Muscat.

As an Elder of the FCFC, Dong promotes Christian values by making himself an example to others. He does not hesitate to give temporary shelter to those escaping from abusive employers.

Dong, who hails from Limay, Bataan, is a portrait of selflessness, and is a worthy role model for everyone.



Cunina Organization

Cunina, which means “Goddess of the Cradle”, is a non-profit organization founded by Sophie Vangheel in Geel, Belgium on 23 November 1990.

True to its English translation, Cunina takes care of underprivileged children by extending scholarships to support their education from the elementary to the tertiary levels. At present, 1,500 children from Nepal, Congo, Brazil, Haiti and the Philippines benefit from its scholarship programs.

The organization has a network of sponsors and foster parents who help send thousands of children to school. It also raises funds through activities such as concerts/cultural shows and public auctions of art works. In its ten years of operation, Cunina has raised a total of US \$1.3 million to support the educational needs of its beneficiaries.

Cunina is proud to say that the organization works exclusively with volunteers. It assures its donors that every donation and any foster parent contribution is used 100% for the purpose it was intended. Other expenses required in implementing projects, including travel costs, are not taken from the donations and contributions gathered.

This year, forty-four (44) Cunina foster parents and volunteers traveled to the

Philippines to visit and provide educational assistance to “adopted” children and youth from Zambales (Mt. Pinatubo area), Bayombong, Baguio City, Manila, and Cebu. In the Province of Cebu, Cunina’s generosity enabled 12 students to complete their bachelor’s degree in education from the St. Theresa’s College. At present, seven (7) Cunina scholars are pursuing their college degrees in the said school.

Aside from the scholars at STC-Cebu, Cunina supports the education of 39 Hansenites at the Eversley Child Sanitarium in Mandaue City, and 61 parishioners of the Redemptorist Parish in Cebu City. The scholars are in different levels in school.

By giving children from poor families the opportunity to complete their studies, Cunina also gives them hope and a chance for a better life.





James Allan Dela Paz

illustrative of Mr. de la Paz' commitment to his community. His father was dying in the hospital when the first hearing for the re-zoning was scheduled. According to Mr. de la Paz, *"To postpone it meant several months of waiting again. I have no choice except to attend the important hearing. Until now, it still bothers me that I missed the last precious hours with my dad while he was still alive in the hospital. Sadly, my dad died 20 minutes after I came back from that hearing. But I have no regrets—that's how I love my community"*.

During his tenure as President of the Federation of Filipino-Canadian Associations of Quebec, an umbrella organization with 29 member associations, the Federation was able to provide free computer and French language education to Filipino students to enhance their employability. To support the Federation's projects, anniversary and debutantes' balls were held to raise much needed funds.

James has worked hard for the integration of the Filipinos, and people of other nationalities, in the predominantly French-speaking region. He has mobilized Filipinos to participate in community undertakings like the clearing up of debris in the aftermath of an ice storm. In 1995, he received a Certificate of Commendation from the Philippine Embassy *"for exemplary service in the Filipino-Canadian community in Montreal and Quebec as President of FAMAS as well as his outstanding leadership in promoting Philippine-Canadian friendship, understanding and cooperation"*.

Filipinos faced with immigration problems are ably assisted by James through his constant coordination with appropriate government agencies. James helps those in need of employment assistance. He serves as liaison officer between the local police and Filipinos, particularly in the filing of charges against those who assault Filipino nationals. There was an instance when he helped a Filipina, who was abandoned by her foreign partner and was diagnosed as schizophrenic, to obtain a landed immigrant visa and gain visiting rights to her son after her treatment.

The kindness of James is something that the Filipinos in Montreal can attest to. The knowledge that he has been of service to his countrymen is his own reward.

James Allan dela Paz migrated to Canada in 1971 together with his wife Rosemary.

While trained as an Electronics and Communications Engineer in the Philippines, James took up Special Care Counseling at the Marie Victorin College in Montreal in 1980. Four years later, he, together with his wife, established a nursing home for people afflicted with chronic schizophrenia. Prior to this, he taught teens and adults with physical and mental disabilities at the John Birks Centre in Verdun.

The compassion of James for people needing special care was carried over to his concern for his fellow Filipinos. He has always put the interest of the Filipino community among his highest priorities. At present, he is the President of the Federation of the Filipino-Canadian Association of Quebec, Advisor/Consultant to the Filipino Homemakers of Cote St. Paul, Liaison Officer of the Montreal Urban Community Police and Global Petite Productions. James was also the President of the Filipino Association of Montreal and Suburbs (FAMAS) from 1995 to 1997.

As FAMAS president, he worked for the conversion of its building into a Community Center. Even before he assumed the presidency of FAMAS, James already lobbied for the re-zoning of the area where the building was located in order that the same could be converted into a community center. This process took all of 18 years, but now there is a center that the Filipinos can call their own. Along with the Filipinos' dream to have their own center goes a personal anecdote which is



The Filipino Coalition
for Solidarity, Inc.

Filipino Coalition for Solidarity, Inc.

The State of Hawaii is a melting pot of many cultures, particularly those from Asia. Filipinos comprise a considerable portion of the State's ethnic population. Members of the Filipino community have made their mark in different fields ranging from business to medicine. The matter of being "transplants" in a foreign place, however, brings with it problems that have to be surmounted by the immigrants. It was in this context that the Filipino Coalition for Solidarity, Inc. (FCS) was established in 1991.

Initially created as an ad hoc committee, the FCS has evolved into a permanent group with a strong advocacy and social action orientation. Among others, its objectives are the protection of the rights of Filipino-Americans and members of other ethnic minority groups; the preservation of the cultural heritage and traditional values of the Filipino people and respect for others' cultures; the promotion of goodwill and understanding between Americans, Filipinos and people of other races; and the promotion of social justice and economic opportunity for all.

The FCS has promoted causes beneficial to Filipinos and members of other ethnic groups. It brought to the attention of the Police Commission the rampant disregard for civil rights, the stereotyping of Filipinos and the ethnic insensitivity of some members of the Honolulu Police Department. As a result, members of the police force were required to undergo ethnic sensitivity training and have since improved their relations with different ethnic groups. The Coalition also successfully lobbied for the grant of burial benefits amounting to

\$2,000.00 each to Filipino-American WWII veterans. It initiated a call for action, and conducted community food drive, and financial donation campaign from Hawaii's Filipino-American community to help the World War II veterans settle in the US, particularly in Hawaii.

The hard work of the Coalition extends beyond the bounds of Hawaii. It coordinated efforts towards the investigation of claims of some overseas Filipino workers in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) that their employers were abusing them. It brought to national attention said abuses through a lengthy article published by the Readers' Digest and a one-hour segment in the TV program "20/20". The advocacy caught the attention of President Bill Clinton who issued a letter denouncing the abuses in the CNMI and demanding an end to these. In cooperation with union and government officials, the conditions in the CNMI were closely monitored and eventually corrected.

The Coalition has initiated or participated in various fundraising activities in support of charitable causes. In 1991, over \$150,000.00 was raised for the victims of the Mt. Pinatubo eruption. It also spearheaded the campaign for the collection of relief goods for the victims of a devastating typhoon in the Philippines in 1995.



The promotion of interests of the Filipino World War II veterans are among those being advocated by the Coalition.

It is very important that one has a reliable support group, especially in a foreign place. It assures one not only of protection and support but also of belongingness with one's own. Such is the Filipino Coalition for Solidarity, Inc.

Sr. Magdalena P. Florentino, FMM(+)

A missionary through and through, that was Sr. Magdalena Florentino, FMM. Being a missionary, she took an oath to attend to the spiritual needs of people, a vow she took seriously until the time of her demise.

She was among the first Filipina missionaries of the Philippine Province of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary (FMM), when it became independent as a province from Japan to which it was then attached.

Sr. Magdalena was a teacher by training and from 1993 to 1999, she dedicated herself to the spiritual formation of the students of the Philippine Community School in Tripoli, Libya. She was responsible for preparing children for their first communion, or in the case of older children, for the sacrament of confirmation. In the process of working with the children, she also served as spiritual adviser to their parents and other members of the Filipino community in Tripoli. She was thus instrumental in the spiritual growth of community members as well as the school teaching and administrative staff.

Having assumed the role of spiritual mother of Filipinos, the Nueva Ecija-born nun found herself involved in many community and family affairs. She sponsored thanksgiving masses and led special services like the conduct of novena prayers for the dead. She also trained the children's choir for school programs and cultural shows. Occasionally, she also visited Filipino communities outside Tripoli to attend to their needs and lend support to special events.

Sr. Magdalena had very few personal needs. One of these is her occasional trips to Tunis, Tunisia to attend retreats and special sessions of her



congregation. Before being assigned to Tripoli, Sr. Magdalena taught at the Stella Maris College in Quezon City. She was assigned to Liberia in 1968 where she served as grade school principal, Local Bursar, Sunday school catechist and Kitchen supervisor. She had her renewal in Rome where she stayed for 2 years. Finally in 1993, she assumed her post in Tripoli.

The Philippine Community School Executive Board awarded Sr. Magdalena a Certificate of Recognition in 1997 and a Service Award in 1999 for her service and commitment to the religious education of PCS students.

Wherever Sr. Magdalena found herself, she always encouraged people to exercise their faith. To those who have known this indefatigable nun, they believe that prayers and meditations were the main sources of her mental and physical strength. Though her daily activities were too much, by any normal standards, for an elderly and diminutive woman such as Sr. Magdalena, she never curtailed her activities until the day of her untimely death.

Her death in 1999 caused many people, whose lives she touched, to feel a sense of loss. However, Sr. Magdalena will always stay in their hearts.



Alex Jose R. Ginete

Filipino Club Chorale Ensemble from 1990-1993, among others.

His efforts did not go unnoticed by the Philippine Government and the Filipino community in Bahrain. Early this year, the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) presented him with a Certificate of Achievement for having excelled in his field of endeavor and enhancing the image of the Philippines and the Filipinos abroad. OWWA likewise presented him with the Year 2000 Scroll of Honor for consistently supporting the delivery of the agency's programs and services to Filipino workers in Bahrain. Other awards and citations include those from the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA-Bahrain Chapter), the Philippine Embassy in Manama, and the Filipino Community.

Alex Jose R. Ginete was born on 23 February 1955 in Ragay, Camarines Sur. His marriage is blessed with three children. He obtained his Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering degree from Aquinas University in Legaspi City, and is a registered geodetic and civil engineer in the Philippines.

An accomplished overseas worker himself, Alex has been a Business Analyst for Bahrain Petroleum Company since 1990. He worked with Datamine Australia for one year as a consultant prior to relocating in the Middle East. In the Philippines, he worked for seven years with the Philippine National Oil Company – Coal Corporation as computer coordinator. This business executive is an accredited IT professional with the Australian National Office of Overseas Skills Recognition and an affiliate member of the British Computer Society.

When a natural leader like Alex R. Ginete is at the forefront of the Filipino community in Bahrain, there is no doubt that moving forward is the only direction for it to take.

When the Filipino Club in Bahrain was at its lowest moment with debts amounting to over US \$ 60,000 and the confidence of the Filipinos and other communities in Bahrain direly needed to be restored, Alex Jose R. Ginete had no second thoughts about offering his share. It was a courage borne out of conviction that Filipinos when united, can become stronger and more capable of doing more for themselves and their community.

With this in mind, and with clear objectives, practical programs, honesty and dedication, Alex Ginete provided the missing link that the Filipino community had been looking for over a decade. He was responsible for the re-opening of the Filipino Club by chartering, planning, and implementing a 5-point strategy for the settlement of the Club's liabilities and eventual realization of a very substantial surplus. He led the negotiations on a formula he proposed for resolution of the Filipino Club's predicament.

He has been actively organizing and promoting social, cultural, and sports programs since 1990. He currently heads the Filipino Executive Committee for the second term and is also the president of the Filipino Club Toastmasters. He served in various capacities in the second socio-cultural committees such as the Filipino Club Bicol Cultural Night in 1996, and the

Mildred Aires-Go

One of the bridges that link Filipinos and Chinese is a Filipina educator who has transcended cultural differences for the noble cause of teaching young people of different backgrounds. Dr. Mildred Aires-Go is the pioneering woman who established the first international school in Xiamen City and the Fujian Province. Prior to her sojourn to China, Dr. Go has had extensive experience in the administration of schools and in actual teaching in different schools in the Philippines.

The Manila Xiamen International School (MXIS) was established in 1993 to serve the needs of the children of expatriate workers based in that city. Dr. Go has served as the school's Headmistress from its founding up to the present. In the seven (7) years that it has been in operation, the MXIS has provided some 400 children from about 15 countries their educational needs. A total of 38 students have graduated from the school. Most of its Filipino graduates have been admitted to top universities in Asia.

