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*The Year 2012
Presidential Awards
for Filipino Individuals
and Organizations Overseas*

The cover page design is from the Baybayin Alphabet (Alibata), an ancient Philippine script which means Gawad ng Pangulo. (Reference: National Historical Commission of the Philippines)

The facts and accounts of circumstances that are contained in the profiles of the Year 2012 Presidential Awards were taken from the materials submitted to the Awards Secretariat for consideration of the nominations.

consideration of the nominations



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Dr. Farooq Ahmad
1970

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Office of the President of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON FILIPINOS OVERSEAS

Message



The Philippines may be just a small spot in the world's map but it is acknowledged internationally as one of the biggest reservoir of quality human resources. The almost 10 million Filipinos working and living in more than 200 countries continue to be the nation's pride and joy. Their annual remittances, which reached US\$20 billion in 2011, keep the local economy going and could become a powerful source of funds for savings, investment, business and development. Their philanthropic deeds add to our national efforts to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDG). Their presence overseas makes them our honorary ambassadors of goodwill.

During the biennial Presidential Awards, we also applaud the assistance and the support of our foreign friends who benevolently and compassionately share their resources and time so that our people can face their problems and challenges, here and abroad, effectively and with dignity,

In the observance of the Month of Overseas Filipinos this December 2012, we once again pay tribute to these distinguished and exemplary women, men and organizations who have brought honor to our country through their advocacies in promoting overseas Filipinos' rights and welfare, outstanding humanitarian services and exceptional professional achievements.

To all of you, we salute your dedication and love for your fellow Filipinos and the Philippines. Your achievement and hard work are indelibly etched in the hearts and minds of our people whose lives you have changed for the better. You embody the quote: "The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit." You will remain the source of inspiration and a model of emulation especially for the 2nd and 3rd generation of overseas Filipinos.

Under the leadership of President Aquino, let us work together to transform the costs of migration into the benefits of development for all and for the Motherland we love.

Balibayanihan para sa Inang Bayan! Mabuhay at Maligayang Pasko!

Imelda M. Nicolas
IMELDA M. NICOLAS
Secretary

Assignment

Q.1. Write a short note on the following:
1. The English language is a member of the Indo-European family.
2. The English language is a member of the Germanic sub-family.
3. The English language is a member of the West Germanic sub-family.
4. The English language is a member of the Anglo-Saxon sub-family.
5. The English language is a member of the Old English sub-family.



Signature

Date

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Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino

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

Awardees

Aguman Kapampangan UK

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Manuel A. Cacdac

United States of America

Christopher M. Guerrero

United States of America

Aguman Kapampangan UK

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND



The beginning of *Aguman Kapampangan UK* in 1993 is a classic case of ethnic preservation in the face of acculturation challenges. *Aguman* is the term for “fellowship” or “association” in the vernacular language of residents of Pampanga province in central Luzon.

What has distinguished *Aguman Kapampangan UK* is its evolution from a simply fun social group holding pageants, annual dinners and dance parties into an organization with huge fund-raising mechanism that mobilizes resources to support projects in their home province of Pampanga. A potent binding force was the catastrophic eruption of Mt. Pinatubo in the 1990s which galvanized its membership into sourcing assistance for their distressed kababayan and neighboring communities.

Since *Kapampangans* are known for their celebratory modes as demonstrated in their fiestas and culinary specialties, the *Aguman Kapampangan UK* has

used their social events to strengthen ties with other Filipino associations while showcasing Philippine cultural traditions to enliven their sometimes somber lives in foggy London. They have gone a step further, however, by using such occasions to rekindle sentimental attachments and concern for the health and education needs of the province.

Proceeds from the merry-making have supported Angeles City’s *Bahay Pag-Ibig*— a home for the poor, the sick and the abandoned elders of Pampanga. Funds raised from the annual pageants of Mrs. Philippines-UK, Mrs. Philippines-Charity and *Mrs. Aguman Kapampangan* have supported health missions conducted in the province.

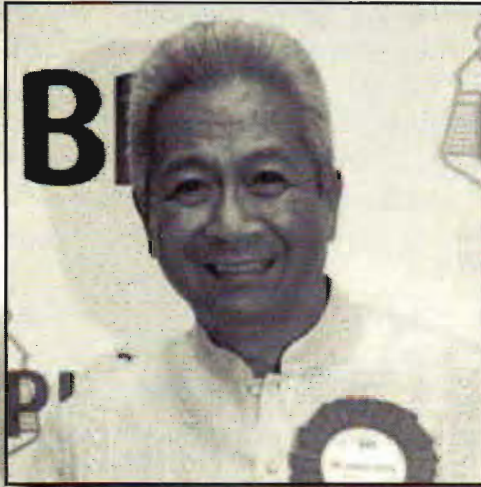
The organization also established a day-care center and multi-purpose hall in *Sitio Target, Sapang Bato*, for the children of the indigenous Aeta tribal group, and covered the annual tuition fees and school expenses of twelve high school Aeta students. Various barangays have also been beneficiaries of water pump installations in their localities.

Indeed, the creative fusion of nostalgia for one’s culture and altruism concretized in social entrepreneurship has made *Aguman Kapampangan UK* worthy of emulation by the Filipino diaspora community.

In conferring the Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino Award to the Aguman Kapampangan UK, the President recognizes its successful effort in building a community spirit among UK-based overseas Filipinos who have pooled their resources to improve the lives of beneficiaries in the home country.

Manuel A. Cacdac

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



Dr. Manuel A. Cacdac is a multi-awarded alumnus of the School of Medicine of the University of Sto. Tomas who has managed to maintain his strong links to the motherland despite his successful practice in the United States.

He is one of the Team Leaders of the Society of Philippine Surgeons in America (SPSA) which has been organizing, fund-raising, procuring supplies and recruiting volunteers for annual and semi-annual surgical missions to the Philippines since 1965. The SPSA have conducted more than 500 surgical operations per mission covering cases such as cataracts, plastic surgery, hernia, myoma, ganglion cysts, hydrocele and fibroid uterus.

He has served as Chief of Surgery and Chief of Staff at The Terre Haute Regional Hospital. He was a member of the Faculty of Medicine, Indiana State University serving as Associate Clinical Professor from the mid 70's to the mid 90's. He is also a fellow of the International College of Surgeons.

In conferring the Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino Award to Manuel A. Cacdac, the President recognizes the significance of his professional contributions that have resulted in an increased awareness of hydrocephalus and thereby improving the lives of afflicted Filipinos.

He served as Past President of several medical associations such as the Philippine Medical Association of New York, and New Jersey, Indiana Philippine Medical Association, and the Society of Philippine Neurosurgeons in America. He is a member of the Indiana Neurosurgical Society and the Congress of Neurological Surgeons.

Given the many years he specialized in neurological surgery, Dr. Cacdac has focused his attention on hydrocephalus cases in impoverished communities worldwide. He founded the Hydrocephalus Foundation of the Philippines to address the needs of the unfortunate children afflicted with hydrocephalus and cranio-facial defects.

In 2007, with the support of the *Kapwa Ko, Mahal Ko Foundation* and the *SM Foundation*, he partnered with local neuro-surgeons and personally coordinated a mission that treated more than 200 children afflicted with hydrocephalus.

Since the future of the afflicted young patients depends on early surgery, Dr. Cacdac sources donations to enable him to return to the Philippines at least twice a year and conduct the operations. He has been training local neuro-surgeons and residents to sustain these initiatives so that they can put in the "shunts" that need to be implanted in the children to stem the effects of hydrocephalus. The ambitious end-in-view is not only to raise local awareness on hydrocephalus but also to establish a self-sustaining world-class hydrocephalus center in the Philippines.

Christopher M. Guerrero

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



What moves a medical professional to get on board the long 15-hour flight from O'Hare Airport in Chicago to the Ninoy Aquino International Airport in Manila, and then drive through the maze of city traffic and stay on the road for another eight hours to reach Nueva Vizcaya every year? The answer can be found in Dr. Christopher M. Guerrero's story as a medical missionary and a favorite son of Bayombong. He is someone who keeps doing good and doing well because he keeps in mind an excerpt from a message encrypted on the Berlin Wall: "*Many small people, who in many small places, do many small things, can alter the face of the world.*"

Ever since he started working at the University of Illinois in Chicago in 1996, his concern for the sick and the impoverished in foreign countries was evident. He eventually put together the Global Medical Foundation, a charitable organization of health care professionals dedicated to serving the medical needs of the underprivileged worldwide.

In conferring the Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino Award to Christopher M. Guerrero, the President recognizes his sustained interest in mobilizing support to address the health concerns of Nueva Vizcaya communities in dire need of medical assistance.

For almost two decades, he has led a group of doctors, nurses and dentists from across the United States who link up annually with local counterparts in the province of Nueva Vizcaya to conduct medical missions in remote areas of the province. To date, more than 25,000 patients have received free medical examinations, minor surgeries, dental services, and benefitted from donations of medicines and other medical supplies. He also serves as a faculty mentor of the nursing students of St. Mary's University in Bayombong, where he conducts lectures and workshops on health care and medical trends abroad.

Dr. Guerrero's exemplary works have not gone unnoticed and unappreciated. Several local governments in the Philippines have recognized Dr. Guerrero's professional and personal commitment and generosity which have benefited his less privileged *kababayan*. In cooperation with various local governments, he conducted a medical mission in 1992, which thereafter became a much-awaited annual philanthropic event in Nueva Vizcaya.

In 2008, he received the prestigious American Medical Association (AMA) Leadership Award. The AMA is acknowledged as the largest aggregation of medical specialists in the United States that honors practitioners world-wide because of their strong non-clinical leadership skills in advocacy work, community service, public health outreach and professional education. As the first Asian-American recipient of a much-coveted recognition, he has brought honor to fellow Filipino health professionals.

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Kaanib ng Bayan

The Kaanib ng Bayan Award is conferred on foreign individuals or organizations for their exceptional or significant contribution to Philippine reconstruction, progress and development, or have significantly benefited a sector or community in the Philippines, or advanced the cause of overseas Filipino communities.

Awardees

Gonen Haba

The State of Israel

Christian Loehlein

Federal Republic of Germany

مجلس
العلماء
بمصر
الجمهورية
العربية
السورية

Gonen Haba

THE STATE OF ISRAEL



Dubbed as the “Doctor Doolittle” of Filipinos in Israel, Dr. Gonen Haba’s spirit of volunteerism is well-known in the migrant community. He is a brother, friend, counselor, healer and hero all rolled in one person who is fondly referred to as “Dr. G.” Israel-based Filipinos attest to the impact that this gentle Israeli had on their lives.

On-call 24/7, Dr. Haba is the Philippine Embassy’s physician and attends to the needs of the Filipino community. Whether routinary or emergency in nature, he can be relied upon for pro bono consultations. When taking part in medical missions to the Philippines, he also acts as the in-flight doctor.

His penchant for multi-tasking and always in state of readiness is not unusual, accustomed as he is to their calls for help even in the wee hours of the morning and as a volunteer at a foreign worker’s clinic in Tel Aviv.

Socially, Dr. Haba is someone who “belongs.” As a deeply trusted friend of the Filipino community, he also attends to the psychological well-being of young boys and girls, of spouses under emotional stress, and of newly arrived migrants, including victims of violence in the hands of partners or employers. For six years, he ran the most widely read column – “Questions & Answers” – in the monthly Filipino newspaper called The Manila-Tel Aviv.

With his caring attitude, wealth of experience and extensive network, he responds to a wide range of day-to-day concerns from drug and alcohol addiction, to health and family life matters, and the whole gamut of migration issues.

Because of his involvement with the Filipinos in Israel, Dr. Haba is considered by Filipinos in Israel as one of their own. His extraordinary sense of altruism has opened opportunities that foster good working relationships between and among Israelis and Filipinos and has further contributed to the well-being of his ever widening circle of beneficiaries in both countries.

Anchor or life saver, Dr. Haba is someone the Filipino diaspora in Israel holds in great esteem for every good reason.

In conferring the Kaanib ng Bayan Award to Gonen Haba, the President recognizes his generosity and altruism that have contributed to the well-being of overseas Filipinos in Israel.

Christian Löhlein

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY



For the past sixteen years, thousands of smiling faces have bade Dr. Christian Löhlein a warm “good-bye” and have promised an even warmer “welcome” upon his return to the Philippines on his next medical mission. Such an honor is well-deserved since he heads a team from Interplast Germany (IG), an international humanitarian organization conducting reconstructive plastic surgery for the underprivileged in Third World countries especially in Southeast Asia. In the Philippines alone, free harelip and cleft palate operations have benefited children from Pangasinan and Palawan. To date, the Pangasinan Provincial Hospital has recorded 28 missions that completed 1,012 operations on 2,600 patients.

Dr. Löhlein’s special concern for the Philippines is rooted in an early experience as a medical clerk in a local hospital. Since 1994, he goes on annual visits for two medical missions that attend to the needs of the disabled people, especially those

who cannot eat or speak normally due to physical defects. Scheduled during the volunteer doctors’ vacation leave periods, a typical visit lasts for two weeks during which at least six surgeries per day are conducted. At the same time that he acts as liaison between the local government officials of two provinces and the medical practitioners, he leads the teams and doubles up as anesthesiologist in either one of them.

Given the high cost of such operations which range from PhP60,000 to PhP100,000, it is evidently beyond the reach of the average Filipino let alone those who live below the poverty line. Luckily, the medical practitioners have also included in their agenda the treatment of people suffering from leprosy or who were disfigured due to fire burns or mining accidents. Also fortunate to have received assistance from the IG medical practitioners are the residents of Dipolog City in Zamboanga del Norte, who now look forward to their inclusion in the group’s annual mission schedule.

With so much that is yet to be done and the still huge number of disabled Filipinos who can ill-afford reconstructive surgery, the Löhlein model warrants replication across the Philippine archipelago.

In conferring the Kaanib ng Bayan Award to Christian Löhlein, the President recognizes his significant work in reconstructive surgery that have enabled Filipino harelip and cleft palate beneficiaries to regain self-esteem and confidence in assuming their rightful place in the community.

Banaag

The Banaag Award is conferred on Filipino individuals or associations for their contributions in advancing the cause of or have benefited significantly overseas Filipino communities or sectors.

