



*The Year 2016
Presidential Awards
for Filipino Individuals
and Organizations Overseas*

The cover page design is from the Baybayin Alphabet, 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 2016 Presidential Awards were taken from the materials submitted to the Awards Secretariat for consideration of the nominations.

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MESSAGE


My warmest greetings and congratulations to the recipients of the **2016 Presidential Awards for Filipino Individuals and Organizations Overseas**.

These awards are our way of recognizing the notable achievements and contributions of overseas Filipinos and global partners to our country's development efforts. I extend my gratitude to you for sharing your time, talent, energy, and resources for the welfare of our people and for the progress of our nation. Your dedicated service has served as beam of inspiration to us all and has been integral in sustaining our momentum on the path leading to inclusive progress.



Showing your passion to keep our time-honored spirit of bayanihan, which brings communities together in celebration of life and humanity, you have offered us hope despite our changing multicultural landscape. You make us realize that there are still men and women who champion commitment, excellence and compassion amidst our highly competitive environment.

May this recognition deepen your engagement as partners for change in nation-building. Ignited by our strong aspiration for a fully-transformed Philippines, may you rally behind the banner of real change and let your contributions increase tenfold by inspiring your fellow Filipinos here and abroad to take a proactive stand in shaping a better society.


RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE
The President of the Philippines

MANILA
November 2016

I thank, too, the entire Commission of Filipinos Overseas for organizing this event for more than two decades now. Your undertaking to give due credit to the hardwork of our kababayans overseas are, indeed, noteworthy. I wish you a happy and memorable celebration.



COMMISSION ON FILIPINOS OVERSEAS

MESSAGE

Each one of us has taken a life journey that is worthy of a narrative. And for each one of the individuals and organizations who are recipients of the 2016 Presidential Awards for Filipino Individuals and Organizations Overseas, theirs is a story of a life lived not just for oneself but for others. A story of being part of what is good in humanity. A story about changing the narrative of the mobility and movements of people across national borders to create a better world for themselves, their families, their home and host countries, and for the global community. A story of hope and inspiration for millions of Filipino migrants and their families.

There are currently 10.24 million overseas Filipinos located in 221 countries, states and territories. Wherever they may be found and whatever life circumstance they are in - as immigrants who have found a home away from the Philippines but who have kept their ties strong and vibrant with their country of birth, as temporary workers whose daily toil provide a better life for their families back home, as marriage migrants who establish transnational families, as professionals and students eager to expand their horizons - they act as ambassadors of goodwill, showcasing the best that a Filipino has to offer. And these are the traits which makes them intrinsically Filipino - a deep love for one's country and a desire to contribute to the betterment of the society in which they live in.

This is evidenced by the remittances they send home which reached US\$30 billion in 2015. It is facilitated by establishing linkages with the homeland and committing to philanthropic activities through the Commission on Filipinos Overseas' *Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino* (LINKAPIL) and *BaLinkBayan* programs, and other similar channels of engagement. They are emboldened as they fight for the shared advocacy of migrant rights regardless of nationality or borders. They are admired by their foreign contemporaries for their work ethic and skills.

Twenty-five years ago, 36 exceptional individuals and organizations were the recipients of the first ever prestigious Presidential Awards. Biennially since then, we have given tribute to outstanding Filipinos, organizations, and even foreigners overseas who have contributed greatly to the development of both the Philippines and the various communities of Filipino diaspora abroad.

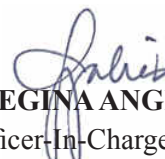
It is thus fitting that we dedicate the month of December to outstanding Filipinos and organizations overseas, as we find ourselves once again amidst the celebration of the Month of Overseas Filipinos. In keeping up with our tradition, the Commission on Filipinos Overseas pays respect and gives due recognition to the recipients of the 2016 Presidential Awards.

We salute this year's awardees for their pursuit of excellence and for acting as beacons of inspiration for your countrymen; for their inspiring and tireless work in improving the condition of our communities overseas and for ensuring that they could have a voice in advancing their cause; for their unwavering efforts to strengthen linkages with the Philippines through philanthropic activities which has contributed towards nation-building and national development; and for their invaluable friendship and altruism in aiding the marginalized.