Dr. Go also provides for the training of teachers at the MXIS to enable them to effectively handle an international curriculum program and students coming from different cultures. Thus far, more than 50 teachers from the Philippines, China, South Korea, United States, Germany and Sri Lanka have been trained by Dr. Go.

The MXIS also offers language programs in basic Mandarin for non-Chinese, and a course in English for Chinese natives. Such language courses have contributed a lot to the improvement of communication between and among expatriates and locals. More



than opening up communication lines, this has presented the opportunity for Chinese nationals, who have developed a more gracious attitude towards foreigners, to interact better with them.

The efforts of Dr. Go have won for her the admiration and respect of many people. It has promoted goodwill and has made foreigners realize that the Philippines has a good educational system, which produces good educators who provide good instruction to their students.

Dr. Go has been very supportive of the activities of the Philippine Consulate and the Filipino Community in Xiamen. Aside from generously offering MXIS as venue for special occasions and visits of Philippine Government officials, she encourages and inspires MXIS teachers and students to actively participate in cultural presentations and Filipino community affairs.

She is, in turn, truly appreciated for her exemplary contribution, not only in education, but also in community relations, and the promotion of Filipino culture and heritage in this part of China.

Fr. Luis Halasz, FWD

Fr. Luis Halasz is a Hungarian priest who spent more than half his life in Sablayan, Mindoro Occidental. He was sent to the Philippines in 1954, two years after his ordination into the Society of the Divine Word. It was in Sablayan that he spent the next 40 years as its parish priest.

He started the Christianization of some 14,000 Mangyans belonging to the Alangan and Batangan tribes when he assumed his post in Sablayan. He also built a high school in the town, now known as the Colegio de San Sebastian, as well as a Mission Hospital (St. Martin's Outreach Center and Mission Hospital) with the help of the German Bishops Conference.

As part of his functions as parish priest of Sablayan, Fr. Luis ministered to the people in the barrios, the school and the Sablayan Penal Colony. He also took care of 200 families who were displaced by the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo in 1991. These families were later resettled permanently in Sablayan.

It was through the representations made by Father Luis to then President Macapagal that a piece of land was donated to the church where a big parish church and a Cursillo house were later built. Fr. Luis also saw to the construction



of chapels in all barangays of Sablayan as well as Mangyan Mission Center in the hinterlands.

Through the efforts of Father Luis, many poor students at the collegiate level received educational assistance. He also sourced sponsorships and donations for seminarians and novices from Mindanao.

Upon his return to Hungary in 1994, he continued to show his love for the Filipinos by immediately getting in touch with officials of the Philippine Embassy in Budapest, and offering his services to the Filipino community. Every Sunday, Fr. Halasz travels from Koszeg to Budapest (which is 300 kms. away) to celebrate mass. He also provides comfort and assistance to Filipino nationals in distress in Hungary.

There is a very big place in the heart of Fr. Luis for the Filipinos, just as he will always be in the hearts not only of Sablayanons, but of the entire Filipino nation.



Claire B. Ick

Claire Ick remains a true Filipina despite the fact that she has been away from home for the longest time. She is one of those few people who brings pride to the Philippines wherever she goes. Claire may have established new friendships and found new opportunities in a place away from “home”, but she has remained a Filipino at heart.

Ms. Ick was born in Pasay City. A scholarship at the New York University through an internship with Allen and Co. (stockbrokers in Wall Street) brought her to the United States. In her college years, she spent her internship at Owens-Corning Fiberglass. She graduated with a Bachelor’s Degree in Industrial Relations and then went on to pursue her Master’s Degree in Journalism.

In the late 1970’s she rejoined Owens-Corning as Personnel Specialist for the Contracting Division. It has 25 field locations all throughout the United States. In an elite group of 25 personnel executives in a 12,000-employee corporation, she became its first female human resource manager.

Claire has done many things to keep the Filipino pride alive even in a foreign land. She was one of the founders of the Filipino American Association of Kansas City and she helped form the community’s cultural dance company. She also pioneered the “Fiesta Filipina,” the first Philippine Festival in Kansas. She founded the “Tambuli”, the community’s newsletter, of which she is the editor. Aside from all these, she is also a member of the Philippine Performing Arts Company of Florida.

Under her leadership of the Philippine Cultural Foundation, Inc. (PCFI), a Florida-based non-profit corporation, said organization was able to realize its dream of establishing the Philippine Cultural Enrichment Complex (PCEC), a \$1.5 facility and “the first Filipino-owned facility of its kind in the State of Florida”. Said facility has since been improved with the *Sinagtala* outdoor theater, the *Barangay* Hall meeting pavilion, the *Bahay Kubo* waterfalls and lagoon, and the *Pambata* playground, among other facilities.

Claire Ick has received awards and citations for her remarkable accomplishments during her five-year consecutive terms as president of the PCFI. She has already come a long way but she still continues to work hard to strengthen Filipino ties in the U.S., particularly in Florida. Living abroad has not dimmed this woman’s spirit at all. In fact, that spirit continues to shine and shines brighter as time goes on.

Kanagawa Women's Space Ms. La

It is very disappointing that at the onset of the 21st century, some women are still situated in a position where they have to struggle just to be treated as co-equals of their male counterparts. There are still numerous cases of abuse and oppression which cut across nationalities and economic strata. Whether by accident or by design, children often share in the misery that many women are subjected to.

The increasing awareness of the plight of women has given birth to movements that advocate women's causes. No less than the United Nations is actively pursuing the advancement of women's rights and has held various international conferences towards this end.

At the Kanagawa Prefecture in Japan, there is an organization that caters to the needs of women and children in distress. The "Kanagawa Women's Space Ms. La" was established in May 1990 to support women and children in oppressed and disadvantaged positions regardless of their nationality. It was given a Non-Profit Organization status by the Prefecture in February 2000.

Ms. La is composed of women volunteers who give psychological and emotional support to women who are victimized, maltreated or abused by their husbands or employers, among others. It also provides shelter for women who run away from abusive situations and have nowhere else to go. Primarily, Ms. La's objective is to provide space or a venue that groups may use for free.

As a support system, Ms. La's volunteer counselors recognize the need to listen to clients without imposing values on them. Clients are also

given legal support. In April 1999, the Kanagawa Prefecture entrusted Ms. La with the operation and management of a telephone hotline to attend to cases of domestic violence. Recently, Ms. La also opened an Emergency Temporary Crisis Shelter.

Other women's causes are also advanced by the organization. It has a Labor Union Section that deals with women's issues at the work place, such as illegal dismissal and violence. It also conducts lectures on divorce, domestic violence, labor, immigration laws, international marriages, mental care, child abuse, sexual harassment, among others. These lectures serve to inform women of their rights and the options that are available to them.

From the time Ms. La was established in 1990 to the end of 1999, the organization handled 6,380 cases of women from 42 countries. In 1998 alone, 187 women from Southeast Asia (102 from the Philippines) sought the help of the organization. It has been instrumental in the recovery of women's self-esteem, empowering them and putting them back on their feet.

Ms. La
in Action





Kinderhilfe Philippinen, e.V.

Kinderhilfe Philippinen, e.V. is a non-profit organization founded in 1991 by Mrs. Anita Nowack, a Filipina married to a German national. The organization, composed of volunteers, is committed to the improvement of the lives of underprivileged children, their families, and communities in the Philippines.

Among others, the organization aims to give children in the disadvantaged areas of the Philippines, a chance to attend school to give them a passport to a better life. This is accomplished in cooperation with the Educational Research Development Assistance (ERDA) Foundation, under whose program poor children are given assistance by Kinderhilfe. At present, 253 elementary school children and 12 preschool classes are being supported by Kinderhilfe Philippinen. Another 20 students are under its sponsorship at the ERDA Technical Vocational Secondary School. Students under the said school undertake a five-year secondary course which incorporates teaching of employable technical and vocational skills into the academic requirements of the Department of Education, Culture and Sports.

Kinderhilfe Philippinen, e.V. also allots financial and material donations for the other projects of its partner, ERDA Foundation. Its donation of P150,000 financed the completion of a five-storey building



Children of ERDA Foundation given assistance by Kinderhilfe

located on a 5,000 square meter lot which houses the ERDA Technical Vocational Secondary School. It also made possible the donation of computer equipment from the City of Dortmund, Germany for the same school.

Children-beneficiaries of the organization are also provided training on value formation and leadership. Medical services, consisting of health education,

training and check-ups are also extended. It is hoped that the children who have been given the opportunity to learn and have been inculcated with the proper values, will be able to use such training in order to rise above the poverty they find themselves in, and in the process help improve the lives of their families and communities.

Since 1991, the organization has provided both financial and material support to some 1,946 elementary children nationwide. It has so far donated 223, 000 DM or approximately US \$98,615.00 in the past nine years.

Indeed, there are many ways to help. Despite difficulties, challenges, and distance, as long as it is truly willed, one will find a way. Kinderhilfe Philippinen, e.V. found theirs to the Philippines, and into the hearts of the children whose lives they have touched.

Francis L. Lammauin

The pursuit of greener pastures has brought many Filipinos far away from home. But while employment abroad has its rewards, it is not without its downside, and to many it is homesickness.

Extreme exposure to other cultures also has its pitfalls. It can be the cause of contradictions and conflict within one's self.

The problems of homesickness and cultural alienation are only two of the reasons which motivated Engr. Francis Lammauin to organize the Kalinga Cultural Organization in Taiwan (KCOT) in 1998. He also wanted to foster unity and peace among members of different Kalinga sub-tribes who are based in Taiwan.

Through the efforts of Francis, the members of the KCOT have been able to promote the preservation of the Kalinga people's indigenous culture. During the fellowships of the organization, the members make it a point to practice their native music and dance which they present when they participate in social activities organized by the Filipino community in Taiwan.

The success of the KCOT inspired Francis to organize the Cordillera Organization in Taiwan in 1999. The COT has objectives similar to that of the KCOT but its membership includes natives of the entire Cordillera mountain ranges, that is, Bontoc, Ifugao, Benguet, Apayao, Kalinga, and Abra. Another spin-off organization is the Baguio OCW Association in Hsinchu which Francis helped establish. Francis has led the organizations he founded into participating actively in social and civic



affairs of the Filipino community and the Manila Economic and Cultural Office (MECO). He spearheaded fundraising activities for overseas Filipino workers in distress such as Avelino Apidos who accidentally caused the death of a Saudi national. Francis mobilized members of the KCOT & COT to raise NT \$10,000.00 which they contributed to the blood money demanded by the family of the deceased. He also led the move to raise a NT\$ 55,000 donation for the bereaved family of Felicidad Til-adan, a domestic helper who allegedly killed herself in Taouyan County.

Filipino workers in Taiwan who find themselves homeless are given shelter by Francis and his family. He also facilitates the turnover of the distressed workers' cases to the MECO for appropriate intervention.

Strong family ties and a firm spiritual foundation are the bases on which Francis stands. He is always ready to share his thoughts with his fellow Filipinos to inculcate in them values to strengthen them as individuals and improve their relations with their respective families and communities.

Lubang-Looc International

The Lubang-Looc International (LLI) is a civic, non-profit service-oriented organization composed of Filipino expatriates from Lubang and Looc in Occidental Mindoro. It has established functional chapters in Northern and Southern California, Washington D.C., Maryland, Virginia, New York, and New Jersey in the United States, and in Toronto and Alberta in Canada. Its 400 members include those from Guam, Germany, Australia, Hong Kong SAR, Saudi Arabia and England.

One of the LLI's principal objectives is the provision of assistance to underprivileged but academically deserving students at the secondary and tertiary levels who come from the municipalities of Lubang and Looc. This program is meant to break the cycle of poverty, especially among families who do not have any college-educated member. From 1987, it has awarded scholarship grants to 104 students. Of this number, 63 have graduated from college. They have since engaged in productive endeavors and have become a source of pride for the LLI. Financial

assistance in the amount of \$100 per school year is given to LLI's high school scholars, and \$175 per semester for those at the tertiary level. The Annual Awards for Outstanding

High School Graduates under the LLI scholarship program was launched in order to further motivate the students to perform well.



Consistent with its commitment to furtherance of education, the organization has also lent support to other activities geared to the improvement of the facilities and library collections of some schools. Toward this end, the LLI has donated books and other learning materials to six (6) high schools (5 public and 1 private) and some elementary schools in Lubang and Looc. It also made financial contributions to the school facility improvement projects of the Lubang Integrated School and the Lubang Vocational High School.

Other projects of the LLI include support for various projects that benefit the community. It has provided assistance

for the construction of public toilets, development of water systems, and construction of rain collector tanks. LLI also helped finance projects for potable water systems in Barangays Guitna and Cabra. Medical kits have also been donated



to barangay health units in Lubang. Under its auspices, several medical missions have been held in the two towns, the latest of which was in May 2000.

