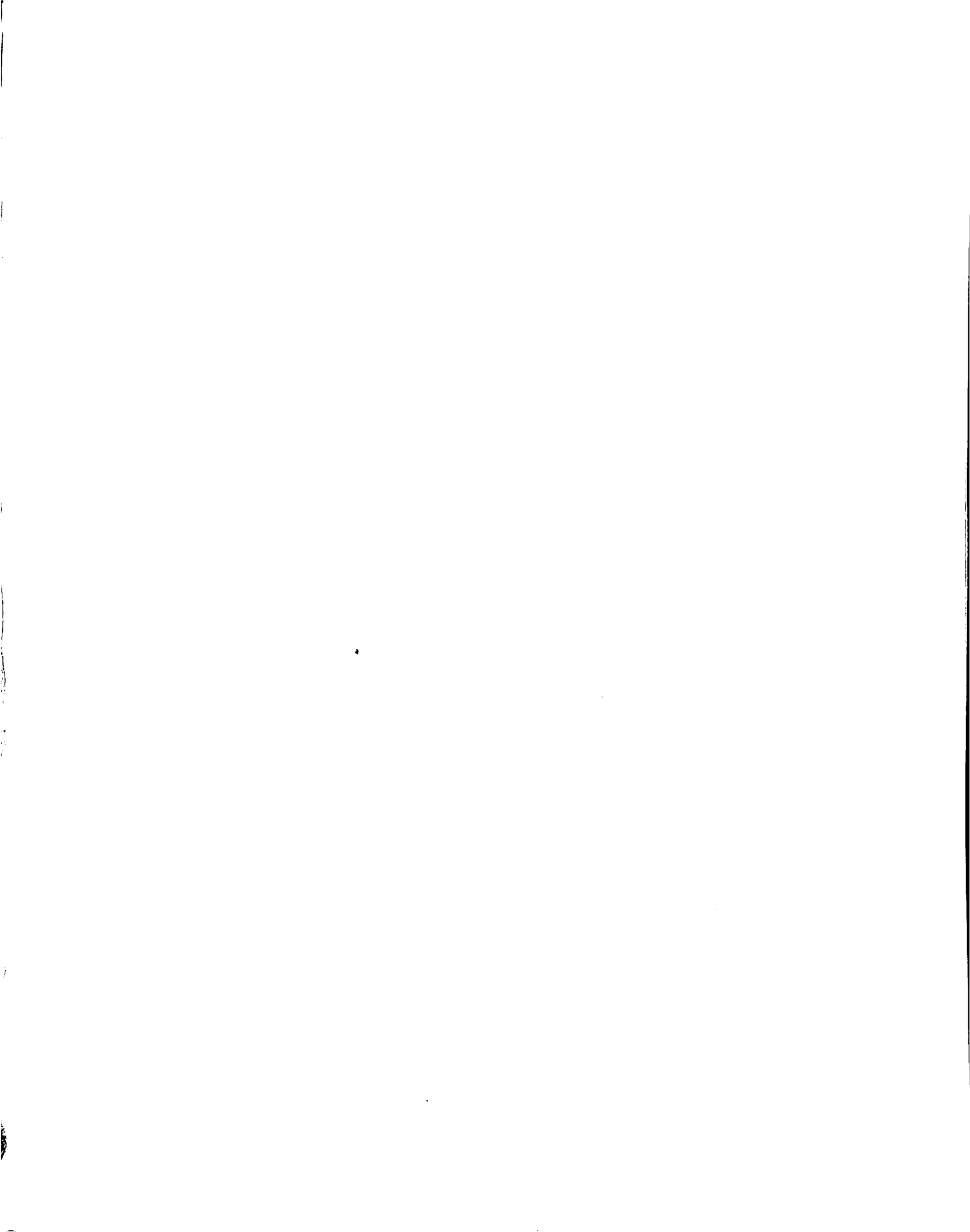


تحت إشراف
الرئيس
الجمهوري
الفاصل
بنارس

*The Year 2004
Presidential Awards
for Filipino Individuals
and Organizations Overseas*

The cover page design is an ancient Philippine script which means *Gawad ng Pangulo*.
(Reference: National Museum)

The facts and accounts of circumstances that are contained in the profiles of the Year 2004 Presidential Awards were taken from the materials submitted to the Awards Secretariat for consideration of the nominations.





MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA



MESSAGE

My warmest greetings to the men and women of the **Commission on Filipinos Overseas** and the recipients of the *Year 2004 Presidential Awards for Filipino Individuals and Organizations Overseas*.

The Presidential Awards are tokens of recognition to individuals and organizations abroad for their valuable contributions to the national economy. Yearly, Filipinos working or residing abroad remit US\$8 billion to the country. These foreign exchange remittances help shore up the economy, especially during a crisis.

Much of the earnings of these overseas Filipinos go to entrepreneurship, leading to the creation of jobs. The palpable growth in the countryside as shown by new concrete houses has been fueled with the remittances of Filipinos overseas to their families.

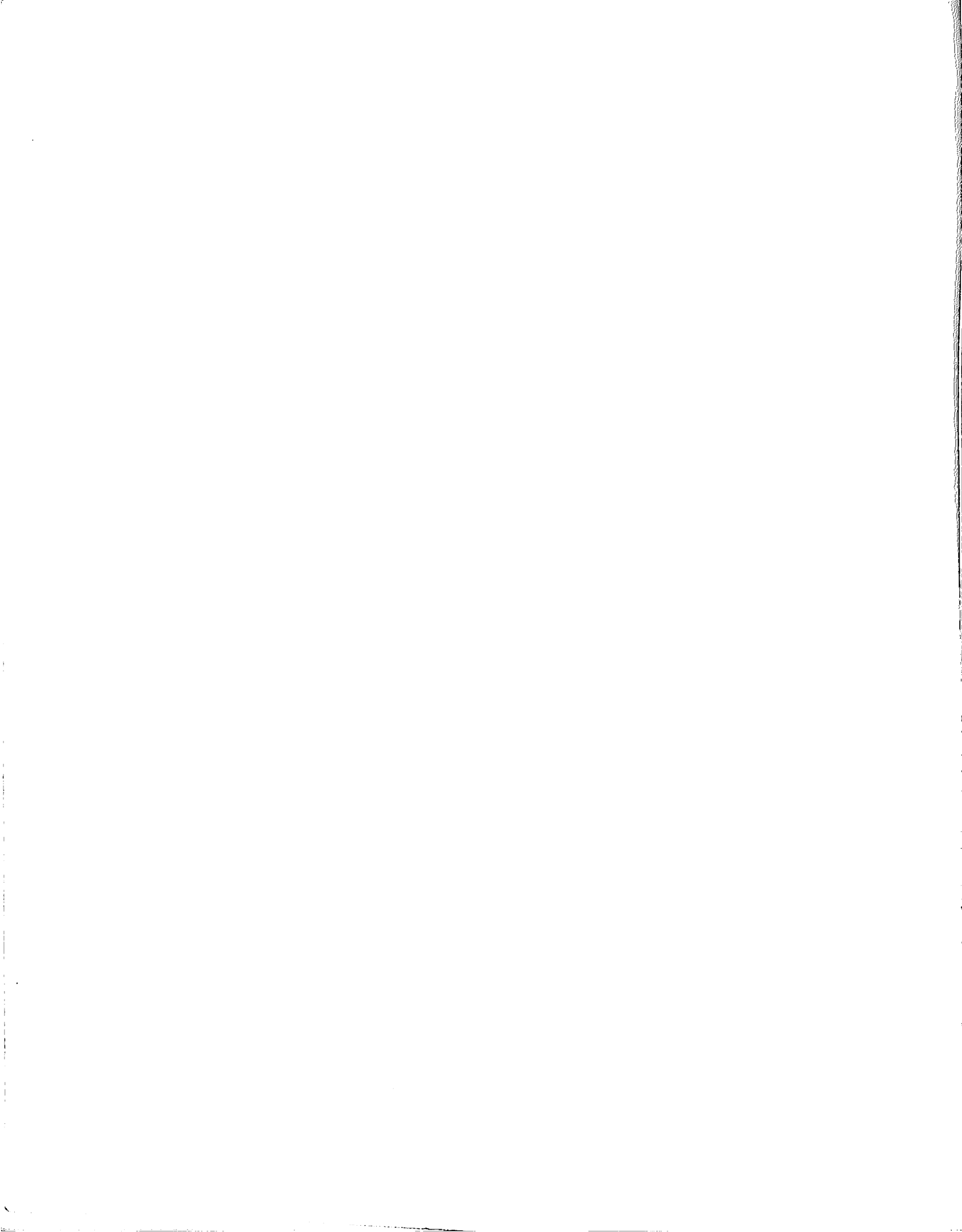
Overseas Filipinos have also contributed to the transfer of technology to the Philippines.

I therefore commend the CFO for holding this awards program as a means of thanking Filipinos overseas for their role as our new economic heroes.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

Gloria Arroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

Manila, 15 December 2004



DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS



MESSAGE

It is sometimes said that the true wealth of a nation lies in the quality of its people. Few will disagree that this is true with our 7.78 million overseas Filipino population, whose presence is also felt in countries they chose to make their second home.

Far from being an invisible minority, overseas Filipinos have demonstrated their industry in their host communities, while continuing to maintain their ties with the Philippines. This is manifested through the volume of financial and material remittances the Philippines receives from overseas Filipinos, an amount far exceeding the amount of official development assistance received from developed countries every year.

Today, the emerging global community of overseas Filipinos is important not only through its size and magnitude but because their growing importance in their host communities have brought the world closer to the Philippines, and the Philippines to the world. The 2004 Presidential awardees that are here today represent the best the Philippines has to offer, and I have no doubt that many more will emulate their example.

To the awardees of the Year 2004 Presidential Awards for Filipino Individuals and Organizations Overseas, I salute your dedication and love for your fellow countrymen and the Philippine motherland. Your achievements are indelibly etched in the hearts and minds of many countrymen, whose lives you have changed for the better.


ALBERTO G. ROMULO
Secretary

Pasay City, 15 December 2004



Office of the President of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON FILIPINOS OVERSEAS



MESSAGE

The excellence of our expatriate workers and managers is very well known in the global workplace. The awards we are handing out today are a testament to the skills, competence and industry of these outstanding men and women.

In honoring them, we pay tribute to our awardees but also to the distinguished corps of workers they represent. We thank the foreign employers who had the wisdom to recognize and employ their skills. Above all, we honor their families for their sense of self-denial and for inspiring their breadwinners to do their best for country and family.

The Commission on Filipinos Overseas is proud to have fathered these awards and to focus the national lights on the achievements and the contributions of expatriate Filipinos to nation building and to their countries of residence. The CFO stands by the ideals and programs of Her Excellency, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, which are to achieve national prosperity, build a stable society, produce jobs for every citizen, and to raise standards of living for the good of the entire society.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dante A. Ang'.

DANTE A. ANG
Chairman

Manila, 15 December 2004



Office of the President of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON FILIPINOS OVERSEAS



MESSAGE

We are very pleased to extend our greetings and heartfelt congratulations to this year's recipients of the Presidential Awards for Filipino Individuals and Organizations Overseas, whose exemplary deeds and achievements have brought honor to our country and made a difference in the lives of our people here and abroad.

The first Presidential Awards were conferred in 1993 to 22 Filipino individuals and organizations from ten countries. More than a decade and 190 awardees later, we continue to honor and recognize our countrymen overseas for their exceptional work and accomplishments. It can well be said that it has become a tradition for the Philippines to honor Filipinos from anywhere in the world for the good work they do to benefit our people.

For more than three decades now, the Philippines has also been taking new measures to promote the interests of Filipinos overseas. It instituted recognition of the *balikbayan*, rights of land ownership of former Filipino citizens, exemption of Filipinos from tax on income earned abroad and rights of former Filipino citizens to engage in certain enterprises in the country. Laws have been passed for the repatriation and reacquisition of Filipino citizenship by Filipino women, protection of traveling minors and the obligation to extend legal assistance to protect the rights of its citizens abroad. Last year, two landmark measures became law – that on absentee voting, and dual citizenship to fully restore the civil, political and economic rights of former Filipino citizens.

The country has made a conscious effort to cultivate and strengthen its ties with those living or working overseas, and nurture a sense of community among fellow Filipinos abroad and those at home. It will continue to reinforce the bond with our overseas communities in a changing world where more and more of our countrymen are expected to live or work away from home.

Again, our sincerest congratulations, and best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

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

JOSE Z. MOLANO, JR.
Executive Director

Manila, 15 December 2004



Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino

The Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino (LINKAPIL) Award is conferred on Filipino associations or individuals for exceptional contribution to progress and development in the Philippines

Awardees

Sariel G.G. Ablaza, M.D.
United States of America

Arsenio R. Martin, M.D.
United States of America

Guillermo B. de Venecia, M.D.
United States of America

Marie Bernabe-Nihe
Japan

**Filipino Chamber of
Commerce of Hawaii, Inc.**
United States of America

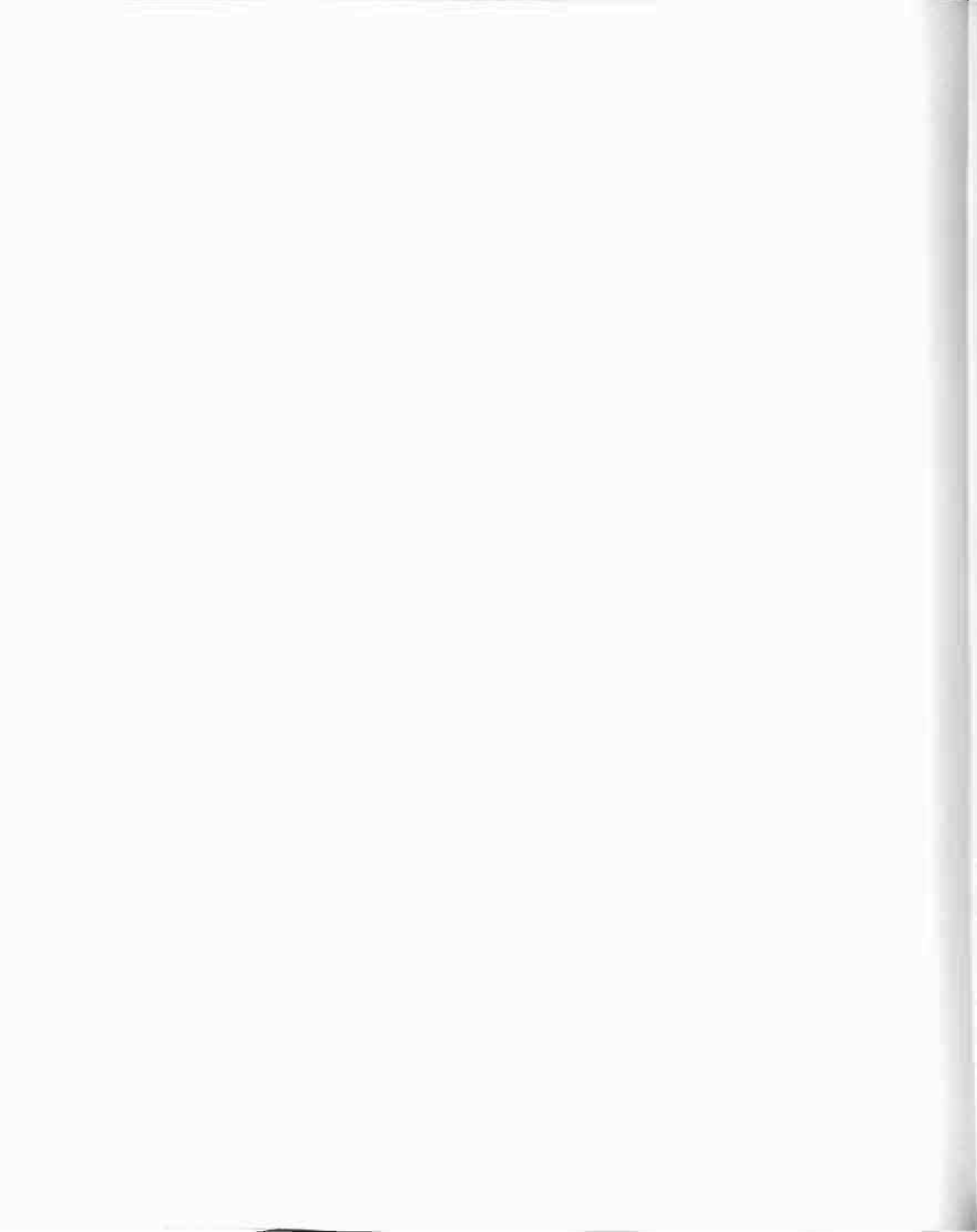
Alfredo T. Tesalona
United States of America

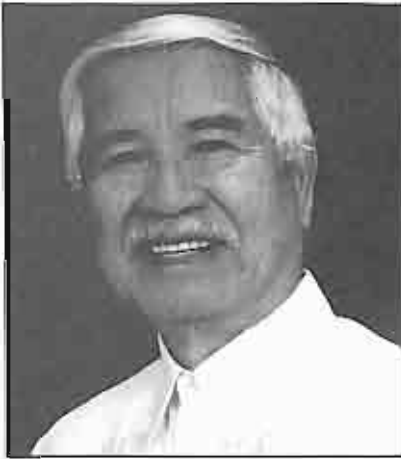
Benjamin A. Iletto, M.D.
United States of America

**University of the Philippines
Medical Alumni Society in America**
United States of America

**International Network of
Filipinos Overseas**
United States of America

**Visayas-Mindanao Cultural
Association e.V.**
Germany





Saniel G. G. Ablaza, M.D.

United States of America

Some overseas Filipinos look at the Philippines and only feel a nostalgia from having been away, too long. Some look at the country with fervent determination to somehow return and contribute to its future. Dr. Saniel Ablaza, a prominent cardio-thoracic surgeon in New Jersey is one of those committed to making a difference, and has indeed given back something very meaningful in gratitude to the country.

Born in Hagonoy, Bulacan in 1921, Dr. Ablaza obtained his pre-medical and medical degrees from the University of the Philippines and finished his residency at the Maryland General Hospital in Baltimore before becoming a well-known and respected medical practitioner at the Albert Einstein Medical Center in Philadelphia. He gained the admiration of his colleagues for being an excellent clinical practitioner, educator and researcher, having also taught at the Temple University School of Medicine and the Medical College of Pennsylvania and Hospital at Philadelphia. He has received numerous citations in the Philippines and the United States, and has written and published over 40 academic dissertations in various international journals.

Truly an exemplar of Filipino ingenuity and excellence, Dr. Ablaza made several pioneering innovations in the repair and treatment of damaged human aorta. In Philadelphia, he owns the distinction of being the first to implant a Biotronik Nuclear Betacel cardiac pacemaker. His life-saving innovations were great strides in the quest to prolong and improve the quality of life of persons suffering from heart illnesses.

Dr. Ablaza is a stalwart among Filipino surgeons in America, having been the president of the Philippine Society of Filipino Surgeons of America, and founder and first chairman of the Board of the Philippine Surgeons' Charities, Incorporated. Beyond the confines of the operating table, he served as the President of the Philippine Economic And Cultural Endowment (PEACE), a U.S. based charitable organization from 1994-1996. It was during his term as its Artesian Wells Committee Chairman that he linked PEACE with the Commission on Filipinos Overseas to construct potable water sources for underprivileged communities in the Philippines. It was also during his term as president of PEACE that the organization was awarded the "Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino Award" during the 1996 Presidential Awards for Filipino Individuals and Organizations Overseas.

Forever grateful to his alma mater, Dr. Ablaza has time and again supported the advancement of the faculty and students of the University of the Philippines' College of Medicine. Upon being nominated as its first "Balik-Professor" in 1981, he regularly visited the college and has been involved in the training of its students and residents. As a testament to his dedication in improving the quality of medical instruction, Dr. Ablaza established the Saniel Ablaza and Andie Ablaza professorial chairs in 1983 and 2000, respectively. The Saniel Ablaza Professorial Chair was noted for being the first professorial chair funded by an individual in the college, ushering in a movement from other alumni to support more than 80 professorial chairs in the College of Medicine.

Dr. Ablaza's dedication to the UP College of Medicine did not end there. He went as far as donating personal funds to UP College of Medicine for the setting up of a scholarship fund in 1990 to help needy but deserving medical students. The fund provides poor scholars with tuition fees, books and living expenses for the entire four years of their medical education. Now retired from medical practice, he has consistently shown his personal interest in his scholars by commuting regularly from the United States to the Philippines and corresponding with them regularly to keep himself informed of their progress.

In conferring the *Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino* Award to Dr. Saniel Ablaza, the President recognizes a life of dedicated service to the professional advancement of Filipino surgeons, and his unwavering support to the faculty, students, and the University of the Philippines College of Medicine as a whole.

Guillermo B. de Venecia, M.D.

United States of America



Sad as it is, the predicament of a considerable number of Filipinos who are blind and many more who are visually impaired, is almost inconspicuous in our society. In the Philippines, the leading cause of blindness is cataract, which accounts for around 400,000 cases every year. Although the treatment of cataract is simple and effective, many people in poor provinces of the Philippines cannot afford this operation, a procedure that is considered routine in many places. Thanks to Dr. Guillermo de Venecia, poor people in the provinces need not live in darkness.

In 1979, Dr. de Venecia established the Free Rural Eye Clinic (FREC) – a permanent out-patient surgical center located in Bolasi, San Fabian, Pangasinan. The first of its kind in the Philippines, FREC provides free eye care to a region with around 5-7 million potential patients. Since its inception, FREC has benefited indigent patients from Pangasinan, Tarlac, Nueva Ecija, La Union, Ilocos Sur and Zambales, and the outlying provinces of Nueva Vizcaya, Ifugao and Isabela. Truly one of a kind, FREC even funds travels, meals and lodging of poor cataract patients who visit the clinic from distant provinces. Because of FREC, thousands of sight-impaired Filipinos from the northern and southern part of Luzon who could not afford to pay, were able to see again.

Spanning two decades of providing free sight-saving and sight-restoring operations to the indigent cataract blind patients, Dr. de Venecia has served more than 16,500 indigent patients in the Philippines. Each year, he gives up his one-month vacation from Wisconsin, U.S.A. where he lives as a permanent resident and a well-respected ophthalmologist, to visit his homeland to perform eye surgery. He has also solicited support from various donors in the United States, delivering to the clinic loads of medical equipment, including operating tables, beds and mattresses.

Dr. De Venecia also successfully encouraged the spirit of volunteerism among his fellow surgeons in the United States and in the Philippines. As a visiting professor at the University of Santo Tomas in Manila, Dr. de Venecia requested all ophthalmology residents to take training at FREC. His early volunteer ophthalmologists were members of the Association of the Philippine Ophthalmologists in America (APOA), who later became "graduates" of the Free Rural Eye Clinic, establishing satellite eye clinics in various remote government-run hospitals in the Philippines.

Dr. de Venecia's enthusiasm and generosity as well as his tremendous dedication to the plight of those who are in need have not gone unnoticed. In recognition of his contributions to the medical profession and for dedicating his outstanding personal efforts and skills on behalf of his fellowmen, the American Academy of Ophthalmology conferred him the 2001 "Outstanding Humanitarian Service Award". He was cited by the State Medical Society of Wisconsin as "Physician of the Year" in 2000 and "Outstanding Sapphire Jubilarian" by the University of Santo Tomas Medical Alumni Association in America in 1999. Now retired from the University of Wisconsin-Madison as a Professor Emeritus after 42 years of teaching and sharing his expertise in ophthalmic pathology, Dr. de Venecia was also a recipient of the Wisconsin Academy of Ophthalmology's first "President's Award" and the American Academy of Ophthalmology's "Honor Award".