President Rodrigo Roa Duterte has pledged that this generation of overseas Filipinos would be the last as his administration works to achieve the social and economic condition that will make living or working overseas a genuine choice for every Filipino. Alongside the achievement of this goal, the Commission on Filipinos Overseas shall continue to recognize our overseas Filipinos who have been our partners for change and development.

Together, let us all make the Philippines and this world a much better place for all Filipinos and for peoples of all nations.

Mabuhay at Maligayang Pasko sa ating lahat!


MARIA REGINA ANGELA G. GALIAS
Interim Officer-In-Charge

Manila, December 2016

Presidential Awards for Filipino Individuals and Organizations Overseas

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 437 Filipinos and private organizations overseas since its establishment. President Corazon C. Aquino conferred the first set of awards to 36 awardees in 1991. President Fidel V. Ramos conferred the second and third sets of Presidential Awards to 22 and 45 awardees in 1993 and 1996, respectively. President Joseph E. Estrada conferred the fourth and fifth sets of Presidential Awards to 30 and 59 awardees in 1998 and 2000, respectively. President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo conferred the sixth, seventh, eighth and ninth sets of awards to 34 (with one special citation), 45, 48, and 31 awardees, in 2002, 2004, 2006, and 2008, respectively. President Benigno S. Aquino III conferred the tenth, eleventh and twelfth set of awards to 24, 29 and 33 awardees, in 2010, 2012 and 2014, respectively.

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

On 19 December 2016, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte will honor 23 distinguished Filipino individuals and organizations based in 11 countries, who, because of their exceptional achievements or humanitarian efforts, have given form and substance to Filipino excellence and the time-honored values of *pakikipag-kapwa*, *pagtutulungan*, and *pagkakaisa*.

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

This year's awardees were selected from a total of 103 nominations from 22 countries through 33 Philippine Embassies and Consulates. Of the 23 awardees, 17 are individuals while 6 are organizations. The awardees came from Israel, United States of America, Qatar, Norway, Pakistan, Germany, Taiwan, Australia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore and United Arab Emirates.

Message from President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, *i*

Message from CFO Interim Officer-In-Charge Maria Regina Angela G. Galias, *ii*

Background of the Presidential Awards, *iii*

Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino Awardees

Aragones, Edgar E., *p. 2*
Pagyamanin Likas Musika, *p. 3*

Reunion e.V. Cloppenburg, *p. 4*
Sulse, Marina R., *p. 5*

Kaanib ng Bayan Awardees

Johannesen, Erlend E., *p. 8*
Korth, Sabine, *p. 9*
Sheikh, Fahdel, *p. 10*

Tzu Chi Foundation, *p. 11*
Weiss, Sabine Katharina, *p. 12*

Banaag Awardees

Chin, Marilou S., *p.14*
Escurel, Fidel M., *p.15*
Kapit-bahayan Co-operative, Ltd., *p.16*
Maristela, Rodrigo B., *p.17*

Philippine Nurses Association of
Metropolitan D.C., Inc., *p.18*
Philippine Society of Mechanical Engineers
– Central Region, Saudi Arabia, *p.19*

Pamana ng Pilipino Awardees

Araral Jr., Eduardo K., *p.22*
Asuncion, Manuel G., *p.23*
Buan, Danilo P., *p.24*
Capati, Guillermo B., *p.25*

Liban, Emmanuel Crisanto B., *p.26*
Lim Jr., Paulino M., *p.27*
Reyes, Hernan M., *p.28*
Sergio, Rommel P., *p.29*

Awards Committees, *p.30*

Programme, *p.31*

Gallery of Presidential Awardees, *p.32*

Directory of 2016 Awardees, *p.38*

About the Commission on Filipinos Overseas, *p.40*

Awards Secretariat, *p.42*



Table of Contents



LINGKOD

SA KAPWA PILIPINO

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

A W A R D E E S

Edgar E. Aragon
Israel

Pagyamanin Likas Musika
United States of America

Reunion e.V. Cloppenburg
Germany

Marina R. Sulse
United States of America



EDGAR E. ARAGONÉS

Israel

Mother Teresa once said that “Not all of us can do great things, but we can do small things with great love”. This saying is being lived by Edgar Aragonés, an overseas Filipino caregiver who has touched the lives of thousands of overseas Filipinos during his eight-year stay in Israel by doing small acts of kindness and great love. He firmly believes that happiness and fulfilment can be found in serving humanity, and doing good deeds is not only about how much one can contribute but also about its lasting impact in the lives of others. For him, helping other people especially those in need of assistance, is much more important than just simply making money for a living.