Awardees

Carlito E. Alpay
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Maria Imelda L. Argel
Commonwealth of Australia

Tomas P. Avendaño
Canada

Rafael S. Castaños
United States of America

Filipiniana Europa V.Z.W.
Kingdom of Belgium

**Filipino Community of Seattle,
Incorporated**
United States of America

Filipino Digerati Association
United Arab Emirates

Luzviminda S. Micabalo
United States of America

Alfonso S. Perez, Jr.
United States of America

Eric Michael B. Quema
United States of America

Robert N. Santos
United States of America

Ma. Luzviminda C. Tsai
Taiwan

Stichting Bayanihan
The Netherlands

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Carlito E. Alpay

KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA (KSA)



Engr. Carlito E. Alpay is a Sales Account Manager-Jubail Region of the John Crane Saudi Arabia Company, Ltd. who completed his Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering degree at the Mapúa Institute of Technology, Manila. Given his professional preparation and work experience, it comes as no surprise that he would want others who are “under board” to become eligible for positions that match their qualifications.

Since 1997 to-date, the Professional Regulatory Commission (PRC) has conducted a special board licensure for mechanical engineering graduates in the KSA, a feat which, in no small measure, can be attributed to his lobbying. This initiative paved the way for the offering of other licensure examinations in other professional disciplines such as Electrical, Civil and Electronics Engineering, Architecture, Accountancy, and Nursing. As KSA chapter president of the Philippine Society of Mechanical Engineers (PSME), Engr. Alpay organized free pre-board

reviews and refresher courses. As a result, the PSME-SA chapter was recognized as the outstanding PSME chapter for two consecutive years.

Being tapped to chair the All Filipino Community and Sports Commission (AFCSCOM), he has consistently assisted the Philippine Embassy in its support work for the Filipino community in Riyadh. In the aftermath of the 9-11 attacks in the United States, he was designated as Co-Overall OFW Coordinator of *OPLAN LIKAS* 2001 Contingency Plan for the Eastern Province of Saudi Arabia. He closely coordinated with the Filipino community on a daily basis to inform and reach out to those in the Eastern Province of Saudi Arabia. To update the directory of OFWs maintained by the Embassy, they conducted a census of Filipinos in the area. He was also one of the Task Force leaders for the re-activated contingency program labeled “*KILOS KALINGA 2003*” during the U.S.-Afghanistan Crisis.

As AFCSCOM chairman, Engr. Alpay continued the organization’s project called Embassy on-Wheels (EOW) which was started in 2000 to bring the consular and other services of the Philippine Embassy closer to the OFWs in the Eastern Province of KSA. With this facility, OFWs were spared the loss of time and resources which had to be expended in order to transact with the Riyadh post which is a good 400 kilometers away. With such dedication and commitment to community service and other worthy causes, he has become a multi-awarded and widely appreciated “servant-leader.”

In conferring the Banaag Award to Carlito E. Alpay, the President recognizes his significant contribution as an advocate of Filipino migrant workers in the field of mechanical engineering and his perseverance and successful lobbying for the conduct of licensure exams which have paved way for the extension of other professional licensure examinations in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Maria Imelda L. Argel

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA



When Atty. Maria Imelda L. Argel migrated to Australia with her 9 year-old son in 1998, she did not expect that despite her qualifications and competencies, she could not practice law in Sydney. Not to be easily daunted, she pursued other works and studies until she could gain Australian accreditation and eventually exercise her legal profession fully.

The roller-coaster ride of a migrant professional is quite typical, but what is not common is the ability to surmount the many challenges along the way. She started out as a para-legal notwithstanding 15 years of practicing law in the Philippines where she had long specialized on migration issues and commercial contracts. At her own instance, she submitted a position paper on "The Philippine Country Education Profile" to the Joint Standing Committee on Migration of the Australian Federal Parliament which led to the amendment of the existing Philippine Country Education Profile. This breakthrough that was achieved in 2006 was most significant since heretofore, only bachelor's degree holders of four Philippine universities were recognized as having completed its Australian equivalent. Graduates from other institutions were thus

constrained and could not migrate and find employment. Eventually, migrants who passed the Professional Regulation Commission Board licensure examinations in the Philippines were fully recognized as employable in Australia.

Being a prolific writer and media savvy, she has assisted fellow Filipinos by raising awareness and discussing vital migration issues as a regular contributor of the Philippine Community Herald since 1998, and an anchor on an SBS radio talk-back program. Her other articles have been published in the Philippine Times since 2010 and in *Ang Kalatas* since 2011. She is the author of "Time-Saving Immigration Practice Solutions on General Skilled Migration," which is published online to provide migration advice especially on visa matters as well as to upgrade migration office practices. Atty. Argel's networking ability has resulted in the forging of partnerships between Australian government educational institutions such as the New South Wales Technical and Further Education (NSW-TAFE) – South Western Sydney Institute resulting in the conduct of NSW-TAFE courses in the Philippines which has enabled Filipino students to get their local education accredited under the Australian system.

With a plethora of achievements and contributions that have benefited scores of Filipino migrants, Atty. Argel's exceptional drive and concern for others have gained wide approbation. In 2006, she received the first Filipino Australian Women's Achievement Award for Corporate Practice and Entrepreneurship in New South Wales. She also won recognition as the first Outstanding Alumni Achievement Awardee for Law and for Community Service from the University of the Philippines Alumni Association of Australia-New South Wales in 2008.

In conferring the Banaag Award on Imelda L. Argel, the President recognizes her contribution and commitment in advocating for the mutual recognition of skills and qualifications for Filipino migrants in Australia.

Tomas P. Avendaño

CANADA



Mr. Tomas P. Avendaño's life story seems to be a template of the average Filipino journey of hope for a better future. He was born in a remote barrio in Capiz where it was routinary for him to wake up very early to walk the 8 kilometers long dirt road that led to his school. In the 50s, he left for Manila to pursue his education and wound up passing a Spanish proficiency course at the now defunct Academia Cervantes that earned a certification as a Spanish language instructor. Egged on by ambition, he completed his bachelor's degree and majored in political science at the Araneta University and the University of the East. Starting off as an educator, in addition to his alma mater, he joined the faculties of the Colegio de San Juan de Letran, the San Beda College, and the St. Paul's College to teach Spanish, political science and public administration.

Forays into political theory and the ways of the bureaucracy as an academic led into praxis. He won a seat in the local government unit of Pasay City's Sangguniang Panglungsod or city council where he served three consecutive terms from 1967 to 1976. Disillusioned by the state of Philippine politics, he returned to full-time teaching. However, life began again in his 50s, when he decided to migrate to Canada and rebuild his future.

Looking for a suitable job that matched his credentials proved to be tough and he wound up multi-tasking as a crew member of a popular fast-food chain. Mopping floors was not beneath him and he stuck to the job for more than a decade. As he neared retirement age, he decided to open his own Filipino restaurant.

The teacher and public servant in him moved Mr. Avendaño to

continue reaching out to his fellow Filipinos in Canada. In 1990, he mobilized the community to undertake political, religious and cultural activities. He organized and coordinated the First Annual Filipino Festival held in Surrey, an event that has been noted as the largest function attended by both Filipinos and non-Filipinos in the greater Vancouver area. He formed a nucleus of leaders from all of Surrey to foster closer relationships among newly-arrived migrants and the more seasoned Filipino-Canadians.

In 1997, he spearheaded the celebration of All Saints Day, a very important Filipino religious event that belies a traditional respect for one's ancestors. In 1999, he became the Director of the Philippine Community Center Society, where to this day, his role as director has become a testimony to his integrity, honesty and openness that have earned for him the Outstanding Volunteer of the Year Award.

On top of all these accomplishments, his enduring influence and leadership are best manifested in the Filipino-Canadian Support Services Society (FCSSS) which was founded in 1996. Of utmost significance and relevance, the FCSSS caters to the needs of distressed immigrants, especially the new arrivals, and enlists live-in caregivers to assist the clientele. The FCSSS has since evolved into what is considered Mr. Avendaño's crowning achievement -- the Multicultural Helping House Society (MHHS) -- which was founded in 2001. For this, he received the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal in August 2002 for rallying the community behind the establishment of the MHHS center. Today, with the support of the federal, provincial and city governments, the MHHS owns a three-storey building with respite housing, training and counseling facilities, services covering settlement and employment assistance, and programs for the youth, senior citizens and families.

So appreciated was Mr. Avendaño by the community at-large, that no less than The Right Honorable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada, conferred on him the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal in February 2012. He now ranks among the elite circle of 60,000 Canadians who have "improved the well-being of many and made Canada a smarter, more caring nation." In particular, he was cited "for his commitment to helping new immigrants in Canada's West Coast to integrate into Canadian society."

It is not surprising that Mr. Avendaño has earned the sobriquet "Tatay Tom" (Father Tom) for his lifelong commitment to public service in the motherland and, most especially, to newly-arrived Filipino migrants and temporary workers in Canada where he led a second life anew.

In conferring the Banaag Award to Tomas P. Avendaño, the President recognizes his generosity and good-will in extending support to newly-arrived Filipino immigrants and temporary workers in Canada.

Rafael S. Castaños

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



The wherewithal that makes for success as a social reformer and lobbyist overseas is a matter of grounding and relevant experience gained in the motherland. Such is the explanation for the success of Mr. Rafael S. Castaños who advanced the cause of Filipino migrants in distant Alaska.

As a social reformer determined to place the government squarely on the side of the minority and the disadvantaged, Mr. Castaños is persevering, pragmatic, and unfailingly positive. Lobbying is his direct engagement with the State of Alaska. While big businesses and interest groups in the United States spend on professional lobby groups to advance their particular interests, Mr. Castaños lobby by his lonesome – all for the sake of advancing the welfare of Filipinos in frigid Alaska.

He was born in the Philippines in 1949 and worked his way through the University of the Philippines to earn his undergraduate and graduate degrees in history and public administration. Successive stints at the Asian Development Bank and the Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation led to a career in human resources development. He was the personnel manager of Makati Development Corporation, the construction arm of the Ayala group of companies from where he moved on to serve in government under the Office of the Vice President.

When he turned 50 years old in 1992, he migrated to the United States with his family and resettled in Alaska. Mr. Castaños took on odd jobs and experienced underemployment overseas. Involvement in community activities and with other

Filipinos in the Alaskan capital of Juneau rekindled his political know-how such that by 2001, he found himself lobbying for the establishment of an office that will cater to the needs of immigrants in Alaska. As a former corporate officer, he was quite familiar with the maze of documents and procedures to be followed by applicants for employment, and as migrants, the paperwork involved the approval of legal residency and related bureaucratic requirements.

His lobbying at the Alaska state legislature and with federal legislators eventually paid off with the passage of a law that established the first ever Office of Citizenship Assistance (OCA) in Juneau under the Office of the Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Labor. It proved to be an invaluable help that enabled migrants to access employment and placement information including referral services. The OCA serves as recourse for migrants who suffer job discrimination, illegal termination, sexual harassment and unsafe working conditions. It is the adviser of the Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Labor on matters relating to the expansion of employment opportunities for migrants and the improvement of federal and state services.

Moving further to mainstream overseas Filipinos, Mr. Castaños campaigned for public recognition resulting in the passage in 2001 of Resolution No. 2171 by the City and Borough of Juneau naming a “Manila Square” downtown in recognition of the many economic, civic and cultural contributions of Filipinos towards the development of the Juneau community. A public dedication of the Manila Square was held in 2003 following a State Proclamation by Governor Frank H. Murkowski that declared June 10-22 as “Filipino Community Recognition Days.” Annually, the Filipino community holds a dinner-program at the Manila Square.

Additions to the roster of Mr. Castaños’ initiatives are countless. Of particular importance was the proclamation of October as Filipino History Month, both at the State and the municipal government levels during which festivities revolve around Filipino food, fashion and cultural performances by the homegrown *Alitaptap* Philippine Folkloric Group. All these projects have redounded to the benefit of the overseas Filipino community and have earned kudos from the Alaska Legislature in 2003 and, most especially, from those who have been able to surmount the linguistic and cultural barriers that every new settler must confront.

In conferring the Banaag Award to Rafael S. Castaños, the President recognizes his untiring efforts to strengthen the ties that bind the Filipino communities throughout Alaska.

Filipiniana Europa V.Z.W.

KINGDOM OF BELGIUM



For the past fourteen years, Filipiniana–Europa V.Z.W., which is a multicultural non-profit organization, has significantly contributed towards fostering amicable cross-cultural relationships among the Belgians, Filipino migrants and other diaspora communities in this small north European country. To begin with, Belgium has a welcoming aura that is appreciated by young and old, regardless of their ethnic origin, religious affiliations and socio-economic status.

Filipiniana–Europa V.Z.W. is the first Filipino organization to be recognized by the city of Leuven for its activities and projects that promote cultural exchange and humanitarian activities. Their primary clientele are the Filipino migrants and their foreign spouses as well as their descendants, exchange students and distressed overseas workers.

Effective vehicles that have facilitated adjustment in a foreign land are the Filipinos values and traditions

In conferring the Banaag Award to the Filipiniana–Europa V.Z.W., the President recognizes their creative approach to migrant women empowerment in Belgium through educational and cultural activities that promote appreciation for Filipino heritage.

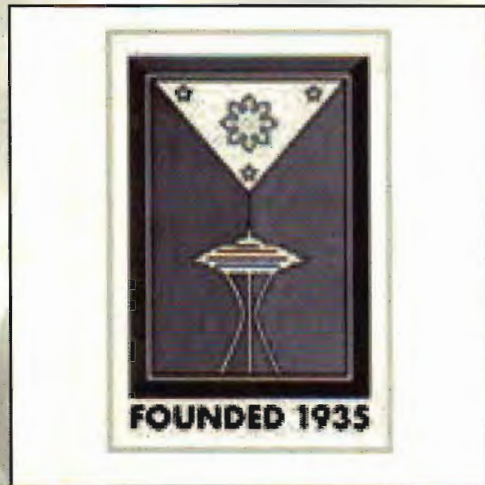
held dearly by the migrants. These are promoted in multifarious ways, beyond the usual dances and songs or crafts and cuisine to include advocacy programs that are designed to uplift the spirit and strengthen their identity through such discussions on the importance of family values and solidarity.

Successful community building has always been premised on altruism and service especially for new arrivals in need of psycho-social support to guide them through difficult adjustment periods or in the face of crises that come with unfamiliarity with an alien lifestyle.