The noble causes supported by the LLI are long-term investments geared towards the improvement of the lives of the less fortunate. It is admirable because it is an effort of Filipinos in different parts of the world to build the self-sufficiency and dignity of local people who are otherwise caught in the trap that is poverty.

Marina Roma-March

The Third World Eye Care Society (TWECS) is a Vancouver-based charitable institution which conducts missions to third world countries. The founder and prime mover of this organization is Filipino-Canadian Dr. Marina Roma-March.

Marina migrated to Canada at the age of six (6). She grew up and completed her education in Canada and the United States where she earned her Doctor in Optometry degree from the Pacific University in Forest Grove, Oregon in 1994. She has been a private practitioner in Vancouver since 1994. Even before she became a full-fledged doctor, Marina began her charitable work by participating in eye clinics in northwestern Mexico and other hurricane torn parts of the country during Thanksgiving and Christmas break. This desire to be of help to the less fortunate was stirred when she came back to visit the Philippines at the age of 14.

After she graduated, Marina embarked on her ambitious dream for the visually impaired when she established the TWECS in Canada. The organization hopes to combat illiteracy and improve the quality of life by restoring or improving vision of those who can not afford eyeglasses. Under her leadership, the TWECS collects used but recyclable eyeglasses and distributes them to the poor in depressed areas. The team of volunteer doctors also provides free eye care, medicines, instruments and other medical supplies to such communities. Since 1995, the TWECS has conducted eight missions in the Philippines, Grenada, Malawi, Guatemala and India. During these missions, free eye care is given to indigent patients, including cataract operations.

Some 18,000 underprivileged people have benefited from the Society's missions, not to mention



the recipients of the approximately 15,000 eyeglasses they have distributed. It is estimated that the Society has donated a total of P38.7 million worth of services, medicines, instruments and hospital supplies in the different countries it has been to.

To support the missions of TWECS, Marina has spearheaded fund raisers such as the annual black-tie affair called "Eyeball". The society has also sponsored auctions and sought the support of other civic organizations such as the Lions Club International, the Rotary International, Kiwanis Club and other organizations. Because of this active networking, the TWECS roster of doctors and volunteers has grown to the hundreds.

Her charitable work and leadership earned her various recognitions, including the 1999 Flare National Volunteer Award in Canada, which is conferred to outstanding Canadian women volunteers. This year, she was chosen as "Optometrist of the Year" in Victoria, Canada for her achievements in the field of optometry.

For thousands of indigent people, Dr. Marina March and TWECS have given them their only access to eye care and eyeglasses.

Cornelio Buix Natividad

Cornelio Natividad is an Engineer-Realtor-Restaurateur-Community leader. The combination seems incongruous, but Natividad is able to blend them into one harmonious whole.

Schooled and licensed in the field of Engineering (Civil and Sanitary) at the Mapua Institute of Technology, Natividad pursued graduate studies in Business at the Ateneo Professional Schools. His academic background formed the foundation of his professional growth, until his present venture as a businessman.

The sense of civic and nationalist responsibility of Natividad have led him to assume official and personal community commitments. As the first Filipino-American owner of a Domino's Pizza franchise in the Chicago area for instance, he hired and trained Filipino immigrants in order to give them a good start. When he became President of the Chicago-Philippines Lions Club for 1999-2000 he prioritized the holding of a medical mission in Tuguegarao, Cagayan. This was successfully accomplished in June-July of this year. He also facilitated the awarding of scholarship grants to deserving students of the Philippine Normal University.

Engineer Natividad currently serves as Executive Officer of the Knights of Rizal, Central USA Council. As such, he actively undertakes fundraising campaigns to support the programs of the Order of the Knights of Rizal, among which is the 37th National Rizal Youth Leadership Institute in Baguio City. He also helped spread the ideas, teachings and life of the national hero, particularly among Filipino-American Youth, by featuring the life and works of Dr. Rizal in the Chicago Philippine Reports and Channel 23. A Dr. Jose Rizal



enthusiast, he chaired the Dr. Jose Rizal Monument Project and gathered the support of many Filipinos to raise US \$ 115,000 which made possible the construction of an 11-ft. Rizal bronze statue in Chicago. Today, this monument proudly represents the undying love and patriotism of many Filipinos to their home country, as well as the unified struggle of Filipino immigrants to make themselves a reckoned force in the USA.

He mobilized the Filipinos in the Chicago area for "Operation Tulong" Balikbayan boxes, which gathered goods for distribution to the poor residents of Tondo, Manila. Natividad has also been part of Habitat for Humanity, Technology Transfer, PESO Scholarship grant, among others. He also helped in the conduct of information dissemination on hate crimes among Asian Americans in commemoration of the death of Joseph Iletto.

For one who migrated to the United States only in 1988, Engr. Natividad has already established himself as a leader and inspiration to various Filipino communities and organizations in the windy city of Chicago.



Rodolfo D. L. Paragas

as domestic helpers, tailors, those in the medical profession, and others who are not covered under Bayanihan I.

The Philippine Embassy in Muscat has also designated Rod as its official coordinator in the Al Khoud (SQUH) area. As coordinator, he keeps Embassy officials apprised on the cases of Filipino workers in distress, enabling said officials to immediately extend the necessary assistance.

Rod has also served the Filipino community in Oman in other capacities. He was a member of the Working Group of the Interim Sports Commission for the 3rd Philippine Games in the United Arab Emirates. He was also a member of the Philippine Sports Commission of the Sultanate of Oman as well as of the Board of Directors of the Philippine School in Muscat.

The laws, rules, regulations and restrictions imposed by the host government, bind Filipino communities in other countries. The Sultanate of Oman, for instance, imposes restrictions on the establishment of associations by expatriates in that country.

Rodolfo "Rod" Paragas, presently the Administration-Personnel Affairs and Recruitment Officer of the Sultan Qaboos University Hospital (SQUH), dared to overcome this restriction by making representations with the Vice-Chancellor on the importance of having a mutual help association among the Filipino employees in that institution. The result of such courage is the Filipino Mutual Assistance Program (FILMAP), also known as *Bayanihan ng mga Pinoy sa SQUH*.

Patterned after the Mutual Assistance Program, which was introduced by Rod at the King Khalid Military City, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in 1985, Bayanihan provides financial assistance to members in the event of death of a family member or to the member's family in case it is the member who passes away. To date, Bayanihan has assisted 46 members. Because of the program's success in SQUH, plans are underway for *Bayanihan II* which will expand membership to other Filipino expatriates in Oman such

The Philippine Embassy, Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, the Interim Sports Commission Oman, and the Medical Services Division of the Rezayat Co. Ltd., have awarded Rod the Certificates of Merit/Recognition that serve as testimonials to his untiring and selfless service to the community.

Rod is a native of Lingayen, Pangasinan. He completed his Bachelor of Science degree in Commerce major in Accounting at the University of Baguio in 1972, and Bachelor of Laws from the Baguio Colleges Foundation in 1982. Today, Rod is an accomplished professional and respected leader among overseas Filipino workers in the Sultanate of Oman.

It is a comfort among Filipinos in Oman to know that they have a "big brother" in the person of Rod Paragas.

Philippine School Bahrain



Filipinos put a high premium on education. Parents are known to make sacrifices to give their children the best education possible. Overseas Filipino workers in Bahrain are no different from their compatriots in the Philippines. They value education and want their children to have a good foundation on which to build their future.

The clamor for an educational institution that would cater to specific needs of Filipino children in Bahrain prompted a group of OFWs to establish the Philippine School Bahrain or PSB. As a non-stock, non-profit institution, the PSB formally opened its doors to 152 students in 1995. This number has grown steadily, more than doubling its initial enrolment in less than 5 years.

The PSB was established to provide basic (pre-elementary to secondary) education to children of OFWs in the State of Bahrain. The school aims to create an environment conducive to learning and to provide quality education at affordable prices. It puts emphasis on the teaching of the Filipino language, history, culture and traditional values.

It follows the prescribed curriculum of the Philippine Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS) for elementary and high school to ensure the smooth re-integration of students into the mainstream of the Philippine educational system.

The PSB has been granted a license to operate as a private educational institution by the Ministry of Education of the State of Bahrain. To date, PSB is one of only four Philippine schools overseas that have been issued a Certificate of Recognition by the DECS. (There are a total of 27 Philippine schools overseas operating in 9 countries.) As a recognized institution of learning, graduates of the PSB are entitled to all benefits and privileges enjoyed by graduates of similar programs in all schools recognized by DECS. In further support of the school's effort to provide quality education, the Government of Bahrain has recently allocated 2.6 hectares of land for the school premises.

More than an institute of learning, PSB has also been a venue for the promotion of Philippine culture and the propagation of harmonious relations between and among Filipinos based in Bahrain. It has been supporting Philippine Embassy and community initiated activities such as the Centennial of Philippine Independence in 1998 and friendship games participated in by members of the community.

For a very young institution, the PSB has been considered a model of how Philippine schools overseas should be established and operated. It has drawn community members together to promote the well being of overseas Filipino children and their future.



Sr. Olivia Racinez, WCV

She is charged with the responsibility of attending to the spiritual needs of Filipino migrant workers in that country through the conduct of Bible studies, yearly retreats attended by at least 100 Filipinos, monthly recollections and pilgrimages to different places of worship, for her community. A weekly Bible study group she organized at the Pope John XXIII parish in Geneva, draws some 30-50 Filipinos regularly. These empowered Filipinos are now serving in the international parish as readers, Eucharistic ministers, or ushers.

Filipinos, who are predominantly Catholic, often seek refuge among recognized religious leaders such as priests and nuns especially in times of adversity. The need to be ministered during difficult times becomes more pronounced when one is far away from home, family and everything familiar.

Sr. Olivia Racinez, WCV, received her Business Administration degree, major in Accounting, from the University of the East in 1966. In 1988, she earned her Bachelor's degree in Sacred Theology from the University of Santo Tomas and the *Curso di Formazione Teologica - Sezione Italiana*, Pontificum Institutum "Regina Mundi" in 1989. In 1991, she received a Licentiate in Canon Law (JCL), *Summa Cum Laude*, from the Pontificia Studiorum Universitas *As Thoma AQ in Urbe*, Rome, Italy.

She is the shepherdess of the Filipino flock in Switzerland, a task that she assumed when she was appointed to handle the *Mission Catholique Philippines* by the Swiss Bishops Conference in 1994.

More than a spiritual adviser, this Laguna-born nun has become a "mother", listener and confidante to Filipinos who find themselves in difficult situations or are simply in need of guidance. She always makes herself available to Filipinos in Geneva and other parts of the country, especially those in distress.

The efforts of Sr. Olivia have resulted in the unification of various Filipino groups in Switzerland. There has also been an increase in the moral, spiritual, and even financial support among members of the Filipino community for their fellow compatriots in need.

Sr. Olivia has made a big difference in the lives of many Filipinos in Switzerland. She has nurtured both body and soul of people who have to live a long way off from home and whose sacrifices many times remain unacknowledged. The unconditional support and love she gives to each and everyone of the people who go to her are beyond any measure.

Sirmata (Vision) 2004

Probably the most ambitious effort by an overseas-based group for the upliftment of the state of medical care in the country is that one undertaken by Sirmata 2004.

Sirmata (Vision) 2004 was organized in 1998 in response to a call made by Dr. Danilo Ablan of the Aloha Medical Mission to the Members of the Filipino Community in Honolulu. It was founded at a time when the St. Francis Medical Center was in the process of upgrading its equipment and facilities. Through the representations made by Dr. Ablan, over P40 million worth of hospital equipment and supplies were donated by the Hospital to the Ilocos region.

It is the vision of the Sirmata to upgrade and improve the state of medical facilities and medical care available to the people of the Ilocos Region. It aims to complete this process by the year 2004. So far, Sirmata has sent three 40-footer and one 45-footer container vans of assorted equipment and supplies.



Complementary to this, training grants for doctors have also been sourced. Trainees are selected from among medical practitioners in the region and are immersed in a program in Hawaii that will hone their skills and keep them updated on the latest trends in medicine.

The group also conducted the biggest medical mission from Hawaii, together with the Aloha Medical Mission, on 18-27 February 2000. This was participated in by 42 doctors, 20 nurses, 3 pharmacists and 21 x-ray technicians and was able to attend to 25,000 patients of whom 500 required various surgical procedures. The services, surgeries, supplies and medicines given during said mission is estimated at US \$1 million.