Dr. de Venecia believes that his service to the poor is largely influenced by Dr. Albert Schweitzer, a Nobel Peace Prize winner for decades of medical service in Africa. He realized at an early age that his mission in life was to provide free medical services for the poor. "Anyone who bears the difficulty of going blind in both eyes can only be poor," Dr. de Venecia explains. "If you can help it, you'll certainly do something before you lose your sight."

In conferring the *Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino* Award to Dr. Guillermo de Venecia, the President recognizes his unparalleled dedication and commitment to improving the lives of blind indigent Filipinos through the establishment of the Free Rural Eye Clinic which aims to give them new hope and a second look at life.



*Filipino Chamber of
Commerce of Hawaii, Inc.*
United States of America

Filipinos in Hawaii have gone a long way from being sugar plantation workers in the early 1900s to becoming movers in the State's political, social and economic affairs. Today, Filipinos in Hawaii have a powerful voice in business and industry, government and the community at large, partly due to organizations such as the Filipino Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii.

Known as the oldest and largest chamber of commerce founded by Filipino businessmen in the United States, FCCH was established in 1954 mainly to broaden economic opportunities for Filipino entrepreneurs and member businesses; strengthen business links between Hawaii and the Philippines; assist in the professional growth of its members; and support the well-being of the Filipino community.

To these ends, FCCH has fostered the best interest of Filipino entrepreneurs in the Hawaii Islands through trade promotion, policy advocacy, networking opportunities, and several other programs aimed at improving the quality of life of Filipinos in Hawaii and in the Philippines. FCCH initiated trade missions as early as the 70's, which, after gaining the support of the State of Hawaii's Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism, became a regular annual event in the '90s. Trade missions have greatly increased opportunities for Hawaii businesses to market their services and products in the Philippines, and at the same time, enabled Filipinos to sell their products in Hawaii. In addition, the Chamber has been instrumental in organizing seminars and workshops; conducting tours for Hawaii visitors; and introducing them to their Filipino business counterparts for possible partnerships and joint ventures.

No other private non-profit entity in Hawaii can rival FCCH's accomplishments in the promotion of business and investments opportunities in the Philippines. Since 1991, the Chamber has been sending annual business delegations to meet with local government officials in the Philippines and examine the prospects of expanding their businesses in the country. The chamber concluded its 18th Trade Mission to the Philippines in November 2003, having visited Batangas, Bacolod, San Carlos in Negros Oriental, and the National Capital Region. As a testament to its commitment in promoting good relations between business communities in Hawaii and the Philippines, the chamber facilitated the establishment of twinning arrangements between several cities and provinces in the Philippines and the state and counties of Hawaii. At present, the city of Honolulu has Sister-City relations with the City of Baguio, Vigan, Laoag, Cebu and Manila and friendship-city relations with 14 cities all over the Philippines.

Under the leadership of Mr. Vergel de Dios, FCCH has encouraged Filipino entrepreneurs to start and expand their businesses and offered special assistance to small-scale entrepreneurs. Each year, the Chamber awards an *Entrepreneur of the Year* and *Young Entrepreneur of the Year* to persons who are of Filipino descent. FCCH also administers a scholarship program to send students of Filipino ancestry to local universities.

Through the years, FCCH has undertaken several humanitarian activities in the Philippines which include, among others, fund-raising activity to help victims of the Pinatubo eruption in the early '90s, donation of medical equipment to Isabela and Zamboanga del Sur Provincial Hospitals, financial assistance for a medical mission in Batangas, and financial donation to an orphanage in Manila. FCCH has also taken the lead to help victims of the BASECO fire in Tondo, Manila through monetary and material donations.

In conferring the *Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino* Award to the Filipino Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii, the President recognizes its invaluable contribution in cultivating the entrepreneurial spirit of Filipinos in Hawaii, as well as its role in promoting Philippine economic interests through its trade promotion activities.

Benjamin A. Ileta, M.D.

United States of America



New York is home to many Filipinos, who, by sheer hard work and diligence have earned the respect of their peers and the community at large. Dr. Benjamin Ileta is one shining example.

A practicing anesthesiologist and Board Director at Parkway Hospital in Forest Hills, New York, Dr. Ileta was cited by the New York City Council in November 2003 to recognize his exemplary service to the Filipino American community. In March 2004, he received the "Distinguished Service Award" from the Philippine – New York Junior Chamber of Commerce (Jaycees), Inc. for his exceptional leadership qualities and outstanding record of personal achievements and service to the community for the past three decades.

Amidst his material and professional success, and the comforts of living as a physician in the United States, Dr. Ileta never failed to look back to his humble beginnings. Growing up in Tondo, Manila in the 1950s, he witnessed first-hand the swelling poverty that saddled many Filipinos in the depressed area. A product of public schools, he developed his sense of activism, deep social consciousness and compassion during those early years.

A dedicated physician, Dr. Ileta has proven himself as a man with a big heart for his underprivileged *kababayans*, especially Filipino children who have been afflicted with life-threatening illnesses. In 2001, Dr. Ileta sponsored an eye surgery for a three-month old child from Iloilo who was congenitally blind in both eyes due to prenatal complications. The child was brought to Manila and surgery was successfully performed. Once again, in 2004, Dr. Ileta, through the Philippine Gift of Life Foundation, sponsored another life-saving mission where a dying three-year old boy was flown from Tagbilaran City to the United States for an emergency heart surgery. Suffering from multiple severe heart defects, Victor "Ondoy" Galab III was given only four months to live when he underwent the operation. On May 14, when he went home to the Philippines, he was vibrant and full of life. For his humanitarian service in helping bring to the United States several Filipino children who needed life-saving medical treatment and for providing assistance to other less fortunate youngsters in the Philippines, he was cited by the Filipino Heritage Foundation as one of 10 "Outstanding Filipino Americans" in 2004.

Dr. Ileta's role as a staunch community leader is manifested in his involvement as founder and leader of various community organizations in the United States. He is among the few community leaders who are in the forefront of the campaign to break the silence and shame surrounding the HIV epidemic when he joined the Asian Pacific Islanders Coalition Against HIV-AIDS (APICHA). From 1998-2002, he provided vision, wisdom and support to the organization as its advisor and board member. He is also a founding member of the Home Reach Foundation, an organization that supports various medical missions in the indigent communities in the Philippines through the help of several Filipino doctors overseas. Dr. Ileta has also served as board member for the Filipino American Human Services, Inc. (FAHSI) and the Philippine Forum.

For many years, Dr. Ileta has lent his leadership abilities and talents to help organize Filipino community projects and events including the Youth Empowerment Seminars, Filipino Worker Empowerment Programs, Philippine Studies Summer Program, and Computer Literacy and Empowerment for the Advancement of Rights (CLEAR) Project.

In conferring the *Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino* Award to Dr. Benjamin A. Ileta, the President recognizes his pivotal role as founder and leader of various Filipino organizations in the United States whose humanitarian projects touched the lives of numerous people in the Philippines, especially his life-saving initiatives for less fortunate Filipino children.



International Network of Filipinos Overseas
United States of America

Home is where the heart is. This axiom reminds us of overseas Filipinos, who, despite physical absence from the Philippines remain Filipinos at heart. One noteworthy example is the International Network of Filipinos Overseas. Guided by a sense of affinity for fellow Filipinos, INFO's founding members composed mainly of physicians, academicians, and prominent community leaders, playing significant roles in their respective communities abroad, heeded the call to reinvigorate ties that bind them together and established this global network.

INFO started in 1991 as a gathering of 34 Filipinos overseas who were conferred the Presidential Awards for their contribution to Philippine economic and rehabilitation programs. Subsequently registered as a charitable organization under the U.S. Nonprofit Corporation Law, its goal was mainly to establish and maintain linkages among Filipinos overseas in support of development efforts for the home country.

Since its inception, members of INFO have regularly assembled and provided venues for discussing major issues affecting both the Philippines and overseas Filipino communities. In the beginning, the issues centered on the concerns of Amerasians, Filipino WWII Veterans and other community initiatives in Philadelphia where INFO is based. Then in 1998, in time with the celebration of the centennial of Philippine independence, pioneers of INFO reconvened in Manila for the *Siglo Pilipino* conference to recapture the genuine spirit of partnership and internalize the vision defined during its formative stages. The Siglo conference successfully gathered Filipino community leaders from all over U.S., Australia, Europe, Asia and the Middle East to keep them abreast of the development needs of the Philippines and to draft a program of action for greater involvement in development efforts at home.

Taking off from earlier gains of the Siglo Conference, INFO and the Commission on Filipinos Overseas organized INFO 2000: *Tipanan sa Maynila* conference and the 2002 Satellite Consultation for the *Filipino Seafarers' National Convention*. The Tipanan conference gathered about 250 overseas Filipino community leaders and members for a dialogue on the challenges facing overseas Filipinos in the context of migration realities and formulate a plan of action to help their disadvantaged *kababayans* at home.

For the past 10 years, INFO has been a formidable partner of the government through its humanitarian missions in different underserved provinces in the Philippines. INFO has helped organize medical missions, donated food stuffs, medicines and medical equipment, as well as provided aid to victims of calamities in the Philippine countryside. In 2001 and 2004, INFO conducted medical missions in the provinces of Quezon and Mindoro, respectively, giving free medical consultations and distributing several *balikbayan* boxes of free medicines to the poor constituents of Dolores and Calapan. To assist the victims of the Mayon Volcano eruption in 2001, INFO raised and donated a sum of P150,000 to the Philippine National Red Cross for its rescue operations. Once more in 2002, INFO donated several *balikbayan* boxes of medicines to the Philippine General Hospital and other Metro Manila hospitals. INFO also donated dialysis machines to several government hospitals benefiting charity ward patients in Bulacan, Cavite, Metro Manila and Cagayan Valley.

INFO is also involved in advancing the cause of distressed Filipinos overseas. In one particular event in 1997, members of INFO bonded together to support and rescue a Filipino who was languishing in prison in New Jersey. Understanding the difficulties facing Filipino seafarers laboring in a strange land, the organization sponsored a Christmas party for Filipino seafarers whose ships had docked at Philadelphia in December 2002.

In conferring the *Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino* Award to the International Network of Filipinos Overseas, the President recognizes its important role in promoting stronger ties between overseas Filipinos and the motherland and its laudable efforts in undertaking humanitarian projects in the Philippines.

Arsenio R. Martin, M.D.

United States of America



Dr. Arsenio R. Martin exemplifies the story of many Filipino medical graduates who rose to the pinnacle of success in foreign lands because of professional competence and a demonstrated commitment to humanitarian goals.

Upon finishing his medical degree from the Far Eastern University School of Medicine in 1967, he migrated to the United States, and through perseverance and hard work rose to become the only Filipino American Chief Resident in the famous Cook County Hospital in Chicago. Having passed the licensure and board certifications in the States of Illinois and Texas, he went on to assume various positions of significance in the executive and governing boards of several major hospitals in both states. Dr. Martin currently serves as Chairman of the Department of Medicine at Christus St. Mary Hospital, Medical Director of Dubuis Hospital (Long Term Acute Care Hospital), and Board Member and Treasurer of St. Mary Hospital Foundation (Children's Miracle Network Foundation).

Because of the respect he earned from his colleagues, he is easily able to enlist their support each time he organizes medical and surgical missions to places in the Philippines. Dr. Martin's involvement in humanitarian work began with the Mt. Pinatubo eruption in 1991 where he spearheaded a campaign to organize a medical team composed of Filipino medical professionals from the United States, while also conducting a fund raising campaign of about US\$40,000, for the victims of the eruption.

Inspired by the success of his campaign for Mt. Pinatubo victims, he organized other medical and surgical mission teams to the Philippines composed of fellow members from the Texas Association of Philippine Physicians (TAPP) where he served as president from 1992-2002. Among the beneficiaries of his medical missions are the provinces of Palawan, Ilocos Norte, and the towns of San Jose, Pandacan and Culasi in Antique.

In every medical mission, Dr. Martin sees to it that the mission is amply supplied with medicines and other medical paraphernalia which they donated to cooperating hospitals upon completion of their mission. Dr. Martin has been working with several foundations in the United States to send medical equipment to hospitals in the Philippines such as the Philippine General Hospital and the Roque Ablan Ilocos Norte Provincial Hospital. Every year, a team of volunteer doctors composed of fellow Texas-based physicians and surgeons goes to the Philippines to render free medical services specifically in underserved provinces needing medical care and attention.

Dr. Martin has also extended assistance to distressed Filipinos in the United States far beyond the call of duty. He went as far as offering his home and personal funds to those who are in dire need. On one occasion, he extended assistance to a young Filipina who lost her scholarship in Texas. Dr. Martin also extended financial assistance to support the medical needs and provided free board and lodging to two stranded Filipino seamen, one of whom met an accident and had severe injuries, while the other had developed lung cancer. All three of them have now joined their families in the Philippines.

In recognition of his outstanding commitment in bettering the living conditions of Filipinos in the Philippines and the United States, Dr. Martin received the "Humanitarian Award" from the American College of Chest Physicians Foundation in 1998 and in 2003, a citation for "Distinguished Humanitarian Service" from the Philippine House of Representatives in 2003; and "Outstanding Alumni Awards" from the Association of Philippine Physicians in America and the FEU DNR Medical Foundation Institute, both in 1992.

In conferring the *Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino* Award to Dr. Arsenio R. Martin, the President recognizes his humanitarian zeal and deep compassion for his countrymen as demonstrated by the countless medical and surgical missions he organized and led in different parts of the Philippines.



Marie Bernabe-Nihei

Japan

When destiny drove Marie "Mayang" Bernabe-Nihei to work in Japan, she only thought of keeping her family get by with their needs. Little did she know that there was more in store for her.

Born second of 13 children, Ms. Nihei left Cabanatuan, Nueva Ecija in 1980 after graduating from high school. An aunt had encouraged her to become a cultural dancer like herself. Although she had other options like staying with another aunt in London, she chose Japan to help her family and was one of the four out of 150 applicants who made it to a Tokyo-bound cultural dance troupe.

In Shinjuku, Ms. Nihei met her would-be husband, Tabo, the only son of a tuna broker in Tsukiji, the famous Tokyo fish market. They got married soon and had two children, Maiko and Seiichi. Since then, Ms. Nihei decided to center her life on family and stay in Japan. She went to great lengths to learn various aspects of her adoptive country's culture, including its language, food and traditions. Polite, humble, caring and responsible, her qualities immediately endeared her to everybody in the household and eventually gained her respect in the community. In 1993, Ms. Nihei and her husband opened the Yanagawa sushi bar in Tokyo which eventually became famous for being owned by a Filipina (Ms. Nihei) who serves excellent sushi in traditional Japanese fashion. The Yanagawa sushi bar earned regular loyal customers from nearby universities, government ward offices and even those from farther places. Not a few famous Filipinos visiting Tokyo have also gone to the place.

Ms. Nihei did not sit on her success or her blessings. Instead, she reached out to do something about the poverty and hardship she saw while growing up in Nueva Ecija. Through a Philippine contact, she helped the Nueva Ecija voluntary blood donation campaign, which became an ongoing social work. Material donations were sent from Japan to help create awareness among potential blood donors. Through her, tokens from Japan such as radios and hearing aids were given to donors. She also posted a sign inside her sushi restaurant asking for donations of all kinds for the blood program. To her surprise, many customers responded to the call. When a Japanese broadcast media interviewed her for being the Filipino owner of a sushi bar in Tokyo, Ms. Nihei made a plea for non-financial material donations for the Nueva Ecija program. Since then, people and NGOs from all over Japan responded by sending towels, dentures, hearing aids, transistor radios, and computers, among other items. She used her savings from the sushi bar for shipping these items and other expenses.

Ms. Nihei also supports several other community-oriented projects of the province of Nueva Ecija such as the campaign against illegal drugs, public awareness campaign on the HIV disease, and tree planting activities. With the assistance of the Tokyo government, she solicited an ambulance unit for a hospital in Nueva Ecija. Up to now, she regularly sends donations such as computers, sports items and other goods to Nueva Ecija, earning for Ms. Nihei the pet name "Angel of Nueva Ecija."

During her spare time, Ms. Nihei involves herself in a number of socio-civic activities in Japan. She is the founder and first president of JANE (Association of Nuevo Ecijanans in Japan), an association that was established with the aim of helping distressed Filipinos in Japan and in the Philippines. She is the current president of *Teatro Kanto*, a theatrical group that aims to foster friendship, education, theatrical arts and enhance Filipino image abroad. She is also a reporter of the DWNE radio station in the Philippines and a member of the Japanese-Filipino Golfers' Association.

In conferring the *Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino* Award to Marie "Mayang" Bernabe-Nihei, the President recognizes her tireless and selfless efforts in providing assistance to the people of Nueva Ecija especially to its voluntary blood donation program.

Alfredo T. Tesalona
United States of America



When the political triumph of the 1986 EDSA Revolution ushered in democracy for the Philippines, it also opened an opportunity for Alfredo T. Tesalona to change the lives of his countrymen. Returning to the Philippines after 11 years of stay in the U.S., Mr. Tesalona was struck by the misfortunes brought about by poverty in his hometown, Lubang Island, Occidental Mindoro. He came across ailing people who cannot afford to buy medicine or seek medical services. He met young but promising high school graduates who have no means of earning a college degree or finding a job.

Shortly after returning to New York, Mr. Tesalona took the initiative of establishing an organization which envisioned to help alleviate some of the pressing problems of his *kababayans* back home. Thus, the Lubang-Looc International (LLI) was founded in 1987, with Mr. Tesalona at its helm. The LLI, with active chapters in California, New York, and New Jersey in the U.S., and Alberta and Toronto in Canada, aims to promote educational programs, relief undertakings, and small scale projects in Lubang and Looc, another municipality in Occidental Mindoro. In an effort to involve Filipino youth in the U.S. to actively participate in the organization's programs and services, he also organized the LLI YouthNet in 2000. Prior to founding the LLI, Mr. Tesalona was the president of the Mindoreños U.S.A. and Tiliik Socio-Civic Organization. He taught in different colleges in Manila and the Bicol area, and was employed as an analyst in New York and New Jersey-based companies.

The LLI's major objective is to provide financial assistance to underprivileged deserving students through its scholarship program, especially among households which do not have college-educated members. As of March 2004, the scholarship program had already aided 105 students, most of them having earned their college diplomas and already gainfully employed. Mr. Tesalona, who believes that the human mind is too precious a resource to be wasted by lack of opportunities for formal higher education, also solicits from other private sponsorships for deserving applicants not chosen by the LLI's different chapters. In order to motivate and boost their drive to excel, he maintains regular correspondence with the scholars, at times giving them personal advice on their academic and personal circumstances. He also organizes leadership seminars and writing workshops to students, inspiring and leading them to greater heights in their chosen field of endeavor.

As the incumbent executive director of LLI, Mr. Tesalona is often relied upon in organizing LLI's *Dalawbayan*, medical mission program in the Philippines, and gift-giving activities for people in his hometown. He is also in-charge of securing funding for LLI's various school assistance projects, including book and other instructional material donations to the Polytechnic University of the Philippines in Manila and different schools in Occidental Mindoro.

A seasoned journalist with moral courage in search of truth, Mr. Tesalona writes without fear in several publications about controversial issues of importance, including politics that divide Filipinos as people since the early 1960s. Now serving as *LLI News'* unpaid publisher, editor and one-man staff, he writes about countryside development focusing on Lubang and Looc's economic progress. His advocacies espouse civic and humanitarian work, as well as promote public awareness on critical problems in mainland Occidental Mindoro, such as deforestation and poor infrastructure.

Mr. Tesalona, who works gratis and even spends a sizable amount of his own resources to pursue his humanitarian vision, said, "It has always been a source of great, sanctifying pleasure serving the community and the LLI. There have been problems but it was worth all the sacrifices." In recognition of his exemplary service, he was named "Outstanding Community Leader" and accorded with the "1994 New York State Governor's Award" and "Humanitarian Award" by the Philippine-New York Junior Chamber of Commerce. Under his leadership, the LLI was conferred a Presidential "Banaag Award" in 2000.

In conferring the *Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino* Award to Alfredo T. Tesalona, the President recognizes his philanthropic deeds, through the establishment of Lubang-Looc International, which provides free education for underprivileged youth and works to uplift the lives of Filipinos in Lubang and Looc, Occidental Mindoro.



*University of the Philippines Medical
Alumni Society in America*
United States of America

The past four decades saw many Filipino doctors leaving the Philippines in search of better opportunities for professional advancement. However, for graduates of the University of the Philippines College of Medicine (UPCM) in America, an organization has assumed the task of maintaining the ties of its members with the country – the University of the Philippines Medical Alumni Society of America. While though they serve across the United States of America, members of the UPMASA find joy in helping people they left behind, and in being of service to their alma mater.

Committed to the ideals of their alma mater and responsive to the needs of their fellow Filipinos, these products of UP who practice their profession in the United States and Canada established the UPMASA in 1980 as a non-profit, philanthropic, educational and scientific society. UPMASA's founding group led by its first president and 2002 Presidential awardee Dr. Cosme Cagas, laid the groundwork and gave the organization a solid foundation.

Today, after almost a quarter of a century, UPMASA is recognized as a formidable ally in the development of the UPCM, providing continuing support to its affiliate, the Philippine General Hospital, in the quest for academic and scientific excellence, and in its goal to elevate the standards of medical education and health care in the Philippines.

With 12 chapters in America and a \$1.9 million alumni contribution in its Permanent Endowment Fund as of 2004, the association has provided significant financial support for various projects and programs of the UPCM in community-oriented medical education, research and service. UPMASA has been involved in faculty development by conducting workshops, seminars and fellowships here and abroad, establishing professorial chairs and providing grants for postgraduate education. UPMASA also provides scholarship for UP medical students. At present, it supports 25 scholars at UPCM. UPMASA has also supported physical improvements for the UPCM such as the renovation of lecture and laboratory halls, donation of modern laboratory equipment and computerization of the UPCM. Due to the efforts of the UPMASA, UPCM became the first college to have a medical informatics unit and is the only institution in the country which is presently undertaking comprehensive research in health information management.

In support of the UP PGH, UPMASA has funded purchases of medicines and other healthcare needs of indigent patients and children under the Direct Observation Treatment Program of the hospital. It has also funded purchase of medical equipment, as well as computer operational support for PGH wards and medical staff offices. In 1995, UPMASA created the Cesium Project, a major undertaking that aims to assist in the radiotherapy of cancer patients. As of 2003, an estimated amount of \$260,590 has been disbursed by the UPMASA to support the needs of the UPCM and UP PGH.

The organization's generous contributions and donations to the College and PGH through the years has earned for itself the honor of being awarded the "University of the Philippines Alumni Association Outstanding Alumni Chapter" in 2001, and the citation as the "Most Outstanding Medical Association in America" from the Philippine Medical Association in America in 2002.

In these days when more and more skilled professionals leave the country for greener pastures in the United States and elsewhere, it is heartening to hear about the work of UPMASA. The professional success overseas of its members are in many ways shared with the institutions which have trained and nurtured them.

In conferring the *Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino* Award to the University of the Philippines Medical Alumni Society of America, the President recognizes its immeasurable contributions to the faculty, students, and the overall development of the University of the Philippines College of Medicine, as well as its unmatched generosity in addressing the needs of patients at the Philippine General Hospital.

*Visayas-Mindanao
Cultural Association e. V.*
Germany



Since 1996, a group of civic-minded Filipinos based in Germany have made their presence felt by actively supporting development efforts in the Philippines. Members of the Visayas-Mindanao Cultural Association seem not to have left the country, becoming more and more visible through the growing number of edifices built in Visayas and Mindanao through their efforts.

VMCA was founded in 1996 in Ratingen, Germany. Membership in the organization is open to Filipino citizens or those of Filipino descent, as well as to foreign nationals adhering to the principles of the association. Initially conceived to promote the culture and traditions of Filipinos in Germany through the holding of cultural events and various festivities, VMCA has gone a long way in helping improve living conditions of Filipinos in the Philippines.