Free counseling and seminars, language programs and materials, legal aid and mediation assistance are readily available. No matter how hospitable the host country, Filipiniana-Europa V.Z.W. has realized through its long years of existence that the helping hands of fellow Filipinos never fail to bring warmth in the face of challenges. Thus it has served with no fuss nor fanfare – well.

Filipino Community of Seattle

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



Founded in 1935, the Filipino Community of Seattle is a non-profit corporation existing in the State of Washington. Popularly referred to as the FCS, it owns the land and the building of the Filipino Community Center which was acquired in 1965 and, to this day, serves as the hub of social, cultural, political, and religious activities of resident Filipino-Americans.

FCS' mission is to promote Filipino-American ethnic pride, find unity in diversity, advocate for educational, socio-economic and political empowerment. It provides relevant and effective community programs and services which cover arts and culture activities, senior citizens welfare, parenting advocacies such as the Family Academy.

FCS strongly believes in the preservation of the Filipino family tradition of caring and involvement in children's education and upbringing to enhance their potential at the same time that talents are

finely honed. To be of help particularly to newly arrived migrant Filipino families during their period of adjustment to the American way of life, they arrange seminars on Filipino identity development, mentoring, after-school tutoring, college and career exploration, gang prevention, computer skills, leadership training, music and art workshops and concerts.

Besides gathering the youth for performances that showcase Filipino arts and culture, the FCS created a group on youth and education: the Filipino Domestic Violence Education Committee. It meets every month at the Filipino Community Center to discuss issues on education and organize supportive initiatives related to the prevention of human trafficking, domestic violence, physical assault and other types of abuses committed against or by parents, children, spouses, and partners.

One of the most popular programs of the FCS is the *Senior Lunch Program* and *Food Bank* which serve over 100 senior citizens in the community. Participants benefit from complementary programs such as senior fitness exercises, health check-ups and lectures, discounted haircuts, and computer classes. The program provides a venue for elderly Filipinos to reconnect and socialize with the rest of Filipino community in the area and share their stories of struggle and triumphs in America.

In conferring the Banaag Award to the Filipino Community of Seattle, the President recognizes the importance of their programs and services that have fostered unity among overseas Filipinos while providing much-needed support that have improved the lives of those in need of assistance.

Filipino Digerati Association

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES



The Filipino Digerati Association (FDA) is a relatively young non-profit organization composed mostly of information technology professionals working in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). It was founded in 2007 by nine OFWs who perceived the growing need for skills enhancement among their fellow Filipinos and thereby contribute to their employability. They started by banding together to provide free short-term training courses in computer literacy in six strategic locations in the UAE.

They adopted the term 'digerati' which is used to refer to the elites of cyberspace who are experts in the field of computer and information technology. But the FDA added a new dimension of its own to apply to trainers who are not only computer savvy and technologically well-versed but also use their expertise to educate and share the benefits of technology to empower overseas Filipinos working in the Emirates.

The FDA has succeeded in setting up autonomous chapters in six of the seven Emirates of the UAE. They offer five core courses annually, each consisting of

several individual learning modules to ensure overall proficiency and effectiveness on the part of the trainees. The flagship courses are the Microsoft (MS) software applications such as MS Word, Excel and PowerPoint. They also introduced hardware and networking courses to complement software learning and, for the ambitious, they have also added enhancement trainings in webpage design-HTML writing, flash animation, Photoshop, and AutoCAD.

FDA as an organization is rather ambitious in its own right. It has gone beyond the realm of the IT world and offers basic and advance photography as well as personality and professional development opportunities through offerings on communication and presentation skills, livelihood training in the fields of arts and crafts, balloon design, dress-making, and reflexology. Driven by the realization that the life of the overseas Filipino worker is a temporary phase, the FDA ensures the relevance of its courses to prepare all takers for eventual return and reintegration into the motherland.

Corollary to skills development, the FDA's outreach services have included providing airline tickets for the repatriation of the distressed, sundry goods and clothing for the shelters of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, seminars and workshops on labor issues, updates on government services, and sessions on women empowerment. Never forgotten are the celebrations of Philippine holidays and relief drives for calamity victims back home in conjunction with the diplomatic post and the rest of the UAE community of Filipinos.

The crowning glory for FDA is the total number of OFW Digerati alumni: 13,000-strong and found all over the United Arab Emirates.

In conferring the Banaag Award to the Filipino Digerati Association, the President recognizes their innovative use of technology to improve the lives of overseas Filipino workers in the United Arab Emirates and their collective efforts that also promote the welfare of Filipinos in the homeland.

Luzviminda S. Micabalo

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



The realization of one's professional ambitions does not satisfy a generous soul. This is evident in the good life of Ms. Luzviminda S. Micabalo who started off as a nursing graduate of the University of the Philippines. After passing the national examinations, she was chosen as an exchange student and headed for the New York University to pursue advanced graduate training in health care administration, oncological nursing and related fields.

One would expect that by the time she rose to become the highest ranking Filipino nurse practitioner at the Cabrini Medical Center even as early as the 1980s, she would rest on her laurels. Instead, Ms. Micabalo pushed harder and got promoted to positions of greater responsibility until she assumed the position of vice president for patient services prior to her retirement in 1997.

Career pursuits in the highly competitive New York environment did not deter her from extending valuable assistance to Filipino patients in need of medical care. She readily joined activities of the Philippine Consulate and helped promote culture and heritage appreciation. She assumed leadership roles and was a willing cooperater in disaster relief fund-raising activities, medical missions, sports competitions, and other projects that benefited scores of Filipinos.

Together with her husband, Ms. Micabalo donated a piece of land to the local government of Oroquieta City, Misamis Occidental, raised funds and supervised the construction of 28 *Gawad Kalinga* houses which are now occupied by 28 poor families in Barangay Bolibol in that city. The community is called 'Micabalo GK Village.' Unstoppable even after retirement, she established her own humanitarian institution, the Philippine American Charity Foundation, which has raised funds and assisted programs for the less fortunate in Las Vegas and the Philippines. After retirement, she persisted in assuming various tasks aimed at improving the lot of people in need of assistance.

Awards galore notwithstanding, she has maintained her self-effacing nature -- ever so low-key, always efficient and dependable, and with a special knack for getting things done in tandem with others. Such effective leadership and organizational skills have contributed in no small measure in bolstering the image of overseas Filipino organizations that do a lot of good for their adopted communities.

In conferring the Banaag Award to Luzviminda S. Micabalo, the President recognizes her exceptional leadership in the promotion of Philippine culture and heritage appreciation in the Filipino-American community of New York.

Alfonso S. Perez, Jr.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



There must be something special about someone who, for ten years, has held the presidency of the Filipino-American Arts Exposition (FAAE) Pistahan Parade and Festival. The FAAE itself is an enduring non-profit organization which was founded in 1994 and has established a tradition of being instrumental in developing a sense of pride in Philippine cultural heritage among members of the Fil-American community in the Bay Area. This is no mean feat in a city with multiple ethnic communities that likewise celebrate their own home countries' achievements with great pride.

The annual Pistahan Parade and Festival is held every 2nd weekend of August and boasts of being one of the largest Filipino cultural events in the United States. With characteristic pageantry and gaiety, the participants trek down Market Street and wind up at the Yerba Buen Gardens for the 2-day open air festivities.

Under Mr. Perez' leadership, *Pistahan* has expanded in scope, programming and participation. In 2011, it drew in an unprecedented involvement of Filipino-American community organizations in the parade plus a record-breaking public attendance at the weekend festival. The FAAE events have also evolved as an occasion for "branding" the multifarious projects of constituent organizations such as the Filipino Heritage Nights of various Bay Area sports teams -- the San Francisco Giants, the Oakland Raiders, Sacramento Kings, and Golden State Warriors. Filipino Heritage Nights also showcase cultural presentations and performances by Filipino artists.

In conferring the Banaag Award to Alfonso S. Perez, Jr., the President recognizes his laudable leadership initiatives that have resulted in a deeper appreciation of Philippine culture by members of the overseas Filipino community in San Francisco.

With excellent organizational skills and a massive dose of creativity combined with a strong sense of community and volunteerism, it comes as no surprise that he has become the "glue" that cohesively binds Fil-Ams in the Bay Area. Appointed as director by the organizing committee, he ably mounted the Filipino-American Book Festival (Filbookfest) held in San Francisco in 2011, the first of its kind in the United States in terms of scope and representation of Philippine literary tradition. As chair of the 2011 Bay Area Filipino American Community Independence Day Committee, he partnered with the Philippine Consulate General to hold a series of celebratory events which built up to another unprecedented community gala night at the City Hall.

The interesting mix of Mr. Perez' ideas has not only successfully mobilized the Fil-Am community but have become much sought after cultural happenings. In 2011, another first was the *Kulinarya* cooking competition which has now become a yearly event showcasing of Philippine cuisine, talented Fil-Am chefs and Filipino food products. On a grander scale, since 2005, he has been at the core of the Mayor's annual reception to commemorate the Filipino-American History Month held at the City Hall every October. His fund-raising efforts for victims of natural disasters such as the Philippines' typhoon Ondoy earned him a Philippine Presidential Citation and a Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs commendation. Mr. Perez' leadership by example and hyper-activism has served to inspire successor generations to reconnect and deepen their linkages to the motherland.

On the political end of the spectrum, he is a lead advocate of the proposed SAVE ACT that if passed by the U.S. Congress, would be a boon to the Philippine garments industry. And on gender issues, he supports the Filipina Women's Network in its fight to stop violence against women and girls in the United States. The larger Asia-Pacific community has likewise benefited from Mr. Perez' helping hands. He participates actively in the organizing committee of San Francisco's annual Asian Heritage Street Festival which highlights the contributions of the Asian ethnic groups to the City which takes pride in its multi-cultural character. All these accomplishments at all levels of the city's public affairs have brought Mr. Perez recognition as the Entertainment Commissioner of the City and County of San Francisco.

Eric Michael B. Quema

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



His birth as an American citizen with Filipino parentage and his subsequent upbringing as a Filipino child in the home country have given Lt. Eric Michael B. Quema a unique duality that has surfaced in his eventual career as a law enforcer. Not unlike other young Californians with a passion for law and order, he joined the San Francisco Police Department (SFPD) and eventually rose from the ranks as field supervisor, training officer and chief of police. Today, he is one of the high ranking officers of Filipino ancestry in the San Francisco police force.

It seemed inevitable that Lt. Quema would become a close friend and partner of the Philippine Consulate General in San Francisco for more than a decade. He rendered valuable assistance in his various capacities at the SFPD and was instrumental in the successful implementation of the Philippine Exchange Training (PET) project. In 1999, the PET idea was borne out of a felt need on the part of Lt. Quema and other members of the SFPD to conduct visits and establish contacts between the SFPD and their Philippine counterparts given the considerable number of overseas Filipinos in the Bay area. Thereafter, a good working relationship was forged between the SFPD and the Philippine National Police (PNP).

When Lt. Quema and four colleagues from the SFPD visited the Philippines in 2000, he took note of the forms of support and assistance they could extend to fellow law enforcers in his mother country. This realization led to his firm resolve: "To do whatever I could, whenever I could, to extend a hand to our brothers and sisters in arms."

Since then, he organized a team of four to sixteen members to conduct the yearly PET mission whose primary goal was to present, discuss and share best practices and current trends in police work with members of the PNP. Lt. Quema sought the cooperation of his superiors in the SFPD and the initiative was eventually known as the SFPD-PET program. But when resources were not forthcoming, he resorted to seeking donations and enlisting volunteers just to be able to fulfill his annual commitment to provide training equipment and supplies to select Philippine police stations. This initiative eventually expanded to include a comprehensive exchange training program with presentations on various law enforcement concerns that now involve business groups, neighborhood communities and schools. For years, members of the mission have not hesitated to use their personal funds and allocate time to join the program. However, the dedication, compassion and sense of duty of Lt. Quema have been the main inspirational force that has sustained PET activities and kept its volunteers continuously committed to their common cause.

In 2010, the Filipino Law Enforcement Officers Association (FALEO) eventually adopted the SFPD-PET Program under the auspices of its Training and Education Committee. The PET 2012 was successfully held in January with the participation of twelve law enforcers that included not only the SFPD but also other law enforcement units in the San Francisco area under the leadership of Lt. Quema. Of particular significance is his volunteer work and the support he extends to the Filipino community in the Bay Area such as the West Bay-Multi Service Center servicing the needs of Filipino seniors and youth living in the low income area of San Francisco.

In conferring the Banaag Award to Eric Michael B. Quema, the President recognizes his determination, proven leadership and unflinching commitment to give back to the community and his mother country which have significantly benefited Filipinos in the United States and in the Philippines, especially the Philippine National Police.

Robert N. Santos

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



Mr. Robert "Bob" N. Santos is dubbed as the unofficial mayor of Seattle's Chinatown - International District (ID) where he was born and raised. He spent most of his life as an activist in his old neighborhood – saving it, nurturing it, defending it against outside threats be they environmental, cultural or political in nature. Endearing to the Seattle's Filipino community and other Asian-American supporters, he is fondly referred to as their "Uncle Bob."

His leadership role did not come easy. Growing up at a time when untenable race-relations caused bitterness if not trouble. Schooling in the 1940's and 1950's were forgettable experiences when being discriminated against and looked down upon by teachers and classmates because of one's nationality were the norm. This honed Mr. Santos' sense of justice and fair play, and became his advocacy for all migrants and non-whites and not just for his fellow Filipinos.

He immersed himself in community activities, starting as a volunteer coach of a Knights of Columbus fitness program for neighborhood kids. He then joined the

Catholic Inter-racial Council and the civil rights campaign for open housing, equal job opportunities, and better educational access. He marched to ban the Class H liquor license for private clubs that excluded non-Americans. He formed part of the United Farm Workers grape and lettuce boycott picket lines at Safeway stores and became a regular at sit-ins and other demonstrations. While the latter were all non-violent, he exuded a boxer's pugnacity and was arrested six times.

In the early 1950s, the political establishment had bulldozed Interstate 5 through the heart of the city. While the neighborhoods in its path, including the International District, objected strongly to being split, their efforts were for naught. The freeway wiped out homes, churches and businesses. By 1965, many of the International District hotels were either closed or abandoned. More Asian-Americans were joining whites in the flight to the suburbs. Housing was substandard, crime was rampant, and there was either little or absent social infrastructure. His neighborhood was severely distressed.