Sirmata (Vision) 2004 is a non-profit coalition of individuals, government officials, professional and community organizations working together to help meet the medical needs of communities in Ilocos Norte. It seeks to help improve and modernize the Ilocos Norte Hospital and more importantly, to transfer knowledge and technology through areas such as cardiology, critical care, and surgery. To sustain their activities, the organization raises funds through food sales, fun dances, phone card sale, and voluntary contributions from members and donors. The organization is time-bound, thus the name Sirmata (Vision) 2004.

At the end of Sirmata's self-imposed life-span, it is expected that the beneficiary hospitals shall have been sufficiently modernized and upgraded.

Pedro P. Tenorio

A friendly and sympathetic host government is a big boost to overseas Filipino workers anywhere in the world inasmuch as their very lives are affected by policies adopted and implemented by these countries. Governor Pedro P. Tenorio of the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) is one such leader who has been very supportive of Filipino workers.

According to the Philippine Consulate in the CNMI, Gov. Tenorio "... continue(s) to uphold the ideals to make the life of every individual in the commonwealth worthwhile and productive under a reign of peace and prosperity". Under his leadership, the Filipino Community in the CNMI has thrived and its members have been able to pursue their personal and professional potentials to the fullest. There are 22,079 Filipinos out of a total of 79, 429 inhabitants of CNMI.

Gov. Tenorio's diplomacy and skills as a leader have contributed greatly to the strengthening of the Commonwealth state's relations with other countries. He encouraged and supported the establishment of the Philippine Consulate at the CNMI in 1989 and has since been very supportive of its programs. The Governor also encourages the participation of Filipinos in community affairs. Cooperation between the Philippine Consulate officials and Governor Tenorio has resulted in the effective monitoring of cases involving arrests or detention of Filipinos. The Governor even established a 24-hour communication access with the Philippine Consul in cases of emergency or humanitarian needs involving Filipinos.

The concern of the Governor for "guest workers" is such that he initiated a labor reform program to ensure better working and living conditions for these guest workers. It must be noted that Filipinos comprise the biggest group of guest workers in the Commonwealth.

During his third term in office, the Philippine Consulate's campaign for the observance of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations was institutionalized. As a result, the Consulate has been able to effectively pursue consular notification regarding cases of Filipinos in distress. He also instituted massive reform on the labor front. Among others, he signed into law a bill that provided for a limited immunity in which irregular aliens could apply for legal status. About 1,146 Filipinos



availed of this program and were issued work permits. He also signed Public Law 11-66 which authorized the assumption of private contractual obligations by the state's Labor Department in the event private employees cannot pay monetary damages awarded to workers.

The policies adopted by the administration of Governor Tenorio have resulted in the steady decline in labor complaints in general, and those filed by Filipinos in particular. The dwindling number of cases reflect the proactive approach of the Governor and his commitment to the continuous improvement of working and living conditions for guest workers.

The tenure of Governor Tenorio as CNMI's Chief Executive has made life so much better for Filipinos in that Commonwealth state. They, along with other guest workers, are assured of the protection of their rights in accordance with US Federal Law. This, in turn, has translated to a better life for guest-workers and their families.

These contributions have not gone unnoticed. In April 2000, Gov. Tenorio was awarded the most supportive leader by the CNMI Governor's Developmental Disabilities Council. In 1998, he was conferred an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree by the University of Guam for his life-long contributions to the people of Guam and the CNMI.

The Filipinos are fortunate to have found a friend in Governor Tenorio. His consistent and sincere efforts at making life better for Filipinos, enabling them to lead a dignified life, deserves our sincerest appreciation and recognition.

Theresa Lädeli



Theresa Lädeli's warehouse in Jegenstorf,
Bern, Switzerland

The unconditional love of Mother Teresa of Calcutta for the poor and disadvantaged people served as the inspiration for the establishment of *Theresa Lädeli*, a Swiss non-government organization (NGO), in 1991.

Monica Bauman, a Swiss community nurse from Jegenstorf, participated in a six-week immersion program in a fishing village somewhere in Mindanao in 1991. Touched by the abject poverty of the people in the community, she promised that she would try to do something to make their lives a little better.

On her return to her home country, Monica mobilized her friends in Bern to initiate the first fund-raising project for the needy people of Mindanao. They were able to solicit household and personal items for distribution to the selected beneficiaries. This started Theresa Lädeli, an organization which Monica and her friends named after the then living saint.

The objective of the organization is to attend to the basic needs of selected communities in Mindanao, especially in the provision of potable water, health services, clothing and education. To raise funds on a regular basis, the Theresa Lädeli Shop was opened. Donations of various items are accepted for reselling in the shop, where clients set their own price for any item they wish to purchase. Proceeds of sales are used to finance the projects of Theresa Lädeli and to sustain its operations.

To date, the organization has made financial and material donations to beneficiaries in Mindanao.

In 1999 alone, they donated about 80,000 Swiss francs (about P2 M) representing the proceeds of the sales of the shop. The Assumption Sisters of Davao City also accept the monthly donation of 2,500 Swiss francs to defray the educational expenses of 100 *lumad* children.

In addition to their monetary support for a number of causes, Theresa Lädeli also regularly sends *balikbayan* boxes of assorted goods which are distributed to the poor of Mindanao through NGOs and religious organizations. Theresa Lädeli has also sourced equipment such as used computers and sewing machines from the University of Bern. These were distributed to various end-users through the People's Conference Communications.

To further help the people make better lives for themselves and their families, the Theresa Lädeli Micro Funds Project was established. The fund has extended loans for the purchase of farm machinery as well as financed projects for the community. Among these projects are the provision of a potable water system for 68 families, donation of carabaos to Mangayon farmers, sponsorship of seminars/workshops for teachers as well as for children.

Aside from being a source of financial support and material assistance, various disadvantaged groups and communities in the Philippines consider Theresa Lädeli as inspiration and hope. Like Mother Teresa of Calcutta, Theresa Lädeli has dedicated itself to the upliftment of the lives of the poorest of the poor.

Paul Pemo Tordjman

Having strong ties with other people is important and beneficial to a country. It matters not only to the country's economic growth, but to its social and cultural development as well. However, maintaining these ties and keeping them strong requires hard work. The people who work to keep these ties strong are certainly worthy of praise.

Mr. Paul Tordjman is one epitome of such an individual. Bro. Paul, as he is affectionately called by the members of the Filipino community in France, founded the French-Filipino Friendship (FFF), a small group composed of French and Filipinos in 1995. It is an organization which does not collect membership fees nor require contributions for the assistance and services it extends to Filipinos in need. He also organized the Heartly Helping Hand (HHH), an organization that assists Filipinos in distress and organizes activities for Filipino youth to channel their energies into productive endeavors.

What has kept Brother Paul going despite the years is his strong belief that "*...it is my duty and honor to serve, (I am) RETIRED, BUT NOT TIRED TO CONTINUE*". It is this mindset that has motivated him to be of service to anyone who needs his help. The conduct of free French classes every Saturday was his initial assistance to Filipinos in France which he started in 1998. As his students grew in number, he started holding classes even on Sundays. During weekdays, he acts as interpreter and translator in French courts, offers advice and moral support to Filipinos, and helps them avail of medical care provided by government hospitals and clinics, and assists them in dealing with police authorities. Two religious organizations, the "Mabuting Pastol," and the American church, requested him to give French lessons to their members as well. For all the classes that he gives, he does not receive any form of payment or compensation.



Mr. Tordjman does not only help Filipinos learn the French language, he also helps them find jobs so that they could support themselves.

He assisted more than 150 Filipinos who applied for legalization during the amnesty program of the French Government. Whenever there were disputes between Filipinos and their employers, he was there to act as mediator. Time and again, he has given advice, offered moral support, and has assisted in whatever way he could so that he could help the Filipinos in France improve their lives.

Mr. Tordjman is a retired school teacher. In 1948-1962, he used to be a teacher and a welfare officer in Jerusalem. After working in Jerusalem, he was then transferred to Australia as a Migrant Advisory Officer from 1962-1975. A year later, in 1976, he was head of the Foreigner Section Prefecture de Police France. He also served in the British Army when Germany invaded France; and like most men of his day, he fought as a soldier in World War II.

He may not be a Filipino by blood but Bro. Paul exemplifies Filipino qualities — kindness and compassion for those in need or in distress. His truly Filipino spirit and character have endeared him to the growing Filipino community in France.

Orlando B. Vargas

Orlando Vargas has distinguished himself among Filipino-Australians in Logan City, Queensland, Australia for his outstanding service to the community since 1993. It was then that he initiated volunteer community services which provided assistance to organizations and individuals in securing various government services and in addressing issues affecting the Filipino community.

The involvement of Mr. Vargas in community affairs put to practice his training as Community Development Officer, a position he held when he worked with the Department of Local Government and Community Development in the Philippines. He is the President of the Logan Filipino-Australian Community Association, Inc., a post he has held from 1993, and currently also serves as Vice-President of the Filipino Communities Council of Australia. He also held the position of the Presidency of the Filipino Community Council of Queensland, Inc. from 1995 to 1998 and Vice-President of the Filipino Community Council of Queensland, Inc. from 1993 to 1995.

Mr. Vargas' position and membership in various Filipino Community Councils serve as a means for him to directly help disadvantaged youth and communities in the Philippines. He has initiated various projects undertaken by the Logan Filipino-Australian Community Association (LFACA). Among these projects is the establishment of a scholarship fund which provides financial aid to underprivileged students of the Cebu College of Science and Technology and the Cagayan Vargas College. An annual fund of P100,000.00 is appropriated for this program which has benefited university students who have been given full scholarship since 1998. The same association has also been sending used clothes to poor families in different parts of the Philippines since 1995 under its Clothes Drive Project.



From 1994, Mr. Vargas has been actively participating in the preparation and conduct of the Annual Barrio Fiesta which is held in commemoration of the Philippine Independence Day.

Because of his dedication to the affairs and welfare of the Filipino-Australian Community, local and state government officials recognize Mr. Vargas as the representative of the Filipinos to meetings and conferences on multiculturalism. He has also led the community on various affairs at the local, state and national levels.

The zeal and dedication of Mr. Vargas in the service of the community has earned him various awards and citations not only from Filipino groups, but from the Australian Premier in Queensland who gave him the Queensland Multicultural Service Award "for his long and outstanding service to the Filipino community and the substantial support and assistance for newly-arrived Filipino migrants and families involved in domestic violence, as well as organizing major multicultural events." The Maryborough Australian Social Club also awarded him a certificate of recognition in 1998 for his "outstanding support and assistance provided in the organization and development needs of the association".



Victorian Community in Belgium

The Victorian Community in Belgium was organized, following a fundraising activity undertaken by a group of Filipinos in response to a request for assistance from a public school principal in Victoria, Laguna. It was in 1994 that the association's by-laws was ratified by its members.

The Community was initially composed of Filipino migrants from Victoria, Laguna, but has opened its doors to those from other places in the Philippines who share its vision and objectives. Primarily, the Community works towards the attainment of unity and cooperation for the well being of its members. It also offers assistance and implements projects to benefit their less fortunate *kababayans* in Victoria, Laguna, as well as those from other towns who are victims of natural calamities. The group also aims to establish social and health benefits that may be enjoyed by its members and their families.

From the time of its formal inception, the organization has donated US \$34,000.00 worth of assistance to different barangays and institutions in the towns of Victoria and Biñan in Laguna, and Lemery in Batangas. These donations have benefited some 27,000 people in the three (3) towns.

The assistance extended by Victorian Community comes in different forms. They have donated medical equipment like oxygen tanks, blood pressure apparatus, nasal adaptors and clinical thermometers to several barangay health centers. They have also provided medicines to some schools as well as clinics.

Educational assistance totaling \$1,800.00 has been extended to 18 students from national high schools in Victoria, Laguna. Other schools were given sound systems, sewing machines, typewriters and monobloc chairs. Cash donations were also given for potable drinking water system in a school and the repair of four chapels.

For its members, the organization created a benefit program that includes hospitalization, death, and financial benefits.

The Victorian Community has been a big help to some small towns in the Philippines such as Victoria in Laguna. The men and women



VCB's community-building activity

behind this notable organization are those who chose not to alienate themselves from their fellow Filipinos in the Philippines. More than that, they chose to share and lend a helping hand to not so fortunate Filipino communities. Those who have benefited from the program can attest to the thoughtfulness and generosity of Victoria's Belgium-based children.