For almost a decade now, VMCA has become increasingly active in organizing and financing development projects and relief assistance to needy communities in the country. Some of the very successful projects funded by the VMCA are the construction of a barangay health center in Liloan, Cebu and the building of medical and health care facilities for the poor patients of the St. Camillus Hospital in Mati, Davao Oriental. In its commitment to address the health and sanitation needs of indigent communities in the Philippines, VMCA also funded the construction of communal rest rooms in Dapa, Surigao del Norte and Dalaguete, Cebu, and potable water source in Janiuay, Iloilo. Added to these efforts are a host of other projects such as the construction of waiting sheds, multi-purpose halls, public market facilities, and school, recreational and sports facilities in various cities and municipalities in Visayas and Mindanao.

While much of the organization's effort has been focused to support infrastructure projects in provinces in central and southern Philippines, VMCA has also answered a number of immediate local needs by spearheading nutrition feeding programs for undernourished children of Panabo City; distributing food and clothing to impoverished children, orphans and victims of flood and landslide in Tagum City, Davao del Norte and Dapa, Surigao del Norte; and donation of various items such as medicines and sports items for the *poblacion* and outlying barangays of Dapa, Surigao del Norte.

Since its inception in 1996, VMCA has benefited countless cities and municipalities in Southern Philippines. Under the leadership of Ms. Teresita Derla-Golez, and with the support of its dedicated members, VMCA has become a solid foundation for the promotion of the interest of marginalized communities in southern Philippines in the areas of infrastructure development, health care and sanitation, children's welfare and aid to victims of calamities. Indeed, their contribution to distressed communities and municipalities is a living emblem that poor local residents are not alone in their struggle towards progress and a better way of life.

Each token of appreciation received by VMCA from their beneficiaries is modest compared to the depth of gratitude and appreciation felt by the people who were relieved from their dire situations by the contributions of the organization. The numerous projects they were involved with are testaments of their commitment and dedication to the upliftment of the lives of their compatriots back home. Today, numerous projects are in the pipeline as faithful members of VMCA continue to face the challenges of meeting the needs of their less fortunate *kababayans* in the Philippines.

In conferring the *Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino* Award to the Visayas-Mindanao Cultural Association, the President recognizes its continued commitment to support infrastructure projects, health care and relief programs to alleviate the plight of the impoverished in remote provinces in central and southern Philippines.

Banaag

The Banaag Award is conferred on Filipino and foreign individuals or associations for advancing the cause of Filipino communities overseas, or for supporting specific sectors/ communities in the Philippines

Awardees

Imelda Vollenweider-Berdos
Switzerland

Filipino Cultural Club
Kuwait

Wilfrido J. Buhain, M.D.
United States of America

Charlotte Gödicke
Germany

Roland C. Casamina
United States of America

Home-Reach Foundation, Inc.
Canada

Centre for Filipinos
United Kingdom

**Hyehwadong Filipino
Catholic Community**
South Korea

Virgilio G. Cuizon
Germany

Kinderhilfe Philippinen
Germany

**Fiesta Filipina Dance
Troupe of Canada**
Canada

Amor Ila-McGuinness
United States of America

Awardees

Alicia Natividad, LI.B.
Canada

Evelyn D.A. Natividad, Ph.D.
United States of America

Emma B. Nemivant
United States of America

**Panday Tinig
Choral Ensemble**
Canada

**Philippine Australian
Sports and Culture, Inc.**
Australia

**Philippine Cultural
Foundation of Hawaii**
United States of America

Virgilio D.R. Pilapil, M.D.
United States of America

Lourdes A. Salazar
Hong Kong

**Search to Involve
Pilipino Americans**
United States of America

Jean Paul Verstraeten
Belgium



Imelda Vollenweider-Berdos

Switzerland

Some Filipinos have that knack for bringing out the good out of the worst, inspiring people to look into the best the future has to offer. Imelda Vollenweider-Berdos has that rare quality – the ability to look at adversity and see hope for better times.

Ms. Vollenweider-Berdos is the President of *Barangay-Pilipino Switzerland*, a non-profit organization established to promote good relations between Filipinos residing in Switzerland and their host community. Apart from supporting efforts to enhance socio-cultural understanding between Swiss and Filipinos, *Barangay-Pilipino* supports the implementation of social and educational projects in remote areas in the Philippines.

Under Ms. Vollenweider-Berdos' capable leadership, *Barangay-Pilipino* has been providing financial assistance to specific sectors in the Philippines as early as 1988. She was instrumental in raising funds for the benefit of orphaned children whose parents died when a ferry capsized at Tablas Strait in Mindoro. During the 1990 earthquake which struck Central Luzon, she led efforts to raise money for relief activities in Dagupan.

When Mt. Pinatubo erupted in 1991 and left more than 300,000 people homeless, *Barangay-Pilipino* provided financial assistance which formed part of SFr.42,300 collected from various groups and individuals for calamity relief. From 1992 to 1996, Ms. Vollenweider-Berdos continued to support initiatives for Mt. Pinatubo evacuees. Through a sizable donation, *Barangay-Pilipino* was able to put up a multipurpose center and a 1,200 square meter fence surrounding the Katutubo Village in Porac, Pampanga. The project benefited countless people, mainly aetas who were left homeless after the volcanic eruption.

In support of education efforts in the Philippines, Ms. Vollenweider-Berdos led the fundraising for the construction of concrete school fence in Cayangwan Elementary School in Aklan, as well as the construction of additional classrooms for Doña Carmen High School in Davao City. In 2001, *Barangay-Pilipino* also funded the building of a library and four additional classrooms for the students of Sta. Fe National High School and Kinatarcan High School in Pasil Island, Cebu.

Stretching their resources to help more people, *Barangay-Pilipino* also secured the funding for the construction of seven housing units for low income families and 12 education scholarships for children of said families in Bacolod City. Through Ms. Vollenweider-Berdos' unrelenting work, the organization funded the construction of a day care center for indigent children in Binalonan, Pangasinan.

Despite her involvement in various organizations and endeavors, Ms. Vollenweider-Berdos always finds time to help Filipinos visiting Switzerland. On several occasions, she organized accommodations for competing Filipino performing artists including D'Manila Vocal Ensemble, UST Singers and Ateneo de Manila Glee Club. She also takes time to arrange concerts for visiting groups to enable them to earn extra income while touring Europe.

In conferring the *Banaag* Award to Imelda Vollenweider-Berdos, the President recognizes her outstanding stewardship of her organization, *Barangay-Pilipino Switzerland*, which led efforts to provide calamity relief to disaster stricken areas and support the construction of school buildings and facilities for needy communities in the Philippines.

Wilfrido J. Buhain, M.D.
United States of America



Few people strike a good balance between their professional achievements and community service. Many even perceive that the former always precedes the latter. But for Dr. Wilfrido J. Buhain, who migrated to the United States in 1965, excelling in one's profession and community service at the same time is as simple as having the heart to do it.

Dr. Buhain is one of the top pulmonary specialists in the highly competitive medical world of Washington, D.C. In 1993, the *Washingtonian* magazine listed Dr. Buhain as among the top physicians in 30 medical specialties in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. He was listed in *The Marquis Who's Who in America Publications Board* twice, and awarded by the Association of Philippine Physicians in America (APPA) as an "Outstanding Alumnus" in 2001 and as "Physician of the Year" in 2003. Also last year, the Inova Health System, the largest system in the Washington metropolitan area, recognized his outstanding service as Chair of the Inova Health System Medical Affairs Council.

Yet, Dr. Buhain's contribution to the community has been just as meritorious as his accomplishments in the medical field. Apart from being its honorary chair, he is one of the most consistent major benefactors of Feed the Hungry (FtH) Inc., a Washington, D.C.-based, non-profit organization which conducts education, health and welfare, calamity relief, and livelihood programs for street children, the elderly and handicapped, abused, and terminally ill individuals in the Philippines. Dr. Buhain was instrumental in soliciting medical equipment, such as EKG and dialysis machines from American hospitals for shipment to the Philippines.

Far from concentrating in health-related grants, Dr. Buhain provided financial contributions through the Commission on Filipinos Overseas' LINKAPIL Program amounting to P200,000 for the construction of a new classroom in Bacoor, Cavite. He also supports initiatives for education and promotion of Filipino heritage. A dancing enthusiast, the doctor is also known to be a great supporter of programs that promote Philippine culture overseas.

Despite his hectic life in the U.S., Dr. Buhain finds time to come home every year to personally extend his services during medical missions and FtH's gift-giving programs in different underserved areas in the country. It is during these activities where venues are usually hot, crowded and far-flung that Dr. Buhain is at his best enamouring everyone with his cheerful and compassionate nature. His presence exudes not only the ability to help people but also his delight to do so.

Remarkably, after all his notable achievements, what is most striking about Dr. Buhain is the respect and love bequeathed upon him by his colleagues and the community at large. He is seen as both an embodiment of compassion and generosity, and a mentor for guidance, fortitude, and wisdom.

As his fellow Filipino community leaders say of Dr. Buhain, "He represents the kind of role model that inspires our community to always make tomorrow a better day for others: he gives his free time to help..."

In conferring the *Banaag* Award to Dr. Wilfrido J. Buhain, the President recognizes his remarkable ability in maintaining a delicate balance as an outstanding health care professional and community service leader worthy of emulation by the Filipino-American community.



Roland C. Casamina

United States of America

Everyone thought it could not be done. Despite many efforts to build a Filipino community center, it remained a dream for the 150,000 Filipinos in Hawaii – until Mr. Roland C. Casamina took on the job of turning this vision into a reality.

Inspired by a German community center he saw in Canada, Mr. Casamina assembled a group of Filipino community members to institute the Filipino Community (FilCom) Center, Inc. in Waipahu, Hawaii. As its President and CEO, he embarked on a 10-year fund-raising campaign for the construction of a three-storey, 50,000 square foot community center.

The task was not easy. Previous attempts to establish a community center had faltered and people were apprehensive that one could ever be built. To regain the confidence and support of his community, Mr. Casamina contributed personal funds into the building fund, and even more for fund-raising activities. Efforts eventually paid off. FilCom Center solicited a total of \$14.5 million from financial assistance and grants from the government, charity foundations, and private business firms.

Today, the FilCom Center is the largest community center dedicated to the Filipino community and culture located overseas. It serves as a venue for community meetings and various cultural events like craft workshops, art exhibitions, and the annual *Filipino Fiesta*. Recognizing its valuable contribution in promoting Filipino culture and heritage in Hawaii, the FilCom Center was awarded the "Banaag Award" for the Year 2002 Presidential Awards. While the full realization of the FilCom Center is a product of the collective efforts of the local Filipino community, the State and Federal governments, and various private entities and individuals, Mr. Casamina, together with Mr. Eddie Flores, Jr., are credited with leadership and generating the momentum to rally various sectors behind the project. Hence, in 2003, Mr. Casamina was given the distinction of President Emeritus for life in recognition of his commitment in completing the project.

This is not the first time that Mr. Casamina's vision met considerable success. Shortly after his family settled in Hawaii, the 14-year old Roland worked as a janitor. While studying full-time, he was later employed as a night busboy in a local Hawaii restaurant. Eventually promoted as assistant manager, he kept his restaurant job until he graduated from the University of Hawaii in Hawaii with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration.

At the age of 22, Mr. Casamina became the youngest Branch Manager of International Savings Bank (now known as City Bank), a record held to this day. He was eventually promoted to Vice President in charge of all branch managers, then Vice President of ISL Capital Corporation. In 1995, he established his own financial institution, the House of Finance, Inc., the only Filipino-owned, non-depository bank in Hawaii. The bank was named as one of the top five non-depository financial institutions in 2003.

A successful entrepreneur known for his strong business sense and high ethical standards, he serves as an inspiration and role model to struggling Filipinos in the business field. A devoted and tireless leader to an entire Filipino community, he was instrumental in building more than an edifice, but also a home away from home where Filipinos can gather together and celebrate their heritage.

In conferring the *Banaag Award* to Roland C. Casamina, the President recognizes his outstanding leadership and invaluable contribution to the establishment of the Filipino Community Center in Hawaii, the largest Filipino community center overseas.

Centre for Filipinos **Centre for filipinos**
United Kingdom

Filipino migrant workers began settling in the United Kingdom in the late 1960s, in response to the country's need for inexpensive labor. More than three decades have passed and the U.K. now hosts almost a hundred thousand Filipinos. Established in 1979 as a support organization to the growing number of migrants, the Centre for Filipinos is probably unsurpassed in terms of social services it provides to Filipinos in the U.K.

Formerly known as the Commission for Filipino Migrant Workers, the Centre is one of the oldest registered charities operating on principles of equality and justice, empowerment of Filipinos to enrich the quality of their lives, maintenance of their unique cultural identity, and facilitation of their social development and integration to the mainstream British society. The Centre presently runs two community centers in the London Boroughs of Camden and Hammersmith, where there are large concentrations of Filipinos.

The Centre achieves its mission through networking, information and advocacy campaigns, educational training and outreach programs. Working closely with several organizations and other ethnic communities, the programs offered by the Centre may be considered one of the most comprehensive in terms of providing Filipinos information, on a broad spectrum of social and legal issues such as immigration, welfare rights, housing and employment. It provides up-to-date government programs and services that have significant bearing on Filipinos in the U.K. It assists and orients newly-arrived Filipino spouses and children of British nationals about living in Britain so that they could easily acclimatize to British culture. In 2004, the Centre published *Hinabing Gunita*, a compilation of writings and reminiscences of Filipinos who have settled in the U.K. for the last 30 years. Essentially, it chronicles the emergence of the Filipino community and its gradual recognition within a multicultural British society.

Giving paramount priority to education and skills enhancement, the Centre provides training courses on English and information technology. It also organizes fora and seminars addressing the needs and problems of Filipinos in the U.K. Significantly, it offers socio-cultural and educational services for the youth by promoting Philippine history and culture, and organizing after-school activities, annual youth summer camp and youth outreach programs.

Health care and general welfare has also been one of the top priorities of the Centre. It conducts health open days as well as workshops on first aid and complementary approaches to health. It even helps ailing clients register with a general medical practitioner. Most importantly, cognizant of problems facing Filipino workers in their field of work or with their family, it offers confidential counseling services or refers clients to professional counselors. Moreover, the Centre has a Golden Club which coordinates outreach projects that uplifts the morale of older people.

With the aim of strengthening the Filipino community, the Centre assists in setting up community groups and service-oriented Filipino organizations such as the *Bahay Kubo* Housing Association, Philippine Resource Center, *WalingWaling*, *Kalayaan* and the Philippine National Council of Representatives, the first network of Filipino organizations in the U.K. At present, the Centre is working with several nurses, trade unions and agencies in addressing employment issues confronting Filipino nurses recruited from the Philippines. Remarkably, the Centre has a comprehensive information and advisory system on employment matters which is posted on the organization's official website, for Filipinos in the Philippines interested to work as nurses in the U.K. For its outstanding contributions to the community, the Centre was awarded with the "Queen's Golden Jubilee Award" in 2003.

In conferring the *Banaag* Award to the Centre for Filipinos, the President recognizes its invaluable role in providing extensive services and exemplary voluntary work in response to the needs and interests of Filipinos in the United Kingdom.



Virgilio G. Cuizon
Germany

Community service for many is but another diversion or something to pass time with. For some, however, being of service to the community and providing assistance to those in distress comes naturally. This is true of Mr. Virgilio G. Cuizon, a dependable community leader in Germany.

Mr. Cuizon's personal quest of providing assistance to his *kababayans* started in 1983, when he and other young Filipinos established the *Barangay sa Alemanya* (BSA), a Filipino-German association based in Germany. As BSA's founding president, he began to organize social, athletic, and cultural activities which are aimed at promoting Philippine culture in Germany and in other European countries. One of his major projects was the first three-day *Pistang Pilipino*, a major gathering of Filipinos and Germans from all over Germany in celebration of the richness and grandeur of Filipino culture and tradition. He also conducted a series of workshops on leadership, Filipino culture and tradition, and stage play presentation for Filipino youths, with the view of utilizing their talents and skills in promoting Filipino music, art, and fashion, and instilling in them a sense of appreciation of their heritage.

During his term as founding president of *Barangay sa Europa*, and Association Lending Assistance in Exigencies at Home (ALA EH), Mr. Cuizon played a vital role in implementing successful projects that foster camaraderie and friendship, maintain physical and mental fitness, and reinforce positive Filipino values and traditions. He helped organize concerts of Philippine-based choirs, such as Coro Classico, UP Filipiniana, DLSU Choir, DLSU-CSB Choir, UPLB Choir, Palawan Choral group, and UE Choir, in European cities. In 1992, eight years after the successful *Pistang Pilipino*, Mr. Cuizon spearheaded the Philippine Week Fair, where the best of the country's music, art, fashion and cuisine was showcased in the city of Langenfeld, Germany.

Promoting the arts and organizing charity projects seem to be two distinct tasks, but Mr. Cuizon linked the two in 1991 when the Philippines was struck by a series of natural calamities. The eruption of Mount Pinatubo and the attack of super typhoon Rufing left parts of the country devastated. In cooperation with the Philippine Consulate in Düsseldorf, Mr. Cuizon organized a fund-raising campaign for the displaced indigenous people in Porac, Pampanga and the typhoon victims through the Philippine National Red Cross. In 1993, he initiated the project "Help Build the Philippines" which led to the construction of classrooms, health centers, sanitary amenities, multipurpose halls, and deep-wells in underdeveloped areas in the country. About 20 municipalities benefited from the two-year program. In directing the rock musical play "Jesus Christ Superstar", Mr. Cuizon was able to help in raising financial proceeds that resulted in the construction of an operating room in Mati Hospital, Northern Davao. Last year, he directed two more musicals, "Grease" and "Ito Ang Filipino" in connection with fund-raising project of ALA EH. Both plays were successfully presented at the ALA EH Charity Gala and 2003 Independence Day Celebration.

Unhindered by all his contributions and achievements, Mr. Cuizon is now working on the publication of a coffee table art book that will showcase the beauty of the Philippines and its people through the works of four contemporary Filipino artists.

In conferring the *Banaag* Award to Virgilio G. Cuizon, the President recognizes his active leadership in organizing events that provide assistance for the benefit of communities in the Philippines and his remarkable contributions in promoting Filipino talent and culture in Europe.

Fiesta Filipina
Dance Troupe of Canada
Canada



Younger generations of overseas Filipinos who never had the chance of experiencing life in the Philippines sometimes find it hard to appreciate the richness of their cultural heritage. Luckily, the Fiesta Filipina Dance Troupe of Canada found an engaging way to provide Filipinos overseas with an opportunity to discover a kaleidoscope of Philippine folklore and culture through music and dancing.

Known as one of the oldest premiere Philippine dance groups, the Fiesta Filipina is a by-word in the entertainment world in Canada. Based in Mississauga, Ontario, it was founded in 1966 by a group of Toronto-based Filipinos headed by Dr. Jose Teodoro and Miss Eleanor Calbes, who after years of being away from Philippines, longed for the culture of their birthplace. The acclaimed ensemble, made up exclusively of Filipino volunteer dancers, is dedicated to preserving and promoting Philippine arts and culture through dance and music. Highlighting the cultural diversity of Filipinos, their repertoire includes dances inspired by the cultural legacies of *Igorots* of Cordillera, Muslims of Mindanao, various indigenous tribes, and Spanish conquistadores. Their latest production in 2003 is entitled "Kulay", an ethno-cultural mosaic of dance that blends various colors which are woven into the Philippine tapestry.

Through the years, the Fiesta Filipina has become an effective ambassador for both Canada and the Philippines. It has performed extensively across Canada, Europe and the U.S., including Disney's Epcot Centre in Orlando, Florida. In 1991, the Fiesta burst into the international scene as one of Canada's representatives at a folklore festival in Portugal. Their first European appearance has led to a flurry of international invitations, many of which they have accepted including dance gatherings in Austria, France, Greece, Italy, Mexico and Spain. Some of the Troupe's prominent performances have been at the Olympic Games in Mexico City and Montreal, the Commonwealth Games in Edmonton, Expo '67 in Montreal, as well as opening festivities of both the Ontario Place and Sky Dome. Since 1968, the dynamic group has received numerous accolades such as "Best Entertainment for Toronto's Festival Caravan and Carabram", "Dance Troupe of the Year" and "Ontario Bicentennial Award". The Troupe holds the distinction of being named "Most Outstanding Dance Group in North America".

Despite the international attention it has received, the Fiesta Filipina remains an ardent supporter of various civic causes. In Canada, it performs special concerts in support of the programs of various charities and organizations such as the Canadian Cancer Society, Interim Place, Our Place, and United Way. It also organizes dance workshops for other organizations and dance troupes, teaching Philippine folk dances and the use of native Filipino musical instruments. In 1997, it visited the Philippines for the first time to perform in a series of cultural shows across the country under its "Back-to-Your-Roots" program. The funds raised from its performances were allocated for the scholarship program of the National Police Commission, construction of parish churches in Pampanga and Misamis Oriental, and worthwhile projects of Boystown-Cagayan de Oro, Philippine Red Cross-Davao, Girl Scouts of the Philippines-Iloilo, and University of San Jose-Recoletos in Cebu.

The Troupe contributes extensively to cultural visibility and cultural enrichment of Filipinos in their home country and Canada, and in the Canadian community in general. Indeed, the Troupe has brought honor to the Philippines and Canada many times before, and in years to come.

In conferring the *Banaag* Award to the Fiesta Filipina Dance Troupe of Canada, the President recognizes its remarkable achievements in showcasing the diversity of Filipino heritage through world-class dance and musical performances, and bringing the Philippines closer to overseas Filipinos and the rest of the world.



Filipino Cultural Club
Kuwait

The year 1990 proved to be a difficult year for overseas Filipino workers in Kuwait when the Iraqi government launched an unexpected invasion of Kuwait. The war lasted for almost a year, bearing down on thousands of overseas Filipino workers in fear of their lives and the future of their loved ones at home. Amidst the prevailing post-war atmosphere of uncertainty and struggle to normalize interrupted affairs, one group of Filipino artists in Kuwait found an even heightened sense of social awareness.

The Filipino Cultural Club (FCC) was established in 1987 through the efforts of 15 talented Filipinos from different professional affiliations bound together by their common passion for the arts, especially music and drama. Aiming to promote the cultural, spiritual, social, and intellectual values of its members, FCC organized successful cultural activities such as the *Fiesta Filipiniana*, a three-hour cultural event featuring Filipino songs and dances. In a country where its people are strictly bound by its close knit cultural and religious beliefs and practices, Kuwait initially opened its doors to diverse Filipino culture and arts. However, the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait forced the club to cease its activities, thwarting an admirable start.

A few years thereafter, a group of FCC pioneers slowly reintroduced the club, but through a different perspective. This time, its programs and services centered, not only in enhancing Filipino talent or promoting Filipino culture and tradition in the Middle East, but also in assisting underprivileged *kababayans* in Kuwait and in the Philippines. Instantly, FCC's membership grew to a far greater number than it initially started with.

The new FCC became known for conducting socio-civic programs for distressed Filipino workers in Kuwait. When one of its members was raped and later incarcerated as she was countercharged as a prostitute, FCC organized a three-hour *Zarzuela* presenting Filipino songs and dances to raise funds for her lawyer's fee. It also staged "Beauty from a Culture", a beauty pageant, and "Nena – Sa Kabila ng Istorya", a play depicting the positive aspects of working overseas as a housemaid. Proceeds for these activities went to purchase flight tickets back to the Philippines for Filipino workers who were dismissed by their employers.

To address the emotional needs of Filipinos sheltered at the Philippine Overseas Labor Office (POLO)'s Filipino Workers Resource Center, FCC assisted in arranging a gift-giving and Christmas party for them. Such was FCC's contribution in promoting the welfare of overseas workers in Kuwait that POLO-Kuwait and the Council of Leaders of the Filipino Communities in Kuwait commended its support to the needs of disadvantaged Filipinos in Kuwait.