Known to his friends and peers as “Ka Edgar”, Mr. Aragonés hails from Binangonan, Rizal. He and his wife, Aileen, are blessed with two sons. He used to work in a factory as a machine operator in his hometown. However, their difficult family situation pushed him to leave his job and family behind to seek greener pastures in Afula, Israel. His hard work, conscientiousness and big heart are his best traits which made him easily gain the trust of his employers, as well as Filipinos in the Holy Land.

During his stay overseas, he learned of the different stories and challenges experienced by his fellow OFWs in Israel. Upon seeing some of them in distress, Mr. Aragonés sought out other Filipino caregivers to establish an organization that would serve as a support group to Filipinos. Thus, the OFW Israel Foundation was born.

Under his leadership, welfare activities to assist distressed Filipinos in Israel and support Filipinos affected usually by natural calamities in the Philippines were implemented. Since 2013, the Foundation was able to generate thousands of shekels and were given to Filipinos who badly needed support and assistance. Some of the OFWs who were afflicted with various types of cancer and bone disease were provided assistance to augment expenses for their medical procedures. Even family members left behind by the death of loved ones were given assistance to cover the cost of memorial and burial expenses. In 2016, he spearheaded the repatriation of 12 undocumented Filipinos, some of whom were also suffering from illnesses in Israel, by providing free airline tickets for their return to the Philippines.

Mr. Aragonés is also at the forefront in promoting the rights of OFWs, particularly in condemning the abusive acts by some recruitment agencies that collect excessive placement fees from prospective OFWs to Israel even prior to their deployment, through lobbying their concerns directly with the Philippine Embassy in Tel Aviv.

The Foundation also conducted fundraising activities to help the victims of natural disasters in the Philippines, particularly by the flooding caused by a series of monsoon rains in 2012 and by super typhoon Yolanda in 2013. It also conducted free tutorial on computer repairs and services, and donated funds for the building of a chapel in Gulod, Binangonan, Rizal.

Mr. Aragonés may be an ordinary OFW but his passion, commitment and leadership to serve the Filipino community in Israel and their families left behind shows the purity of his heart. His sense of nationalism, compassion, and hard work allow him to easily win the trust and heart of Filipinos in Israel.

In conferring the *Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino Award* to Edgar E. Aragonés, the President recognizes his lasting philanthropic deeds by establishing the OFW Israel Foundation which has generously helped OFWs in distress and for his conscientiousness in spearheading welfare activities for the sick and for the repatriation of undocumented Filipinos.



PAGYAMANIN LIKAS MUSIKA

United States of America

Music is the language of the soul. For Filipinos who have a knack for creating beautiful melodies using traditional musical instruments, the music they produce ensure that the souls of Filipino youth are ingrained with traits that positively build their characters as productive individuals.

Pagyamanin Likas Musika (PLM), a San Jose, California based organization, takes off from the love of the rondalla by its founder Mr. George Gange and his desire to see progress for the Philippines. Serving as a scaled up platform, PLM was established as a non-profit organization in February 2010. It primarily aims to help preserve and promote the playing and appreciation of the native Philippine rondalla instruments, while at the same time becoming an agent of change for the Philippines by investing in the future of the children.

Since its establishment, the group, through its Rondalla Instruments Lending (to own) Program, have helped establish sixty two community/school beneficiaries all over the Philippines, costing an average of Php10,500 per set of eight rondalla instruments (bandurria, laud, octavina, guitar, and others). Aside from sharing the joy of playing the rondalla, the organization aims to train children and students of beneficiary communities and schools in playing and developing an appreciation of rondalla. It would also like the children to eventually become part of a rondalla ensemble that could further spread appreciation of rondalla music through concerts and other performances.