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

Pacita Abad
Indonesia

Angel B. Cielo
United States of America

Bayani S. Aguirre
Sudan

Remedios K. Del Rosario
United States of America

Camilo C. Antonio
Austria

Jose Duddley Diaz
Italy

Amelita Aranas Armit
Canada

Edith A. Dizon-Fitzsimmons
Australia

Jorge G. Camara
United States of America

Eddie Flores, Jr.
United States of America

Ma. Luisa Mabilangan-Haley
United States of America

Anita Magsaysay-Ho
United States of America

Antonio Garcia Llamas (+)
Spain

Milagros K. Moguel
Guam

Manuel A. Rodriguez, Sr.
United States of America

Emmanuel T. Santos
Australia

Edward Soriano
United States of America

Camilo M. Tabalba
Canada

Rev. Paul P. Zwaenepoel
Belgium



Pacita Abad

of Women in the Arts, Washington D.C., Art Museum of Western Virginia, Roanoke, National Center of Afro-American Artists, Boston, etc.), Bangkok, Thailand, the Dominican Republic, Indonesia and Hongkong, among others. She has also participated in group exhibitions in Japan, South Korea and Cuba, as well as the traveling exhibitions "Art for Africa" and the UNESCO-sponsored "40 years, 40 countries, 40 artists." Abad holds the distinction of being the first Asian artist to be featured in a solo exhibit by the National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington, D.C. in 1994.

The talent of the Filipino artist has long been a source of pride for the Philippines, especially if that artist is the internationally renowned Pacita B. Abad.

Ms. Abad was born in Basco, Batanes. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of the Philippines. After finishing college and a year of Law school, she took a break to work in her father's campaign for a seat in Congress. Her father lost the election but challenged the outcome. Abad organized student leaders to lead university demonstrations and her father was eventually proclaimed the winner. After receiving threats on her life for her political activities, she was persuaded by her father to visit an aunt in San Francisco in 1970, even though, as she puts it, "America was the last place I wanted to be (in)." As a newly arrived migrant, she sewed clothes for her aunt and friends, typed college theses, and catered dinners.

She pursued a Master of Arts degree at the University of San Francisco, California. She also studied painting at the Corcoran School of Art, Washington D.C., and the Art Students League in New York City.

Abad's works have won the acclaim of art critics in different parts of the world where they have been exhibited. Her works have been featured in solo exhibitions in the United States (National Museum

An artist of immense talent, Abad has created works using various media such as oil and watercolor paintings as well as masks and collages, but she is best known for her trapunto (from the Italian word *trapunere*, meaning to embroider) paintings. Her trapuntos are interesting 3-dimensional collaged tapestries using a variety of materials which are either sewn or pasted on a painted canvas and which incorporate her own political, social and cultural commentaries.

The roots of this Ivatan lady, coupled with her exposure to different cultures and her intense emotions are evident in her high-energy works which are now part of public and private collections both here and abroad. One of her biggest works is a mural at the Metro Center subway in Washington, D.C.

Abad has received citations and awards from various award giving bodies. Among these are the National Endowment for the Visual Arts Fellowship; Washington, D.C. Commission on the Arts Award; New York State Council on the Arts Visiting Artist Fellowship; the 1998 Likha Award marking the Centennial of Philippine Independence; and the 1984 Ten Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) Award. To this day, Pacita Abad continues to serve as an inspiration to many budding Filipino Artists.

Bayani S. Aguirre

Bayani S. Aguirre, or “Bani”, as he is known to friends, is one of only two of the highest ranking Filipinos in the United Nations Development Programme. He serves as the Country Director/ Senior Deputy Resident Representative of the UNDP in Sudan.

Schooled at the University of the Philippines, Mr. Aguirre earned his undergraduate and masters degrees (both major in economics) in 1965 and 1974, respectively. He was among those who helped redirect government policies toward export promotion and development in the mid-seventies.

Before joining the UNDP in 1989, Aguirre had a stint with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), and the International Trade Centre (ITC).

As Project Manager of the ITC, Aguirre was instrumental in the development of the export industry in the Kingdom of Lesotho where he also served as Trade Adviser. He also established export programs for Tanzania, Zambia, and Ghana. In the case of the latter, Mr. Aguirre arranged for Filipinos to help train their counterparts from Ghana in the art of rattan furniture making.

While with the UNCTAD and ESCAP, Aguirre worked towards promoting and strengthening trade ties between and among developing countries in the Asia-Pacific Region. He was also responsible for the development of computer-ready trade profiles of countries in the region, as well as business information useful to expanding bilateral and regional trade.

Aguirre’s career in the UN grew further when he joined the UNDP in 1989 as a Senior Programme Officer to the Deputy Chief, Southeast Asia Division, Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific at the UNDP headquarters in New York. It was early in his UNDP stint that he managed the programme on the ASEAN as an inter-government organization which assisted in



the reorganization and professionalization of the ASEAN Secretariat in the early '90's. He likewise helped in the preparation and publication of “Partners in Progress” which documents the cooperation between the ASEAN and the UNDP.

As Senior Deputy Resident Representative of UNDP to India, Aguirre worked in collaboration with the government to utilize innovative approaches in delivery of technical assistance. Specifically, programmes were geared towards poverty alleviation, the development of women and the promotion of small and micro enterprises.

At present, Mr. Aguirre is in the midst of undertaking a project to give Sudan’s poorest people access to knowledge and information through the latest information and communications technology, to include use of the internet.

While he may have travelled to more than 50 countries and lived in five continents, Bani has remained very much a Filipino. Together with the Filipino community and his family, he has helped organize Philippine cultural shows and exhibitions in Lesotho, Geneva, India, and the Sudan.

The distinguished career of Mr. Aguirre in the UN System and his dedication to the upliftment of the lives of people in some of the poorest countries certainly deserves the highest recognition.

Camilo C. Antonio

"I will go dancing in God's nowhere
So pardon my dust
Now I've got to get there..."

- from "Outing Myself to Emigrate"
by Camilo C. Antonio

The outstanding performance of Filipinos in their respective fields of expertise, especially when these are recognized by international bodies, make our people truly proud of them. One such Filipino is Camilo C. Antonio, who has made his mark in various international bodies, particularly the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

As UNIDO entrepreneurship development program coordinator, Mr. Antonio is responsible for flagship programs that include business incubation, intrapreneuring and privatization strategies. This has become a model initiative for other UN activities with which Antonio has been involved. Specifically, he conducted demonstration workshops in China and managed a regional project in Eastern Europe on the subject of entrepreneurship. His role in the preparation for the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen, held in 1997, merited him the UNIDO Director General's Award for Entrepreneurship and Teamwork.

Mr. Antonio conceptualized and managed an ASEAN project that had a great impact on women and rural people engaged in cottage industries. This recognition was given in the prestigious international exposition "Scene d'interieur de Paris".

In the Philippines, Mr. Antonio shares his entrepreneurial expertise with his countrymen in partnership with the University of the Philippines Institute for Small Scale Industries and the Technology and Livelihood Resource Center. Together with these institutions, specific models and multiplier effect projects are implemented in various parts of the country.



Apart from his professional endeavors that have benefited countless people in the Philippines as well as in other countries, Mr. Antonio is also involved in the propagation of culture and the arts through his involvement with the International University of Peace as one of its Directors. He organized the Urban Nomads in Crossed Currents (Urbanomadix), an international group of artists, including young Filipinos, which is committed to support the development of young artists in an international refugee camp in Northern Kenya. His insight on racism decries the violence of judgment based on superficial differences among the people of the world. As Antonio puts it "*race is how you and I can kill another just with our eyes.*" He also organized the first elocution contest for young Filipinos in Austria and helped in the Philippine Centennial activities in Vienna in 1998.

Antonio hails from Cauayan, Isabela. He graduated magna cum laude from the University of the East where he obtained his Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science. He completed his post-graduate courses in Public Administration at the University of the Philippines. He pursued his Ph. D. at Georgetown University in Washington D.C. He speaks English, Spanish, German, French, Italian, and Filipino. He has been bestowed three honorary citizenships — from the USA, North Yemen, and China.

Mr. Antonio is indeed a gem of a Filipino.



Amelita Aranas Armit

Amelita Aranas Armit is known for her excellence and distinction in public administration and management in the Canadian public service. In over 30 years of public service, Ms. Armit has consistently given outstanding performance in all the positions she held, from economist/policy adviser for the government of Alberta in 1968 to her present position as Vice President, Staffing and Recruitment Programs in the Public Service Commission of Canada.

Ms. Armit began her career in public service back in the Philippines as an economist in the Joint Legislative Executive Tax Commission in 1966, after earning her Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration major in Economics from the University of the Philippines. Upon migration to Canada in 1968, she joined the government of Alberta and rose from the ranks to become Assistant Deputy Minister of Social Services and Community Health, the first for a Filipino.

The leadership qualities of Ms. Armit became manifest in the various positions she held in the government of Alberta. Specifically, she introduced innovations in the field of policy development and in the delivery of economic, social and regulatory functions of the provincial government. She also designed and implemented proactive social policies and programs, most notably in the areas of Social Allowance Benefits Reform, Services to Treaty Indians, Decentralization of Social Services and the Alberta Widow's Pension Program.

Ms. Armit's passion for excellence was further heightened when she earned her Master's Degree in Public Administration from the Harvard School of Government in 1979. She also took and completed a course in Advanced Management Program in the Canadian Centre for Management Development in 1993.

Just as excellence in her work became her trademark in the provincial government of Alberta, so she became known when she joined the government of Canada in 1987. Prior to her appointment as Senior Executive Director of Resourcing

and Learning in the Public Service Commission, Ms. Armit served as Director General of Market Entry and Dispute Resolution in the National Transportation Agency, Assistant Deputy Minister in Health and Welfare Canada, and Executive Director, Corporate Management and Secretary General in the Public Service Commission Canada. In all her posts, Ms. Armit demonstrated a deep commitment to good governance and public service.

Ms. Armit's contributions to the Canadian government are such that she was designated Head of the Canadian Delegation to the 45th Assembly of the World Health Organization in Geneva, Switzerland in 1992. She has also represented Canada in other international projects and conferences.

Aside from her full time job, Ms. Armit shares her knowledge and skills with others as lecturer, author and presenter in conferences. She co-edits "*Hard Choices or No Choices? Assessing Program Review*" which is published by the Institute of Public Administration of Canada. She is also co-author of "*The Case for Canada*" which appears in the Management of Public Service and Reform, a Comparative Review of Experiences in the Management of Programmes of Reform of the Administrative Arm of Central Government published by the International Institute of Administrative Sciences.

Despite these numerous accomplishments of Ms. Armit, she remains first of all a Filipino, a fact of which she is proud. She continues to exemplify Filipino traits such as optimism, determination and hard work in her life. She is also deeply involved in the affairs of the Filipino community in Ottawa as Chair of the Philippine Center of Canada, which aims to put up a multi-purpose facility for Filipino-Canadian activities, which will showcase the richness of Philippine culture.

The professional excellence demonstrated by Ms. Armit in her long career in Canadian public service earned her the Queen Elizabeth Silver Jubilee Medal in 1977 and the 125th Commemorative Medal of the Confederation of Canada in 1992. Ms. Armit was also the recipient of the Outstanding Service Award from the United Council of Filipino Associations of Canada and the Outstanding Service Award of the Philippine Heritage Society.

Ms. Amelita Aranas Armit is the epitome of a good public servant anywhere. Our own government officials and employees have much to learn from her. The fact that she is a Filipino who made good in Canada makes us truly proud of her.



Jorge G. Camara

Dr. Camara founded and chairs the Fellowship program in St. Francis, designed specially for Filipino Ophthalmologists. Under this program, Filipino doctors are trained at the St. Francis hospital/University of Hawaii in ocuplastic, reconstructive, orbital and lacrimal surgery. Students from various areas of the Philippines spent six months to a year under his instruction, learning general and specialized ophthalmological procedures. The objective of the program is to produce well-trained doctors who can serve the medical needs of the less privileged in society. To date, countless Filipinos have benefited from this noble program.

Aside from being a successful medical practitioner, Dr. Camara is also involved in various socio-civic activities. Foremost of these is the Aloha Medical Mission where he serves as head of the eye team. He has headed a number of missions to the Philippines where poor communities' medical needs are addressed by this group of volunteers.

The quest for the best technology in his field of specialization has driven Dr. Camara to pursue continuing education in this area. He has presented 11 papers internationally and has done 33 researches on various aspects of Ophthalmology, focusing specifically on orbital surgery and telemedicine. In 1998, he provided guidance in the performance of the first orbital telemedicine ophthalmologic surgical procedure in the world.

Many institutions and award-giving bodies have recognized the achievements of Dr. Camara. The Pamana ng Pilipino Award expresses the pride of the Filipino people in their son who has gained the respect not only of his countrymen, but of experts in the field of Ophthalmology in the international scene as well.

Dr. Jorge G. Camara is a Hawaii-based ophthalmologist, and undoubtedly one of the best in his field.