Aside from its continuing work for distressed Filipinos in Kuwait, FCC also extends assistance for underserved sectors in the Philippines. FCC organized several activities supporting various programs for the benefit of the Veritas Foundation, Inc., *Bantay Bata* Foundation, and the Philippine government's "Handog Classroom".

Now approaching its 16th year, FCC continues to expand its noble endeavors by working on a new scholarship program for indigent and deserving students in the Philippines. Laying out the project's initial plans, the group created a special committee that will identify particular areas in the country that will serve as its first recipients.

In conferring the *Banaag* Award to the Filipino Cultural Club, the President recognizes its notable contributions in developing and supporting programs that promote the rights and interests of Filipinos in Kuwait and in the Philippines, while showcasing Filipino talent through arts, music and drama.

Charlotte Gödicke
Germany



Every year, thousands of local and foreign tourists flock to Sagay City in Negros Occidental to admire its collection of exotic marine reserves and lush vegetation of rice, sugar cane, and other agricultural resources. Any visitor enchanted by Sagay's scenic beauty will find it difficult to imagine that this bustling and prosperous city used to be an obscure, sleepy town engulfed by extreme poverty.

Sagay City's transformation can be greatly attributed to the selfless dedication and tireless labor of Ms. Charlotte Gödicke, a German teacher who almost single-handedly brought progress and development to the community. Ms. Gödicke first came to Sagay in 1980 as part of a team working under the Sagay-Osterholz Partnership, a three decade friendship between the Sagaynons and the people of Osterholz District, Germany that fostered a mutual exchange of culture, heritage, and resources. The 1980's was a bad time for the Sagaynons – sugar recession struck the already impoverished town, bearing down on landowners and farmers alike. Its economic condition severely worsened; and deaths of children due to infectious diseases and malnutrition was rampant. Ms. Gödicke, extremely affected by their condition, began her crusade to change the lives of 140,000 Sagaynons.

Upon returning to Germany, Ms. Gödicke began her campaign to help Sagay, soliciting services, funds and donations from government and non-government organizations, educational institutions, church communities, and youth unions in various areas in Germany. For 25 years, she spent her summer vacations in Sagay, bringing with her resources she gathered. Through Ms. Gödicke's hardwork, the long list of projects implemented under the Sagay-Osterholz Partnership expanded, that the list seemed endless.

Of all initiatives she has helped implement, Ms. Gödicke prioritized the health condition of Sagay children. Figuring out that poor sanitation caused their weak physical state, she facilitated the construction of toilets and sewage pits to secure safe waste disposal. She also provided for the installation of water tanks, deep well pumps, and water pipelines that supply safe drinking water to homes, health centers, and schools. To reinforce the local government's health programs, she worked for the establishment of health centers, while ensuring the availability of medicines, medical supplies and equipment.

As an educator, Ms. Gödicke valued the role that quality education plays in promoting socio-economic development. Noticing that Sagay teachers were forced to hold classes under trees or inside private houses due to lack of classrooms, she initiated projects that eventually led to the construction of 12 classrooms in five elementary schools, day-care centers, a school stage, and a school garden. She even went on to facilitate the conduct of literacy classes for adults, which included sessions on basic leadership skills training, parental education, and dressmaking. At present, Sagay boasts of a 92% literacy rate.

A firm believer of self-reliance and in the idea of helping people help themselves, Ms. Gödicke ensured that additional means of livelihood is available to the unemployed and season-dependent workers. She assisted 24 baranggays in establishing their own livelihood projects, which includes swine raising, home and community gardening, fishing boat building, smocking and handicrafts-making for the fisherfolks, sewing, and oyster farming. She also helped new entrepreneurs put up their own fishing and horticulture cooperatives.

Sagay City is decades away from the sleepy town it once was. Cited as one of the fastest developing cities in the country, it serves as a model for other localities to emulate. Ms. Gödicke, who became Sagay's first adopted daughter, is now retired from her 25 years of work with the Sagaynons. Still, "Lotte" will remain in the heart of each Sagaynon, remembered as the "white woman" who gave them courage to put their destiny in their own hands.

In conferring the *Banaag* Award to Charlotte Gödicke, the President recognizes her lifelong involvement, untiring efforts, and selfless dedication in promoting progress and development throughout Sagay City, Negros Occidental and uplifting the quality of life for many of its poor people.



Home-Reach Foundation, Inc.
United States of America

Founding members of the Home-Reach Foundation, Inc. left the Philippines with vivid memories of the sad state of their poor *kababayans* back home. Now, they are fulfilling their promise to return and help.

An offshoot of the successful 1993 *Balik-Bohol* Medical Mission, Home-Reach was formed after a group of Filipino doctors in the United States led by Dr. Ramiro Cadag witnessed the pressing need of Philippine rural provinces for accessible health care, education and productive livelihood. In 1994, the foundation was formally registered as a non-profit, charitable organization under New York Law, with a mission to provide health care, education and employment for the poorest and most needy Filipinos. Spanning a decade of funding life-saving medical missions, nutritional programs, donations of medical equipment and health care facilities, and scholarship programs in rural Philippines, Home-Reach has indeed lived up to its commitment of reaching out to the homes of needy people.

Within the six years from 1994-2000, Home-Reach conducted four major medical missions in Bohol. It has helped at least 65,000 patients from various parts of the country in on-site missions, providing free medical supplies and health care. Almost 20,000 patients were treated through minor and major surgeries. Medical equipment like anesthesia machines, cardiac monitors, and other medical supplies were shipped from the United States to the Philippines to assist the foundation volunteers. Health care practitioners based in indigent communities in various provinces and cities in the Philippines were also given further medical training. The success of the missions has been attributed largely to the team of doctors, nurses, ancillary volunteers and local medical practitioners, who not only provided medicines and supplies for free, but also paid for their own transportation and lodging expenses in going to remote areas in the country.

Dedicated to providing medical care assistance to poor children in the Philippines, Home-Reach initiated in 2000 the Philippine Gift of Life project which helps Filipino children avail of the benefits of heart surgery in the United States. It has also established similar programs at the Philippine Heart Center and the Philippine General Hospital. In the past three years, it has helped over 39 children. A total of 87 patients have been provided with free heart surgery and 25 more are scheduled to undergo free heart surgery at the PGH for 2004.

Addressing the lack of adequate nutrition in the rural areas, Home-Reach launched the "Mama Make Me Healthy Program", aimed at providing nutritional supplements to expecting mothers. At present, Bohol was chosen as the beneficiary of 3.5 million doses of micronutrients for expecting mothers to be available until 2006.

Aside from its healthcare programs, Home-Reach runs a host of other community-upliftment projects seeking to promote literacy and education. It has financed scholarship programs and building of libraries, and has donated books and other school facilities to various individuals and communities. Through the help of its generous sponsors abroad and the local government, Home-Reach was able to finance the installation of a water system benefiting 425 households in Cogtong, Bohol. To generate funds to continuously support the needs of its beneficiaries, Home-Reach organizes various fund-raising events such as dinner-and-dance parties, fun runs and Christmas *Haranas*.

Apart from sponsoring various humanitarian missions in the Philippines, Home-Reach is also engaged in the promotion of Filipino culture and tradition in the United States, through the holding of the Independence Day parade every 12th of June and performances of the *Folklorico Filipino*, a Filipino Dance Company in New York.

In conferring the *Banaag* Award to the Home-Reach Foundation, Inc., the President recognizes its untiring dedication to promote the well-being of less-fortunate Boholanos, and answering for the medical and health needs of their *kababayans* in rural areas in the Philippines.

*Hyehwadong Filipino
Catholic Community*
South Korea



For years now, Filipinos have known that working overseas is a serious matter. While several have succeeded, many have also failed and suffered numerous hardships in search for a better life. Some of our *kababayans* face isolation, discrimination, abuse, sickness and even imprisonment. In South Korea, one organization stands by to give Filipino workers reason to hope for the best – the Hyehwadong Filipino Catholic Community (HFCC).

Founded in 1992 through the assistance of Filipino priests and nuns, HFCC was organized to give comfort, spiritual and financial support, and sense of belongingness among Filipinos working in South Korea. Said to be the largest and most influential Filipino group in South Korea, HFCC is not exclusively Catholic in membership and welcomes people of other faiths. Since its establishment, HFCC has been actively involved in issues concerning Filipino migrants, and reaches out to distressed Filipino nationals who suffer illnesses, work-related problems and domestic violence.

Acting as a safety net, HFCC is often relied upon to assist undocumented or irregular Filipino workers who suffer abuse as a result of their status. In several instances, the organization has helped ill, undocumented workers get proper medical attention by shouldering their hospitalization expenses. At times, the organization handles shipment of the remains of deceased Filipino workers.

As a testament to its growing influence and ministry, HFCC established the Pastoral Center for Filipino Migrants, a facility that receives generous support from the Archdiocese of Seoul. Primarily a shelter for runaway trainees and entertainers, as well as for victims of spousal abuse and illegal recruitment, the Pastoral Center also houses other services for Filipino migrants and serves as a gathering place for members of the community.

Extending its mantle of concern for overseas Filipinos in South Korea, HFCC also assists in the settlement of disputes involving Filipino nationals which are filed in Korean courts. From 2000 to 2002 alone, HFCC dealt with more than 40 cases, at times involving as many as three complainants per case. Apart from catering to distressed Filipino nationals, HFCC also operates *Bahay Kalingang Pambata* (BAKAP), a day care facility for children of overseas Filipino workers. BAKAP aims to enable parents to engage in productive work during the formative years of their children.

Apart from providing services for overseas Filipinos, HFCC is at the forefront of several advocacies seeking to promote the well-being of overseas Filipinos in Korea. The organization actively seeks the abolition of the trainee system and the institutionalization of an employment permit system to eliminate abuse against trainees. HFCC's advocacy work bore fruit when in March 2004, the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration began registering Filipino workers for the initial implementation of South Korea's employment permit system for foreign workers.

HFCC has indeed made a difference in the lives of Filipinos in South Korea. The Philippine Embassy in Seoul acknowledged the organization as a "conduit of the Philippine Embassy in addressing many cases and as a helpful partner in promoting the welfare of Filipinos in Korea." Serving as the embassy's "critic", HFCC's role is viewed as a healthy means of checks and balance.

In conferring the *Banaag* Award to Hyehwadong Filipino Catholic Community, the President recognizes its role in providing invaluable assistance to distressed Filipinos in South Korea and creating a sense of solidarity and belongingness within the Filipino community in Seoul.



Kinderhilfe Philippinen
Germany

When typhoon *Nitang* swept through Central Philippines in 1984, German national Juergen Schneidt did not hesitate to aid the Southern Leyteño survivors. Mr. Schneidt, who feels disheartened every time he sees children fall prey to privations brought about by poverty and disasters, teamed up with the local government of Southern Leyte in caring for the children of families who were left homeless by the calamity. Rewarded with a fulfilling satisfaction in helping others who were desperately in need, he eventually decided to establish the Kinderhilfe Philippinen or Philippine Children's Hope Association, with the aim of uplifting the lives of indigent and unfortunate children in the Philippines.

After almost 20 years, a children's village now stood arrestingly in the peaceful coastal town of Padre Burgos, Southern Leyte. Nestled in a lush environment, the village has been a haven and refuge to numerous orphaned, abandoned, abused and indigent children who were given the chance of rebuilding and reshaping their young lives. The children, who treat each other as brothers and sisters, are provided not only with basic food, clothing and education but most importantly with love and guidance. They are well-taken care of by social workers and housemothers who look after them. They are able to go to school from daycare to college. For years, the dawn of hope never ceased to shine for the children of the village and they have Kinderhilfe to be forever thankful for.

Since its establishment in 1985, Kinderhilfe has raised and spent P33 million in providing foster homes and educational services for Filipino children. With referral from the Department of Social Welfare and Development, it admits children up to 18 years old from all over Region VIII. In 2003 alone, it had a total of 109 children in its care. Some of their beneficiaries have already received their college diplomas and are already working.

Aware of the depressing plight of several marginalized Southern Leyteños, Kinderhilfe has also grown sensitive to their social needs. For almost two decades, Kinderhilfe has been an active partner of the local government unit in the development of Padre Burgos and aiding its constituents. In the area of health services, it has funded several infrastructure projects of the Southern Leyte Provincial Hospital such as the renovation of its pediatric ward and nurses station, as well as the installation of an infant incubator. It also funded the construction of a modern health center, considered one of the best in the entire Leyte province. These projects were completed on top of its continuing program of giving free medicines and assisting the Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office in hospitalizing indigent patients free of charge.

In support of efforts to provide quality education, Kinderhilfe funded the renovation and construction of school buildings and classrooms, and donation of computers and other school equipment in St. James College of Padre Burgos, Padre Burgos Elementary School, and Lunsodaan Elementary School. Moreover, it is also involved in other projects such as the installation of water systems and construction of day care and feeding centers, and children's plaza. It also extends relief assistance to victims of natural disasters and calamities. The organization has contributed almost P60 million worth of infrastructure projects for the town of Padre Burgos alone, and has also assisted various infrastructure projects in the neighboring municipalities of Limasawa, Macrohon, and Maasin.

Kinderhilfe has grown into a vibrant and well-loved organization in the province of Southern Leyte. Its legacy will undoubtedly be treasured by the people it has helped and supported over the years.

In conferring the *Banaag* Award to the Kinderhilfe Philippinen, the President recognizes its humanitarian undertakings in providing a bright future to less privileged children and individuals, and for being a staunch partner of the local government of Southern Leyte in long-term social progress and development.

Amor Ilao-McGuinness

United States of America



Amidst the limelight, music and applause, the golden voice of a Filipina has made an indelible mark in the hearts of many. For most of her mature life, this has been how the illustrious New Jersey-based soprano Amor Ilao-McGuinness lived her dream, rendering soulful music and touching the lives of so many Filipinos along the way.

Ms. McGuinness, who grew up in the looming World War II era in San Pablo City, Laguna claims she developed a love for singing when she was six years old. An eloquent lady who favors Italian songs, Julie Andrews and Ethel Merman, she attended the Juilliard School of Music and took up voice lessons with several coaches before becoming a famed singer. She performs opera songs and Broadway hits with flair, but most importantly her sense of nationalism is reflected in her soulful rendition of Filipino classical *kundimans*. According to reviews, she moved the audience with her stirring interpretations of Filipino folk songs at her Carnegie Hall debut. Her community theater credits include the all-time favorites *South Pacific* and *The King and I*. She has been a regular guest artist at various Filipino events and gatherings held not only in the U.S. but also in Canada, Cuba, Jordan and the Philippines. She had sung before then U.S. President George Bush as well as then Philippine Presidents Corazon C. Aquino and Joseph E. Estrada.

Gifted with a golden voice and a big heart, Ms. McGuinness carries her charitable spirit with her in everything that she does. She is a big supporter of events that are organized to raise funds for worthy causes such as the "Read Philippines Project" of the Philippine Consulate in New York. Showing strong concern in providing young Filipino Americans information about their motherland, she performed in a concert at New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark in 2003. The concert which was held in commemoration of the 105th anniversary of Philippine Independence, was also a fundraising event for her group, Friends of the Library, which is dedicated to providing books about the Philippines to local libraries in the U.S. She also performed in several benefit concerts in the Philippines for the Philippine General Hospital and students of St. Anne de Beaupre School of Quezon City, the first private school for the mentally handicapped in Metro Manila.

In 1992, Ms. McGuinness founded the University of the Philippines and Friends Rondalla, a Spanish-inspired string orchestra composed of university alumni and others who aim to preserve and popularize traditional Filipino music. The group has performed at several diplomatic receptions and art shows, as well as concerts in New York, New Jersey, Ohio, Minnesota, Texas, Virginia and Florida.

Undoubtedly an accomplished woman in the world of music, Ms. McGuinness is a nurse by profession. At the age of 22, and soon after graduating from the Philippine General Hospital School of Nursing, she migrated to the U.S. to continue her studies at John Hopkins School of Nursing. She then worked as an operating room nurse in several New York and New Jersey-based hospitals. She now owns and runs the South Terrace Manor, a residential health care center for elder women in Bontoon. In essence, her career as a nurse has instilled in her the resolve to extend assistance to as many people and diverse communities she can reach. Her community service activities in New Jersey and the states of New York, Rhode Island, and Pennsylvania, focused on volunteer work with the visually impaired, hospice services to terminally-ill patients, and training on first aid and health care for school children. Together with the San Pablo Association and the University of the Philippines Alumni Association of New Jersey, she spearheaded donation drives for medical supplies and equipment for San Pablo City Hospital, as well as educational materials for handicapped children of the *Pag-ibig at Pag-asa* School in San Pablo City, Laguna. A recipient of various humanitarian and community service awards, she has proven that a Filipina can accomplish so much if she wills her mind to do it.

In conferring the *Banaag* Award to Amor Ilao-McGuinness, the President recognizes her unparalleled efforts in utilizing her gift of singing in uplifting the image of Filipinos in the U.S. and supporting humanitarian causes for the benefit of her fellow countrymen in the Philippines.



Alicia Natividad, LL.B.

Canada

If people say only engineers can build bridges, they probably have not met a person like Alicia Natividad, a highly-regarded barrister and solicitor credited for boosting the entrepreneurial spirit of the Filipino community in Ottawa, and reinvigorating economic and commercial ties between Canada and the Philippines.

As the first Filipina to be admitted in the Ontario Bar, in 1983, Atty. Natividad is one of the founders of the Canada Philippines Business Council, the first and only national business association geared to promoting trade and economic relations between the Philippines and Canada. As its incumbent president, she organized various business fora, seminars and receptions, focusing on economic and trade opportunities in the Philippines. She has assiduously encouraged Canadians about doing business in the Philippines, providing essential information about the socio-economic and political climate of the country. Notably, she spearheaded the conduct of business conferences in support of the official state visits of then President Fidel V. Ramos in 1997, and President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in 2002, as well as visits of other officials from the Philippines. To a large extent, she has added momentum to initiatives in rekindling Canadian interest in the Philippines, and encouraging partnerships between the Canadian and Philippine governments, businesses and NGOs. Her efforts have earned the respect and esteem of the highest Canadian federal officials and has created a positive image of Filipino professionals and businessmen not only in Ottawa but in the entire Province of Ontario.

A lawyer in Canada with a Filipino heart, Atty. Natividad is dedicated in advancing the welfare of the Filipino Canadian community. She views volunteerism as a civic duty to make her city and country a better place for everyone. As a law student at the Carleton University, she was already engaged in a wide range of volunteer activities in support of the Filipino heritage, equal rights for women, and the community at large. As president of the Ottawa Women's Network from 1992-1993, she facilitated linkages with other advocacy groups and created special programs of interest and assistance to women.

An admitted feminist with a strong social conscience, Atty. Natividad volunteered her services to the Nelson House, a shelter for women and their children fleeing violence, from 1992 to 1997. Despite her busy schedule, she always finds time for those in need, giving free legal advice to needy Filipino Canadians with immigration, labor or marital problems. She has also assisted several organizations such as the Multicultural Counsel of Professional Women, Science and Technology Council, the Philippine Centre Canada, and the Canada Philippine Heritage Foundation. Moreover, she shares her legal knowledge with the local community by contributing to various Filipino Canadian publications.

With her unparalleled professional accomplishments and civic work, Atty. Natividad has been recognized over the years by numerous awards bestowed on her such as the "Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal", "Dinqinesh Honour", "2003 Most Outstanding Filipino", and "Business and Professional Women's Week Award". With a remarkable record of public and community service, she is admired for her great integrity, enthusiasm and boundless energy. "I enjoy my work and what I do", she said. Many years from now, she still sees herself doing the same things but maintains that changes will not faze her because she considers herself a flexible person.

In conferring the *Banaag* Award to Atty. Alicia Natividad, the President recognizes her dedicated service in advancing the economic welfare of the Filipino Canadian community, and commitment to a vibrant Filipino community engaged in successful business and economic relations between the Philippines and Canada.

Evelyn D. A. Natividad, Ph.D.
United States of America



Evolving over thousands of years, the breathtaking coral reef ecosystem which supports the highest concentration of marine biodiversity in the world thrives in Apo Island, Negros Oriental, Philippines. In May 2003, these underwater jewels were unveiled as a permanent wild reef exhibit in the renowned John G. Shedd Aquarium in Chicago, showcasing the biodiversity and beauty of the Philippines. Credit for the latest Shedd attraction goes partly to Dr. Evelyn D.A. Natividad, co-chair of the Philippine Reef Gala Committee, and who spearheaded raising \$60,000 to support the marine exhibit.

The remarkable exhibit, which according to Dr. Natividad "has definitely put the Philippines in the map among the world's most interesting tourist destinations", is just one of many causes that highlighted her as a community leader. Upon immigrating to the U.S. in 1988, she immediately demonstrated her commitment not only in the pursuit of professional excellence, but also in the service to fellow Filipinos. An active member of the Filipino Civil Rights Advocate, she was among the thousands of Filipino Americans who incessantly lobbied for the passage of the Filipino Veterans Equity Act. Being the chair of both the Philippine Week Committee 2004 and *Puno ng Pagkakaisa* of the Philippine American Cultural Foundation, she organized fundraising activities for the building of the Philippine Community Center in Illinois. The Community Center is intended to house a center for the elderly, a place of worship, and the *Paaralang Pilipino*, where she is presently a volunteer educator teaching Filipino language and culture to young Filipino Americans. She is also affiliated with several Filipino groups such as the Philippine Engineers and Scientists Organization, Philippine Normal University Alumni Association, and the National Federation of Filipino American Associations, where she currently serves as its vice chair for Illinois.

Blessed with a supportive and loving family, some of Dr. Natividad's worthwhile undertakings are supported by her husband Cornelio, a 2000 "Banaag" awardee. One of their accomplishments as a dynamic team was the installation of the 11 ft. monument of Dr. Jose Rizal, the only Asian hero monument ever erected in Chicago. The couple has also conducted medical missions, service for the poor and blind, and awarded scholarship grants to poor but bright students in the Philippines.

Dr. Natividad's endeavors also extend to the Asian community in the U.S. An appointed council member of the Chicago Commission on Human Relations Advisory Council on Asian Affairs, she advocates for racial equality, raising awareness on the prevalence of discrimination and hate crimes. When Filipino American Joseph Ito was murdered in 1999 because he was a "non-white" postal worker in U.S., she coordinated a memorial service for him as well as a national remembrance for other Asian American victims of racism. To promote multiculturalism, Dr. Natividad was responsible in organizing the 1st Asian American Festival in 1999. The event, which has become an annual celebration, showcases the diverse and rich culture and traditions of Asian countries.

A public school teacher by profession, Dr. Natividad holds a master's degree in Library and Information Science, and a doctorate in Philosophy. She has worked diligently in training her students to become prolific writers and has instilled in them the love of reading through the *Links to Literacy Program* which is sponsored by the Chicago Public School and Library. She also conducts free training seminars on computer and technology for interested students at Devry Institute of Technology.

A woman of no ordinary achievements, Dr. Natividad's outstanding community work can be gleaned from the numerous awards she has deservedly received over the years, to name just a few: "Asian American Coalition Community Service Award", "Rizal Women of Malolos Award", "Recognition Award" from Mayor Richard Daley of Chicago, and "Filipino American Heritage Award".

In conferring the *Banaag* Award to Dr. Evelyn D.A. Natividad, the President recognizes her outstanding efforts in increasing Filipino visibility in Chicago, and for community work that benefits the general well-being of Filipinos and Asians in Illinois.



Emma B. Nemivant

United States of America

Filipino nurses have often distinguished themselves from their other counterparts by their unparalleled skills, compassion for others, and dedication to duty. For her outstanding accomplishments as a dynamic leader and excellent nurse educator, Emma B. Nemivant has set a new benchmark and raised the status of Filipino nurses overseas.