In line with this thrust, the group organized Rondalla Festivals – Kwerdas sa Pagbabago (2011), Kwerdas sa Kapayapaan (2012), Kwerdas sa Kaunlaran (2013), and Kwerdas ng Puso (2015). The Rondalla Festival serves as a platform for children members of communities and schools of the Rondalla Lending (to own) Program to showcase their newfound skills in playing rondalla instruments. It also offers them the opportunity to build important life skills such as self-confidence, working in harmony with others, and boosting morale and self-esteem that enables them to dream a better quality life for themselves.

Going beyond helping the children of beneficiary communities and schools, PLM had also raised funds for calamity victims. The group has mobilized and donated a total of US\$17,450.11 to various relief assistance efforts in calamity stricken areas in the Philippines, US, Haiti, and Japan.

In 2015, PLM initiated a micro-finance/business development venture that has provided initial capital for a priest and his young parishioners in their Christmas medallion business project, 10 families in Bacoor, Cavite engaged in retail businesses, and women and youth entrepreneurs in Cavite and Bulacan.

In addition, the organization has extended scholarship allowance to financially struggling but deserving college students. The program, which was initiated in 2014, has since supported the education of two college students. One of the students already graduated with a degree in Computer Science at the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila while the other one is in his third year, also taking up Computer Science in the same school. The organization also gives out community/school service awards in recognition of high school students who make a difference in their schools through volunteer work or actions that may be considered heroic in nature.

Through their love for rondalla music and the Philippines, PLM has significantly contributed to changing the lives of Filipino children, their communities, and schools for the better.

In conferring the Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino Award to Pagyamanin Likas Musika, the President recognizes its passion in promoting our unique Filipino musical heritage towards building the character of Filipino youth and raising funds to help in relief assistance efforts in calamity affected areas in the Philippines and other parts of the globe.



REUNION e.V. CLOPPENBURG

Germany

Cloppenburg, a bucolic town in Lower Saxony, Germany, serves as the capital of Cloppenburg District, a part of Oldenburg Münsterland. It has a population of more than 32,000 individuals, a relatively small town when compared to Germany's entire 80 million population. Who would have thought that a town this small and 10,378 kilometers away from the Philippines, is home to an organization that does not consider distance as a barrier in helping Filipinos.

Reunion e.V. Cloppenburg, an incorporated association of Cloppenburg citizens, has gone beyond its core objective of promoting cultural exchange between people of different cultures and nation when it took the path of promoting development aid towards providing a sustainable living for underprivileged and disaster-affected communities.

Reunion is regarded as a partner by many Filipinos in accessing basic services and assistance, as shown in its philanthropic activities that benefited hundreds of Filipino families. The organization was co-founded by and under the leadership of Ms. Gloria Bachoco, a nurse by profession.

For more than two decades, Reunion has conducted numerous fund-raising activities and also received grants from generous organizations in support of its efforts to reach the disabled, sick and less fortunate individuals they intend to serve. Not only do they raise funds for their various programs and activities, but they also find time to visit and conduct it themselves in the Philippines.

Since 1994, Reunion has been conducting monthly feeding programs in Veterans Village in Iloilo City. It also donated medical equipment to rural health clinics in Romblon and Iloilo. Twice a year, they send *balikbayan* boxes to Romblon containing medical instruments and materials, new or used clothing, and toys. They also donated water pumps to around 30 households in the village of Libertad in Romblon, and have likewise constructed public toilets and showers in the village of Sicsican in Puerto Princesa. Since 2014, Reunion has extended microcredit assistance to women and students in Iloilo City.

Reunion currently grants scholarships to indigent children from grades 1 through 12, covering the students' tuition fees, uniforms, supplies and even their daily allowance. It also supports 75 college scholars in Iloilo and Libertad. In 2013, Reunion also raised funds to build a new pre-school for the indigent children in Libertad, Romblon.

In the aftermath of super typhoon Yolanda, 22 fishing boats and 48 cycle rickshaws were given to the victims who lost their livelihood.

While Reunion's numerous community development projects improved the living conditions of its less privileged beneficiaries, they also conducted activities to promote cultural appreciation and intercultural understanding among different nationalities. Cultural gatherings held in Germany provide a venue for the Germans and other residents from different nations, including Filipinos, to meet and interact with one another. This also serves as an opportunity to connect and network, as well as to introduce and promote Reunion's programs and projects in the Philippines.