Born in the US mainland on 21 May 1950, Dr. Camara earned his Pre-Medicine and Doctor of Medicine degrees from the University of the Philippines in 1972 and 1976, respectively. He returned to the United States in 1977 for his internship at the Hermann Hospital, University of Texas. He specialized in Ophthalmology as a Resident in the Baylor College of Medicine, University of Texas, from 1978 to 1981. He earned his Fellowship in Ophthalmic Plastic Reconstructive Surgery from the same college under the tutelage of Dr. Milton Boniuk in June 1982.

He is an Associate Professor of Ophthalmology at the University of Hawaii – Manoa's School of Medicine. The excellence of Dr. Camara in his field of specialization led him to his present position as Chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology and Otorhinolaryngology of the St. Francis Medical Center in Honolulu, Hawaii. He also Chairs the Laser Committee of the sub-specialty section of Plastic, Reconstructive, Orbital and Lacrimal Surgery in the same hospital.



Angel B. Cielo

Pacific American Network in Agriculture to a 328-member organization in 1994. He also planned, developed, and implemented the re-organization of the Mexican Meat Inspection which enabled Mexico to export meat to the US. He designed residue prevention and control programs for livestock and poultry, which reduced the incidence of harmful residues. These programs were adopted by Mexico and other Latin American countries.

Dr. Angel B. Cielo holds the distinction of being the highest-ranking Asian-American career employee in the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Dr. Cielo is currently the Deputy Administrator for International Services of the Animal and Plant Health Inspections Service, where his main responsibility is the protection of American agriculture from foreign animal and plant pests and diseases. Said office is also responsible for controlling and eradicating certain domestic pests and diseases and administering laws pertaining to human care of animals, among others.

Although Dr. Cielo graduated with a degree in Veterinary Medicine at the University of the Philippines, the last 25 years of his education and training have been spent in management and executive positions. He was a Senior Executive Fellow at Harvard University, and Congressional Fellow at the Office of Senator Melcher, Office of Personnel Management.

Dr. Cielo was also the first Asian-American selected to manage the Alameda District of the Food Safety and Inspection Service with 582 employees – having jurisdiction over 922 federally inspected installations.

Dr. Cielo is credited for transforming the Asian

Dr. Cielo's love for the Philippines is such that he continues to help in the development of the country's agricultural sector by sharing technology and skills with his counterparts here. It was under his leadership that a team of 14 USDA technical experts and professionals collaborated with the Philippine government to conduct training on Animal and Plant Health Quarantine Inspection and Risk Assessment for 100 Department of Agriculture officials. He also secured grants for Filipino scientists to study fly production in Fiji and Hawaii where the hot water treatment for killing pests found in Philippine mangoes is being tested. This breakthrough may enable this succulent Philippine fruit to finally be allowed in the US market.

Dr. Cielo has made a world of difference to Philippine agriculture. His generosity in sharing the knowledge and techniques that he has acquired will always be remembered by his countrymen.

From Irosin, Sorsogon to Washington, D.C., Dr. Angel Cielo has indeed gone a long way. What is heartening is that he has not forgotten his townmates who dream of better lives for themselves. Through the Amancio and Presentacion Cielo Foundation, he provides scholarship grants to fund the college education of poor students in his hometown. He also donates desks and boards to schools in his hometown, Irosin, Sorsogon.

Remedios K. Del Rosario

The present Commissioner of the Water Department in the City of Atlanta, Georgia is Remedios K. Del Rosario, a chemist and environmentalist. Prior to her appointment as commissioner, Remy worked with the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD) in various capacities. She has distinguished herself as a dedicated public servant committed to the delivery of the best and most efficient service to clients.

Remy has been known to always work for the interest of the public she serves. She makes sure that people are protected from hazardous wastes that may affect the water system. Aside from this, she has also worked towards the streamlining of functions in the organization while increasing productivity and striving to lower costs. She also developed and implemented programs on water conservation, leak detection, and public relations/community outreach. In Detroit, she devised a scheme that successfully controlled the proliferation of zebra mussels at the DWSD's water intake. She also developed and instituted a safety program and procedure for reducing and correcting safety violations. Another of her valuable contribution to DWSD was the development of an emergency plan which identifies a list of the most toxic chemical and biological agents and their assay procedures, a list of hazardous chemicals transported or stored along the waterways and its decontamination procedures, and a computer model that predicts pollutant concentration and travel time of a chemical spill in the waterways.

As Commissioner of Water, Remy was instrumental in the transition of the operation, maintenance and management of the Atlanta Water system to the private contract operator. She also developed and instituted several programs, such as the Water Conservation Program, Leak Detection Program, and Public Relations/Community Outreach Program. She has also increased the Department's revenue collection by 5% in 1993.

A known environmentalist, Remy organized a



briefing of the Georgia Water Utility Council to push for the re-authorization of the Safe Drinking Water Act and the Disinfection/Disinfectant By-Products Rule. She also provided training in management, safety inspections, emergency response, conflict resolution, among others.

One of Remy's strengths is her ability to bring out excellence among employees in her organization as well as improving interpersonal skills of her co-workers. She is also effective in public relations, both with other government offices with which they have to relate, as well as with their customers.

This public relations skill is also manifest in her socio-civic involvements. As an officer of the Kiwanis Club of Cosmopolitan Detroit, she was involved in such projects as "World Medical Relief", caroling in nursing homes and preparing gifts for the families of prisoners. She also served as a mentor to third graders at the Brady Elementary School in Detroit, Michigan.

Among Filipinos, she is known for reviving the Philippine Technological Society of Michigan, which was able to raise a considerable amount of funds within a month under her leadership. In August 1996, she was commended by Mayor Campbell for the Water Department's contribution to the successful hosting by the City of Atlanta of 1996 Centennial Olympic Games. She was also awarded the "Outstanding Filipino Award for Highest Professional Achievement" from the Philippine-American Association of Michigan in 1993, and the "Empowering Leader Award" from Mayor Bill Campbell of Atlanta City in 1995.



Jose Duddley Diaz

Culture columnist of the Philippine Star added that his works combine eastern and western mythology and Filipino folklore.

In 1990, the Philippine government chose Diaz to represent the country at the *Marble and Sound Symposium* in Aranjelovac, Serbia, Yugoslavia. He is the first Filipino to participate in the three (3) month long festival. His entry was a 2-meter high white marble statue which he called "Haliya sa Kahariaan ng Buwan" (Moon Goddess).

The fusion of east and west is exemplified best by the art of Jose Duddley Diaz, hailed by the Business Times as "one of the Philippines most talented sculptors" (25 February 1997). Through his art, Diaz has made a name for the Philippines and its art in Italy, one of Europe's centers of culture.

Diaz graduated with the degree of Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of the Philippines in 1983. In 1984, he was awarded a six (6) year scholarship grant by the Italian government where he completed courses in Sculpture and Painting at the Academia di Belle Arti in Florence. He has since made Italy his base.

From the time Diaz joined the art circle, he has done 11 solo exhibits and participated in 15 exhibits in different countries. Among others, his works have been exhibited at the Dr. Earl Lu Gallery in Singapore, the Monserrat Gallery in New York, and the London Biennial 2000. These shows have promoted an appreciation of the work of Filipino artists, especially as Diaz's works show a "motif that is distinctly Filipino with a universal twist" (Lorelei Punsalan, Sunday Chronicle 26 January 1997). Another Arts and

Diaz has been commissioned to make the 8-foot statue of St. Lorenzo Ruiz which he sculpted in 23 days, in time for the Saint's canonization on October 18, 1987. The statue is now displayed at the Pontificio Collegio Filipino in Rome.

In time for the celebration of the Centennial of Philippine Independence in 1998, the National Centennial Commission contracted him to do a sculpture of the young Jose Rizal. The same now stands at the garden of the Rizal Shrine in Calamba, Laguna.

His most recent work, entitled "Via Crucis" which depicts the Stations of the Cross, was unveiled in July of this year and is displayed at the church of San Tommaso in Lama. This work was described as "elegantly uniting the exotic style of the Philippines with that of great Italian artists" in the brochure written by Dino Pascuali.

Indeed, Diaz has accomplished the feat of blending the best of eastern and western influences in his art, and earning recognition, honor, and acclaim for him and his country.

Edith A. Dixon-Fitzsimmons

If her face looks familiar, it is because she is one of the two Filipinos who have been featured in the "25 Faces of Australia 2000" stamp project.

Edith A. Dixon-Fitzsimmons is a picture of a person who has dedicated herself to making life better for others. Twice widowed and a mother to seven (7) children (one of them died at the age of ten), she has picked herself up and served her community with her creative endeavors, like her music.

Ms. Fitzsimmons earned her Bachelor of Arts, major in English degree from the Central Philippine University in 1946. In 1956, she finished her Associate in Music, major in Piano from the Philippine Christian College. Thereafter, she pursued extensive education in Music Theory and Music Therapy. She is currently working on her Doctorate in Education at the La Trobe University in Melbourne. This, despite the fact that she is now legally blind and has lost all depth perception due to glaucoma.

Edith distinguishes herself as the first woman pilot with a rank of first lieutenant of the Reserve Airlift Tactical Support Service (RATSS) in the Philippine Air Force. She flew a single-engine aircraft from 1958 until 1983. In 1967, she participated in the "Powderpuff Derby" for women pilots, flying a Piper Cherokee 6 across America along with five other women pilots from the USA, the Netherlands, India, and Australia. Edith is the lone Filipino member of the Ninety-Niners, an international group of female pilots founded by Amelia Earhart in 1929.

In 1970, the Church of England sponsored Edith and her four (4) children to migrate to Australia. She worked as the Public Relations Officer of the Mission of St. James and St. John, the Childcare Organization of the Church of England in Victoria, as well as organist of the St. James Old Cathedral. Part of her job as PRO was to play piano and organ during concerts to earn funds for the organization.



An accomplished musician, Edith has played and conducted concerts in Australia, Japan, the United States and the Philippines. She also trained the Goulburn Valley Youth Bell-Ringing Choir which has also participated in a number of concerts. Her music has also earned her the Outstanding Alumna Music Award from the Central Philippine University.

In 1982, Edith, together with her late Australian husband, Ray Fitzsimmons, founded the Filipino-Australian Friends Association, Inc. of Northern Victoria and Southern NSW. In 1983, they established the Philippine House Foundation, Inc. (PHF) at Shepparton, Victoria. She helped raise \$350,000.00 for the PHF through her concerts and other fundraising projects. Aside from this, she solicited donations of valuable artifacts that now form part of the permanent exhibit of the PHF. Through the efforts of Edith and a corps of volunteers, the PHF is now considered the best showcase of Philippine history, art, and culture in Victoria. It also serves as a place where Filipinos gather in fellowship for various activities such as music, folk dance and lectures.

At the age of 78, Edith still works as an organist for the Church of All Nations in Carlton, Melbourne, a post she has held since 1997. She also taught at Shepparton High School and was a music therapist for Croydon Retirement Home.

Indeed, Edith A. Dixon-Fitzsimmons is an amazing woman with many diverse accomplishments.



Eddie Flores, Jr.

businessman have also been recognized by different award giving bodies. He shares his experiences as a businessman in the two (2) books he has written – “*Listing and Selling Business Opportunities*” (1988) and “*How to List and Sell Business Opportunities*” (1990) – as well as in various articles on real estate, investments and business appraisal. These materials have served as reference to people who have been inspired by his success.

One of the Filipino-Americans who has made a name for himself in the state of Hawaii is Eddie Flores, Jr. He has distinguished himself as the leading Fil-Am fastfood chain operator in the United States, expanding the L & L Drive-Inn restaurant from one store in 1975 (which he bought as a birthday present for his mother) to 50 outlets all over Hawaii in less than 10 years. The L & L chain has grown at an average of 28% a year and employs over 400 people.

Aside from being an outstanding businessman, Flores is also a respected realtor. The Hawaii Association of Realtors honored him as the highest rated instructor and educator of the year in 1989 and 1991, another first for a Filipino-American.

The expertise demonstrated by Eddie in the fields of small business and real estate has earned him the designations of *Certified Business Intermediary* and *Real Estate Instructor*. His accomplishments as a

Aside from being an accomplished entrepreneur, Eddie is also a recognized pillar of the Filipino community in Hawaii. He actively promotes Filipino culture in that state, having served as the Chairman of the Filipino Fiesta and Parade for the past eight (8) years. Related to this, Eddie also heads the fundraising committee for the construction of the Filipino Community Center in Hawaii, which aims to generate \$13 million for the ambitious project.

As Chairman of the Small Business Assistance Program for the Filipino Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii, Eddie also lends support to small businessmen. He also created projects that have provided loans, credit and lease guarantee funds for his employees, many of whom are Filipinos.

Eddie Flores, Jr. has not only done a lot of good for himself; he has made the Filipino people extremely proud of him.