For 24 years, Ms. Nemivant taught maternity nursing courses at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), which is 7th in the rank of senior universities in the United States. Because of her dedication, professionalism and teaching skills, she went on to assume various positions in college-wide committees and worked as faculty advisor to the Undergraduate Student Council. A first for a Filipino at UIC, her role as faculty advisor was the position she treasured most, being an active student advocate. Her career at the UIC was punctuated by other significant accomplishments, among them, her appointment as a content reviewer for the NCLEX-RN Examination, a nationally administered accreditation examination for foreign-trained and educated nurses. She is also a consultant and author of various publications on maternal-child care and other nursing diagnoses.

In the area of research and other scholarly activities, Ms. Nemivant's active participation as a co-investigator of the federally-funded 4-year research project titled, "*Postpartum Early Discharge: Effects on Low Income Mothers and Infants*" has helped advance the frontiers of nursing knowledge. The results of this research gave her and her group national prominence and have stimulated other practicing nurses to explore problems in maternal-child care for further clinical investigation.

Before coming to the United States in 1965, Ms. Nemivant organized and facilitated the opening of a Charity Maternity Unit and the Charity Outpatient Department at the Chinese General Hospital in the Philippines, where she worked as a supervisor and instructor. The establishment of these units provided comprehensive and continued care to the poor and disenfranchised population of the community. As the founding adviser of the Chinese General Hospital Nursing Alumni Association International, Ms. Nemivant encouraged her fellow alumni to support their alma mater by donating books, journals and medical equipment, and by supporting its scholarship program. When Chinese General Hospital celebrated its 75th anniversary in 1996, Ms. Nemivant helped organize the launch of the hospital's Diamond Jubilee Book. Through the sale of these books, the organization successfully raised \$10,000 which was used to establish the hospital's interactive learning laboratory equipped with the latest computer and related technologies. Ms. Nemivant's donation of books to the Chinese General Hospital's College of Nursing prompted the opening of a separate wing in the library named the "Emma Balquiedra-Nemivant Reading Section".

A three-term President of the Philippine Nurses Association of Illinois (PNAI), Ms. Nemivant has been a role model for minority nurses, speaking out on issues that ensure the nurses' rightful place in society. Her presidency made an indelible mark in the organization's history when she assumed an active role in raising funds for the families of the two Filipino nurses who were murdered by an American in 1966, and provided moral and financial support to the lone survivor. Under PNAI's banner, she successfully lobbied for the elimination of citizenship as a requirement for professional registration of nurses in Illinois, and successfully campaigned for the revision of the Illinois Nursing Act which permitted nursing candidates to retake the State Board Examination six times instead of three.

Outspoken and willful, Ms. Nemivant continued to champion the rights of Filipino nurses, after her term in PNAI ended. As president of the Philippine Nurses Association of America (PNAIA), she led and won the protest against the American Medical Association's proposal to create new categories of health care workers to alleviate nursing shortage in the U.S. She also lobbied with the INS and succeeded to get an extension for expired H-1 visas, a victory savored by many Filipino nurses. Because of her exemplary work and achievements, numerous awards had been bestowed on her by various nursing and civic organizations nationally and internationally.

In conferring the *Banaag* Award to Emma B. Nemivant, the President recognizes her unequalled contributions in promoting the professional advancement and the rights of Filipino nurses in the United States and in the Philippines, and for serving as a role model for Filipino health care professionals here and overseas.

Panday Tinig Choral Ensemble
Canada



Perhaps the most beautiful way of expressing a sweet concord among people is through music, or so believed by the Panday Tinig Choral Ensemble, a celebrated Filipino Canadian choir which is truly a showcase of Filipino musical ingenuity and excellence. The name of the Ensemble, derived from Filipino words *panday* (craftsman) and *tinig* (voice), suggests that its members, who are Filipinos in Montreal and its surrounding suburbs, are voiced craftsmen. Though not possessing academic diplomas or formal training in voice or music, members of the ensemble work intensely in refining the art of choral singing.

Registered under the Canada Corporations Act as a non-profit and charitable organization, Panday Tinig was assembled by accomplished pianist Editha Fedalizo in 1985. By 1987, it had already established a Montreal music tradition through its active participation in various multicultural events and productions. Worthy of mention are the Asian Heritage Festival, Chinese Gardens' Summer Festival, and Drummondville Choral Festival. With hopes of developing the musical talent of young Filipinos in the Greater Montreal area, the ensemble formed in 1991 *Salingsing*, the children's choir of the Panday Tinig.

Portraying the beauty of Filipino culture through its unique rendition of traditional Filipino songs and choreography, Panday Tinig's performances are always a hit, often mesmerizing and transporting their audiences back to a place and time of idyllic living. One of their repertoires, *Balik-Tanaw*, is set in the rural areas of the Philippines with its typical nipa huts and farmers at work in the fields depicting the *bayanihan* spirit of the rural folk as expressed in traditional songs like *Inday sa Balitaw* and *Kalesa*. In 2004, the ensemble through its *Pintig ng Bayan* show, introduced the *sarswela*, a Spanish-inspired Philippine musical presentation, to its Montreal and Ottawa-based spectators. The ensemble also performs classical, indigenous, avant-garde, pop and modern music in French, English and Filipino dialects like *Ilocano*, *Bisaya*, *Bicolano* and *Ilonggo*.

To inspire the Filipino Canadian community, Panday Tinig holds annual presentations in cooperation with other Filipino organizations, celebrating Philippine traditional festivities and religious activities, at the same time promoting Philippine tourism, art exhibits, and inter-cultural harmony. It has sung for a documentary film for the Canadian National Film Board as well as for an educational CD, an honor that makes all Filipinos in Canada proud. In 2001, the group released a CD recording of Filipino folk songs, *Pinagkawing Himig Pilipino*, which is registered and filed in the Canadian National Library.

Just as singing comes naturally to ensemble members, so is their will to help others who are in need. Some of their community involvement include benefit concerts for victims of the Mt. Pinatubo eruption in 1991 and flashfloods in Saguenay-Lac St. Jean in Quebec in 1996. Also, proceeds from their numerous gala shows were donated to charitable organizations helping the homeless population in Canada, and for the building of the Philippine Center in Ottawa. The Ensemble has also established a music scholarship fund in two universities in the Philippines, and supported cultural projects of the Philippine Independence Committee and Ottawa Valley's Filipino newspaper, *Pinoy Eh*. Their soulful secular music also provides the heartbeat to several worship services in Canada such as the St. Anthony Parish Church, Union United Church, and Good Shepherd Church.

Having had the privilege of performing in the famous Carnegie Hall in New York, Panday Tinig plans to orchestrate a cross continental tour with the aim of furthering Philippine traditional music. Its members' common aspiration is to reinterpret traditional Filipino music which once seemed passé, and rekindle appreciation of Filipino music among Filipino Canadians.

In conferring the *Banaag* Award to the Panday Tinig Choral Ensemble, the President recognizes its dedication in expressing the richness of Filipino heritage through music and lending their voices to support humanitarian activities in Canada and the Philippines.



*Philippine Australian
Sports and Culture, Inc.*
Australia

The Filipino's love for sports is evident in almost every street corner in the Philippines where one is sure to find a billiard hall, makeshift basketball court, and improvised chess board on a wood bench. Even when they leave the country, Filipinos carry with them a natural passion for sports. It was this passion that brought together a group of Filipino sports enthusiasts to form an organizing body that could arrange major sports events for early Filipino migrants in Sydney, Australia.

This gathering of overseas Filipino sportsmen set the stage for the founding of the Philippine Australian Sports Council, Inc. (PASC) in 1979. As PASC's membership grew, it expanded its programs from the field of sports to the promotion of Philippine culture in Australia through the Grand Philippine Fiesta and several concerts of well-known Filipino artists. In 2002, The PASC Board of Management and members decided to amend its name to Philippine Australian Sports and Culture, Inc. to better reflect its expanding areas of interest.

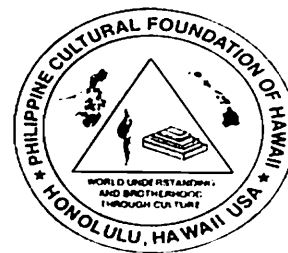
One of the longest serving and most accomplished Filipino community organizations in Australia, PASC has earned various awards and recognition from prominent government and private agencies. In 1992, the Ethnic Affairs Commission of New South Wales awarded a commendation to PASC for its creative contribution during the Multicultural Marketing Awards. The Multicultural Affairs Program of the Organising Committee for the Olympic Games also recognized PASC's support and contribution to the success of the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games. Aside from these, PASC received various commendations from the Philippine Consulate General in Sydney and various Filipino-Australian associations for its valuable assistance in promoting Filipino community undertakings.

Working to promote sports development of overseas Filipinos for 25 years, PASC initiated several major tournaments in Sydney and other major cities in Australia. In 1982, the then Philippine Australian Sports Council launched the first Sydney vs. Melbourne Sports Festival, an annual activity that drew thousands of Filipino and non-Filipino sports fans together to witness Filipino prowess in the field of sports. True to its cause, PASC provided opportunities for Filipino athletes to participate and excel in overseas competitions. It sponsored the five-month training and entry of the Philippines' second ranking tennis player to the 1991 South East Asian Games and the participation of a team of handicapped Filipino children in the 1988 Pacific School Games held in Sydney.

Apart from its achievement in its sports-related endeavors, PASC Inc. has likewise organized successful cultural events for the benefit of various Philippine and Australian charity organization projects. PASC is credited for organizing the annual Grand Philippine Fiesta in Australia since 1989, which was dubbed by newspapers as the "world's largest gathering of Filipinos outside the Philippines". Attended by tens of thousands of Filipinos, Australians, and other members of ethnic communities in Australia, the Fiesta was awarded as the "best non-profit marketing effort of any ethnic community" by the NSW Ethnic Affairs Commission. From the proceeds of the Fiesta and its other cultural programs, PASC extended assistance to various Philippine and Australian charities that promote sports development for children and the handicapped, Philippine colleges and universities that provide scholarships for deserving students, and Philippine-Australian organizations. A prime mover in the promotion of Philippine sports, culture and other community endeavors, PASC indeed, established itself as an inspiration and model to Filipino organizations overseas.

In conferring the *Banaag* Award to the Philippine Australian Sports and Culture, Inc., the President recognizes its efforts in strengthening Filipino community relations in Australia through the promotion of sports and cultural activities.

*Philippine Cultural
Foundation of Hawaii*
United States of America



In 1906, the first 15 Filipino *sakadas* came to Hawaii to help fill in its demand for migrant labor. Almost 100 years later, Filipinos have gone a long way and are considered one of the most visible, vibrant and largest ethnic groups in Hawaii, contributing significantly to the state's economic, social and political development. The increasingly important role that Filipinos play in Hawaii has inspired a group of Filipinos to create a community that preserves and promotes its culture, tradition and heritage. Thus, the Philippine Cultural Foundation of Hawaii (PCFH) was born.

Established in 1969, the PCFH has proved its commitment to the Filipino youth, family and community in Hawaii through activities that help in the fulfillment of educational aspirations, celebration of Filipino family values, and preservation of national culture, tradition and history. Working towards this end, PCFH developed scholarship programs for promising Filipino students in Hawaii, organized fund-raising projects in support of Filipino community endeavors, and sponsored cultural presentations that feature traditional and ethnic songs and dances.

As one of the few Filipino organizations which actively supported the establishment of the Filipino Community (FilCom) Center in Waipahu, Hawaii, PCFH raised approximately \$100,000 in support of its construction. This amount came from the proceeds of PCFH's Ms. Millennium Filipina Charity Pageant in 2000 and Ms. Philippines Hawaii Pageant in 2003. Aside from supporting a worthy cause, these events also aims to celebrate the charms and talents of Filipino women and their multi-faceted roles as individual achievers, responsible homemakers, and pro-active community members.

True to its goal of inspiring Filipino community with traditional family values, PCFH holds a yearly recognition banquet for outstanding Filipino parents and students. Along with a cultural presentation of Filipino songs and dances, the event culminates with the awarding for Parents of the Year and Students of the Year. The Parents of the Year Award is given to exceptional Filipino couples who ensured the college education of their children and fostered in them values that made them achievers and role models in their communities. As of 2004, nine Filipino couples have been conferred the Parents of the Year Award. The Students of the Year Award, bestowed to Filipino students who graduated from high school or college with academic recognition, seeks to inspire and motivate the youth to strive for scholastic excellence.

To further encourage graduating students to pursue higher learning, PCFH provides college scholarship grants to outstanding Filipino high school students. As of 2004, eleven students have been recipients of the PCFH scholarship program.

PCFH's years of notable contributions to the Filipino community in the State of Hawaii captured the attention of the state government. In May 2004, the Senate of the State of Hawaii presented PCFH with a commendation for its success in fulfilling its objectives. Through its efforts to promote awareness on Filipino values, culture, and excellence, PCFH managed to elevate and emphasize the contributions of Filipino communities in the development of Hawaii.

In conferring the *Banaag* Award to the Philippine Cultural Foundation of Hawaii, the President recognizes its worthy achievements in preserving Filipino values, culture and tradition among Filipinos in Hawaii and in addressing the educational needs of Filipino youth in Hawaii.



Virgilio D.R. Pilapil, M.D.
United States of America

In Illinois lives a multi-talented Filipino American with many interests. A doctor, historian, professor, writer, military man, leader and philanthropist rolled-into-one, he is Dr. Virgilio D.R. Pilapil. Described by his peers as a renaissance man, in the spirit of the Philippine national hero, Dr. Jose Rizal, he is an influence that keeps Filipinos active and unified into a cohesive force in the Midwest U.S.

A native of Bacoor, Cavite, Dr. Pilapil graduated from Far Eastern University Institute of Medicine in Manila and left the Philippines in January 1963 under the U.S. Exchange Visitors Program. By 1970, he started to practice at the Springfield Clinic, where he became a medical pioneer. Not only was he the first Asian to engage in medical practice in Springfield, he was also the first pediatric cardiologist in the area. Affiliated with several notable medical societies, he used to be a clinical associate professor of Pediatrics at Southern Illinois University of Medicine for 24 years and an instructor of Pediatrics at the University of Mississippi, School of Medicine. At present, he has retired after working for years as a medical staff at the St. Johns Hospital and Memorial Medical Center, and is currently a medical consultant at the State of Illinois Department of Human Services. He has published over 25 medical articles in different American medical journals.

Within the Filipino American community, Dr. Pilapil is looked upon as the prime mover in promoting Philippine culture and history. Since 1988, he has made many inroads in popularizing previously unknown Filipino American historical information, through the creation of historical societies such as the Filipino American Historical Society, Filipino American National Historical Society, and Bacoor Historical Society. A renowned speaker, thorough researcher, and editor of several historical publications, he has traveled extensively to many cities in the U.S. and the Philippines in pursuit of his goal. His historical interest now translates into several researches ranging from ancient alphabet, *Aetas* in America, World War II heroes of Talaba, and Dogtown and contributions of *Igorots* in the 1904 World Fair in St. Louis, Missouri. Moreover, he was active in supporting fundraising activities for the installation of the Rizal monument in Chicago and the building of Philippine Cultural Center in Illinois. He also founded the Lincolnland Chapter of the Manila-based Order of the Knights of Rizal serving as its Commander for the past several years.

A man who highly values education, Dr. Pilapil's work is not only confined within the circle of Filipino Americans. After 17 years, he still serves as chairman of the Science Scholarship Committee of the Association of Filipino Physicians of Southern Illinois, which grants college scholarships to the winners of their annual Quiz Show. Remarkably, he initiated the establishment of AFPSI Science Scholarship Trust Fund to subsidize the scholarship program for Central and Southern Illinois students.

A "go getter" leader, Dr. Pilapil leads in developing projects that help his less fortunate brothers and sisters back home. Aside from participating in annual medical missions to the Philippines, he initiated, together with the Philippine Pediatric Society in America, donation of medicines and medical equipment to public hospitals in Manila, Cavite and Mindoro. He also helped in raising funds for the establishment of the St. Ezekiel Moreno, a vocational training center for the poor in Bacolod City, and Friends of Andres Bonifacio Memorial Hospital, a foundation coordinating medical projects for the indigent in Trece Martires, Cavite. He also initiated the "Adopt-A-Library-Program" which aims to provide libraries of Philippine hospitals with medical books and other educational materials. He also spearheaded several book donations for the National Historical Institute Library, Municipality of Bacoor, De La Salle University-Dasmarias, and Talaba Elementary School in Bacoor.

One of the "1994 Twenty Outstanding Filipino Americans in North America" as well as an "Outstanding U.S. Military Volunteer" and "Outstanding Philippine Historical Advocate", Dr. Pilapil is included among the celebrities in the *Dictionary of International Biography and Personalities of the South*.

In conferring the *Banaag* Award to Dr. Virgilio D.R. Pilapil, the President recognizes his assiduousness in promoting and enhancing Filipino American history and culture in the U.S. Midwest as well as his generous efforts in helping his fellow Filipinos in the Philippines.

Lourdes A. Salazar

Hong Kong



The spirit of unity and nationalism among Filipinos seem to become more pronounced when they are far from their motherland. In a country like Hong Kong where there are more than 150,000 overseas Filipinos at any given time, Filipino community leaders play a big role in keeping our migrant workers connected to home. Organizing one active Filipino group is no easy task; spearheading one successful Filipino community event is commendable on its own. Ms. Lourdes A. Salazar went beyond this feat by concurrently leading three prominent Filipino organizations in operating projects that benefit Filipinos in Hong Kong.

Establishing a reputation as a reliable prime-mover, Ms. Salazar is the Executive Director of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce-Hong Kong, the treasurer of Philippine Arts, Culture, and Society (PACES), and a Trustee of the Hong Kong *Bayanihan* Trust. She also chaired the Philippine Association of Hong Kong in 2002, where she organized a Philippine Independence Day Charity Ball during her term.

One of her most important projects for the Filipino community is the annual "Harmony in Cultures". This program, developed in cooperation with the Funding Scheme of the Hong Kong Home Affairs Bureau, aims to promote harmony and cultural diversity awareness among the different ethnic minority groups and the locals in Hong Kong. The first "Harmony in Cultures" was attended by more than a thousand participants and included a cultural parade by nationals from the Philippines, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Thailand, India, and Hong Kong-China. The parade culminated in an art exhibit, where participants showcased their country's arts, crafts, food, games and dances.

As a trustee of the *Bayanihan* Trust, Ms. Salazar opened the *Bayanihan* Kennedy Town Centre as a venue for promoting not only social and cultural growth, but skills enhancement of Filipino household workers as well. She organized training programs on food processing and livelihood, and held the first PAG-IBIG Housing Fair at the *Bayanihan* Centre. To promote language proficiency and computer literacy, she established a library within the Centre by soliciting book donations from the American Boy Scouts and 60 second-hand computers from Hong Kong International School. She extended assistance to the Philippine Consulate General in the conduct of the overseas absentee voting through the use of the *Bayanihan* Centre as a polling place in the 2004 elections.

Aside from being a respected community leader, Ms. Salazar is also known in the business world as a high-level corporate official in various financial institutions in Hong Kong. Using her expertise in the field of banking and finance, she paved the way for trade opportunities between the Philippines and Hong Kong, China, and other countries. She initiated the institutionalization of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong, where, as Executive Director, she spearheads the promotion of business relations among Filipino, Chinese, and other Asian-Pacific businessmen. She also assists large and small-scale Filipino entrepreneurs in promoting, launching and sustaining their products in Hong Kong. She also organizes foras and other relevant venues for information exchange, and fosters congenial relations with other businessmen in Hong Kong.

In conferring the *Banaag* Award to Lourdes A. Salazar, the President recognizes her diligence in initiating and implementing projects that promote the professional and socio-cultural advancement of Filipino entrepreneurs, overseas workers, and other sectors of the Filipino community in Hong Kong.



*Search to Involve
Pilipino Americans
United States of America*

Forty years ago, the Temple-Beverly Corridor was the heart of Filipino culture in Los Angeles, and one of the largest Filipino communities in the United States of America. When the next generation of Filipino Americans moved to the suburbs, the community slid into abandon and neglect. Two years ago, the area has been officially designated as "Historic Filipinotown" commemorating the presence of Filipino immigrants which contributed immensely to the area's growth in earlier years. Today, one organization stands proud in preserving the legacy of the Filipino people in Historic Filipinotown – the Search to Involve Pilipino Americans (SIPA).

Organized in 1972, SIPA positions itself to be the premiere advocate of Filipino-American health, welfare, political and cultural empowerment. Far from simply enhancing the visibility of Filipinos in the mainstream, SIPA also offers a variety of programs and services to Filipinos residing in Historic Filipinotown and throughout Los Angeles County. The range of programs and services it offers include affordable housing, career and business counseling and promotion of Philippine sports and culture, among others. In 2003, SIPA received more than \$1 million of government and private sector grants, including public contributions and donations from fundraising activities.

Seeking to improve the quality of life of Filipino Americans, SIPA took the initiative of making affordable housing available to Filipino Americans in Historic Filipinotown. SIPA built Normandie Village in 1998, a 16-unit housing project for low-to-moderate income families, which also won a national special projects award from the Urban Land Institute. Realizing its positive impact on the families who availed of the units, SIPA completed the construction of a 76-unit housing complex in 2004, the Sacatela Village.

True to its vision of preserving the Filipino heritage, SIPA implements after school programs for Filipino youth that enrich their knowledge of Filipino culture. This includes cultural crafts classes, sports clubs and leagues, martial arts and Filipino folk dance classes, among others. Realizing the problems commonly experienced by Filipino American youth, SIPA also offers case management and counseling services, as well as empowerment and information programs discussing issues of general interest such as substance abuse and teen pregnancies. Manifesting the importance of dealing with youth issues and concerns, SIPA constructed the Temple Gateway Youth and Community Center, a 5,000 square foot multi-purpose facility for youth and community development programs, which earned broad community support.

Catering to a community where a high percentage of its residents live below the poverty level, SIPA also encourages people to engage in small businesses. Through its Small Business Development Program, SIPA assists prospective entrepreneurs by providing counseling and workshops on business plan development, permit and license applications, credit and finance sourcing, marketing and advertising, bookkeeping and tax management.

For more than three decades, SIPA's perseverance and hard work has resulted into a unified, culturally expressive Filipino community that cuts across social consciousness and emphasizes the need to celebrate one's unique heritage.

In conferring the *Banaag* Award to the Search to Involve Pilipino Americans, the President recognizes its remarkable efforts in enhancing the quality of life of Filipino Americans in Historic Filipinotown and Los Angeles County, through programs that promote self sufficiency, economic stability and the heritage of the Filipino people.

Jean Paul Verstraeten
Belgium



One need not be a Filipino to serve the poor and needy in the Philippine countryside. Mr. Jean Paul Verstraeten easily proved this point when he took on the task of promoting livelihood, health, and education programs in underprivileged communities in the country for almost 30 years.

A former medical student with an unwavering interest in health issues, Mr. Verstraeten's extensive community service in the Philippines which started in 1977 centered on health programs for the most destitute and underserved groups – the handicapped, leprosy patients (or Hansenites), people inflicted with HIV/AIDS, and cultural minorities. Displaying a rare kind of devotion and concern, he worked with various government and non-government organizations to facilitate the transfer of donations from Belgium, United States, and other countries to the Philippines. In less than three decades, he was able to solicit donations of eyeglasses, medicines, and medical equipment from overseas donors with an estimated value of P20 million.