Mr. Santos had become very powerful and influential spokesperson of the broader Asian-American community. They lobbied, begged for funds, pressured government, foundations and businesses to survive. He gained prominence thirty years ago when he helped secure affordable housing, child-care services and social outlets for the community's elderly. As the Executive Director of the International District Improvement Association, he led the grassroots movement of the Pan-Asia urban enclave. His efforts have benefited tens of thousands of other residents who have used these regional health and social services to this very day.

In conferring the Banaag Award to Robert "Bob" N. Santos, the President recognizes his untiring efforts as a Filipino-American civil rights leader and for his invaluable work in urban housing development that promoted the welfare of the immigrant community.

Ma. Luzviminda C. Tsai

TAIWAN



Ms. Luzviminda C. Tsai is more familiarly known as “Mommy Luz” in Filipino migrant circles in Taipei. A resident for almost four decades, she has seen the growth of the community since her arrival in the 1970s as an English and Mandarin kindergarten teacher of special children. Happily married to James Tsai, she has had the good fortune to be able to combine family responsibilities and volunteerism, an excellent balancing act that has earned her the respect of the Filipino community through the years.

Mommy Luz has had multiple roles as adviser, counselor and problem solver. She has supported educational and cultural activities, and responds to financial needs that even extend to mortgage issues that continue to hound the Filipino borrowers even in Taiwan. Conversant with the terms and conditions of employment of the recruiting firms, she can find ways and means to negotiate with the right contact person or government agency to relieve the migrants in distress, to the point of even helping the undocumented to become compliant with Taiwanese labor regulations.

Since Mrs. Tsai is now fluent in Mandarin and even more knowledgeable about Taiwanese culture, she serves as the mentor of the 500-600 strong Filipino residents in Tamsui. To keep herself updated and well-informed, she attends labor seminars and has proven to be very effective in arbitration or in negotiating issues between Filipino workers and factory representatives.

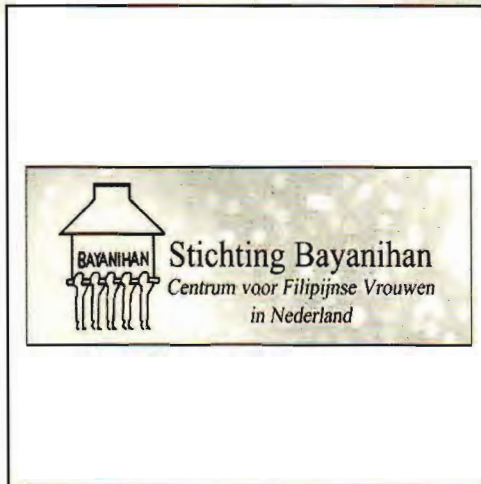
Long before emergency funds were provided by Taiwanese employers, Mommy Luz and her husband, ran raffles as a means to raise funds for the benefit of Filipinos in distress and in dire need of financial assistance. The proceeds from the raffle draws were used for the hospitalization and treatment of OFWs with health concerns such as cancer and other ailments; or plane tickets and emergency funds for the workers and their families who are denied assistance by their employers. To this day, the emergency fund raffle draws remain one of Mommy Luz’ and her family’s most important initiatives.

Notwithstanding her expatriate status, Mommy Luz is one to advocate for preserving and promoting Filipino culture and values in Taiwan. She introduced Filipino-Taiwanese youth to their heritage through music, particularly the *Rondalla*. Notwithstanding the difficulty of sourcing instruments or teachers, she has supported the Fatima children’s *Rondalla* as her own contribution to a vibrant socio-cultural life in a vastly different milieu. With her ubiquitous presence in the community, no Filipino holiday is complete without Mrs. Tsai at the forefront or the backstage lending 101% support.

In conferring the Banaag Award to Ma. Luzviminda C. Tsai, the President recognizes her exemplary commitment and dedication to projects that advance the interests and welfare of fellow Filipino migrants and contract workers in Taiwan.

Stichting Bayanihan

THE NETHERLANDS



The term “*Bayanihan*” has become a byword among Filipino diaspora communities as a meaningful binding force in the face of challenges confronting them in countries of residence or employment worldwide. Strength in numbers, cooperation, mutual assistance – these have become pragmatic interpretations of what was a traditional practice of helping out when a neighborhood house had to be carried on the shoulders of able-bodied men and transferred to another location. This powerful imagery has characterized *Stichting Bayanihan* as it grew to its present role as an organization of women helping women in The Netherlands and beyond.

Established in 1991, it takes pride in the responsibility it has assumed to reach out and assist Filipinas, documented or undocumented, who are confronted with problematic situations or are otherwise interested in self-development and enrichment opportunities that would make life more fulfilling in workplaces and homes away from the motherland. Realizing that a pleasant and friendly voice at the end of a phone line can bring much comfort, *Stichting Bayanihan's*

accessibility has been a boon to the lonely but especially to the distressed.

Bayanihan's networking and lobbying efforts have brought relief to the numerous young Filipinas who participate in the *au pair* program in The Netherlands. Whether the need is merely for information or directions, or for the more specialized advisories on migration and labor laws, residence permits, employment options, working conditions, health, and welfare and safety issues – there is always an available helping hand from the organization to hang on to or someone to ask for advice.

Since 1996, *Bayanihan* has taken note of the exploitative situation confronting Filipina *au pairs* and have lobbied to ensure that their unfair treatment reached the ears of the political establishment, including the media. In other instances, if the exploitation is on the domestic front involving spouse abuse or battering, *Bayanihan* has intervened in such cases to protect the Filipina victims of violence. Mediation work in situations that are complicated due to cultural and communication problems has become *de rigeur* and it is not unusual that even the Philippine Embassy authorities have sought its help to resolve such crises.

Likewise, it provided sage advice when the diplomatic post was contemplating to lift the ban on *au pair* deployment which was on hold for many years due to attendant problems of contract violation or illegal recruitment and trafficking. The diversity of concerns it has expertly addressed has made *Stichting Bayanihan* a necessary partner of the community such that it can only and must continue to honor its commitment – to do more good to improve the lives of many.

In conferring the Banaag Award to Stichting Bayanihan, the President recognizes their commendable support work that ensures the well-being of Filipino au pairs and marriage migrants in The Netherlands.

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Pamana ng Pilipino

The Pamana ng Pilipino Award is conferred on Filipinos overseas who, in exemplifying the talent and industry of the Filipino, have brought the country honor and recognition through excellence and distinction in the pursuit of their work or profession.

Awardees

Mary Jane Alvero-Al Mahdi
United Arab Emirates

Ruth Elynia S. Mabanglo
United States of America

Delia B. Rodriguez-Amaya
Federative Republic of Brazil

Jorge Z. Ortoll
United States of America

Samuel D. Bernal
The Czech Republic

Allan Pineda
United States of America

Antonio T. Fernando III
New Zealand

Erik C. Spoelstra
United States of America

Almira Astudillo-Gilles
United States of America

Francisca T. Velcek
United States of America

Diane Monique L. Lhuillier
United States of America

Mary Jane Alvero-Al Mahdi

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES



Engr. Mary Jane Alvero-Al Mahdi is a professional chemical engineer and the Chief Executive Officer of Geoscience Testing Laboratory, the biggest independent testing laboratory operating in the Middle East. It has four branches all over the United Arab Emirates (UAE) providing technical services in the field of construction, environment, microbiology, and other allied industries. She is a proven natural leader with exceptional performance record in the areas of technology and administration.

When she assumed the post of Technical Manager of Geoscience in 1998, the laboratory had eight employees. Through her effective leadership, she was able to grow the company to about 600 employees which include Filipino engineers and technicians. The organization's phenomenal growth over a 14-year period has earned it the distinction of being one of the best laboratories in the Middle East.

Engr. Alvero-Al Mahdi's sense of corporate social responsibility is noteworthy. Whenever the construction

of a mosque is being planned, the company provides free geo-technical testing and soil analysis services. Free meals and microbial contamination check-ups are also given to the laborers who pray in the mosque during Ramadan.

Not satisfied with her on-the-job successes, she recently completed her Master in Business Administration degree at the Philippine Christian University. She is currently en route to a Doctorate degree in Business Administration at the Lyceum University of the Philippines. Because of her qualifications and years of experience, the Emirates Authority for Standardization and Meteorology requested her to assist in auditing their different industries.

Despite her managerial and academic responsibilities, Engr. Alvero-Al Mahdi still finds time to help her kababayan in the UAE. She is a founder and trustee of the Filipino Digerati Association, a non-profit organization which provides short-term, computer-related, personal and professional courses with a livelihood component for overseas Filipino workers affected by recession in their host countries. She has also granted full scholarships in Chemical Engineering to deserving students who can ill afford to get a college education in the Philippines.

Based in the UAE since 1992, her exemplary record has caught the attention of other groups who have conferred numerous citations and awards such as the *Bagong Bayani* Award in 2010 and the Emirates' Business Women Award in 2008, a first for a Filipina in the UAE.

In conferring the Pamana ng Pilipino Award to Mary Jane Alvero-Al Mahdi, the President recognizes her professional excellence and leadership as CEO of the Geoscience Testing Laboratory, the biggest independent testing laboratory operating in the Middle East.

Delia B. Rodriguez - Amaya

FEDERATIVE REPUBLIC OF BRAZIL



Dr. Delia Rodriguez-Amaya, a highly-recognized food science and technology expert, has remained the laid-back East-West Center scholar that she was while studying at the University of Hawaii in Honolulu where she completed her graduate studies in the 60s. She is the author of more than 220 scientific publications for the past 40 years, and has presented more than 240 research papers in national and international conferences and symposia held in more than 25 countries.

Dr. Rodriguez-Amaya's research studies and presentations encompass the very important subject of carotenoids and other areas that impact on nutrition and public health. Her writings are frequently cited in international journals. She authored highly specialized books such as: *A Guide to Carotenoid Analysis in Foods*, *Carotenoids and Food Preservations: The Retention of Provitamin and Carotenoid in Prepared, Processed and Stored Foods*, and *Harvest Plus: Handbook for Carotenoid Analysis*. Her studies have shown that lessons learned from these bio-active phytochemicals can be applied to other food components taken to optimize the levels of health-promoting compounds in

foods.

From 1984-1986, Dr. Rodriguez-Amaya served as the Chairman of the Department of Food Science in the University of Campinas. In this position, she took measures to strengthen research and elevate the quality of classes offered by the department, an effort recognized by the University president and adopted as a model for other departments. From 1989-1991 and 1995-1997, she served as the General Coordinator of the Graduate Programs of the Faculty of Food Engineering. Under her stewardship, the university's Food Program has been consistently top-ranked by the Brazilian Ministry of Education. From 1986-1987 and 2003-2008, as head of the Council of the Brazilian Society of Food Science and Technology, she was involved in policy and decision-making processes designed to strengthen the country's agricultural and food services sector.

Since 2002, Dr. Rodriguez-Amaya has been a Scientific Adviser of the International Foundation for Science, a Swedish funding agency that supports the research initiatives of young scientists from developing countries, including the Philippines, to strengthen their capacity to use scientific research for the sustainable management of biological resources. Scientific advisers engage in a form of skills-transfer program since they evaluate research proposals and help the young scientists improve their research plans.

For twenty consecutive years, she held the Research Fellow Award, the highest recognition in the field, conferred by the Brazilian Council for Science and Technology. As a highly respected academic pillar of the University of Campinas in Brazil, Dr. Rodriguez-Amaya has not only proven herself but has brought Filipino scientific talent into the mainstream of South American society.

In conferring the Pamana ng Pilipino Award to Delia B. Rodriguez-Amaya, the President recognizes her outstanding contribution in the field of food science and technology through her sustained research initiatives on nutrition and public health.

Samuel D. Bernal

THE CZECH REPUBLIC



The field of regenerative medicine has caught the public eye given the recent breakthroughs in stem cell research which have the potential to save lives through cell replacement and tissue repair. These therapies address the treatment of genetic and life-threatening diseases such as cancer, Parkinson's disease, heart disease, diabetes, and cirrhosis of the liver. They result in the preservation and enhancement of organ functions leading to improvements in the quality of life of afflicted individuals. Spurred in recent years by rapid advances in molecular and cell biology, these have yielded new insights into the remarkable self-healing properties of human stem cells. Several patients who underwent stem cell therapy have been cured and claim to have been rejuvenated with stronger bodies and sharper memories.

In the Philippines, no better professional and personal validation of these findings can be given by none other than Dr. Samuel Bernal. A world-renowned Filipino-American cancer specialist and pioneer in Philippine stem cell research, Dr. Bernal is also a cancer survivor who cured himself by applying the results of his own research into regenerative medicine. Armed with first-hand experience, he has become a leading proponent of this innovative field of medicine which has helped thousands of patients worldwide. He now serves as The Medical City's consultant and adviser on Regenerative Medicine Program.

Dr. Bernal graduated with a degree in Chemistry from the University of Illinois in 1969 and subsequently earned his Ph.D. degree in Biochemical Pathology in 1974. He completed his medical studies and obtained his Doctor of Medicine degree from the University of Chicago in 1975. Thereafter, he went on for further training at the Harvard Medical School and the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital and Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston, Massachusetts. He has a Certificate in Internal Medicine issued by Harvard Medical School and became a Diplomate in the American Board of Internal Medicine. He is also a member of the American Association of Clinical Oncologists, the American Association of Cancer Researchers, and a recognized cancer investigator with the U.S. National Institutes of Health. He has published numerous scientific journal articles and several books including one on Lung Cancer Differentiation and Drug Resistance in Oncology, published in New York in 1992.

A man of multiple interests in the medical profession, Dr. Bernal is not only a medical practitioner and clinical researcher. He is also a professor of medicine at the University of California in Los Angeles and a former assistant professor at the Harvard Medical School. Tapping into his related expertise and experience as a chemist, a molecular biologist, and a Ph.D. and MBA degree holder, he has assumed diverse responsibilities as the founder and chairman of Strata Lucida and the LA-Boston Bio-research Fund; a director of various business organizations and foundations; and a lawyer specializing in Regulatory Law and Medical Malpractice.

Dr. Bernal's involvement in another related track was professionally capped by a Doctorate degree in Jurisprudence from the Loyola University Law School in Los Angeles in 1997. He specializes in Medical Malpractice and Regulatory Law, particularly Food and Drug Administration and Federal Trade Commission regulations. He also completed a program in Comparative and International Law in Trinity College of Cambridge University in England in 1996. He is a licensed attorney in the California State Courts and the US Federal Courts since 1997. In 2008, he won a malpractice case he filed against a group of doctors on behalf of a cancer-stricken Filipino-American based in San Francisco, California. He is currently in the senior lawyer program of the Center for International Business Law in Salzburg, Austria.