Mrs. Luisa Mabilangan-Haley

levels. She was also nominated by President Clinton, subsequently confirmed by the Senate, to serve as member of the Board of the Export-Import Bank of the United States, another first for a Filipino. As board member of the Export-Import Bank of the US, Mrs. Haley participated in the bank's management and in policy program development and implementation and served as an advocate for Small Business.

The Presidency of Bill Clinton will be remembered as the time when a Filipina became Deputy Assistant to the US Chief Executive. Maria Luisa Mabilangan-Haley, not only works as an Assistant to the President, she is also the Deputy Director of the Presidential Personnel in the White House.

As Deputy Director of Personnel, Mrs. Haley assists the President and the director in the selection and approval of all Senate-confirmed, sub-cabinet and senior level appointments. She is also in charge of Schedule Cooperation, which covers the selection and approval of over 1,500 junior level appointments. The day to day operation of the Personnel Office is also the responsibility of Mrs. Haley.

Before joining the White House, Mrs. Haley made her mark in the field of international business, product development and program management for 20 years. This includes 15 years of service in state and federal

Mrs. Haley also served in the Arkansas Industrial Development Commission where she was International Marketing Consultant (1979-1981), Director of Marketing (1981-1991) and Director of Communications (1991-1992). It was during her 13-year tenure that she contributed greatly to the growth of the export industry of Arkansas. In recognition of her achievements in export promotions and the development of small enterprises, Mrs. Haley was awarded the Ronald H. Brown Export Achievement Award by the Small Business Exporters Association in 1997.

Indeed, this diplomat's daughter has gone a long way. Her formal and non-formal education in different parts of the world such as India, France and Spain contributed greatly to molding Mrs. Haley into the person that she has become. However, her accomplishments are largely attributable to her commitment to service and excellence.

Maria Luisa Mabilangan-Haley is a worthy role model for all Filipinos.

Anita Magsaysay-Ho

Anita Magsaysay-Ho played a very significant role in the advancement and appreciation of Modern Art in an era where conservatism was prevalent in the Philippines.

Ms. Magsaysay-Ho has been regarded as part of the “Thirteen Moderns” of Philippine Art who reacted to Academism, or the beaux arts tradition of the European academies and the dominant Amorsolo school. Recognized as one of the Philippines’ foremost woman artists, she is known for her unique and inimitable style with women as her first and dominant subject.

Her hallmark subject for over three decades is described as “... peasant women working in the fields, mending nets, feeding the chicken, cooking, gossiping. They are invariably thin with elongated necks, slant eyes, hair wrapped in bandannas; torso, hips, arms and legs bent at a sharp angle”. They showcase the artistic imagery featuring Filipino folks and scenery. Her works have helped project an image of the Filipino that is capable of excellence and achievement.

The works of this woman-pioneer of modern art, are auctioned internationally, effectively putting Philippine artists and arts, culture, and people in the world map. In 1999, for instance, her 1995 painting “*In the Marketplace*” outbid that of other noted artists during the Christie’s Autumn Southeast Asian Pictures Sale held at the Singapore Grand Hyatt Hotel. Her painting set a new record for her as it fetched US\$375,000 or about P15 million from the modest estimated price of between US\$10,000 to US\$15,000. After much fierce bidding, it was successfully purchased by an institution. The painting was also featured on the cover of the Christie’s Auction Catalogue.

Ms. Magsaysay-Ho was born in Manila. She was educated both here and abroad under the auspices of some of the world’s finest artists, such as at the School



of Fine Arts, University of the Philippines under Irineo Miranda, Vicente Rivera, Pablo and Fernando Amorsolo, and Fabian dela Rosa. She also studied in the School of Design, Manila under Victorio Edades and Enrique Ruiz. In New York, she took classes at the Art Students’ League under Kenneth Hayes Miller (Oil Painting), Will Barnett (Graphics), and Robert Ward Johnson (Figure Sketching). In Michigan, she studied at the Cranbrook Academy of Art in Bloomfield Hills, under Zoltan Sepeshy (Egg Tempera). She married Robert C.F. Ho, and is blessed with five children.

In 1949, after finishing her graduate studies in the United States, Ho returned to the Philippines. This was when she launched a milestone in art history with her “angular women in egg tempera or oil” paintings. She is also best known for her “Cooks” (1952), “In the Ricefield” (1962), “Women Fishing” (1975), and “World of Bargaining” (1983).

Now based in New York, Ms. Magsaysay-Ho still paints her signature women. Her works are among the rarest and most sought after of contemporary Filipino artists.

Sources:

“Anita Magsaysay-Ho painting sets record price at Singapore auction”, *Philippine Star*, 11 October 1999

“The Art of Magsaysay-Ho” by Jullie Yap-Daza. *Manila Standard*, 08 October 1999

Anita Magsaysay-Ho: A Retrospective, Metropolitan Museum of Manila, 1998

Antonio Garcia Llamas (+)

Philippine Art was enriched by the contribution of noted painter/portraitist Antonio Garcia Llamas, one of the two posthumous awardees in this year's batch of honorees.

Garcia Llamas started to make a name for himself after winning 1st place in the Open Poster Competition held during the 33rd International Eucharistic Congress in 1937. In 1938, he went to Italy for further studies at the Academia di Belli Arti di Roma. He graduated 7 years earlier from the UP School of Fine Arts.

He moved to Spain after his studies in Italy. It was during his first exhibit in Spain in 1941 that Garcia Llamas created quite an impression among Madrid's Circulo de Bellas Artes. His "Indays" were compared with the paintings of Gaugin, a French painter in the latter half of the 19th century. Henceforth, he was hailed as the "Filipino Gaugin".

The succeeding shows of Garcia Llamas were very well received by Madrid's Art Circle, particularly the critics. His success as a painter spread to Italy, where his work "Madonna Filipina" was highly acclaimed when he participated in the Sacred Art Exposition in Rome in 1950. In this painting, Llamas showed an image of the Virgin Mary wearing the Philippine National dress with the tropical background.

The subjects and style employed by Garcia Llamas always manifest the Filipino in him. The Marquiz of Lozoyo noted during Llamas' 1979 Exhibit at the Salade Exposiciones del Centro Iberoamerican de Cooperation that "... he is a sure and exact draftsman and a delicate colorist on whose art is reflected the great arts of the orient.



In his admirable series of portraits one notices not only the elegance of the sitter but also the spiritual elegance of the artist."

Garcia Llamas later established himself as the preferred portrait painter of prominent leaders such as President and Madam Magsaysay, President and Madam Ferdinand Marcos, and Gen. Carlos P. Romulo, the Duke of de Sevilla, Duchess Sta. Elena and Gen. Douglas McArthur, among others.

In the Philippines, Llamas's works can be seen at the Santo Domingo Church, the murals at the entrance of the Main building of the University of Sto. Tomas, and at the Santuario de San Antonio in Forbes Park, Makati. He also has a mural at the Asilo de San Vicente de Paul. His Philippine motif paintings have also been published in calendar form by the Compania General de Tabacos de Filipinas. In gaining international acclaim, he reinforced the Philippine tradition of producing great artists.

Garcia LLamas will also be deeply admired by the Filipino nation for faithfully keeping his Filipino citizenship throughout his life as a Filipino artist abroad.

Milagros K. Moguel

It is said that the teaching profession is a vocation, a calling that not all are given the strength or dedication for. Milagros K. Moguel is one such person who has made teaching her life.

Ms. Moguel obtained her degree in Bachelor of Science in Education, major in Home Economics, *magna cum laude*, from the University of Santo Tomas. She also has a Master of Arts in Home Economics degree from the San Francisco State University.

Before she migrated, Ms. Moguel was a classroom teacher who taught basic home economics subjects, commercial baking and advanced foods under the Division of City Schools of Manila. She also taught clothing courses at a night school for adults.

When she moved to Guam, Ms. Moguel taught at the Dededo Middle School, handling 8th and 9th grade classes in clothing, textiles and crafts. She eventually became Department Head for Home Economics in the same school. From 1991-1995, she taught and served the middle school at-risk students between the ages of 11 and 14 (those who might otherwise have dropped out of school) under the Earn While You Learn Program, where students are taught skills such as food processing and making novelty items. They are also taught other skills for job application as well as professional ethics. The training they received gave the students the confidence to handle work assignments when they get employed. The effective implementation of the program earned Ms. Moguel the Dewitt-Wallace National Award for Youth at Risk Program.

Ms. Moguel joined the University of Guam as an Assistant Instructor and rose to become Associate Professor at the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. She earned her promotions through the



quality of work she demonstrated as faculty member specializing in clothing, textile and interior design courses. She served as Department Chairman for the Family and Consumer Services (CFS) from 1986 to 1994. It was during her Chairmanship that the CFS degree was developed into a major program. While Ms. Moguel has retired from the University, she continues to teach as an adjunct faculty member thereat. She is also involved with the *Sining Kayumanggi*, a Filipino organization where she was a past president and continues to be an active member.

The teacher in Ms. Moguel is manifest even in her community involvements. She served as teacher in outreach/extension programs which conducted workshops on clothing instruction, nutrition for children and social graces for senior citizens at the community level. Her services to the community earned her the award for Faculty Excellence for Service in 1993 from the University of Guam, the first Filipino to be given such an award. In 1999, she was conferred the Meritorious Service Award by the Filipino Community of Guam. These are only two of the numerous awards and citations that Ms. Moguel has received for her dedication to her profession and to community service.

She is also one of the only two certified Family and Consumer Scientists in the Western Pacific, an uncommon distinction Filipinos can be proud of.

Manuel A. Rodriguez, Jr.

Riddle: "What do you get when you cross Seurat with Monet, after instructing them in the 20th century physics of particle-wave theory, the behavior of light, and the holographic paradigm of the unified field? **answer:** "A technique called *color vibration* in a style called *Abstract Impressionistic Realism* by an artist named Manuel Rodriguez" (Mark A. Breskin in Manuel Rodriguez Through the Eye of a Needle, Fine Arts Gallery).



The riddle quoted above is a very appropriate description of the style employed by New York based Rodriguez, who uses densely layered waves as the building blocks for his compositions. His art is a result of a lifetime of hard work and struggles. His works are not only pleasing to the eye; they have been described as having a healing quality.

Rodriguez is known as the one who revived the art of printmaking in the Philippines. Prior to his return to the country from a scholarship grant on lithography at the Pratt Institute in Chicago, printmaking was considered a dead art. He painstakingly worked to breathe life into this art form, promoting it among budding artists through the conduct of workshops, lectures and shows. Because of his efforts and

sacrifices, he earned the moniker "Father of Printmaking" and in 1967, was awarded the *Republic Cultural Heritage Award*.

It was also after his return from the United States that Mr. Rodriguez taught at the University of Santo Tomas and the Philippine Women's University, where he established the Graphic Arts Department. He proved to be a very effective teacher and these teaching stints provided him a venue to further his cause of promoting the art of printmaking. As part of Mang Maning's vision, he established the Contemporary Arts Gallery in Manila in 1962 and later the Pioneer Print Center in New York.

The works of Rodriguez have won him the acclaim of art critics both in the Philippines and in the United States where he now lives. In both countries, different groups have given him awards and citations. The Philippine Consulate General in New York has also commended him for his wholehearted support and contribution to different projects initiated by that office.

The accomplishments of Mr. Rodriguez as an artist and an art educator here and abroad have had a lasting influence on Philippine art and Filipino artists. With printmaking alive in the Philippines, he has made an unparalleled contribution in the development of art in the country.

Emmanuel T. Santos

Emmanuel Santos is an internationally acclaimed ethnographic and social-realist photographer. For the past 18 years, he has made Australia his home and has been acknowledged as the leading figure in his field.

At the age of 17, Emmanuel acquired his knowledge in photography from a Japanese war correspondent who taught him *"how to take photographs from within."*

Through his art, Mr. Santos has advocated for cultural diversity and has contributed to the development of policy initiatives and programs encouraging and enhancing the culturally diverse communities and artists of Australia. It is also through his photographs that he has promoted the cause of human rights.

Having made a name for himself in the international art scene, Mr. Santos' works have been presented in such countries as Israel, China, the United States, Poland, Singapore, Russia, and France. He has held eleven (11) solo exhibits and participated in four (4) group shows. His works have also been featured in a number of books, such as *A Day in the Life of Israel*, *A Day in the Life of Thailand*, *KUDJELA-Aboriginal poetries with photographs*, *Visions – Malaysia + Australia multi-cultural exploration*, among others. They have also been published in magazines and leading newspapers as well as in photographic publications.

The works of Mr. Santos have inspired many and endeared him to members of Australia's diverse communities, including the Jews, Chinese and Greek. He has also been praised by the Multicultural Arts Victoria as *"one of the Philippines' great sons and*



a key leader in the international Filipino diaspora". Because of his outstanding artistry, the Filipino culture, artists and communities have been elevated to a greater level of respect among Australians. He has also brought the Philippines, as well as Australia, into the forefront of international cultural profile. Emmanuel is the leading artist of Multicultural Arts Victoria (MAV), which is Victoria's peak arts and cultural organization.