Ultimately, his fearless involvement in programs for Hansenites confined at Culion Sanitarium and HIV/AIDS patients under the care of the Department of Health (DOH) gained public attention. He was featured in several local and international television programs such as *The 700-Club*, *The World Tonight*, *TV Patrol*, *Inside Story*, *Flashback Show*, *The Essential Christ*, and *Metterdaad Netherlands*. In 1990, the Philippine Media Practitioners Association cited his accomplishments by presenting him the "Outstanding Humanitarian Services and Civic Leader Award". He also received nominations for Rotary Club of Intramuros' "National Award for Community Service" and "Mother Theresa Award", in 1992 and 1993 respectively.

His contributions in uplifting the standard of education in underprivileged *barangays* and municipalities in the Philippines are just as worthy of recognition. Noting the shortage of school buildings in the more remote areas in Culion, Mr. Verstraeten assisted in raising funds for the construction of two school buildings in Baldat and Jardin, Culion. He was instrumental in delivering donated academic and activity books, blackboards, sewing machines, and other needed school supplies and equipment to different public schools in Calapan, Oriental Mindoro and Culion, Palawan. He also introduced an annual scholarship program where deserving and indigent students were presented with a better opportunity for a higher level of education and a brighter future. In recognition of his numerous contributions to their municipality, the *Sangguniang Bayan* of Calapan, Oriental Mindoro passed a resolution proclaiming Mr. Verstraeten as the municipality's adopted son.

Wishing to extend educational and livelihood assistance to other areas as well, he provided help whenever and wherever it is needed. When the Philippines was devastated by a series of typhoons in 1993, Mr. Verstraeten lost no time in sending food, clothes, and medicines. He is also known to be a diligent benefactor of some government projects, such as Department of Education's *Classroom Galing sa Mamamayang Pilipino Abroad* (CGMA) Project and several feeding programs of local governments in Metro Manila.

Any doubts that Mr. Verstraeten has a Filipino heart will go away after reading the various researches, published books and articles he wrote about the life of the Filipino national hero, Dr. Jose Rizal. His devotion and respect for our national hero also motivated him to work for the installation of a marker in a house in Brussels where Dr. Rizal stayed during his sojourn in Europe. At present, he is an officer of Knights of Rizal, a duly chartered civic, patriotic, non-sectarian and non-partisan organization, established to honor the wisdom and memory of Dr. Rizal.

True to his lifetime pursuit in contributing to the country's development, Mr. Verstraeten is currently working on the "Kababayan Model Village" Project in Balibago, Calatagan, Batangas. The project aims to build the infrastructure for livelihood and skills training, housing for displaced children and the elderly, and a health center for nearby towns. Approximately 25 barangays and 8,000 families in Calatagan are expected to benefit from this program.

In conferring the *Banaag* Award to Jean Paul Verstraeten, the President recognizes his unwavering support and commitment to promote the health and education of disadvantaged Filipinos, and his invaluable contribution in propagating the teachings and ideals of Dr. Jose Rizal in the Philippines and in Europe.

Pamana ng Pilipino

*The Pamana ng Pilipino Award is conferred on Filipinos overseas
for excellence and distinction in their work or profession*

Awardees

Felipe P. Abinsay, Jr.
United States of America

Rodolfo S. Bernardo, Ed.S.
United States of America

Wilfredo R. Buhay
United States of America

Eliodoro C. Cadawas, Jr.
United States of America

Alejandro A. Esclamado
United States of America

**Jovelle Laoag-
Fernandez, M.D., Ph.D.**
Japan

Dante C. Fuentes
Indonesia

Lenore R.S. Lim
United States of America

Rodolfo C. Quiambao
United States of America

Maj. Gen. Antonio M. Taguba
United States of America

Constancia S. Uy, M.D.
United States of America

Gundelina A. Velasco, Ph.D.
United Kingdom

Arturo T. Viola
Canada



Felipe P. Abinsay, Jr.
United States of America

One measure of a man's capabilities and leadership is how well he is trusted and respected by his peers and by the people under his care. In the Kahili and Moanalua district of Hawaii, there is no finer example of one with these virtues than Representative Felipe P. Abinsay, Jr.

Known to many as an active Filipino community leader prior to holding public office, Rep. Abinsay is currently serving his fourth term in office as a member of the Hawaii House of Representatives. His first foray in the Hawaii legislature began in 1995 when then Hawaii Governor Benjamin Cayetano appointed him to represent the Kahili and Moanalua district. Since 1996, he has been elected four times with an overwhelming margin against his contenders. At present, he serves as Majority Whip of the House of Representatives and chair of the Committee on Agriculture. He is also a member of the Committees on Business and Economic Development, and Tourism and Culture.

Rep. Abinsay's strong ties with the Philippine motherland can be gleaned from the advocacies he espouses and legislations he authored throughout the years. In support of the plight of Filipino-American World War II veterans, Rep. Abinsay authored and passed House and Concurrent Resolutions urging the Congress and President of the U.S. to support initiatives granting benefits to veterans and their families. He was also the author of Hawaii's Citizenship Training Program which funds English language training for Filipino immigrants preparing for U.S. citizenship examinations. Realizing the serious environmental and public health problems posed by toxic wastes left behind at former U.S. military bases in the Philippines, he introduced and lobbied for the passage of a house resolution calling on the U.S. government to take action on the matter.

As part of his efforts to promote good relations between Hawaii and the Philippines, Rep. Abinsay authored House Concurrent Resolution No. 28 in 2002, prompting the establishment of State-Province relations between Hawaii and Pangasinan. In the same year, he authored House Concurrent Resolution No. 48, seeking the establishment of sister-state exchanges between Hawaii and Ilocos Sur in the fields of education, culture and economy. To enhance tourism exchanges, he passed House Concurrent Resolution No. 146, urging the Hawaii Tourism Authority to remove barriers and promote travel between Hawaii and the Philippines. He is also credited for co-authoring the law creating the Filipino Centennial Celebration Commission, which was tasked to plan, coordinate and implement activities to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the arrival of the first Filipino migrants to Hawaii in 2006.

Prior to assuming public office, Rep. Abinsay is already known for his remarkable leadership abilities. From 1994 to 1996, Rep. Abinsay served as president of the Oahu Filipino Community Council. During his stint, he initiated the Filipino Voters Registration Campaign to raise awareness within the Filipino community over their influence in local and state politics. His impact is most felt on youth development, when he created a series of fora in collaboration with the Honolulu Police Department on youth gang involvement. This led to the establishment of youth programs, such as organized sports activities to keep the youth away from gang activities. Rep. Abinsay was also instrumental in administering a scholarship fund intended to help Hawaii high school graduates of Filipino ancestry pursue college education.

Rep. Abinsay has also participated in calamity relief efforts in the Philippines and Guam. When typhoon Feriea struck Ilocos Norte, 40 parishes received financial assistance from the fund raising committees he set up. The Tamag Provincial Hospital in Ilocos Sur benefited immensely from the donation drive he spearheaded for medicines, hospital beds and other medical equipment and supplies.

In conferring the *Pamana ng Pilipino* Award to Rep. Felipe P. Abinsay, Jr., the President recognizes his outstanding leadership in being elected four times as Representative of the Kahili and Moanalua District to the Hawaii House of Representatives, for authoring initiatives aimed at alleviating the plight of Filipino World War II veterans, and promoting good relations between the State of Hawaii and the Philippines.

Rodolfo S. Bernardo, Ed. S.
United States of America



Teaching, many people say, is the noblest profession of all. This is probably because teaching requires patience, understanding and compassion in order to impart knowledge to learners. In Allen Elementary in Dayton, Ohio, teachers never had it easy. The school ranked 28th out of 33 schools in terms of student achievement and only 10% of the students bring completed homework to class. Absenteeism and interruptions from inappropriate behavior was the highest in the district, with teacher morale the lowest. That is, until Rodolfo S. Bernardo came along and turned it all around.

Upon his appointment as principal of Allen Elementary in 1989, Mr. Bernardo recognized the school's problems and together with his staff, embarked on a yearlong in-service workshop to change students' attitudes towards the school, learning and themselves. Thus, the "Changing Lives" character education program was born, featuring new lessons on positive values each week.

Six years after Mr. Bernardo's appointment, Allen Elementary became a different school. Delinquency was reduced to a minimum. Parents praised the school and faculty morale improved considerably, with the school having the best teacher attendance records in the district. The changes in student achievement, however, were most astonishing. From rank 28 in test scores, Allen climbed to 5th place in 1992 and ranked 1st in 1995. The school's image improved tremendously and the school has been keeping a waiting list of parents wanting to enroll their children.

Allen Elementary's transformation from problem school to model school did not go unnoticed. Mr. Bernardo's "Changing Lives" program was featured in the American School Board Journal, Dayton Daily News, USA Today, Newsweek, Forbes Magazine, CNN Future Watch, and the Wall Street Journal, among several other newspapers, publications and TV programs. The "Changing Lives" program is now being implemented in 14 states across the United States of America and in schools in Russia, Canada, New Zealand and Virgin Islands.

Determined to bring the benefits of his program to the Philippines, Mr. Bernardo secured a US\$50,000 grant from Making A Difference Foundation, enabling him to pilot the "Changing Lives" character education program in three schools in the Philippines. The Pio Valenzuela Elementary School (Valenzuela, Manila), Sacred Heart School (Alfonso, Cavite), and the Philippine Normal University Center for Teaching and Learning were chosen as pilot schools for the program. Said schools have reported increases in the students' mid-year academic achievements, improvements in student attendance and parent involvement, and better behavior among students.

Upon Mr. Bernardo's appointment as principal of Broadmoor Academy in 1997, the school was designated as National Pilot and Demonstration Center for Character Education and awarded with US\$500,000 in grant money. The city of Trotwood, Ohio also declared June 2, 2000 as Rudy Bernardo Day in recognition of his work on character development of students. Now retired from teaching, Mr. Bernardo devotes his time in improving his program and has signed with Mark1 to publish and market the Changing Lives Character Education Curriculum.

In conferring the *Pamana ng Pilipino* Award to Rodolfo S. Bernardo, the President recognizes his pioneering work on character education and its impact on student achievement, which drew national attention and gained wide acceptance in school systems in the United States of America, Russia and New Zealand.



Wilfredo R. Buhay
United States of America

Overseas Filipinos express appreciation of their Filipino heritage through various forms or mediums. Some express it through music, dance, theatre, literature or the visual arts. For Wilfredo Red Buhay of Chicago, Illinois, expressing the diversity of his Filipino heritage has become a way of life.

Graduating with honors from the University of Sto. Tomas with a degree in fine arts and interior design, Mr. Buhay sustained his strong affinity with Philippine art when he opened his own design studio in Manila in 1973. Prior to migrating to the United States, he served as artistic director for design for the Cultural Center of the Philippines and Folk Arts Theatre. Since then, he defined the cultural niche he would eventually occupy as a resident of Chicago.

Mr. Buhay has a long history of service to the Filipino community through his active membership in several organizations in Chicago. Since 1992, he has served as vice president of the Filipino American Historical Society of Chicago. True to his own nationalism, he holds the rank of Commander in the Chicago Chapter of the Order of the Knights of Rizal, an organization dedicated to commemorating the life and works of the Philippine national hero, Dr. Jose P. Rizal.

Among his other involvements within the Filipino community, Mr. Buhay is best known for being the curator and co-founder of the Filipino American Historical Society of Chicago (FAHSC) Museum, the only Asian and Filipino museum in Chicago. The museum sought to promote public interest in the history of Filipino Americans, and educate individuals and groups to gain better appreciation and understanding of Filipino heritage. From 1999 until its closing in 2002, the FAHSC Museum featured more than 24 art exhibits, book receptions, and Filipino language and history classes. From 1989 to 2004, Mr. Buhay featured more than 11 art shows and paintings on Dr. Jose Rizal and his life. Dr. Rizal's writings have also been the subject of Mr. Buhay's research presentations, stage plays and several other activities.

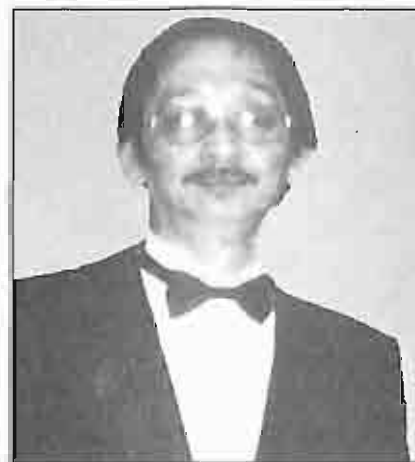
Emphasizing the importance of Filipino American history, Mr. Buhay co-authored the book, "Filipinos in Chicago" with Ms. Estrella Alamar. The book featured photo essays about the early Filipino immigrants to Chicago, which was published by Arcadia Publishers in 2001. The publication chronicled the story of "pensionados", Filipinos who obtained scholarships from the U.S. government in the early years of U.S. colonial rule in the Philippines.

Far from simply showcasing Philippine art and literature, Mr. Buhay has produced his own artistic and literary pieces. When the FAHSC museum opened in 1999, it featured Mr. Buhay's mural entitled "The Family Tree of Filipino Immigration". He is also credited for designing the first Rizal monument in Chicago, which was unveiled in June 1999 at Lincoln Park in North Marine Drive. In 1993, he won the State of Illinois Governor's Art Award for his painting which was reproduced as a poster during the Asia Pacific American Heritage Month, making him a household name for many.

Under Mr. Buhay's creative guidance, several other organizations dedicated to espousing Filipino art and culture have flourished in Chicago, raising cultural awareness within the community. Some of these organizations are the Philippine Performing Arts of Chicago, DestinAsian Artists Coalition and the BISUAL Filipino American Artists Circle, among others. His work as an artist, writer, historian, curator and educator has been recognized by different organizations, and can be gleaned from the awards he received such as, "Most Outstanding Filipino in the Midwest Award for Humanities", "Anahaw Award for Interior Design", "Chicago Filipino American Hall of Fame Award for Visual Arts", and many others.

In conferring the *Pamana ng Pilipino* Award to Wilfredo Red Buhay, the President recognizes his unparalleled contributions in the preservation and propagation of Philippine art, language and culture in Chicago and for contributing to better understanding of the life and works of Dr. Jose Rizal.

Eliodoro C. Cadawas, Jr.
United States of America



Destiny takes people to unexpected situations and unexpected places. For Eliodoro C. Cadawas, Jr., fate may have taken him to the United States but from then on, he carved his destiny with his own hands – literally.

Prior to migrating to the United States, Mr. Cadawas worked as an ice carver and buffet chef in cruise ships touring the Mediterranean and Caribbean seas. On his last trip, he jumped ship and settled in a village somewhere in Virginia. As circumstances would have it, he met several hardships prior to regularizing his stay in the U.S. Without money or relatives to rely on, he had to trade his carvings for deer meat. An accident nearly claimed his life as he could not seek medical attention because of his irregular status. Through the generosity of fellow Filipinos, he eventually obtained a permanent resident visa purely on the merit of his exceptional talent in wood carving.

Mr. Cadawas' first foray into competing came about when he was working at O' Hare Hilton Hotel as a chef gardemanger. Simultaneously, he joined national and international competitions until he built himself a name and gained a strong foothold in the wood and ice carving profession. His talent was first publicized internationally when he was featured in Wood Carving Magazine which is published in London. Since then, he has consistently been featured in Chip Chats, a nationally circulated magazine of the National Woodcarvers Association, specifically for commissioned works such as the three feet high and seven feet long "Last Supper" and "Children of God".

Among the awards he received, Mr. Cadawas is proud to have won the "Exhibitor's Award" for two consecutive years (1996 and 1997) in the North Suburban Carver's Association annual competition; the first, second and third places and the Best in Category Award at International Woodcarvers Congress held in 1992 and 1997; and the first place in the Mythical Category at the Global Carving Challenge held in Florida in 1994. For his exceptional talents, he has been featured in NBC 5 Chicago Morning News and has been dubbed in various articles as America's fastest wood carver.

As Mr. Cadawas continued to receive significant commissioned orders from mainstream clients, he realized the vast potential of his art. He developed a marketing plan to help him become more productive. Today, Mr. Cadawas owns a studio, housing his award winning creations and serves as a venue for him to create his art and teach his skills to others. He teaches wood carving at Woodworld, Inc. in Chicago as well as in his own studio. He has also traveled in different cities of the United States to give seminars and conduct exhibitions on ice and wood carving. Some of his students went on to win various wood carving competitions.

Expanding his influence over wood carving enthusiasts, Mr. Cadawas co-authored the publication "Deep Relief Carving: The J.R. Cadawas Method." He is also often invited to demonstrate for tool-making companies such as the American Tools Company and Solingen Tools. Always the innovator, he developed his own unique tools for carving and has set up a factory in the Philippines to make the tools available for sale throughout the world.

Despite his success, Mr. Cadawas finds time to share his talent by helping renovate and restore various sculptures decorating churches in Chicago. He has also donated some of his artworks to Filipino community organizations in Chicago for fund raising projects. It is therefore of no surprise that he was conferred with honors by various community and state organizations. In 1998 and 1999, he received a "Distinguished Service Medal" from Francis Cardinal George and the Philippine Consulate General in Chicago. He has also been conferred with an "Appreciation Award for Asian Pacific Heritage" in 2000 and "Outstanding Asian Pacific Americans Award" in 2004 by Illinois Governors George Ryan and Jesse White, respectively.

In conferring the *Pamana ng Pilipino* Award to Eliodoro C. Cadawas, Jr., the President recognizes his notable achievement in the art of woodcarving, which was commended by the International Woodcarvers Congress and consistently featured by *Chip Chats*, the National Woodcarver's Association's nationally circulated magazine in the United States of America.



Alejandro A. Esclamado
United States of America

For Filipinos in the United States of America, there has never been a lack of talent and enterprise. In terms of opinion making and organizing efforts to promote broader recognition of the rights and interests of the Filipino American community, few could possibly compare with the colorful achievements of Alejandro A. Esclamado.

A hard-hitting journalist by profession, Mr. Esclamado was the editor-in-chief and publisher of the *Philippine News*, acknowledged as the largest Filipino-American newspaper circulated in the United States and Canada, and a leading opinion-maker within the Filipino-American community. Established in 1961 as a weekly newspaper, the *Philippine News* has six regional editions, and bureaus in Los Angeles, Chicago and New York.

Outside his profession, Mr. Esclamado is recognized as a premier advocate of issues concerning the Philippines and Filipinos in the United States. As one of the 83 honorees selected from among 15,000 nominations, he emerged as the only Filipino in his batch to be awarded the "Ellis Island Medal of Honor" for reporting on abuses committed during the Marcos dictatorship. In 1989, he was conferred the "Philippine Legion of Honor" by the President of the Philippines for his testimony before the U.S. Congress revealing facts about the Aquino assassination and the suppression of civil liberties in the Philippines under the Marcos regime. The citation also praised his role in proposing for a "mini-Marshall" plan for the U.S. to assist Philippine development after the People Power Revolution. Adopted later as the Multilateral Aid Initiative, said assistance was valued at US\$15 billion.

The state of California has recognized Mr. Esclamado's advocacy work on the rights of Filipinos in America. In 1989, the Governor of California signed a resolution citing Mr. Esclamado's efforts in fighting for farm workers' rights and immigration reform. The resolution referred to his reporting of the deplorable working conditions imposed on farm workers in Delano, California and his role in lobbying for an equal quota of Filipino immigrants entering the United States. The California Senate also passed a resolution lauding his work in lobbying for the licensing and accreditation of Filipino professionals, the naturalization of World War II veterans, and the repeal of the 1945 Rescission Act which deprived Filipino veterans of benefits due to them. In 2003, the Greenlining Institute conferred the "Lifetime Achievement Award" to Mr. Esclamado for his successful campaigns "to secure and improve the economic and political rights of his community as well as all underserved groups."

Amidst the numerous accolades he received, Mr. Esclamado is best known as the founding national chair of the National Federation of Filipino-American Associations (NaFFAA), a non-partisan, non-profit national affiliation of Filipino-American institutions and umbrella organizations. Formed in 1997, NaFFAA's goal is to unite Filipino American associations in the United States with the view of increasing Filipino influence over U.S. policymakers. Mr. Esclamado is credited for building NaFFAA from scratch, traveling across the country, talking to Filipino-American community leaders and groups about the need to unite to achieve empowerment.

Starting with a small national office, Mr. Esclamado directed NaFFAA in its formative years, appointing regional leaders and guiding them, reaching out to other Filipino American organizations and enlisting affiliates. Today, NaFFAA has twelve regional chapters across the USA, covering the mainland U.S., Hawaii, Guam and the Marianas. NaFFAA has since become an advocate of Philippine interests in America. The organization's position has been heard on issues such as veterans' equity, immigration rights and lobbying for dual citizenship, among others. Seeking to extend the vision of unity beyond the United States, NaFFAA organized the first and second Global Filipino Networking Convention which was attended by several Filipino community leaders all over the world. In 2005, NaFFAA plans to hold the 3rd Global Filipino Networking Convention in Cebu City.

In conferring the *Pamana ng Pilipino* Award to Alejandro A. Esclamado, the President recognizes his unparalleled career as the editor-in-chief and publisher of *Philippine News*, the largest Filipino American newspaper in the United States of America and for being the founding national chair of the National Federation of Filipino American Associations, one of the leading advocates of Philippine interests in the United States today.

Jovelle Laoag-Fernandez,
M.D., Ph.D.

Japan



In today's medical centers, lives depend upon the acumen and skillful hands of doctors and surgeons. However, the methods that they use in managing or treating afflictions such as cancer, were studied and developed by clinical researchers whose new discoveries give people a second chance in life. In Japan, Filipina doctor Jovelle Laoag-Fernandez has emerged as a trailblazer in the field of clinical research.

Dr. Laoag-Fernandez is a recognized clinical researcher in the field of obstetrics and gynecology. She first came to Japan in 1998 as a recipient of a Japanese government scholarship and as a research fellow until 1999. Soon after, she began her Ph.D. studies (medicine) which she completed in March 2003. In the course of her research and studies, she was commended for her excellence in the field of obstetrics and gynecology.

Demonstrating her scientific acumen, she bested several foreign participants when she won the grand prize for a research competition sponsored by the Japan Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology in 1999. Following stringent guidelines set by Japan's Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, she received a Certification for Advanced Medical Training for two years, a special medical license for foreign doctors in Japan.

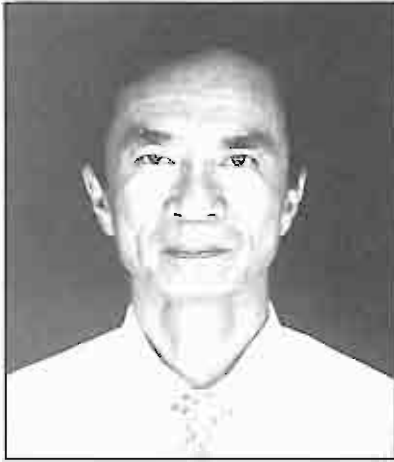
Her exemplary work led to an offer to work as a research assistant in Kobe University's Graduate School of Medicine. As a research assistant and Ph.D. student, Dr. Laoag-Fernandez continued to reap honors, winning first prize on a research writing competition organized by the Philippine Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology in 2002. Five months later, she was awarded a post-doctoral research fellowship grant by the Japan Society for Promotion of Science.

To date, Dr. Laoag-Fernandez has authored and co-authored at least 17 researches on reproductive health, including the treatment of ovarian and cervical cancer and lowering the incidence of birth mortality, among others. Her investigations in the chemotherapy of ovarian cancer have shown enormous potential in inhibiting the growth of cancer cells. She pioneered in female reconstructive surgery techniques with the use of new materials.

Her work on tumor downstaging has enabled management of previously inoperable advanced cervical cancer, through surgery, chemotherapy and radiotherapy. She also pioneered the use of Ambroxol for the prevention of Infant Respiratory Distress Syndrome (IRDS), decreasing the incidence of infant deaths resulting from premature birth.