In conferring the Pamana ng Pilipino Award to Samuel D. Bernal, the President recognizes his diverse professional achievements and his outstanding contributions in the field of stem cell research in the Philippines.

Antonio T. Fernando III

NEW ZEALAND



Residents of New Zealand with sleep disorders or insomnia are appreciative of the services of sleep specialist, Dr. Antonio Fernando III. A psychiatrist with sub-specialty training in sleep medicine, Dr. Fernando graduated from the University of the Philippines in 1991. He then pursued his psychiatry training at Columbia University in New York and University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. He obtained his fellowship in sleep and psycho-pharmacology from the University of Pennsylvania in 1998.

Dr. Fernando migrated to New Zealand in 2001, where he established the first ever insomnia medicine clinic in New Zealand and Australia. Aside from his practice, he formed a network of Auckland researchers with the end-in-view of developing better diagnosis and treatments for sleep disorders. His research has focused on several themes: insomnia and sleep medicine, pharmacology and student well-being. His research group has produced ground-breaking findings that resulted in the development of a doctor and patient-friendly treatment protocol for insomnia. These have been published in 2008 and 2011 in the British Medical Journal, one of the world's leading medical journals. Together with Prof. Bruce Arroll, they developed a diagnostic instrument called the Auckland Sleep Questionnaire. He has educated hundreds

of doctors on the innovative treatment for insomnia without medication.

Being a psychiatrist and a former Benedictine monk at San Beda College in Manila, Dr. Fernando is fully aware of the importance of the mind and the spirit, and does not limit himself to bodily concerns. He has developed courses and workshops encapsulated in what he calls the "Science of Happiness" which aims to educate and upskill participants in stress management, the engendering of positive emotional states, and the adoption of millennia old practices of meditation and compassion. Since 2005, he has conducted workshops throughout New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore and the United States.

Dr. Fernando is on the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences of the University of Auckland. He pioneered in the use of technology for teaching psychiatry and developed a teaching software called Psychiatry Assessment and Teaching Software or PATS. It is being used by medical students in New Zealand, Australia, the Philippines, and the United States such as the Harvard and Johns Hopkins Universities. In 2012, he launched the website – <http://flexiblelearning.auckland.ac.nz/4Psych> – to reach out and educate medical students in psychiatry worldwide. In this website, viewers can observe psychiatric consultations and listen to doctors' discussions on various clinical cases. His remarkable initiatives have garnered numerous commendations from academic colleagues in different parts of the world.

Inspired by such encouraging feedback, he further developed the CALM website – www.calm.auckland.ac.nz – an innovative method of teaching stress management, relaxation techniques and the practice of meditation. With thousands of users in more than 130 countries, it has served as an invaluable resource for psychologists, counselors and teachers in the digital age. On the ground, Dr. Fernando is annually commended by his students for his engaging, humorous and personable teaching style. In 2008, he won the Butland Award for Sustained Teaching Excellence, the most prestigious faculty award.

In conferring the Pamana ng Pilipino Award to Antonio T. Fernando III, the President recognizes his innovative approach to the teaching of psychiatry and his noteworthy contributions in the field of sleep medicine which have gained a wide following beyond the confines of the traditional classroom.

Almira Astudillo-Gilles

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



Ms. Almira Astudillo-Gilles is currently a Chicago resident whose career pattern took a circuitous turn and reintroduced her to her first love – writing. Her graduate studies at the Michigan University and a teaching career at De Paul Graduate School of Business plus a corporate consultancy proved to be only the intermediate steps towards a more fulfilling free-lance engagement in the literary world.

Embedded in her subconscious at an early age of 6 is her passion for writing. Her output has ranged from fiction to poetry and from essays to plays, with an equally wide target audience of children, young adults and even seniors. As a published author, she has used her skills to promote Filipino values and traditions, a rare feat for migrant Filipinos in the field of literature.

Ms. Astudillo-Gilles released her first book for children, *Willie Wins* in 2001. It is a story of a boy and his coconut “*alkansiya*” (savings or ‘piggy’ bank) and was recognized as the Best Children’s Book of the Year and Young Hoosier Book Award Masterlist. It is her first published book and the only picture book written by a Filipino-American that was published by the leader of multicultural publishers, Lee Low Books, Inc. The book continues to be nominated as the “Book of the Month” in many schools in the United States

due to its relevant approach to vital children’s concerns such as surmounting peer pressure, strengthening self-esteem and a sense of identity; enhancing father and son relationships; the importance of sports engagements for the young; and other elements of Asian-American culture that need surfacing at an early age. *Willie Wins* has also been included in the reading lists of financial institutions, Asian-American literature and summer reading programs.

In 2005, Ms. Astudillo-Gilles authored *Old Man Walking* along with other poems and essays which were published by the Moon Journal Press. The poetry collection dealt on Ms. Astudillo-Gilles’ experiences in the Philippines. She has also contributed other short stories to various journals and magazines, such as the *Field of Mirrors*, an anthology written by Filipino-American authors. She is also the project manager for the publication of the book *Remembering Rizal*, another anthology commissioned by the Philippine Consulate General in Chicago and distributed to all the Philippine diplomatic posts worldwide. In this anthology, she contributed her poem *Letter to a Dead Patriot*, a unique piece re-kindling ties to the national hero. She is currently working for the release and stage adaptation of her first novel, *The Half-Life of Gold*, which is based on a true-to-life event that took place in the Philippines.

Not only skilled in the use of the written word, Ms. Astudillo-Gilles is a popular and polished public speaker. She conducts presentations and participates on multi-cultural literary and heritage events held in various venues such as educational institutions, museums and festivals across the U.S. She is also a volunteer speaker for UNICEF since 2002, and involves herself in civic and religious activities without hesitation. In this role, she has created a very good impression of overseas Filipinos as an excellent example of a skilled literati and a socially concerned individual.

In conferring the Pamana ng Pilipino Award to Almira Astudillo-Gilles, the President recognizes her literary works that highlight the values of the Filipino people, and continue to inspire and bring pride and honor to the Philippines.

Diane Monique L. Lhuillier

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



Ms. Diane Monique L. Lhuillier's designs capture the essence of sophisticated luxury. They evoke femininity, allure and glamour – so fresh and captivating – that the world of design acknowledges her unique understanding of what it means to feel lovely and beautiful.

Ms. Lhuillier is the youngest of four children of the Honorary Consul of France in the Visayas, Michel Lhuillier, and Amparito Llamas whose own beauty and fashion sense found their way into her daughter's own flair for the elegant. With the blood of a successful model, designer and high-end children's wear entrepreneur running through her veins, even as an 11-year old, Ms. Lhuillier already took to the sketch pad with ease while fabric selection became second nature. Eventually, customizing a collection of her own came as no surprise to the elite circle of Cebuanos who knew the family well.

Taking off for Lausanne, Switzerland, for studies and subsequently to Los Angeles to attend the Fashion Institute for Design and Merchandising (FIDM), Ms. Lhuillier fulfilled her desire and gave full expression

to her special interest in bridal and evening gowns. Her marriage to Tom Bugbee might have been the clincher when, in 1995, while searching for her own wedding gown, she realized the paucity of designs and fashionable bridal wear options in the market. Thus, a niche of her own was created.

This was the "Aha!" moment that set her on course to become designer of choice for modern women whose taste for the simple yet elegant she fully understood. In 1996, her first bridal collection was launched and immediately won the acclamation of retailers and magazine editors alike. Her debut so encouraged Ms. Lhuillier such that her own husband was more enthused about joining her as their company's Chief Executive Officer. What was once-upon-a-time a dream haute couture design house, became a successful reality that exceeded expectations especially when the Lhuillier brand won international recognition. In 2003, she was inducted as a new member of the prestigious Council of Fashion Designers of America (CFDA).

Ms. Lhuillier's designs have taken the world of fashion by storm. Her work has graced the covers of glossy magazines, glided on the fashion runways, paraded on the Hollywood red carpet, marched at the grandest celebrity weddings, and now crossing the American continent through a newly-opened store in the Upper East Side of Manhattan. She is truly one rare gem of a Filipina who has made her mark in the discriminating world of high fashion. But more importantly, she has put her hometown and her home country squarely in the consciousness of the glitterati and the aesthetically demanding world of the fashion industry.

In conferring the Pamana ng Pilipino Award to Dianne Monique L. Lhuillier, the President recognizes her exceptional creativity and quality craftsmanship that have gained wide recognition and enhanced her reputation as a leading bridal couturier and fashion designer in the United States.

Ruth Elynia S. Mabanglo

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



In this age of globalization, nothing could be a more difficult struggle than the preservation of one's own language and culture. But a Dr. Ruth Elynia S. Mabanglo is one who is not so easily discouraged.

As a multi-awarded poet and playwright, her love for the Filipino language has found meaning and remains a calling. She is known as the first Filipina poet in Tagalog and the first woman to join the ranks of Hall of Fame of the Don Carlos Palanca Memorial Awards for Literature. She has produced six books of poetry and a lengthy list of scholarly works that have been included in anthologies and often cited in journals and writings in the field. Her prolific output has gained such wide acceptance that commendations have not stopped pouring in. She has received several Cultural Center of the Philippines awards, the Republic of the Philippines' Centennial Awards for Epic Writing, the 1994 Poet of the Year Award from the Commission on Filipino Language, including peer recognition from the Writers' Union of the Philippines and from an appreciative City Government of Manila. In 2008, it was her distinct honor to have the De La Salle University Filipino Department convene critics and academics for a monthly discussion of her works. The event was fittingly named the "Ruth Elynia S. Mabanglo Lecture Series."

To broaden her reach, she joined the faculty of the University of Hawaii where, for two decades, she has contributed to the development of the Filipino language program and continuously churning out instructional materials for adoption by students and experts alike. Her contributions have earned for the university

the distinction of offering the most comprehensive Filipino language program in the United States with options to earn a bachelor's degree, a minor or a certificate for those who are keen on gaining various levels of proficiency in Filipino. Not to be satisfied with these successes, Dr. Mabanglo introduced the Filipino literature component into the program, and again, afforded the university the distinction that courses on Filipino language and literature are found in the United States but -- only in Hawaii.

Dr. Mabanglo's signature advocacy is the promotion of Filipino as a global language. As the director of the Advance Filipino Abroad Program (AFAP) from 2008 to 2011, she persists and pushes for continuous improvement of the campaign. It is the only advanced Filipino abroad program funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Fulbright-Hays Group Projects. In 2010, she wrote the *Bahaghari: Readings in Advanced Filipino*, a textbook accompanied by a DVD and webpage lessons that is being used in Filipino language programs in the United States. In 2011, the AFAP trained a group of American visiting students for eight weeks at the Ateneo de Manila University in Quezon City. They learned academic Filipino through topical discussions on history, religion, art, literature, including a wide range of globalization issues that resulted in spirited debates, in-depth analysis of Filipino novels and scholarly papers written in Filipino.

Going across borders with her passion has not sufficed. Beyond the walls of academe, Dr. Mabanglo has revived interest in Philippine folktales. For the Filipino diaspora in Hawaii, she has written articles in the Filipino Chronicle dwelling on the country's rich folklore, from legends to poetry to epics. A distinct form of community service, her initiatives in the area of cultural dissemination are statistically proven – 10 articles per year in the local media, 63 pieces on Philippine folktales, and a never ending list of writings from 1992 to 2006 which continues to grow to this day – all written in Filipino, twice told and retold. Whether beyond borders or beyond the walls of academe – Dr. Mabanglo has also gone beyond chronological demarcations to rekindle pride in heritage among the seniors or to plant seeds anew in the minds of the young, but especially for the overseas Filipinos in Hawaii. Case in point is her involvement in project *Anak* at the Children's Discovery Center – an age-defying workshop on story-telling and cultural knowledge transfer across generations.

Truly, Dr. Mabanglo is a poet, a scholar, a servant leader – a genuine Filipina.

In conferring the Pamana ng Pilipino Award to Ruth Elynia S. Mabanglo, the President recognizes her tireless efforts and outstanding contributions for the successful promotion of Filipino language and culture worldwide.

Jorge Z. Ortoll

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



The combination of his Manila upbringing and his American education has made Mr. Jorge Z. Ortoll fully equipped to spearhead a cross-cultural vehicle that makes the best of many talents in theater arts. His managerial skills could not be better honed with a degree in Economics and Accounting from Holy Cross College of Worcester, Massachusetts, topped by a Masters Degree in Business Administration from Columbia University in New York. As an actor, director and stage manager, he has worked with the National Asian American Theatre Company, La Mama ETC, Public Theater, Manila Theatre Guild, *Tanghalang Pilipino*, Repertory Philippines, and *Terre de Scene* in Lige, France, among others.

Since 1991, he is the Executive Director of the Ma-Yi Theater Company which is considered as the premier Asian-American Theater Company in the world. It started out as a Filipino theater company which focused on Filipino-American works having for its founding members cultural activists and innovative theater artists from the Philippines. It has the distinction of being the first theater company to have a Dragon Boat Team whose constituencies are not just theater artists but also young Asian-Americans who want to stay connected with their

communities.

Under Mr. Ortoll's leadership, Ma-Yi has enlisted the largest collective of Asian-American theater artists. It has gained recognition and respect of peers not only in New York City but across the United States, garnering both the Obie and Drama Desk awards. International and national roadshows have gained a substantial following at the same time that it has brought a deep sense of fulfillment to him and his mentees. Every star-struck aspirant coming from the ranks of ethnic communities in America have found a secure niche in the highly competitive theater industry.

Mr. Ortoll is a founding member of Coalition of Asian American Theaters and Artists (CAATA) and remains on its Board and in the Festival Steering Committee. He represents the United States as a delegate to the congresses of the UNESCO-International Theater Institute (ITI) and is deeply involved in the Committee for Cultural Identity and Development. The redeeming value of these involvements lie in the opportunity it affords him to advocate for theater access by war victims, handicapped, prisoners, refugees and tribes found in conflict zones. The most meaningful, however, is the opportunity to speak on behalf of Immigrant Theater which serves as a showcase and model for immigrant communities and theaters around the world.