In conferring the Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino Award to Reunion e.V. Cloppenburg, the President recognizes its dedication in building bridges through philanthropy and cultural exchanges, and its endless generosity in extending support to Filipinos, both in Germany and the Philippines.



MARINA R. SULSE

United States of America

A diversity often prepares ordinary people for an extraordinary destiny. Marina Sulse is one of the living and shining examples of how hardship motivated a person not only to persevere and succeed in life, but also to help and make a difference in the life of others, especially the less privileged.

Witnessing the deplorable conditions of her less privileged *kababayan*, particularly the elderly and school children, in Taft, Eastern Samar, she promised to study and do well so that one day she could help them. Her actual experience of a disrupted schooling due to her family's unstable financial state years back, fueled her aspiration of freeing her town mates from the same fate she once suffered.

An accountant by profession, Ms. Sulse is currently a shareholder of a cooperative in Manhattan who admittedly enjoys the warmth of her *kababayans*' priceless hugs every time she comes home for a vacation.

Whereas saving has been connected to investing for one's future, Ms. Sulse's practice of saving while working in New York is a reflection of her altruistic nature. Her frugality accorded her with enough savings and a capital to purchase rental apartments in Manila. From the earnings she got from her properties, she was able to establish a scholarship program for college students who have been experiencing unfavorable financial circumstances in her hometown. Named after her mother Julia Sulse, the scholarship program has given out Php 1.5 million worth of grants to about 100 college graduates, with a hundred more undergraduates for the school year 2015 – 2016. Most of the scholars are pursuing different courses ranging from agriculture, accountancy, business, education, engineering to information technology.

To show their appreciation to Ms. Sulse, the scholars initiated an unsolicited exchange program of sorts by planting fruit trees in their home backyards. They also vowed to adopt scholars of their own someday, after earning their degree and getting a job. Pleased with this gratefulness from the students, Ms. Sulse would always remind them that while helping others too is truly a noble act, it should always come after making themselves sustainable and helping their own family. Aside from providing scholarships, she also helps in financing classroom rehabilitation for elementary school children in her hometown.

Inspired by the youth summer camp program in New York where her daughter serves as a regular volunteer, Ms. Sulse also brought in the same program to her hometown in 2006. The program offers structured educational activities and engagements in personal, educational, and development tasks such as games, housekeeping, personal hygiene, activity planning and execution, dramatization of culture and tradition, among others. Ms. Sulse's scholars assist in the summer camp program as tutors, volunteers and coordinators. So far, the program has benefited more than 3,000 school children.

Ms. Sulse also assisted impoverished families in her hometown by providing them with start-up capital for raising poultry and pigs.

Because of her compassion and kindness, she has earned the respect and admiration of her *kababayan*. A sweet smile is often her response when asked why she never gets tired of helping others in need.

In conferring the Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino Award to Marina R. Sulse, the President recognizes her selfless dedication to support the education of the less fortunate students in Taft, Eastern Samar through her own personal resources to fund the Julia Sulse Scholarship Program, and her commendable conduct of structured educational activities for the youth in her hometown.



K AANIB 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.

A W A R D E E S

Erlend E. Johannesen
Norway

Sabine Korth
Germany

Fahdel Sheikh
Pakistan

Tzu Chi Foundation
Taiwan

Sabine Katharina Weiss
Germany



ERLEND E. JOHANNESSEN

Norway

Sometimes, one's wandering leads to opening doors of hope in places where there is none. This encapsulates Erlend Johannesen's inspiring story and determination to emit light to the lives of unfortunate children in the Philippines - a country miles away from the comforts of his own home.

Years back, in his homeland in Norway where most 21-year old men were into partying and enjoying the early stage of their adulthood, Mr. Johannesen instead vowed to help and be of service to underprivileged Filipinos.

He first visited the Philippines in 1995 when he was 12 years old to join his father's missionary activities. He was deeply fascinated with the warm hospitality of Filipinos and was impressed by their strong family ties despite the problems they face. The experience was an eye opener for him that he came back immediately after his mandatory military service in 2004 and volunteered in one of the orphanages in Eastern Samar.