Recognizing the increasing number of Filipino women married to Japanese men who seek medical attention because of pregnancy and other conditions, Dr. Laoag-Fernandez regularly conducts seminars to Japanese nurses and midwives to teach them how to manage patients. The program has helped Japanese health workers become more supportive of foreign patients. With her colleagues, she also formed the International Maternal and Child Health Care Group, an organization that conducts research collaboration with doctors, nurses and midwives in the Philippines in order to improve the delivery of health care to Filipino patients.

In conferring the *Pamana ng Pilipino* Award to Dr. Jovelle Laoag-Fernandez, the President recognizes her excellence in clinical research in the field of obstetrics and gynecology in Japan, and for pioneering new methods in the treatment of ovarian and cervical cancer and the prevention of Infant Respiratory Distress Syndrome as a leading cause of infant mortality.



Dante C. Fuentes

Indonesia

The changing landscape of urban centers with their grandeur of high-rise towers and posh residential areas are created in the minds of gifted architects. Their imagination is engrossed with the task of combining aesthetics, functionality and durability to create structures that would last beyond a lifetime. In Jakarta, a Filipino architect is credited for designing prominent infrastructures and urban centers that dot the Indonesian archipelago. He is Dante C. Fuentes.

Finishing his bachelor's degree in architecture at the Mapua Institute of Technology in 1965 and later, an engineering management program at the University of California in Los Angeles in 1979, Arch. Fuentes worked for seven years in Philippine-based companies before trying his luck overseas. From then on, he has been employed in 10 companies in various capacities. He is presently a technical advisor for project development at PT Patramas Adhiloka, a major projects management and design firm in Indonesia.

Arch. Fuentes is probably one of the most prolific Filipino architects, having designed or helped design nearly 80 construction projects ranging from commercial buildings, industrial centers, airports, and educational and research institutions. To date, he has been the design architect, design director or director-in-charge of four award winning design projects in Indonesia. These are the Tata Bank Headquarters, Lembaga Indonesia America, Jakarta International School and the Krakatau Steel Headquarters in West Java, Indonesia. As a testament to his competence, he has been appointed as design consultant and project manager in the construction of seven World Bank assisted research centers in West Java, East Java, Sumatera Utara and Bali, Indonesia.

Arch. Fuentes' work is mainly found in various parts of Indonesia, although he had handled projects in Guam, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Singapore and the Philippines. He was a member of the design team in the construction of the Makati Stock Exchange Building. In association with Grand Metropolitan of London, he conceptualized the design of the Sentosa Amusement Park and Casino in Sentosa Island, one of Singapore's prime tourist destinations.

Despite his obvious success in his career, Arch. Fuentes finds time to be an active member of the Filipino community in Indonesia and has supported initiatives of the Philippine Embassy in Jakarta. In 1993 and 1998, he served as president of the Filipino Community in Indonesia (Filcomin) Bowling Association and president of the Filcomin Golf Association, respectively.

Aside from being the senior design advisor in the construction of the official residence of the Philippine ambassador to Indonesia, Arch. Fuentes enlisted the assistance of the Filcomin Bowling Association in donating one million rupiahs for the initial refurbishing of said residence in 1993. He was also commended by the Philippine Embassy in Jakarta for his role in then President Fidel V. Ramos' state visit to Indonesia. In 1998, he received a citation from the then Secretary of Foreign Affairs for his invaluable services to the Philippine embassy in Jakarta and the Filipino community in Indonesia.

In conferring the *Pamana ng Pilipino* Award to Arch. Dante C. Fuentes, the President recognizes his highly successful career in urban planning, design and construction of residential and commercial centers in Indonesia, and for his invaluable support to activities of the Philippine Embassy in Jakarta.

Lenore R. S. Lim

United States of America



Creating stirring images that beckon one to meditate, to be romantic, to search one's soul...this is how art enthusiasts describe the art of Lenore R.S. Lim, an internationally renowned Filipino artist and considered to be one of the foremost Filipina printmakers.

Featured in over 40 solo and group shows all over the world, Ms. Lim's artworks are produced through a mix of printmaking and computer serigraphy techniques. In making her art, she uses a variety of Philippine materials and landscapes to inspire her, like her mother's wedding veil, landscapes of Tagaytay, and images from a garden, among others. From 1993 to 2003, Ms. Lim had exhibited her works in solo shows in six countries, including a solo show at the United Nations Secretariat Lobby in New York. Her solo exhibits were held in Delta Gallery (Ottawa, Canada), University of the Philippines (Quezon City, Philippines), McGill University (Quebec, Canada), Philippine Center (New York, U.S.A.), Philippine Embassy Gallery (Amman, Jordan), Fordham University (Bronx, New York), Collegio de Filipino (Italy), GSIS Museum (Pasay, Philippines), Avenida de los Artistas Gallery (Vienna, Austria), Vancouver Public Library (Vancouver, Canada), Yale University Asian American Cultural Center (Connecticut, U.S.A.), Ayala Museum (Makati, Philippines) and Philippine Consulate in San Francisco (California, U.S.A.).

Having participated in nearly 30 group shows in various parts of the United States of America, Peru, Japan, Italy and Iraq, Ms. Lim made history in 2000 by being the only Filipino artist to be included in the international art exhibition, "Progress of the World's Women." Sponsored by the United Nations Development Fund for Women, the art exhibit featured artworks of 60 artists from 50 countries. In this exhibit, Ms. Lim portrayed the courage of Filipino comfort women during the Japanese occupation of the Philippines during World War II, to overcome the shame and humiliation they were subjected to. Media stories covering the event published a photo of Ms. Lim discussing her art with the UN Secretary General.

True to her international caliber, Ms. Lim was invited to exhibit her work during the Venice Open 2002. The art exhibit featured 43 internationally known female artists, whose works were displayed along main streets and piazzas of the Venetian Island.

A teacher by profession, Ms. Lim takes joy in sharing her artistic knowledge and techniques to other artists. She has conducted free printmaking workshops for Filipino artists in the Philippines through the University of the Philippines' College of Fine Arts. Through her classes, Filipino artists who do not have the resources to study abroad learn cutting edge techniques and technology to improve their artistry. To some extent, Ms. Lim has also provided a venue for emerging Filipino artists to exhibit their works and introduce them to the buying market.

As can only be expected from a top-rated artist, various news articles have described Ms. Lim's work with awe and admiration of her unique style and "new level of artistic maturity." The Chairman and President Emerita of the Museum of Modern Art in New York says, "I have had the privilege of owning Lim's work and sharing it with others. Her work made an immediate impression upon me, much as the printmaking process makes an indelible impression on paper. Her work stays with you, brings you strength and beauty, and also challenges us to think again about printmakers and their rightful place in the art canon at the beginning of this new millennia."

In conferring the *Pamana ng Pilipino* Award to Lenore R.S. Lim, the President recognizes her ingenuous use of printmaking techniques in creating Filipino-inspired art, which earned her national and international acclaim from various art critics, and raised awareness of the creative talents of Filipino artists abroad.



Rodolfo C. Quiambao
United States of America

Filipino engineers have not always found it easy to enter the United States labor market. Professional qualifications obtained in the Philippines frequently come into question despite a track record of good experience at home. Every once in a while, however, someone comes along to break that ethnic barrier and prove to the world that Filipinos are just as good, or even better than the others. One shining example is Engr. Rodolfo C. Quiambao.

A graduate of civil engineering from the Mapua Institute of Technology in Manila, Engr. Quiambao came to Seattle in 1968 as an associate engineer in a Boeing 747 project. He assumed various capacities for companies such as Cahn Engineering, Chemplant Design, Inc. and Treadwell Corporation before venturing out on a business of his own.

In 1988, Engr. Quiambao founded Rudell and Associates, Inc. upon the encouragement of his wife. Starting out with two employees, Rudell has grown continuously to become a multi-discipline engineering company which now employs 61 people. Rudell has commendably accomplished a long list of projects, most notable of which is the engineering and interior design of the John F. Kennedy International Airport Terminal No. 4, *Iglesia ni Cristo* Church in Forest Hills, ongoing contracts with Con Edison, the New York Department of Design and Construction through Con Edison, and the reconstruction of the World Trade Center, among others. Rudell's contribution to the engineering and design of World Trade Center 7 was featured in the ABS-CBN news program, *The Correspondents*.

For his outstanding accomplishments in the field of engineering, Engr. Quiambao has been featured in "Minority Business", a publication that features success stories by minority-owned businesses in the U.S. His company was also chosen by Con Edison, one of the largest U.S. based energy companies, as the "Best Minority Business Enterprise" in engineering services. His photos appeared in New York City subway stations, local and international magazines and newspapers as part of Con Edison's public relations campaign.

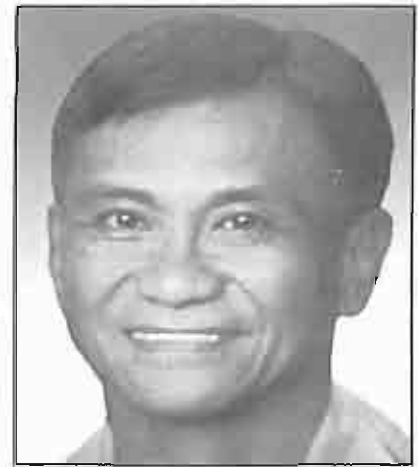
Believing in the talent of his fellow countrymen, Engr. Quiambao has been hiring Filipino engineers and architects from the Philippines since 1999, who are now residing in New York with their families. Realizing that a handful of Filipino engineers experience difficulties finding jobs and end up as clerks, bank tellers, mechanics, janitors, drivers or hospital orderlies, he co-founded and became the second president of the Filipino American Association of Engineers (FAAE).

FAAE assists newly arrived engineers and engineers who could not land decent jobs in line with their professions through mentoring and accreditation. Through this, more Filipino engineers find suitable employment and are able to practice their profession. For these efforts, Merrill Lynch awarded Engr. Quiambao with an "Award of Recognition". The Asian American Democratic Association of Queens, Inc. also awarded him with a "Plaque of Recognition" for his contributions to the community.

As a sign of confidence on his dedication, commitment and professionalism, Filipino community leaders in New York unanimously elected Engr. Quiambao to be the Grand Marshal in the 2004 Philippine Independence Day Celebrations. His election also came as a form of recognition from the community for enhancing the Filipino American image.

In conferring the *Pamana ng Pilipino* Award to Engr. Rodolfo C. Quiambao, the President recognizes his professional and entrepreneurial abilities which led to the establishment of Rudell & Associates, Inc., a competitive Filipino-owned and staffed engineering firm which was entrusted with the daunting task of providing design and engineering work for the reconstruction of the World Trade Center.

Maj. Gen. Antonio M. Taguba
United States of America



For free countries throughout the world, the price of freedom is sometimes borne by the sinews and resolve of the courageous men of its armed forces, who brave trenches and battlefields to defend their ideals and keep their country a safer place to live in. In the United States of America, a Filipino stands as an exemplary model for American soldiers. His name is Major General Antonio M. Taguba.

Born in Sampaloc, Manila in 1950 and migrated to the United States when he was 11 years old, Maj. Gen. Taguba is the son of an army sergeant who served with the Philippine Scouts during World War II, and fought alongside American forces in the Battle of Bataan during the Japanese occupation. After graduating with a degree in history from Idaho State University, he followed the footsteps of his father by joining the United States Army.

Maj. Gen. Taguba attended prestigious military training schools and completed master's degrees in Public Administration, International Relations, and National Security and Strategic Studies. His career began with troop-leading assignments in Korea and steadily rose from the ranks. Apart from his command assignments, he served as commander of the 2nd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division at Fort Hood, Texas; Material Systems Analyst at the Office of the Chief of Staff, Army, The Pentagon; Executive Officer and Chief-of-Staff, U.S. Army Reserve Command at Fort McPherson, Georgia; Assistant Division Commander-Forward of the 24th Infantry Division and Deputy Commanding General (South), First U.S. Army at Fort Jackson, South Carolina.

Maj. Gen. Taguba is currently the Deputy Commanding General for Support of the Third U.S. Army, U.S. Army Forces Central Command, Coalition Forces Land Component Command. The New York Times reported that he would soon take up a new post in Washington, as deputy assistant secretary for reserve affairs. For his decorated service, he received numerous awards including the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit. To date, he is the second highest ranking Filipino American officer in the U.S. Army.

Amidst his decorated service in the U.S. Armed Forces, Maj. Gen. Taguba is known to many as the author of the 53-page report detailing the systemic abuses committed by American soldiers against the prisoners of the Abu Ghraib prison facility in Iraq. Testifying before the Senate Armed Services Committee, Maj. Gen. Taguba described the extent of humiliation suffered by Iraqi prisoners in Abu Ghraib from American soldiers. The report, completed in February 2004 (though not meant for public release), drew prolonged international attention and led to punishment of those who were found guilty.

Published reports have quoted Maj. Gen. Taguba's colleagues describing him as a man of integrity. Cable News Network (CNN) which broke the story on the report described Maj. Gen. Taguba as 'fearless'. The San Francisco Chronicle has declared that Maj. Gen. Taguba "represents the image of a professional American soldier that the United States would no doubt like to project to the world in light of the images of the abuse."

In conferring the *Pamana ng Pilipino* Award to Maj. Gen. Antonio M. Taguba, the President recognizes his sterling military career in the United States Army that also dramatically brought about justice and reforms within the institution he represents.



Constancia S. Uy, M.D.
United States of America

As a people with a strong ethic for care, it is no wonder that Filipinos have made their presence felt in different health care institutions all over the world. Whether as doctors, nurses, physical therapists or medical technicians, one can assert that health sciences and education in the Philippines is world class, and no one could prove that better than Dr. Constancia S. Uy.

Throughout her career as a pediatrician, Dr. Uy has set herself apart by being one of only ten board certified pediatric nephrologists in New Jersey. She has to her credit, nearly 40 awards and citations for meritorious service, excellence in profession and community service from various award-giving bodies such as New Jersey State Federation of Women's Club, American Medical Women's Association, Asian American Heritage Council, National Kidney Foundation – New Jersey, Nephrology Society of New Jersey, Medical Society of New Jersey, American Medical Association and the American Academy of Pediatrics, among others.

As an authority on her field, Dr. Uy has conducted lectures and spoke before conferences, seminars and symposia in different parts of the United States and the Philippines. She has also written more than 30 scientific articles and abstracts for different scientific publications.

Dr. Uy's clinical practice is matched only by her teaching experience. She is presently the course director of electives on acid base / electrolytes and pediatric nephrology at New Jersey Medical School. Concurrently, she holds the position of associate professor since 1998 and director of pediatric nephrology since 1972 at the same school. Since 1996, she has received the "Golden Apple Award", seven times, for excellence in teaching. During her stint at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, she was awarded the "Excellence in Teaching Award" from the school's foundation.

For being the first Filipino to become secretary of the Academy of Medicine in New Jersey, Dr. Uy was chosen to receive the 1995 "Asian American Achievement Award" in celebration of the Asian American Heritage Month. She was also honored by the American Medical Women's Association with the 1994 Gender Equity Award for her role in promoting a gender-fair environment for the education and training of women physicians and assuring equal opportunity for women to study and practice medicine.

Far from resting on her laurels, Dr. Uy is actively involved in professional and civic organizations which have benefited specific sectors in the Philippines. She holds the distinction of being the first Filipino to assume the presidency of the Nephrology Society of New Jersey (1987 – 1988). During her term, she launched a fund-raising activity, in which proceeds were donated to support research undertaken by Nephrology Fellows. As past president of the Philippine-American Medical Society in New Jersey, she served as a reviewer for the pediatric course sponsored by the society to help physicians pass rigorous examinations.

Among her Filipino colleagues, Dr. Uy is perhaps most known as the founding president of the first chapter of the University of the Philippines Medical Alumni Society in America (UPMASA) in New Jersey. After three years of service as president of UPMASA's New Jersey chapter, Dr. Uy went on to become the national president of UPMASA from 1986 to 1988. Under her leadership, UPMASA's four chapters across the U.S. increased to 13. Today, UPMASA reportedly has an endowment fund of more than US\$1.5 million and is the primary donor to the University of the Philippines College of Medicine and the Philippine General Hospital. For her invaluable contributions to the community, Dr. Uy was conferred the "Community Service Award" twice (1992 and 1998) by the American Medical Women's Association. March of Dimes also conferred this award to her in 1994.

In conferring the *Pamana ng Pilipino* Award to Dr. Constancia S. Uy, the President recognizes her excellence in the field of pediatric nephrology in the academe and in clinical practice, and for her tireless efforts in channeling development assistance to the Philippine General Hospital as the founding president of the University of the Philippines Medical Alumni Society in America – New Jersey chapter.

Gundelina A. Velazco, Ph.D.

United Kingdom



An estimated 100 million children live in the streets in many parts of the world today. Exposed to the hazards of an uncaring and dangerous environment, these children are at risk of becoming part of organized crime that make our streets unsafe. Thanks to Dr. Gundelina A. Velazco, many such children need not face a bleak future.

Dr. Velazco is a renowned clinical psychotherapist, counselor and trainer who specializes in treating children at risk, particularly street children. Educated and trained in the Philippines, U.S.A., England and France, Dr. Gundelina Velazco holds a bachelor's degree in nursing, master's degree in education major in guidance and counseling, and a doctorate degree in clinical counseling psychology, among other trainings and certifications abroad. She has taught social workers in several countries, methods used in caring for children at risk.

Dr. Velazco is recognized for spearheading the Pavement Project, a London-based initiative for street children. Launched in 2003, the Pavement Project marked the end of four years of unprecedented field research by carefully trained workers in various countries, led and supervised by Dr. Velazco, into the psychology of traumatized children living in the streets. Work was conducted in Brazil, South Africa, India, Colombia, and the Philippines. From this research, materials have been developed to evoke a sense of self-worth among children in crisis, with the ultimate objective being to reach out to as many street children as possible.

Two of the products Dr. Velazco developed through research include *Picture Me* and *Pocket Cards*, which consist of therapeutic processes and visual tools to help children find emotional and spiritual healing, to overcome their low self-esteem, and to reinforce a message of healing and hope. Her research findings, including *The Worldviews of Street Children*, were published in a series of monographs by SGM International, a Christian non-government organization based in the U.K.

Given her extensive education and experience in counseling and working with street children, Dr. Velazco has authored and developed more than 15 publications and instructional materials concerning therapy and rehabilitation of street children who are exposed to negative influences including drug dependence. Realizing that there is also a need to address the work hazards social workers and caregivers are exposed to when dealing with children at risk, she authored "A Handbook on Caring for Caregivers."

Dr. Velazco has spoken and conducted workshops in over 30 conferences related to her field of expertise, and have trained social workers in different countries including South Africa, Namibia, Cambodia, Malaysia, Ireland, the Philippines, United Kingdom and U.S.A., among others. Most of the trainings she has conducted were sponsored by international organizations such as UNICEF, Tearfund International, ChildHope Asia and SGM International. She remains, to this day, a consultant of the Department of Social Welfare and Development in the Philippines, specifically concerning children who are victims of physical and psychological abuse.

Dr. Velazco holds membership in different professional organizations such as, International Association for Counseling (where she is also a board member of the Research Team from 1990 – 1998), European Network for Street Children Worldwide, International Council of Psychologists, International Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, Pi Gamma Mu Honour Society for Social Sciences and Association for Women in Psychology.

In conferring the *Pamana ng Pilipino* Award to Dr. Gundelina A. Velazco, the President recognizes her work as an authority in the rehabilitation and treatment of street children in several countries around the world and for developing new therapeutic methods to help children at risk find emotional and spiritual healing, overcome their low self-esteem and reinforce the message of hope.



Arturo T. Viola
Canada

When people retire from work, many choose the laid back way of life and enjoy the twilight of their years in the comfort of their hobbies and loved ones. The community of Niagara-on-the-Lake, however, had something else planned for Arturo T. Viola.

Born and raised in Santiago, Isabela, Mr. Viola emigrated to Canada in 1967 after studying for almost three years in Tennessee and New Mexico as an exchange visitor participant. In Canada, he worked at St. Catharines General Hospital and Niagara-on-the-Lake General Hospital until his retirement in 1994. A well-known and liked volunteer, Mr. Viola entered politics and gained the

highest number of votes among those running for alderman during the 1994 elections. This wide margin of votes among his peers gave him the title of Deputy Lord Mayor.

As Deputy Lord Mayor from 1994 to 1997, Mr. Viola became the chairman of the parks and recreation, and public works committees. He also served on the Niagara Pump House Visual Art Centre Board, overseeing an arts centre in a restored local landmark. Mr. Viola also served as member of the Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee.

Little did Mr. Viola know that big things have yet to come. In the 1997 municipal elections, Mr. Viola won a three-way electoral race against a former Lord Mayor and an alderman of 12 years, to become the first Asian and Filipino Lord Mayor of Niagara-on-the-Lake. Mr. Viola won with 70% of the votes cast. As Lord Mayor, he held various posts including: Commissioner of the Niagara Parks and Niagara-on-the-Lake Hydro Commissions, and Governor of the Shaw Festival Theatre Board of Governors, among other committee memberships. In 1998, he added to his civic obligations, the honorary chairmanship of fundraising for the Niagara Regional Native Centre. He co-chaired the center's \$5 million program for self-proficiency.

Mr. Viola momentarily left politics in 2000 and continued his involvement with different community groups including the Niagara Horticultural Society. His political comeback in 2003 was as colorful when he first ran for public office. Mr. Viola once again, proved his popularity by gaining the highest number of votes among candidates running for alderman, gaining the rare opportunity to serve as Deputy Lord Mayor for the second time.

Unknowingly, the seeds of Mr. Viola's political success may have been planted much earlier through his various community involvements prior to running for public office. Dubbed as the ubiquitous photographer at community functions, he has been president of Niagara Lions Club and held high office in Lions Club International. Among the causes he has championed over the years, is the Niagara-on-the-Lake Annual Diabetes Appeal. He served as fundraising chairman for the Diabetes Awareness Program from 1985 to 1993. From 1987 to 1996, he was also fundraising chairman of the Heart and Stroke Foundation and served as first president of its Niagara-on-the-Lake chapter.

He is a frequent fundraiser and volunteer for the Head Injury Association of Canada and a supporter of the Anagram residential rehabilitation complex, a pioneer in neurological disorder treatment, based in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Among other causes he espoused are research funding for treatment of cancer and multiple sclerosis.

For his outstanding community service, Mr. Viola was chosen "Citizen of the Year" by the town of Niagara-on-the-Lake in 1988. He was conferred with the "Volunteer Service Award" by the government of Ontario in 1992 and was given a commemorative medal in the same year in celebration of Canada's confederation. In 1994, he was declared a Melvin Jones Fellow by Lions Club International for his "commitment to humanitarian service". Last year, he received the "Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal". The award is conferred to persons who "have made a significant contribution to Canada, to their community or to their fellow Canadians."

In conferring the *Pamana ng Pilipino* Award to Arturo T. Viola, the President recognizes his efforts for being the first Filipino and Asian to be elected Lord Mayor of Niagara-On-The-Lake, Canada and for having served as Deputy Lord Mayor of the same city twice, a feat that inspired many other Filipino Canadians in public service.

*The Year 2004 Presidential Awards for
Filipino Individuals and Organizations Overseas*

*Awarding Ceremony and Testimonial Dinner
6:00 p.m., 15 December 2004, Ceremonial Hall, Malacañan Palace*

Programme

Philippine National Anthem

Invocation

*Welcome Remarks
Chairman Dante A. Ang
Commission on Filipinos Overseas*

Presentation of Awards

*Response on Behalf of the Awardees
Dr. Saniel G. G. Ablaza*

*Introduction of H.E. the President
Hon. Alberto G. Romulo
Secretary of Foreign Affairs*

Message of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

Dinner

*Musical Number
Amor Lao-Mc Guinness*

*Ms. Cecilia Oreña Drioton
Master of Ceremonies*

The Presidential Awards System

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

The awards system was institutionalized in 1991, with the signing of Executive Order No. 498. The awards have so far been extended to one hundred ninety (190) Filipinos and private organizations overseas since its establishment. The first and second sets of Presidential Awards were given by President Fidel V. Ramos to 22 and 45 individuals and organizations overseas in 1993 and 1996, respectively. In 1998, President Joseph E. Estrada conferred the awards on 30 awardees while 59 individuals and organizations overseas were awarded in 2000. Pres. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo conferred the awards on 34 awardees with one special citation in 2002.