Beyond the stage, Mr. Ortoll has remained attached to his country of origin. He is a committed supporter of *Gawad Kalinga* as financier of 100 housing units, a health care center and other support facilities. Altruism and art could not have found a better embodiment in this exceptional individual.

In conferring the Pamana ng Pilipino Award to Jorge Z. Ortoll, the President recognizes the successful fusion of his artistic and managerial abilities that have ensured the continued success of the Ma-Yi Theater, a premier Asian-American theater company which has nurtured Filipino-American artists over the years.

Allan Pineda

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



For Mr. Allan Pineda, the road to Hollywood was rough. It began in *Sapang Bato*, Angeles City, when his African-American father who was stationed at the Clark Field U.S. Airbase, abandoned his mother Cristina. With a brood of seven, his single mother worked long and hard for the family's survival.

Long jeepney rides to school plus a diet of farmed sweet potatoes, corn, rice, and sugar managed to build a sound mind and a healthy body packed with talent. The combination eventually paid off. As fate would have it, the Pearl S. Buck Foundation brought Mr. Pineda in touch with a Mr. Joe Hudgens, his adoptive father, and thereafter, he found himself resettled permanently in the United States.

Growing up in Los Angeles as a teenager with a passion for music was another door-opener. At the John Marshall High School, he befriended William Adams. In no time, both youngsters formed the core of what has since been famously known as the Black Eyed Peas. Mr. Pineda chose "apl.de.ap" while Mr. Adams chose "will.i.am" as their catchy stage names. Phenomenal popularity gained in a span of two decades and led to Grammy nominations, three Grammy Awards and an estimated 27 million albums and singles sold worldwide.

In conferring the Pamana ng Pilipino Award to Allan "Apl.de.Ap" Pineda, the President recognizes his outstanding achievements in the field of music and his exemplary philanthropic activities that help spread a message of hope for Filipinos worldwide who have gained inspiration from his life story and the application of his innate artistry.

But fame and fortune as an American hip-hop group never drowned out the small-town *probinsyano* that was the pre-"apl.de.ap" Allan. Drawing from his own life experiences in the sometimes muddy and often dusty region of his birth, he set up the Apl De Ap Foundation with a view of improving the quality of life of Filipino children through education, technology and music. He also established the Jeepney Music Company as a vehicle for sharing his talent and time so that he could give back to his motherland.

That Mr. Pineda's Philippine moorings are so firm is evident in his deep involvement as the moving force behind the "We Can Be Anything" Education Advocacy Campaign. Together with the Ninoy and Cory Aquino Foundation, his vision of accessible educational opportunities for the impoverished youth draws from his own past. The powerful message of his composition "We Can Be" drives home the point that celebrity status and sustained passion for one's craft and artistry can work wonders when infused into a social enterprise. Rallying massive support for educational reform has given birth to the *Bayanihang Pampaaralan* initiative which he spearheads.

His good deeds keep germinating other laudable projects. His concept of a music library and studio is being piloted in two schools in Pampanga: the *Sapang Bato* National High School and the Holy Angel University. The mission is for these facilities to unleash the musical and technological aptitudes of disadvantaged but otherwise talented Filipino youth. The goal is to multiply such learning centers across the archipelago. Indeed, first love knows no bounds. To boost the tourism campaign, Mr. Lindo's "Take Me to the Philippines" says it all. And through his words and music, he takes the Filipino youth by the hand: "...You can be a Leader. You can be a Hero. All You got to do is Dream. And You can be Anything..."

Erik C. Spoelstra

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



Sports fans cheered wildly when the Miami Heat bagged the 2012 Championship Title of the United States' National Basketball Association (NBA). The glory and the accolades were shared not only by either LeBron James or Dwayne Wade but also by Erik C. Spoelstra, the first Filipino-American head coach of an NBA franchise.

Mr. Spoelstra was named head coach after 13 years on the Miami Heat coaching staff. He helped design and integrate the individual player development program of the team, and in the process, developed a proprietary statistical database and scouting software. The use of technology and state-of-the-art statistical software to evaluate team productivity as well as individual player productivity keeps a handle on performance trends for both the Miami Heat and their opponents. More than anything, "Coach Spo" has shown that there can be a perfect balance between technology, passion and good old basketball talent.

But a Mr. Spoelstra is not just about basketball and technology. In 2009, he visited the Philippines for the first time and wound up in Zamboanga. Despite the relatively ingenuous lifestyle and the security concerns in the province, he was struck by the uncanny sense of identity that he discovered between himself and the country of his forebears. That commonality was the fusion of ethnicity and passion, for basketball that is. Decidedly transformational, he admitted that the experience was "...Truly life changing. I was born and raised in the U.S., and even though I visited the Philippines when I was a kid, I've always wanted a stronger connection with the culture and my family living there." It was all in the game.

Since then, during the NBA off-season, he regularly returns to the Philippines and promotes health and education by hosting basketball clinics for the youth which is part of the NBA FIT program co-sponsored by the Philippine Department of Health. Upon Mr. Spoelstra's recommendation, NBA Cares Foundation, the league's global community outreach initiative that addresses important social issues such as education, youth and family development, and health and wellness, conducted some of its programs and services in the Philippines. The nine-day Manila program in 2012 marked the largest NBA FIT event ever hosted in Southeast Asia under the NBA Cares Umbrella.

In conferring the Pamana ng Pilipino Award to Erik C. Spoelstra, the President recognizes his outstanding performance as the first Filipino-American head coach to win the U.S. National Basketball Association championship for the Miami Heat team and his commendable initiative in hosting basketball clinics for Filipino youth in his homeland.

Francisca T. Velcek

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



Dr. Francisca T. Velcek's humble beginnings in the small town of Sto. Domingo, Ilocos Sur, were never an obstacle in the pursuit of her career in the field of medicine. On the strength of her intellectual ability and innate talents that won scholarships, she was able to complete her pre-Med and her Doctor of Medicine degree from the University of the Philippines in 1966. After graduating as Top 3 of her class, she was named Most Outstanding Intern at the Philippine General Hospital in the same year.

Dr. Velcek was the first female physician admitted to the Surgical Residency Program under renowned surgeon, Dr. John L. Madden, at the St. Clare's Hospital in New York in 1967. She subsequently earned her certifications from the American Board of Surgery, the Pediatric Surgical Board and the Surgical Critical Care Board.

After her rigorous training through the years, she now holds various medical and academic positions. She is a Professor of Surgery at the State University of New York Downstate Medical Center; the Chief of Pediatric Surgery at Long Island College Hospital; the Attending Pediatric Surgeon at Lenox Hill Hospital, Richmond University Medical Center and Beth Israel Medical Center in New York; and a Visiting Professor of Surgery at the University of the Philippines-Philippine General Hospital in Manila. Dr. Velcek is concurrently a Lieutenant Colonel of the U.S. Army Medical Corps. She served as Acting Chief of Pediatric Surgery at the Walter Reed

Hospital in Washington DC during the Persian Gulf War.

As a professional in the field of medicine, she has written various scientific papers on pediatric surgery which have been published in international peer-reviewed journals. Her contributions to medical literature and practice include: "Traumatic Death of Urban Children" which has led to national recognition of trauma as a leading killer of children; "Government and Inguinal Hernia" which effected the revision of the stand of the New York State on Medicaid reimbursement; and "Pediatric Gynecology and Research on Hermaphrodites" which introduced a new classification for early definition of sex assignment. She has lectured in national and international conferences and mentored thousands of medical students, some of whom have become pediatric surgeons themselves.

In recognition of her outstanding expertise in pediatric surgery, Dr. Velcek has received numerous awards such as: Best Pediatric Surgeon in New York and Best Doctor in Northeast America for 15 consecutive years since 1996; Distinguished Alumna in Global Health and Medical Education and Medicine and Women Empowerment from the University of the Philippines Alumni Association and Medicine and Women Empowerment; Warren Wertz Award for Excellence in Teaching; Most Outstanding Physician from the Philippine Medical Association in America; Distinguished Service Medal for serving the U.S. Army; and the Commendation Medal for Service during Operation Desert Storm.

Dr. Velcek did not confine her contributions to the surgical world. Her "give back program" found numerous recipients in her alma mater as regular stream of her donations have been channeled through the University of the Philippines Medical Alumni Society in America. She maintains student scholarship funds in the Departments of Physiology and Pharmacology and has established professorial chairs in surgery and basic sciences in the College of Medicine. Never oblivious of her roots, she continues to provide scholarships and financial assistance to elementary and high schools in Ilocos Sur. She joins medical missions annually that have widened the scope of her personal social responsibility beyond her home country, by also operating on children from underdeveloped countries in Central and South America and Eastern Europe. She is also a member of several medical and surgical associations in the United States.

In conferring the Pamana ng Pilipino Award to Francisca T. Velcek, the President recognizes her outstanding achievements as a doctor of medicine and academician in the field of pediatric surgery in the United States.



Year 2012 Presidential Awards for Filipino Individuals and Organizations Overseas

Awarding Ceremonies

Wednesday, 05 December 2012, 5 p.m.

Rizal Hall, Malacañan Palace

Programme

The Philippine National Anthem

Invocation

Welcome Remarks

Secretary Imelda M. Nicolas

Commission on Filipinos Overseas

Presentation of Awards

Response on Behalf of the Awardees

Dr. Samuel D. Bernal

Introduction of the Keynote Speaker

Secretary Albert F. Del Rosario

Department of Foreign Affairs

Message of His Excellency, President Benigno S. Aquino III

Musical Number

Allan "apl.de.ap" Pineda

Photo Opportunity with His Excellency, President Benigno S. Aquino III

Cocktails

Undersecretary Mary Grace Ampil-Lirona

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 314 Filipinos and private organizations overseas since its establishment. President Fidel V. Ramos conferred the first and second sets of Presidential Awards to 22 and 45 awardees in 1993 and 1996, respectively. President Joseph E. Estrada conferred the third and fourth sets of Presidential Awards to 30 and 59 awardees in 1998 and 2000, respectively. President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo conferred the fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth sets of awards to 34 (with one special citation), 45, 48, and 31 awardees, in 2002, 2004, 2006, and 2008 respectively. President Benigno S. Aquino III conferred the ninth set of awards to 24 awardees in 2010.

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

On 05 December 2012, President Benigno S. Aquino III will honor 29 distinguished Filipino individuals and organizations based in 14 countries, who, because of their exceptional achievements or humanitarian efforts, have given form and substance to Filipino excellence and the time-honored values of *pakikipag-kapwa, pagtutulungan, and pagkakaisa*.

The 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 137 nominations from 26 countries through 35 Philippine Embassies and Consulates. Of the 29 awardees, 24 are individuals while 5 are organizations. The awardees came from Canada, Commonwealth of Australia, Federal Republic of Germany, Federative Republic of Brazil, Kingdom of Belgium, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, New Zealand, Taiwan, The Czech Republic, The Netherlands, The State of Israel United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.





*The Year 2012 Presidential Awards for
Filipino Individuals and Organizations Overseas*

Executive Committee

CHAIRMAN

Undersecretary Mary Grace Ampil-Tirona
Executive Director
Commission on Filipinos Overseas

MEMBERS

Ambassador Cecilia B. Rebong
Department of Foreign Affairs

Ms. Esperanza H. Quillopo
Director, Office of the Presidential Protocol
Office of the President

Bishop Efraim M. Tendero
National Director
Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches

Mr. Ruperto S. Nicdao Jr.
President
Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas

Ms. Ma. Aurora D. Geotina-Garcia
President,
Ciba Capital Phils., Inc.



*The Year 2012 Presidential Awards for
Filipino Individuals and Organizations Overseas*



Technical Committee

CHAIRPERSON

Ms. Cherry Joy G. Veniles

Officer-in-Charge, Policy, Planning and Research Division
Commission on Filipinos Overseas

MEMBERS

Ms. Marie Del Rosario-Apattad

Officer-in-Charge, Projects Management Division
Commission on Filipinos Overseas

Ms. Emelita V. Almosara

Executive Director
National Commission for Culture and the Arts

Ms. Luningning E. Samarita

Director, National Academy of Science and Technology
Department of Science and Technology

Ms. Angelita Castillo-Fernandez

Office of the Undersecretary for Migrant Workers Affairs
Department of Foreign Affairs

Ms. Anne Kristine Salvador

Office of the Undersecretary for Migrant Workers Affairs
Department of Foreign Affairs

Dr. Alvin P. Ang

Professor
University of Santo Tomas

Ms. Ellene A. Sana

Executive Director
Center for Migrant Advocacy

Ms. Maya Bans-Cortina

National Coordinator
Philippine Consortium on Migration and Development





Gallery of Presidential Awardees

Recipients of the first 1991 Awards for Filipinos and Private Organization Overseas

Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino (LINKAPIL) Awardees

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

Kaakabay ng Bayan Awardees

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

Kaanib ng Bayan Awardees

Continental Air Micronesia
World Opportunities International

Banaag Awardees

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

Special Awardees

Gatbonton, Corazon S.
Lega Italo-Filipini Emigrati

Recipients of the Presidential Awards for Filipino Individuals and Organizations Overseas (1993-2010)

Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino Award

Ablaza, Sariel G.G., M.D.
Adams, Gloria Ysmael
Alarcon, Teresita Calderon
Association Lending Assistance in Exigencies at Home, gem e.V.
Association of Philippine Physicians of America
Cagas, Cosme R., M.D.
Caoile, Gloria T.
De Venecia, Guillermo B., M.D.
Enverga, Tobias, Jr. C.
Evangelista, Stella S., M.D.
Feed the Hungry, Inc.
FEU - Dr. Nicanor Reyes School of Medicine Alumni Foundation
Filipino Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii, Inc.
Filipino Women's Association United Kingdom
H.O.P.E. Foundation
Ho, Jesus T., M.D.
Ileto, Benjamin A., M.D.
International Network of Filipinos Overseas
Martin, Arsenio R., M.D.
Martinez, Ruth C.
Montero, Juan II M., M.D.
Nacario, Emanuel N.
Navarra, Victoria C., M.D.
Nihei, Mari Bernabe
North Central Virginia Association of the Philippine Physicians
Philippine American Foundation
Philippines American Association of Connecticut
Philippine Children's Charity Fund
Philippine Cultural Organization in Saarland, E.V.
Philippine Economic and Cultural Endowment
Philippine German Community Oberberg e.V.
Science and Technology Advisory Council San Francisco
Society of Philippine Surgeons in America
Stichting Kapatiran
Tan, Elton See
Tesalona, Alfredo T.
Torio, Isabelo S., M.D.
Tria, Honesto R.
University of the Philippines Medical Alumni Society in America
Vijungco, Jose G., M.D.
Visayas-Mindanao Cultural Association e.V.
World Bank / IFC-IMF Filipino Association
Kaakabay ng Bayan Awards
Aloha Medical Mission
Balikatan sa Kaunlaran - Hong Kong Council



Gallery of Presidential Awardees



Confederation on Filipinos Overseas Organization
Filipino – American Community of Colorado
Filipino Community in Thailand
Filipino Community in the Commonwealth of Northern
Marianas Islands
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
California Technological Care, Inc.
Caritas Lebanon Migrants Center
Catholic Medical Mission Board
Children's Chance CT
Consuelo Zobel Alger Foundation
CORA - Filipino American Task Force/ Advisory Board
Hanazaki, Misao
Heetens Helpgood Center Philippines
International Medical Help for Children
Jules and Paul- Émile Léger Foundation
Lam, Phoebe Bik Che
Lam, Sunny Kai Chor
Ligier, Laurence C.
Ma'Ma Children's Center of Norway
Martens, Robert Sommer, Ph.D.
Operation Rainbow Australia Limited
Operation Smile International
PAG-ASA Group – Japan
Philippine Development Assistance Programme
"Salamat Po Kai"
Salpeter, Simha
Social Welfare Corporation Raphael Clinic
Tsakos Shipping and Trading, S.A.