The permanent collections of some of the world's prominent Museums have been made richer by the inclusion of some of Mr. Santos' works. Among these are the Museum of Arts-Chernivsty (Ukraine), Musee d'Art et d'Histoire du Judaisme (France), Australian Jewish museum, Diaspora Museum (Israel), State Museum of Victoria (Australia), National Library of Australia, Tianjin Youth Palace (China), Mother Jones Foundation (USA), UNHCR Archives (Switzerland), Momoki Archives (Japan), among others.

The Filipino people can be truly proud of Emmanuel T. Santos, artist/photographer extraordinaire. He is not only an artist, but a great storyteller as well. Each of his photographs has a story to tell, an event to share, and a tradition to preserve.



The first Filipino to have reached the rank of Major General in the United States Army is Pangasinan-born Edward Soriano.

General Soriano was first assigned with the 82nd Airborne division where he commanded companies in the 2nd Infantry Division in Korea, the 9th Infantry Division at Fort Lewis, and the 8th Infantry Division in Germany. He also commanded a battalion of the 2nd Armored Division and a brigade of the 4th Infantry Division.

During the Persian Gulf War, Gen. Soriano was the Chief of the Army Liaison Team to the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force. He also served as Army Section Chief for the Secretary of Defense Gulf War Reporting Team.

Among the General's other past assignments include being Chief of Staff (later Assistant Division Commander), 3rd Infantry Division, Europe; Assistant Division commander, Operation Joint Endeavor (Bosnia-Herzegovina) 1st Infantry Division; Personnel

Edward Soriano

Systems Staff Officer, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans; Deputy G-3 (Operations), 2nd Armored Division; Special Assistant to the Chief of Staff, Army; and Senior Staff Security Intelligence Department from 1976-1981.

At present, Gen. Soriano is the Commanding General of the 7th Infantry Division and Fort Carson, where he serves as Director for Operations, Readiness and Mobilization. He is also Director of Military Support of the Pentagon.

General Soriano's academic background is quite diverse. He earned his Bachelor of Science in Management from the San Jose University and his Masters in Public Administration from the University of Missouri. In 1989, he graduated from the Army War College.

After over 27 years in the service, Gen. Soriano has reached the highest rank that any Filipino in the service has ever attained. Throughout the years, he has been bestowed 21 types of awards, a number of them more than once, such as the Legion of Merit (4 times), Meritorious Service Medal (4 times), Overseas Service Ribbon (3 times), Army Commendation Medal (2 times), National Defense Service Medal (2 times) and the Southwest Asia Service Medal with Bronze Star (2 times).

General Edward Soriano brings pride to the Filipino people by his fine example of excellence and professionalism in service to country.

Camilo M. Tabalba

Camilo Tabalba is a man who has made achievement a way of life. From the time he earned his Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering, he established a track record of excellence for himself. He graduated Magna Cum laude from the Feati University and won a scholarship grant for London, England, sponsored by the Federation of British Industries in 1960. He obtained his Master's degree in Electrical Engineering major in physics and electronics from the University of London in 1962.

The professional accomplishments of Mr. Tabalba are just as impressive as his academic feats. He has made a significant contribution in the field of design and technology advancement of telecommunications equipment both in the United Kingdom and Canada. He is also among those featured in the permanent display for Filipino inventors in the Philippine Department of Science and Technology's Heritage Center Exhibit.

Early in his career (1963-1970), Mr. Tabalba made strides in the design of electronic circuits for telecommunications equipment. He also designed transistorized amplifiers, demodulators in frequency division multiplexes, and modulators. He obtained a patent for his modulator design. In 1970, Mr. Tabalba was hired by Standard Telecommunications Research, Ltd. in Harlow, Essex, England, largely due to his work in advance telephone sets design.

In 1977, Mr. Tabalba joined the Bell Northern Research, Ltd., causing him to move to Canada. He worked with a team of scientists on the electronic telephone, which became standard for Bell Canada Telephones in 1979. In another project, he designed a new electronic key system, which became known as Vantage, the first electronic key system to be



manufactured by Northern Telecom. In 1994, Mr. Tabalba received a Canadian patent for his invention called the "Transient Voltage Suppression for Electro-Optics Modules".

While Mr. Tabalba has established himself as a scientist, he has continued to involve himself in worthy social and civic causes. He served as vice-chair of the Science and Technology Advisory Council (STAC) of Ottawa in 1992-1994. During his tenure, he was able to establish a scholarship fund. He also served as President of the Philippine International Language School in Ottawa from 1993-1994.

The nationalist spirit of Mr. Tabalba moved him to unite all Filipino Associations in Ottawa. As one group, they coordinated the Philippine Independence day celebrations in that area. He continues to serve the Filipino-Canadian community in his capacity as Communications Director of the Filipino-Canadian Association of the Ottawa Valley (FCAOV) and editor of its newsletter, *Ang Tinig*.

Mr. Camilo Tabalba was born in Guinsiban, Camiguin Province. Prior to migration overseas, he worked for the Civil Aviation Authority, Manila Electric Company, and San Miguel Corporation.

Rev. Paul P. Zwaenepoel

Rev. Paul P. Zwaenepoel arrived in the Philippines over 50 years ago and spent most of life as an educator in this country, particularly in Baguio City. But the contributions of Rev. Paul go beyond the confines of the classroom; he has exerted much effort for the people of his adoptive home.

During his tenure as President of the St. Louis University, he was able to arrange for scholarship grants for 60 professors to pursue post-graduate studies at the University of Louvain and the State University of Ghent. He also reconverted the University into a service center for the surrounding areas, offering their expertise to those who need help. For instance, the Soil Analysis Center under the Department of Chemistry gave the farmers advise on the best ways to achieve optimal results in their farms. The College of Medical Technology offered free blood analysis, and the College of Medicine organized medical missions to the barrios.

The St. Louis University experienced a period of growth under the leadership of Rev. Paul. He spearheaded the fundraising drive for the construction of 12 new buildings for the school, including the Sacred Heart Hospital, the academic hospital of the SLU College of Medicine. By providing training for its academic staff by way of scholarship programs, and improving the school's facilities, Rev. Paul strengthened the position of SLU as an academic institution in Baguio City.

The academic community was not the only beneficiary of Rev. Paul's efforts. He initiated the establishment of the Institute for Small and Medium Scale Industries in the University, which organized seminars for people who engage in business or who wish to venture into livelihood programs. This certainly benefited many people by giving them the skills necessary to operate their own enterprises. This program was replicated in about 15 universities throughout the country.



Rev. Paul also started the St. Louis-St. Vincent Housing Project in Baguio City in 1970. This housing cooperative succeeded in constructing more than 400 housing units, one of the first private housing projects undertaken successfully before the Pag-Ibig program was introduced to the country.

In recognition of his selflessness and love for his adoptive people, Rev. Paul was granted Philippine citizenship through Presidential Decree No. 682 issued by then President Ferdinand Marcos on 7 April 1975.

Rev. Paul's accomplishments in the field of education and community service have been recognized in various countries. He has received several honorary degrees including Doctor of Laws from Kyung Hee University in South Korea in 1973, and Doctor of Arts in Pedagogy from Great China Arts College World University in Hong Kong in 1972.

While Rev. Paul has returned to Belgium, he continues to keep his ties with Filipinos. He is a member of the Order of the Knights of Rizal "Diamond Chapter" in Antwerp and serves as officer and trustee of the same. He is also a founding member of the VZW Mabuhay Friends Club and is a contributing columnist in some Filipino magazines.

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

*Awarding Ceremonies and Testimonial Dinner
Tuesday, 19 December 2000, 6:00 p.m.
Ceremonial Hall, Malacañan Palace*

Programme

Arrival of Guests/ Cocktails

Arrival of His Excellency President Joseph Ejercito Estrada

The Philippine National Anthem
A Cappella Manila

Opening Remarks
Hon. Domingo L. Siazon, Jr.
Secretary of Foreign Affairs

Presentation of Awards

Message on behalf of the Awardees
Mr. Eddie Flores

Introduction of the Keynote Speaker
Secretary Domingo L. Siazon, Jr.

Message of His Excellency, President Joseph Ejercito Estrada

Dinner

Ms. Boots Anson-Roa
Master of Ceremonies

COMMISSION ON FILIPINOS OVERSEAS

A Primer

The Commission on Filipinos Overseas promotes the well-being and interests of Filipinos overseas, as well as their cultural and economic ties with the Philippines, through the following programs and services:

Migrant Social and Economic Integration

The CFO prepares Filipinos emigrating to other countries to enable them to address the practical and psychological problems attendant to international migration. This is done through:

- Registration of Filipino emigrants
- Orientation seminars for pre-departing Filipino emigrants
- Counseling services for Filipino fiancé(e)s/spouses of foreign nationals
- Peer counseling for Filipino youth migrants
- Information campaigns and public assistance
- Post-arrival orientation and assistance
- Inclusion of migration in elementary and high school curricula

Filipino Education and Heritage

In cooperation with other agencies and organizations, CFO provides critical educational services and opportunities for the continued exposure of younger generations of overseas Filipinos to Philippine history, culture and institutions. This is undertaken through:

- Lakbay-Aral Program
- Philippine Schools Overseas
- Philippine Studies Program

Filipino Unity and Sustainable Development

The CFO seeks to foster better cohesion and unity of purpose within and among the various overseas organizations so that their own interests and well-being

can be promoted, supported or enhanced within a greater and more formidable all-Filipino community. Toward this end, CFO implements/administers the following:

- Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino (LINKAPIL) Program
- Presidential Awards for Filipino Individuals and Organizations Overseas
- Exchange Visitor Program

The CFO also develops/publishes information materials for distribution to Filipinos overseas. It maintains data bases of Filipino organizations overseas, and databases on development projects which they may wish to undertake in the Philippines.

Policy Development and Data Banking

The CFO prepares policy recommendations, reports, and studies on the economic, social, legal, and administrative environment which have bearing on the status of overseas Filipinos. It is the only government agency that maintains databases/information systems on Filipino emigrants.

Clientele

The clientele of CFO are Filipinos who are permanent residents abroad, including Filipino emigrants who are already citizens of foreign countries or are still Filipino citizens awaiting naturalization, recognition, or admission, and their descendants. Also within the program coverage of CFO are Filipino fiancé(e)s/spouses of foreign nationals and Filipino youth overseas.

Legal Basis

The CFO was created through a law (Batas Pambansa Blg. 79) passed by the Philippine Congress in June 1980.

Year 2000 Presidential Awards for Filipino Individuals and Organizations Overseas

Executive Committee

Chairman	Hon. Domingo L. Siazon, Jr. Secretary of Foreign Affairs
Vice-Chairman	Ambassador Antonio P. Villamayor Chief of Presidential Protocol
Members	Hon. Jose Z. Molano, Jr. Executive Director Commission on Filipinos Overseas
	Msgr. Ramon C. Arguelles Chairman, Episcopal Commission for Migrants and Itinerant People, Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines
	Mr. William T. Gatchalian Presidential Adviser for OFWs Affairs
	Ms. Cheche L. Lazaro President, PROBE Productions, Inc.

Technical Committee

Department of Foreign Affairs	Mr. Rolando Gregorio Executive Director Office of the Legal Assistant for Migrant Workers' Affairs
	Mr. Bayani V. Mangibin Director, Consular Affairs Division Office of Legal Assistant for Migrant Workers Affairs
Commission on Filipinos Overseas	Ms. Catherine Paredes-Maceda Deputy Executive Director
	Mr. Ernesto Noel Calleja Special Assistant

GALLERY OF PRESIDENTIAL AWARDEES

Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino Award

Emanuel N. Nacario
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H.O.P.E. Foundation
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Jesus T. Ho
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Philippine American Foundation
Philippine Children's Charity Fund
Philippine Cultural Organization in Saarland, E. V.
Philippine Economic and Cultural Endowment
Science and Technology Advisory Council San Francisco
World Bank / IFC-IMF Filipino Association

Kaanib ng Bayan Award

Association Alouette
Association Philippines International of Geneva
Books for the Barrios
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Lilia R. Juele
Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Concepcion
Moh ' d Ali Carlito Astillero
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Penang Support Group for Migrant Filipinos
Philippine Heritage Band
Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants
Prospero C. Zamora
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Tahanan (Diocesan Center for Filipino Migrants)

Kaakabay ng Bayan Award

Aloha Medical Mission
Confederation of Filipinos Overseas Organization
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Foundation for Aid to the Philippines, Inc.
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