The Presidential Awards consist of four categories. The *Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino Award* is conferred on Filipino associations or individuals for their significant contributions to Philippine national development efforts. 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 fourth category, the *Pamana ng Pilipino Award*, is conferred on Filipinos overseas who have consistently pursued their work or profession with excellence and distinction.

On December 15, 2004, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo will honor 45 distinguished Filipino individuals and organizations overseas, who by their exceptional achievements or humanitarian efforts, have given form and substance to Filipino excellence and the time-honored values of *pakikipag-kapwa*, *pagtutulungan*, and *pagkakaisa*.

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

This year's awardees were selected from a total of 150 nominations from 29 countries through 43 Philippine Embassies and Consulates. Of the 45 awardees, 31 are individuals while 14 are organizations. The awardees came from Australia, Belgium, Canada, Germany, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, Indonesia, Japan, Kuwait, South Korea, Switzerland, United Kingdom and United States of America.

*The Year 2004 Presidential Awards for
Filipino Individuals and Organizations Overseas*

Executive Committee

CHAIRMAN

Hon. Alberto G. Romulo
Secretary of Foreign Affairs

VICE CHAIR

Amb. Linglingay F. Lacanlale
Chief of Presidential Protocol

MEMBERS

Fr. Fabio Baggio
Director, Scalabrini Migration Center

Ms. Belinda Olivares Cunanan
Columnist, Philippine Daily Inquirer

Hon. Jose Z. Molano, Jr.
Executive Director, Commission on Filipinos Overseas

Mr. Ramon Y. Sy
President and CEO, International Exchange Bank

Technical Committee

DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Mr. Pedro O. Chan
Executive Director, Office of the Undersecretary for Migrant Workers Affairs

Mr. Wilfredo C. Santos
Special Assistant, Office of the Secretary

COMMISSION ON FILIPINOS OVERSEAS

Mr. Ernesto Noel P. Calleja
Attache

Atty. Golda Myra R. Roma
Officer in Charge, Planning, Research and Policy Office

Gallery of Presidential Awardees

Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino Award

Cagas, Cosme R., M.D.
Caoile, Gloria T.
Feed the Hungry, Inc.
H.O.P.E. Foundation
Ho, Jesus T., M.D.
Montero, Juan II M., M.D.
Nacario, Emanuel N.
Navarra, Victoria C., M.D.
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
Tan, Elton See
Torio, Isabelo S.
Vijungco, Jose G.
World Bank / IFC-IMF Filipino Association

Kaakabay ng Bayan Award

Aloha Medical Mission
Balikatan sa Kaunlaran – Hong Kong Council
Confederation of Filipinos Overseas Organization
Filipino-American Community of Colorado
Filipino Community in Thailand
Filipino Community in the Commonwealth
of Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI)
Filipino Community of Guam
Foundation for Aid to the Philippines, Inc.
Volunteer Business Counselors of Doha

Kaanib ng Bayan Award

Anesvad Foundation
Association Alouette
Association Philippines International of Geneva
Books for the Barrios
Consuelo Zobel Alger Foundation
International Medical Help for Children
Jules and Paul- Émile Léger Foundation
Operation Smile International

Kaanib ng Bayan Award

PAG-ASA Group – Japan
Philippine Development Assistance
Programme
“Salamat Po Kai”
Tsakos Shipping and Trading, S.A.

Banaag Award

Acebuche, Nestor A.
Acosta, Rodrigo C.
Al Zedjali, Essa Mohamed
Andes, Phoebe Cabotaje
Angelical, Lilia
Aranilla, Leticia R.
Astillero, Moh'd Ali Carlito, M.D.
Babaylan – Switzerland
Balik Bohol Medical Mission
Bautista, Antonio C.
Bayoumi, Mohammad Ahmad
Beatty, Estrella C.
Benzon, Norma R.
Bulos, Alice P.
Centre for Philippine Concerns – Australia
Cheng, Sian Chun
Compas, Lolita B.
Concepcion, Zenaida S., M.D.
Covarrubias, Grace F.N. (+)
Cueto, Alex M., M.D.
Cunanan, Aguedo Q.
Cunina Organization
Dasodas, Catherine D.
De Guzman – Formoso, Ruby L., M.D.
Dechaves, William D.
Del Rosario, Sonia S.
Dela Paz, James Allan
Docoy, Fr. Eugene
Evangelista, Jose L., M.D.
Filipino American Human Services, Inc.
Filipino Association in Brunei
Filipino Coalition for Solidarity, Inc.
Filipino Communities Council of Australia, Inc.
Filipino Community Center, Inc.
Filipino Ladies Association of Guam

Gallery of Presidential Awardees

Banaag Award

Florentino, Sr. Magdalena S., FMM (+)
Fojas, Marcos R., M.D.
Ginete, Alex Jose R.
Go, Mildred Aires
Halasz, Fr. Luis, SVD
Helbig, Aurea
Hernandez, Carmencita
Hong Kong Bayanihan Trust
Ick, Claire R.
Juele, Lilia R.
Kalayaan
Kanagawa Women's Space Ms. La
Kawayan Philippine Language and Cultural
School
Kinderhilfe Philippinen, e.V.
Lammawin, Francis L.
Lew, Bridget
Lubang-Looc International
Maharlika – Switzerland
Manglona, Benjamin T.
March, Marina Roma, M.D.
Mataac, Celso Jr. T.
Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception
Miyake, Chiyo
National Organization of Professional Teachers –
Hong Kong
Natividad, Cornelio Ruiz
Paragas, Rodolfo de Leon
Paterno, Ramon A.P.
Penang Support Group for Migrant Filipinos
Philippine Association of Metropolitan Washington
Engineers
Philippine Heritage Band
Philippine Institute of Certified Public
Accountants
Philippine School Bahrain
Quiblado, Conrada P.
Racinez, Sr. Olivia, WCW
Ramos, Angel T.
Ravindranathan, N., M.D.
Rizal-Blumentritt Society Austria
Sabio, Fr. Raymond T.
Seguritan, Reuben
Sirmata (Vision) 2004

Banaag Award

Steiner, Mona Lisa L.
Tahanan (Diocesan Center for Filipino
Migrants)
Talangbayan, Francis V., M.D.
Tendencia, Benita B.
Tenorio, Pedro P.
Theresa Ladeli
Tomelden, Jr. Benjamin S.
Tordjman, Paul Semo
Uy, Emilio Y.
Vargas, Orlando R.
Victorian Community in Belgium
Zamora, Prospero C.

Pamana ng Pilipino Award

Abad, Pacita
Abella, Manolo I.
Aguirre, Bayani S.
Alcantra, Anacleto R.
Antonio, Camilo C.
Aquino, Belinda A.
Aranda, Jacob V., M.D.
Armit, Amelita Aranas
Balcos, Ophelia G.
Banatao, Diosdado P.
Bebars, Evelyn Panganiban, M.D.
Bobis, Merlinda
Camara, Jorge G., M.D.
Carlota, Lupo T., M.D.
Castrence, Pura Santillan
Castro, Salvador P.
Cayetano, Benjamin J.
Chai, Arlene Joan
Chen, Anita B.
Ciani, Lina L.
Cielo, Angel B., M.D.
Clemente, Lilia Calderon
Cordero, Paciente Jr. A.
Cordova, Frederic and Dorothy
De Asis – Benitez, Joanne
De Guzman, Rodolfo A., M.D.
Del Rosario, Remedios K.

Gallery of Presidential Awardees

Pamana ng Pilipino Award

Dela Cruz, Cesar
Diaz, Jose Duddley
Fitzsimmons, Edith Dizon
Flores, Eddie Jr.
Garcia, Jorge M., M.D.
Garcia, Manuel M.
Garcia, Renato B., MBE
Goh, Ma. Cynthia J.
Guingona, Michael Patrick L.
Hagedorn, Jessica
Haley, Ma. Luisa Mabilangan
Ho, Anita Magsaysay
Igarta, Venancio C.
Kelly, Angelita Castro
Layosa, Erlinda R.
Lewis, Loida Nicolas
Llamas, Antonio Garcia (+)
Mandac, Evelyn L.
Maulana, Nasser B.
Medalla, David C.
Menez, Ernani G.
Moguel, Milagros K.
Natividad, Irene
Natori, Josie C.
Pagtakhan, Rey D., M.D.
Palis, Rosendo K.
Pangilinan, Manuel V.
Recana, Mel Red
Rodriguez, Manuel Sr. A.
Sagun, Teresita B.
Salih, Sharifa Zeannat Alih
Santos, Emmanuel T.
Soriano, Edward
Sunico, Raul M.
Tabalba, Camilo M.
Tabuena, Romeo V.
Veloria, Velma R.
Zwaenepoel, Rev. Paul

Special Citation

Filipinas Magazine

Directory of 2004 Awardees

LINKAPIL Awardees

Sariel G.G. Ablaza, M.D.	801 Albury Ct., Moorestown, NJ 08057 U.S.A.	TN: 856-231-1446 FN: 856-231-1246	AASQUARED@COM CAST.NET
Guillermo B. de Venecia, M.D.	2194 Heywood Cir., Oregon, WI 53575 U.S.A. Free Rural Eye Clinics Bolasi, San Fabian, Pangasinan	TN: 608-274-5769 075-523-6876 075-523-3699 FN: 608-274-5769	gdevenec@wisc.edu
Filipino Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii, Inc.	c/o Vergel N. Adonis President 905 Umi St., Rm. 306, Honolulu, HI 96819 U.S.A.	TN: 808-371-6033 FN: 808-847-6089	fcch@aloha.net, ADONISV001@HAWAII. RR.COM
Benjamin A. Iletto, M.D.	9 Westchester Ave., Jericho, NY 11753 U.S.A. 70-35, 113th St., Forest Hills, NY 11375 U.S.A.	TN: 516-433-2338 718-990-4165 FN: 516-433-2338 718-793-6919	benileto@aol.com
International Network of Filipinos Overseas	c/o Dr. Alex Cueto President 5411N 5th St., 2/F Philadelphia, PA 19120 U.S.A.	TN: 267-243-3952 FN: 215-676-5903	pidlaoan@aol.com
Arsenio R. Martin, M.D.	314 Yorkshire Lane, Port Neches, TX 77651 U.S.A. 2001 9th Avenue, Suite 102, Port Arthur, TX 77642 U.S.A.	TN: 409-724-1550 409-985-3207 FN: 409-985-5233	ArsMartin@aol.com
Mari Bernabe Nihei	1-22-1102 Higashi Wing, Nishi-Waseda-1, Shinjuku, Tokyo, Japan	TN: 3-3205-4863 FN: 3-3205-4861	marimayang@aol.com

Directory of 2004 Awardees

LINKAPIL Awardees

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University of the Philippines Medical Alumni Society in America	c/o Dr. Nerita E. Ulep President 123 Hampshire Dr., Deptford, NJ 08096, U.S.A.	TN: 856-228-9324 FN: 856-228-9324	pachoramos1@aol.com, Nulep@aol.com
Visayas-Mindanao Cultural Association e.V.	c/o Teresita D. Golez President Berlinerstr. 3, 40880 Ratingen, Germany	TN: 02102-46828 FN: 02102-490367	VMCAeV@AOL.COM

Banaag Awardees

Imelda Vollenweider- Berdos	Zilacherstrasse 21, 8424 Rorbas, Switzerland	TN: 4101-865-077 4176-457-5306	
Wilfrido J. Buhain, M.D.	4170 Elizabeth Lane Annandale, VA 22003 U.S.A.	TN: 703-978-2709 FN: 703-978-1591	LOT197@aol.com
Roland C. Casamina	2273 Hikino St., Honolulu, HI 96821 U.S.A. 1810 N. King St., Honolulu, HI 96819 U.S.A.	TN: 808-377-5586 808-847-8493 FN: 808-847-8747	roland@hofinc.net
Centre for Filipinos	c/o Maria Gonzales Coordinator Hammersmith Office, St. Albans Church Community Centre, 2 Magravine Rd., London W6 8HJ England	TN: 44-020-7381-2600 FN: 44-020-7381-2484	cf@clara.net

Directory of 2004 Awardees

Banaag Awardees

Virgilio G. Cuizon	Von Bodenhausen Weg 27, 45133, Essen, Germany	TN: 49-20144-3418 FN: 49-20144-3521	akoito@web.de
Fiesta Filipina Dance Troupe of Canada	c/o Estrellita M. Aguinaldo President 829 Queens Bridge Dr., Mississauga, Ontario L5C 3K3 Canada	TN: 905-566-5734 FN: 905-566-7819	fiestafilipinadt@yahoo.ca
Filipino Cultural Club	c/o Ma. Socorro P. Al- Ameri Executive Director P.O. Box 17599, Khaldiya, Kuwait 72456	TN: 965-532-5924 FN: 965-483-4670	maamri@safat.kisr.edu. kw
Charlotte Gödicke	Achtern Knick 5, 27711 Osterholz-Scharmbeck, Germany	TN: 49-4791-7728	Charlotte.Goedicke@t- online.de
Home-Reach Foundation, Inc.	c/o Dr. Teofilo Recitas Chairman 24 Birchdale Lane Port, Washington, NY 11050 U.S.A.	TN: 516-627-3173 FN: 516-365-2960	pepe@homereach.org
Hyehwadong Filipino Catholic Community	c/o Rev. Fr. Glenn Giovanni B. Jaron President 1-115 Songbuk-gu, Songbukdong, Seoul, South Korea 136-020	TN: 82-765-0870 FN: 82-765-0871	jaron@chollian.net
Kinderhilfe Philippinen	c/o Juergen S. Schneidt President & Founder Children's Village, 6602 Padre Burgos, Southern Leyte	TN: 053-573-0088	childrensvillage@gmx.net

Directory of 2004 Awardees

Banaag Awardees

Amor Ilao-McGuinness	203 Old Wood Lane, Boonton, NJ 07005 U.S.A. South Terrace Manor, P.O. Box 404, Boonton, NJ 07005 U.S.A.	TN: 973-335-7660 973-334-8586 FN: 973-335-7660	AMORILAO@optonline. net
Alicia Natividad, LI.B.	56 Range Road, Ottawa, Ontario K1N 8J5 Canada 350 Sparks St., Suite 1210, Ottawa, Ontario K1R 7S8 Canada	TN: 613-565-3871 613-566-7045 FN: 613-566-7086	asn@anatividad.ca
Evelyn D.A. Natividad, Ph.D.	2448 W. Thomas, Chicago, IL 60622 U.S.A. 6110 North Fairfield Ave., Chicago, IL 60659 U.S.A.	TN: 773-342-0906 773-534-2025 FN: 773-342-9160 773-534-2069	pizzamuna@earthlink.net
Emma B. Nemivant	827 South Loomis St., Chicago, Cook, IL 60607 U.S.A.	TN: 312-829-8668 FN: 708-488-1102	Emolyn@aol.com
Panday Tinig Choral Ensemble	c/o Paul R. Imperial Chairman 5355 Cumberland Ave., Montreal, Quebec H4V 2P1 Canada	TN: 514-485-7281 FN: 514-485-3995	panday@pandaytinig.ca
Philippine Australian Sports and Culture, Inc.	c/o Manny B. Castillo President 1 Yala Rd., Bangor, New South Wales, Australia	TN: 02-9541-0181 FN: 02-9541-0181	pasc_man@bigpond.net. au
Philippine Cultural Foundation of Hawaii	c/o Magdalena P. Domingo President 2015 North King St., Honolulu, HI 96819 U.S.A.	TN: 808-841-2841 FN: 808-841-2844	cvillafuerte@cb-hi.net

Directory of 2004 Awardees

Banaag Awardees

Virgilio D.R. Pilapil, M.D.	8 Boulder Point Dr., Springfield, IL 62707- 7902 U.S.A. P.O. Box 1882, Springfield, IL 62705 U.S.A.	TN: 217-782-8351 217-787-8204 FN: 217-787-8204	gilpini46@yahoo.com
Lourdes A. Salazar	16E Cliffview Mansions, 25 Conduit Rd., Midlevels, Hongkong SAR Bayanihan Center, 55 Victoria Rd., Kennedy Town, Hongkong SAR	TN: 852-252-43566 852-281-78928 FN: 852-251-77917	
Search to Involve Pilipino Americans	c/o Joel F. Jacinto Executive Director 3200 West Temple St., Los Angeles, CA 90026 U.S.A.	TN: 213-382-1819 FN: 213-382-7445	pcorpus@esipa.org
Jean Paul Verstraeten	Vijversstraat 46, 3500 Hasselt, Belgium	TN: 32-1187-4869 32-49941-4477 FN: 32-1187-4869	jpconsultancy@skynet.be

Pamana ng Pilipino Awardees

Felipe P. Abinsay, Jr.	1260 Richard Lane, B- 516 Honolulu, HI 96819 U.S.A. Rm. 402 Hawaii State Capitol, Honolulu, HI 96813 U.S.A.	TN: 808-842-4543 808-586-6010 FN: 808-586-6011	repabinsay@capitol. hawaii.gov
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Pamana ng Pilipino Awardees

Rodolfo S. Bernardo, Ed.S.	203 Whispering Wind Ct., Englewood, OH 45322 U.S.A.	TN: 937-836-7396 FN: 937-836-7396	rbernardo@mark1web. com
Wilfredo R. Buhay	3950 N. Lake Shore Drive, 418C, Chicago, IL, Cook County U.S.A.	TN: 773-348-1816 FN: 773-955-3635	ealamar@aol.com, williredbuhay@aol.com
Eliodoro C. Cadawas	4115 N. Lowell Ave., Chicago, IL 60641 U.S.A.	TN: 773-427-8503 773-575-4539	wings955@aol.com
Alejandro A. Esclamado	10117 French Pine Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89129 U.S.A.	TN: 1-702562-3737 FN: 1-702562-3572	alexburgos37@cox.net
Jovelle Laoag- Fernandez, M.D.	502 Kusunoki Heights, 5-4-5 Kusunoki-cho, Chuo-ku, Kobe, Japan Dept. of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Kobe University Hospital, 7-5-1 Kusunoki-cho, Chuo-ku, Kobe, Japan	TN: 81-78371-5506 81-78382-6005 FN: 81-78371-5506 81-78382-6019	docjovelle@yahoo.com
Dante C. Fuentes	2004 Felicidad St., Tobias Former Dao, Antique 8/F Plaza Permata, Jl. MH Thamrin 57, Jakarta, Indonesia	TN: 0855-788-6778 3903-204 to 05 FN: 3903-209	pttpi@cbn.net.id
Lenore R.S. Lim	10 Waterside Plaza, 31F New York, NY 10010 U.S.A. U.N. International School, 25-50 FDR Dr., New York, NY 10010 U.S.A.	TN: 212-679-9061 646-321-0505 FN: 212-251-0505	LenorersLim@aol.com

Directory of 2004 Awardees

Pamana ng Pilipino Awardees

Rodolfo C. Quiambao	56-47, 211th St., Bayside, NY 11364 U.S.A. 74-16 Woodside Ave., Elmhurst, NY 11373 U.S.A.	TN: 718-672-9652 718-898-7500 FN: 718-898-8064	rquiambao@erols.com
Maj. Gen. Antonio M. Taguba	HQDA 200, The Pentagon, WA, D.C. U.S.A.	TN: 703-695-4674	Antonio.Taguba@kuwait. army.mil
Constancia S. Uy, M.D.	10 Oak Lane, Pinebrook, NJ 07058 U.S.A. UMDNJ, 185 South Orange Ave., Newark, NJ 07013 U.S.A.	TN: 973-575-7431 973-972-0828 FN: 973-972-7921	someraco@umdnj.edu
Gundelina A. Velazco, Ph.D.	Flat 9, No. 4 Adair Rd., London W10 5ED United Kingdom SGM International, Radstock House, 3 Eccleston St., London SW1W 9LZ United Kingdom	TN: 44-798-5128-815 FN: 44-207-730-0240	gav@sgm.org
Arturo T. Viola	11 The Promenade, P.O. Box 273, Niagara- On-The-Lake, Ontario L0S 1J0 Canada 1593 Four Mile Creek, P.O. Box 100, Virgil, Ontario L0S 1T0 Canada	TN: 905-468-2772 FN: 905-468-3266 905-468-2959	

The Commission on Filipinos Overseas

Mission

To promote the interests of overseas Filipinos and harness their full potentials as partners in Philippine national development

Clientele

The CFO has a distinct clientele who are not covered by programs of other agencies of the Philippine government. They are the following:

- Filipino emigrants and permanent residents abroad;
- Filipino nationals who leave the country as fiancées/spouses of foreign nationals;
- Descendants of Filipinos overseas as defined in B.P. 79;
- Filipino youth overseas; and
- Exchange Visitor Program participants.

CFO Programme Framework

I. Migrant Social & Economic Integration

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

A. Pre-Departure Registration

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

B. Pre-Departure Orientation Seminars

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

C. Counseling Services

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

D. Peer Counseling

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

E. Clientele Feedback Mechanism

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

F. Public Information and Assistance

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

G. Post-Arrival Orientation and Assistance

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

II. Filipino Education & Heritage

This programme promotes educational services as well as the continued exposure of younger generations of overseas Filipinos to Philippine history, culture, language and institutions.

A. Lakbay-Aral and Lakbayan sa Pilipinas

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

B. Philippine Schools Overseas

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

C. Filipino Language for Filipino Migrants

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

D. Philippine Studies Programme

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

E. Philippine Resource and Information Centers

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

III. Filipino Unity & National Development

This programme seeks to foster better unity of purpose within and among the various overseas Filipino organizations for the promotion of their own interests and well-being within a more formidable all-Filipino community.

A. Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino (LINKAPIL) Program

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

B. Observance of Month of Overseas Filipinos

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

C. Awards and Recognition for Overseas Filipinos

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

D. Exchange Visitor Program (EVP)

Coordinating policy and implementation of the Philippine participation in the U.S. EVP and ensuring that the benefits derived from the EVP accrue to the best interest of the country

E. Publications

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

IV. Policy Development & Data Banking

This programme seeks to provide a continuing study and review of the economic, social, legal and administrative environment which have a bearing on the status of overseas Filipinos.

A. Policy Review and Formulation

Undertaking multi-disciplinary research, providing policy advice and formulation of policy initiatives and measures pertaining to the political, economic and social rights and obligations of overseas Filipinos. Among these are absentee voting practices, dual citizenship, diaspora from development, and recognition and accreditation of Philippine academic degrees and professional licenses in other countries

B. Overseas Programme Evaluation and Formulation

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

C. Data Banking and Computerization Programme

Developing and maintaining a data banking system on Filipino emigration to support policy recommendation and formulation initiatives. Among these are its project on economic and demographic mapping of overseas Filipinos

D. Crisis Management and Security Manual

Developing a comprehensive security manual and other procedures to provide management and implementation of security measures to protect and safeguard Filipino nationals overseas during calamity and crisis situations

Organizational Set-up

The CFO is headed by a Chairman with cabinet rank, and representatives of the following departments:

- Department of Foreign Affairs
- Department of Trade and Industry
- Department of Labor and Employment
- Department of Education
- Department of Justice
- Department of Tourism
- Office of the Press Secretary
- CFO Executive Director

The CFO is supported by a Secretariat headed by an Executive Director.

The CFO consists of five (5) offices: Migrant Integration and Education Office (MIEO), Projects Management Office (PMO) Planning, Research and Policy Office (PRPO), Management Information System Office (MISO), and Administrative and Finance Office (AFO).



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