Banaag Award

Abagat, Dr. Emely D.
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.
Asuncion, Alexander E.
Babaylan - Switzerland
Bagong Kulturang Pinoy, Inc.

Balik Bohol Medical Mission
Bautista, Antonio C.
Bayoumi, Mohammad Ahmad
Beatty, Estrella C.
Benzon, Norma R.
Berberabe, Patricia A.
Berdos, Imelda Vollenweider
Buchholdt, Thelma G.
Buhain, Wilfrido J., M.D.
Bulos, Alice P.
Carandang, Angeles R.
Casambre, Sr. Mary Aida C.
Casamina, Roland C.
Centre for Filipinos
Centre for Philippine Concerns – Australia
Cheng, Sian Chun
Compas, Lolita B.
Computer Society of Filipinos International
Concepcion, Zenaida S., M.D.
Congress of Visayan Organizations
Covarrubias, Grace F.N.
Cueto, Alex M., M.D.
Cuizon, Virgilio G.
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
Derpo, Esperanza R.
Docoy, Fr. Eugene
Evangelista, Jose L., M.D.
Farmer, Lolita L., Atty.
Federation of Filipino Communities in Israel
Fiesta Filipina Dance Troupe of Canada
Filipino American Human Services, Inc.
Filipino American Medical, Inc.
Filipino Association in Brunei
Filipino Association of Singapore
Filipino Coalition for Solidarity, Inc.
Filipino Communities Council of Australia, Inc.
Filipino Community Center, Inc.
Filipino Cultural Club
Filipino Korean Spouses Association
Filipino Ladies Association of Guam
Florentino, Sr. Magdalena S., FMM (+)
Fojas, Marcos R., M.D.
Gange, George G.
Garcia, Lamberto S.
Ginete, Alex Jose R.
Go, Mildred Aires





Gallery of Presidential Awardees

Go, Roman Ting, Engr.
Goedicke, Charlotte
Halasz, Fr. Luis, SVD
Helbig, Aurea
Hernandez, Carmencita
Ho, Eleanor B.
Home-Reach Foundation, Inc.
Hong Kong Bayanihan Trust
Hyehwadong Filipino Catholic Community
Ick, Claire R.
Iskwelahang Pilipino, Inc.
Juele, Lilia R.
Kalayaan
Kanagawa Women's Space Ms. La
Kasimieh, Marilyn Wafa R.
Kawayan Philippine Language and Cultural School
Kinderhilfe Philippinen
Kinderhilfe Philippinen, E.V.
Kinding Sindaw
Lahing Kayumanggi
Lammawin, Francis L.
Lew, Bridget
Lubang-Looc International
Magdalena, Joseph I.
Maharlika – Switzerland
Manglona, Benjamin T.
Manuel, Vladimir James M.
March, Marina Roma, M.D.
Markham Federation of Filipino Canadians
Mataac, Celso Jr. T.
McGuinness, Amor I.
Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Concepcion
Miyake, Chiyo
Muzones, Santiago Jr., L.
National Organization of Professional Teachers - Hong Kong
Natividad, Alicia, Atty.
Natividad, Cornelio Ruiz
Natividad, Evelyn D.A., Ph.D.
Navarra, Eduardo J.
Nemivant, Emma Balquiedra
Noblejas, Dr. Antonio N.
Olalia, Sr. Lucia C.
Overs, Lilian Y.
Panday Tinig Chorale Ensemble
Paragas, Rodolfo DL
Paterno, Ramon A.P.
Penang Support Group for Migrant Filipinos
Philippine American Group of Educators and Surgeons
Philippine Association of Metropolitan Washington Engineers
Philippine Community Council of New South Wales
Philippine Australian Sports and Culture, Inc.

Philippine Cultural Foundation, Inc.
Philippine Cultural Foundation of Hawaii
Philippine Heritage Band
Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants
Philippine Nurses Association of America
Philippine School Bahrain
Philipsen, Adelina R.
Pilapil, Virgilio D.R., M.D.
Quiblado, Conrada P.
Quinto, Edgardo R.
Racinez, Sr. Olivia, WCW
Ramos, Angel T.
Ravindranathan, N., M.D.
Reed, Loline L.
Rizal-Blumentritt Society Austria
Sabio, Fr. Raymond T.
Salazar, Lourdes A.
Sales, Justina L.
Search to Involve Pilipino Americans
Seguritan, Reuben
Sirmata (Vision) 2004
Steiner, Mona Lisa L.
Tahanan (Diocesan Center for Filipino Migrants)
Talangbayan, Francis V., M.D.
Tendencia, Benita B.
Tenorio, Pedro P.
Theresa, Ladeli
Tigno, Rosario B., M.D.
Tomelden, Benjamin Jr. S.
Tordjman, Paul Semo
Tuluyang Pinoy (Philippine Centre Zurich)
United Filipino Council of Hawaii
Uy, Emilio Y.
Vargas, Orlando R.
Verstraeten, Jean Paul
Veterans Equity Center
Victorian Community in Belgium
Ybo, Evangelina V
Zamora, Prospero C.

Pamana ng Pilipino Award

Abad, Pacita
Abella, Manolo I.
Abinsay, Felipe Jr. P.
Acosta, Adolovni P.
Aguirre, Bayani S.
Alcantra, Anacleto R.
Antonio, Camilo C.
Aquino, Belinda A., Ph.D
Aranda, Jacob V., M.D.
Ardiente, Editha M.
Armit, Amelita Aranas



Gallery of Presidential Awardees



Asera, Larry L.
Asmundson, Ruth U., Ph.D.
Baisas, Armando V.
Balcos, Ophelia G.
Banatao, Diosdado P.
Bebars, Evelyn Panganiban, M.D.
Bernardo, Rodolfo S., ED.S.
Besa, Amelita C. and Dorotan, Romeo G.
Bobis, Merlinda
Buhay, Wilfredo R.
Cadawas, Eliodoro C.
Camara, Jorge G., M.D.
Cana, Lilac L.
Cantos, Olegario D. VII, LI.B.
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
Cunanan, Zenaida F.
Dadap, Michael A.
David, Angelito DL
De Asis-Benitez, Joanne
De Asis, Fred S.
De Guzman, Rodolfo A., M.D.
De Leon, Bayani M.
Del Rosario, Remedios R.
Dela Cruz, Cesar
Diaz, Jose Duddley
Dietrich-Hall, Vellie
Esclamado, Alejandro A.
Esguerra, Carlos D.
Fernandez, Jovelle Laoag, M.D., Ph.D.
Fitzsimmons, Edith Dizon
Flores, Eddie Jr.
Fuentes, Dante C.
Garcia, Jorge M., M.D.
Garcia, Manuel M.
Garcia, Renato B., MBE
Gener, Bernard Randy G.
Goh, Ma. Cynthia J.
Guingona, Michael Patrick L.
Hagedorn, Jessica
Haley, Ma. Luisa Mabilangan
Hizon, Federico M.
Ho, Anita Magsaysay
Igartá, Venancio C.

Kelly, Angelita Castro
Lamagna, Carmen Z., Ph.D.
Layosa, Erlinda R.
Lewis, Loida Nicolas, LI.B.
Lim, Lenore R.S.
Llamas, Antonio Garcia
Macabenta, Gregorio B.
Magsino, Romulo F., Ph.D.
Mandac, Evelyn L.
Manuel, Consorcio Don
Maulana, Nasser B.
Medalla, David C.
Menez, Ernani G.
Moguel, Milagros K.
Natividad, Irene
Natori, Josie C.
Navarro, Lilibeth E.
Ostrea, Enrique M. Jr., M.D.
Pagtakhan, Rey D., M.D.
Palis, Rosendo K.
Pangilinan, Manuel V.
Pelayo, Libertito P.
Quiambao, Rodolfo C.
Ramos, Teresita V., Ph.D.
Recana, Mel Red
Rodriguez, Manuel Sr. A.
Rustia, Jeffrey P.
Sagun, Teresita B.
Salih, Sharifa Zeannat Alih
Santos, Emmanuel T.
Soriano, Edward
Sunico, Raul M.
Tabalba, Camilo M.
Tabuena, Romeo V.
Taguba, Antonio M., Maj. Gen.
Tomimbang-Burns, Emme A.
Totengco, Rafe
Uy, Constanca S., M.D.
Velazco, Gundelina A.
Velloria, Velma R.
Villarín, Nilo L.
Viola, Arturo T.
Zwaenepoel, Rev. Paul

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Filipinas Magazine





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LINKAPIL Awardees

AGUMAN KAPAMPANGAN UK

c/oMs. Zanie B. del Mundo, President
97 Wolsey Crescent Morden, Surrey SM44TD, England
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Tel. No. 0208-330-4829 / 044 773-378-1858
Email: zendel22@hotmail.co.uk
zanielmundo@hotmail.com.uk
theaguman@hotmail.com
Website: www.TheAguman.co.uk

DR. MANUEL A. CACDAC

4005 Hulman St., Terre Haute
Indiana 47803, USA
Tel. Nos. (812) 235-9138

Terre Haute Regional Hospital
Union Hospital Terre Haute, Indiana USA
Tel. No. (812) 236-3724
Email: mannyneuro@aol.com

DR. CHRISTOPHER M. GUERRERO

3939 N. Octavia Avenue, Chicago
Illinois 60707, USA
Telefax No. 708-310-1127 / 773-625-5601
Email: cguerrer@uic.edu

1431 N. Western Ave., Ste. 302
Chicago, Illinois 60622, USA
Tel. No. (773) 772-7922
Fax No. (773) 772-7982

KAANIB NG BAYAN Awardees

DR. GONEN HABA

3 EinHakore, Tel Aviv, Israel
Telefax No. 077-558-8700

96 Igal Alon, Tel Aviv, Israel
Fax No. 054-755-1663
Email: dr.gonen1@yahoo.com

DR. CHRISTIAN LÖEHLEIN

Zur Grafenburg 12, 42549 Velbert, Germany
Telefax No. 0049-2051-980206
Mobile No. +49 171 49 180 94
Klinikumniederberg, Robert-Koen Str. 2
42547 Velbert, Germany
Email: loehlein@klinikum-niederberg.de

BANAAG Awardees

ENGR. CARLITO E. ALPAY

242 Belen Homesite, Corner Macapagal St.
Bgy. Sto Cristo, Angeles City, Pampanga 2009
Email: ce_alpay@yahoo.com
Tel. No. 966-50-6882328 (KSA)

John Crane Saudi Arabia Co., Ltd.

Road 120, Section 2, Support Industries Area
P.O. Box 37498, Jubail 1st Industrial City,
Eastern Province
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Tel. No. 966-3-340-7490
Fax No. 966-3-340-7478

ATTY. MARIA IMELDA L. ARGEL

33/61-89 Buckingham St., Surry Hills
New South Wales 2010, Australia
Tel. No. 912 9399 3072 / 612 9699 3072
Fax No. 612 9699 3210
Email: info@iargel.com.au
Mobile No. +639288288586

41/61-89 Buckingham St., Surry Hills
New South Wales 2010, Australia
Tel. No. 612 9699 3072
Tel. No. 612 9699 3210

MR. TOMAS P. AVENDAÑO

3625 Rupert St., Vancouver
British Columbia, Canada
Tel. No. (604) 451-9492
Mobile No. (604) 805-5408

4802 Fraser St., Vancouver
British Columbia, Canada
Tel. No. 604 879 3277 ext. 239
Fax No. 604-879-3377
Email: toma@helpinghouse.org
Website: www.helpinghouse.ca

MR. RAFAEL S. CASTAÑOS

245 Marine Way # 1 Juneau, Alaska, USA
Tel. No. 907-586-4940

8800 Glacier Hwy Ste. 108B Juneau
Alaska, USA
Tel. No. 907-790-3650



Directory of 2012 Awardees



FILIPINIANA EUROPA V.Z.W.

c/o Ms. Julieta Frisnedi Regidor, President
128 Ridderstraat 3000 Leuven, Belgium
Tel. No. +321-6234815 / +324-76473362
Fax No. +321-6621701
Email: filipiniana_europa@skynet.be
Julieta.frisnedi@gmail.com

FILIPINO COMMUNITY OF SEATTLE, INCORPORATED

Ms. Alma Q. Kern, FCS President
5740 Martine Luther King Jr., Way South
Seattle, Washington 98118, USA
Tel. No. (206) 722-9372
Fax No. (206) 722-1060
Email: info@fcseattle.org
Website: www.fcseattle.org

Contact Person: Elizabeth "Ning" Rogge
13751 Lake City Way NE, Suite 120
Seattle, Washington 98125, USA
Tel. No. (206) 949-9676
Fax No. (425) 861-1085
Email of Alma: elizrogge@gmail.com
media@fcsseattle.org

FILIPINO DIGERATI ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 18674, Dubai, United Arab Emirates
Tel. No. +971-4-8159-467; Fax No. +971 4 8159 311
Email: info@dpinoy.org / website: www.dpinoy.org
c/o Engr. Lilian S. Bautista, FDA Chairman of the Board
Tel. No. +971-4-8159300

MS. LUZVIMINDA S. MICABALO

10705 Back Plains Drive, Las Vegas
Nevada 89134, USA
Tel. No. (702) 347-1796
Mobile No. (702) 375-7874
Email: Lmicabalo@yahoo.com

MR. ALFONSO S. PEREZ, JR.

131 Concord Street, San Francisco
California, United States of America
Tel. No. (415) 334-9170

564 Market Street, Suite 320, San Francisco
California, United States of America
Tel. No. (415) 987-9170
Email: alspercz@pacbell.net

LT. ERIC MICHAEL B. QUEMA

1009 Francisca Court, Pinole
California, USA
Tel. No. (510) 691-8119 / (510) 724 5928
Email: equema@aol.com

MR. ROBERT N. SANTOS

9806 -61st Avenue, South Seattle
Washington, United States of America
Tel. No. (206) 722-4658
Email: tomikosan@aol.com

MS. MA. LUZVIMINDA C. TSAI

1995 FL. Tanchin Road, Sec. 4 Tamsui
Taipei, Taiwan
Tel. Nos. 02-2801-2674; 02-2801-3883
Email: luztsai@yahoo.com

STICHTING BAYANIHAN

c/o Ms. Veronica Balbuena, Chairperson
Ekster 13 2411 MT Bodegraven
The Netherlands
Tel. No. + 31172 616162
Email: info@bayanihan.nl
dianaosterbeek@yahoo.com
Mobile: + 31 621707476

PAMANA NG PILIPINO Awardees

ENGR. MARY JANE ALVERO-AL MAHDI

Al Ramtha, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates
Tel. Nos. +971-50872-0499 / +971-6548-7661

Dubai Industrial City, Jebel Ali

United Arab Emirates
Tel. No. +971-4 431-4690
Fax No. +971-4431-4570
Email: jane.alvero@yahoo.com

DR. DELIA B. RODRIGUEZ-AMAYA

Paulo Camargo Ferraz 22, Cidade Universitaria
13083-520 Campinas, SP, Brazil
Tel. Nos. 55-19-330-51582
Email: adramaya2012@gmail.com

P.O. Box 6121, Faculty of Food Engineering
University of Campinas, 13083-862 Campinas, SP Brasil
Tel. No. 55-19-352-14013
Fax No. 55-19-352-12153
Email: delia@fea.unicamp.br





Directory of 2012 Awardees

DR. SAMUEL D. BERNAL

Nekazanka 880/11, Praha I, 11000
Czech Republic
Tel. Nos. (420) 737363572 / 420 224-012 824
Nekazanka 11/880 Prague, Czech Republic
Tel. +420222312077
Email: sambiosci@aol.com
sberne@ucla.edu

DR. ANTONIO T. FERNANDO III

87 Kiwi Rd., Point Chevalier
Auckland, New Zealand
Tel. No. 642-1644356
Fax No. 649-6389814
Email: a.fernando@auckland.ac.nz

DR. ALMIRA ASTUDILLO-GILLES

3479 Regent Drive, Palatine
Illinois 60067, USA
Telefax. No. 847-359-3494
Mobile No. 847-421-3494
Email: almiragilles@gmail.com

MS. DIANE MONIQUE L. LHUILLIER

1201 South Grand Avenue, 3rd Floor
Los Angeles, California 90015, USA
Tel. Nos. 001 (213) 747-8811
Fax No. 001 (213) 747-9311
Email: ml@moniquelhuillier.com

DR. RUTH ELYNIA S. MABANGLO

1133 Waimanu St., Apt. 2509
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814, USA
Tel. No. (808) 596-2057

2540 Maile Way, Spalding 255
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822, USA
Tel. No. (808) 956-6970
Fax No. (808) 956-5970
Email: mabanglo@hawaii.edu

MR. JORGE Z. ORTOLL

329 West 108th St., #4A, New York
New York, USA
Tel. Nos. 212-662-1782
Fax No. 212-749-9306
Email: jortoll@mac.com

520 Eight Avenue, #309 New York
New York, USA
Tel. No. 212-971-4862
Fax No. 212-971-4876
Email: jorge.ortoll@mac-yitheatre.org

MR. ALLAN PINEDA

3607 Glenfeliz Boulevard
Los Angeles City, California
United States of America
Tel. No. (415) 533-3180
Email: jeepneyceo@gmail.com
Website: www.apldeapnews.com

MR. ERIK C. SPOELSTRA

The Heat Group, American Airlines Arena
601 Biscayne Blvd., Miami, Florida 33132
United States of America
Telefax. No. (786) 777-1000
Email: corporatesales@heat.com

DR. FRANCISCA T. VELCEK

471 Summit St., EnglewoodCliffs
New Jersey 07632, USA
Tel. No. 201-568-8658
Mobile No. 917-558-0764
Email: mdvelcek@gmail.com

965 Fifth Ave., New York
New York, USA
Fax No. (212) 744-9396
Fax No. (212) 879-1910



The Commission on Filipinos Overseas



The **COMMISSION ON FILIPINOS OVERSEAS (CFO)** is an agency under the Office of the President which was established on 16 June 1980 through Batas Pambansa (Republic Act) 79, to strengthen ties with Filipinos overseas and promote their interests in the Philippines and abroad.

FUNCTIONS OF CFO

B.P. 79 mandates CFO to:

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

CLIENTELE

The primary clientele of CFO includes the following:

- Filipino emigrants and permanent residents abroad;
- Filipinos overseas who have become citizens of other countries;
- Filipino spouses and other partners of foreign nationals leaving the country;
- Descendants of Filipinos overseas as defined in B.P. 79;
- Filipino youth overseas; and
- Exchange Visitor Program participants.

The recent passage of RA10022 expanded the definition of the term Overseas Filipinos, to include generally all Filipinos residing and living overseas, whether on the long term or short term. This redefinition also emphasizes the inter-agency nature of the Commission encompassing other cabinet-level line agencies involved in issues of migration.

VISION, MISSION, GOALS

VISION

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

MISSION

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





The Commission on Filipinos Overseas

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

A. Policy Advocacy

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

B. Socio-economic Development

- 3) To develop and implement, in coordination with and with the support of other government agencies, a streamlined and facilitative entry and directional process for "development assistance" in the form of resources, knowledge, skills and technology from Filipinos overseas, that will be strategic and responsive to existing development issues and needs of the country and will optimize the assistance's development potentials.
- 4) To provide mechanisms for various stakeholders to coordinate, forge partnerships, upscale and leverage diaspora funds (e.g. remittances and savings) and investments, broaden donors' and investors' base and replicate best practices especially in financial literacy, microfinance and social enterprises, in order to make these funds more effective tools for the country's development and economic growth.

C. Integration and Reintegration

- 5) To assist in the integration of migrating Filipinos in their host countries by educating them on the realities of international migration, preparing them to meet the practical, cultural and psychological challenges attendant to migration and providing them other services as may be developed and needed, mindful of the social costs of migration to the overseas Filipinos themselves (especially for the women who are most vulnerable to abuse, discrimination and exploitation), to the families (especially the children) they have left behind and to their local communities.
- 6) To assist in the productive and seamless re-integration of returning overseas Filipinos and their families in the country, recommending policies, programs and measures to transform brain drain to brain gain, to enhance the returnees' earning capabilities and for better incentives' package for overseas Filipinos to return, retire and invest.

D. Culture and Education

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



The Commission on Filipinos Overseas



- E. Institutional development and organizational strengthening
- 8) To promote the leading role of CFO on the formulation of policies and in addressing key issues on migration and development
 - 9) To improve and enhance CFO's institutional capabilities for lobbying and advocacy for policy-setting, formulation and reform; in coordinating and building consensus with all migration-related government agencies on issues/policies/programs of major concern and critical to overseas Filipinos; and mobilizing stakeholders in the migration and development sector, especially for regular multi-stakeholder consultations and collaboration.
 - 10) To provide accurate, timely and comprehensive data on international migration of Filipinos through linkages with government agencies and other stakeholders essential for policy formulation and protection of overseas Filipinos.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

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

- Department of Foreign Affairs (as Vice-Chair)
- Department of Trade and Industry
- Department of Labor and Employment
- Department of Education
- Department of Justice
- Department of Tourism
- Presidential Communications Operations Office
- National Commission for Culture and the Arts
- CFO Executive Director

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

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



COMMISSION ON FILIPINOS OVERSEAS

Citigold Center, 1345 Pres. Quirino Avenue
corner Osmeña Highway (South Superhighway)

Manila, Philippines 1007

Tel. Nos. (02) 552-4700

Fax No. (02) 561-8332

Email: info@cfo.gov.ph

Website: www.cfo.gov.ph





2012 Presidential Awards Secretariat

Secretary Imelda M. Nicolas
Chairperson

Mary Grace Ampil-Tirona
Executive Director

Ms. Cherry Joy G. Veniles
Officer-in-Charge, Policy, Planning and Research Division

MEMBERS

Reina Marie D. Calvo	Rodrigo V. Garcia, Jr.
John Ree E. Doctor	Ma. Nicole B. Pangilinan
Khaasie S. Gapuzan	Frencel Louie T. Tingga
Rosario Q. Tuaño	

OTHER MEMBERS

Ms. Ma. Regina Angela G. Galias
Director, Administrative and Finance Division

Engr. Romeo R. Rosas
Director, Management Information System Division

Ms. Marita D. Apattad
Officer-in-Charge, Projects Management Division

Ms. Ivy D. Miravalles
Officer-in-Charge, Migrant Integration and Education Division

SUPPORT PERSONNEL

Troy Agcanas
Evelyn Alcantara
Nikki Almerino
Andrea Anolin
Michael Apattad
Paul Vincent Avecilla
Racquel Austria
Erwin Paul Cristobal
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25-27 February 2013 • Manila, Philippines

Sama na! Halina't mag-balikbayanihan!

PARTICIPANTS

The conference welcomes all interested overseas Filipino individuals and organizations. Those invited are:

- 1) Members of the Global Filipino Diaspora Council
- 2) Recipients of the Presidential Awards for Filipino Individuals and Organizations Overseas
- 3) Members of the US Pinoy for Good Governance (USP4GG)
- 4) Local (Philippine-based) resource persons and speakers from government, multilateral agencies, academe and civil society organizations
- 5) Other overseas Filipino networks/alliances/organizations
- 6) Youth Leaders in the Diaspora (YouLead)

REGISTRATION

Please submit the accomplished registration form to:

- E-mail: info@d2globalsummit.cfo.gov.ph
- Facsimile: +632-561-8332
- Or register online at: <http://d2globalsummit.cfo.gov.ph/register-online>
- Deadline for registration: February 01, 2013
- Registration Fee: US\$50 or PhP2,150 exclusive of bank charges

PAYMENT OPTIONS

- Online VISA Card
 VISA card payment link:
<http://d2globalsummit.cfo.gov.ph/register-online>
- IMPORTANT: Cardholder will be charged an amount of US\$1.75 for e-processing fee.

- Bank Deposit
 Account Name: Commission on Filipinos Overseas
 Account No.: 0405027-5360-80
 Bank Name: Development Bank of the Philippines
 Branch: Makati, Philippines (Head Office)

- The amount will cover the participants' conference kits, snacks and lunches for three (3) days.
- A copy of the remittance receipt should be sent by fax or e-mail to CFO as proof of payment on or before 20 February 2013.
- For walk-in registrants, payments shall be made on site during the registration.
- CFO will issue an official receipt for each paying participant, which will be given at the conference site.

CONVENORS:



TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION

Travel (both international and local) and accommodation costs will be shouldered by the participants. Participants are encouraged to book at the Dusit Thani Hotel – Manila which is the official residence of the Global Summit. Please present your accomplished conference registration form to avail of the hotel's discounted rate. For booking purposes, please contact +632 238-8815 or +632 238-8888, fax no. +632 238-8865 or email at dtrmsrvn@dusit.com and paola.bautista@dusit.com. For other hotel information, you may log on at www.dusit.com.

VISA ASSISTANCE

For participants who will require visa assistance, please coordinate directly with the concerned Philippines embassies and consulates.

SUMMIT PROGRAM

Registration at Dusit Thani Hotel starts on February 24, 2013 (Sunday)

DAY 1: February 25, 2013 (Monday)

- Participation in the "Salubungan" – EDSA People Power Celebration (A.M.)
- Separate Meetings for Members of: (P.M.)
 - A. Global Filipino Diaspora Council (GFDC)
 - B. European Network of Filipino Diaspora (ENFD)
 - C. Organizers for 2014 Regional Summit in the Middle East
 - D. YouLead Organizational Meeting

DAY 2: February 26, 2013 (Tuesday)

- Plenary (A.M.)
 Remarks from:
 - A. Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO)
 - B. Global Filipino Diaspora Council (GFDC)
 - C. European Network of Filipino Diaspora (ENFD)
 - D. US Pinoy for Good Governance (USP4GG)
 - E. 2014 Regional Summit for Middle East Organizers

- Message from the President of the Philippines
- Lunch
- Breakout Sessions (P.M.) - Participants will attend workshops that correspond to the following components of the D2D Program:
 - Session 1: Diaspora Philanthropy / Medical Mission Coordination
 - Session 2: Global Legal Assistance and Advocacy
 - Session 3: Arts and Culture Exchange / Tourism Initiative
 - Session 4: Youth Leaders in the Diaspora (YouLead)

DAY 3: February 27, 2013 (Wednesday)

- Breakout Sessions (A.M.) - Participants will attend workshops that correspond to the following components of the D2D Program:
 - Session 5: Return and Reintegration
 - Session 6: Doing Business in the Philippines / Diaspora Investment
 - Session 7: Aay Dunong (Science & Technology Transfer) & Balikuro
 - Session 8: Youth Leaders in the Diaspora (YouLead)
- Lunch
- Plenary (P.M.)
 - Presentation of Workshop Outputs
 - Symbolic Commitment Setting
 - Closing Remarks

FOR MORE INFORMATION

The Secretariat
Diaspora to Development Global Summit
 Email: info@d2globalsummit.cfo.gov.ph
 Website: <http://d2globalsummit.cfo.gov.ph>
 Telephone No.: +632-552-4700
 Fax No.: +632-561-8332

Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO)
 Email: info@cfo.gov.ph
 Website: <http://cfo.gov.ph>
 Telephone No.: +632-552-4700
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