Volunteering in a town where there was scarcity of certain basic services, such as electricity, water resources and means of communication, never dwindled his resolve to help. The situation was sometimes non-ideal that he had to travel all the way to Tacloban City to purchase some personal necessities and to communicate with his family back in Norway.

These frequent visits to Tacloban City had unleashed further his passion to uplift the hopelessness of some. While in the city, he became an easy prey for the street children as they chased him for alms. Never did he give in to the children's begging; instead he took them to some fast food restaurants and bought them food. Each is a feast for the children that later on became a weekend habit. Over food, he heard stories of helplessness due to poverty and severe domestic abuse that forced the children to take refuge on the streets. Moved by their revelations and fearing that they would later become hardened criminals while being exposed to the dangers of the streets, Mr. Johannesen started to develop the idea of opening a center that could serve as their haven.

He studied and researched extensively, and traveled throughout the Philippines to learn from the operations and experiences of various orphanages and child-care centers. He also reconnected with his friends in Europe and Canada to draw support for his plan to save the children. His commitment never waned even after contracting an illness, and yielding in to his mother's request of returning to Norway so he could recuperate. Back in his home country, he did not sit down idly but worked hard to push for the realization of his vision. His seven-month work enabled him to send money to the children through his special friend Neva Homeres, a social worker whom he met and worked with at the orphanage in Eastern Samar.

Neva would later on become his wife. Their family is now blessed with three beautiful children.

Mr. Johannesen went back to the Philippines and at age 24, founded and finally opened his dream center - the Streetlight Philippines based in Tacloban City. The center primarily aims to reunite the city's young vagrants with their loved ones and be given a second chance in life so that they would eventually become productive, self-managing individuals and contributing members of their family and community. Today, Streetlight Philippines caters to 28 children, providing them with good health, education and a regained faith in a family life to help them build a better future that is free from drugs, prostitution or starvation. Additionally, 70 children have been enrolled in its study and development center. Most of them have already been reunited with their families and some were placed in foster homes with the continuous monitoring of the center.

In 2013, Mr. Johannesen faced a major setback in running the center when super typhoon Yolanda directly hit Leyte and did not spare the Streetlight. The staff and the residents of the center almost did not survive the fatal storm surge had they not evacuated on the center's rooftop on time. Streetlight was badly damaged. Together with some private entities, he is rebuilding what was lost and destroyed. Despite the challenges, the center's services continue to transform the lives of street children for the better.

In conferring the Kaanib ng Bayan Award to Erlend E. Johannesen, the President recognizes his noble efforts to save the lives of and provide shelter for forsaken street children in Leyte, by establishing his foundation, the Streetlight Philippines.



SABINE KORTH

Germany

Inspired by the teachings of a saint and charitable acts that began in her home country, Ms. Sabine Korth established the Mabuhay - St. Francis of Assisi Primary Health Care Program in 2004. It was registered as a non-profit organization in Bonn, Germany for the benefit of the people of Bugko, Mondragon, Northern Samar.

Bugko is a coastal *barangay* in Mondragon, a third class municipality in Northern Samar and thirty kilometers away from the nearest hospital in the province. Access to medical services was not a priority for the people of Bugko given the local government's limitations. Making ends meet was more of a priority than seeing a doctor as earning a living is deeper to dig in Bugko. Most people still believe in the traditional way of medication as they lack proper health education.

Ms. Korth's frequent visits in the area that started in 2007 exposed her to the people's plight in Bugko. She has been deeply moved by the hapless situation of the people - many of the children were malnourished, some of the people's small wounds got infected because of poor hygiene and they could not afford to see a doctor. The people's inability to afford basic medical services inspired her to use her profession as a nurse, connections and influence to gather funds, resources and manpower to conduct medical, dental and surgical missions in the area. Her family, composed of medical practitioners, volunteer their expertise, time and resources for her missions.

Through contributions from foreign and local donors, she was able to put up a two-storey health care facility in Bugko. It has a laboratory fully equipped to facilitate the medical needs not only of the people of Bugko, but also nearby *barangays*, some even coming from as far as Leyte. It also serves as an evacuation center for the more than 3,000 residents especially during typhoons. Life for the residents of Bugko has truly changed since the arrival of Ms. Korth. People have become fully aware of the importance of basic medical health, disease prevention and emergency aids.

Through the efforts of Ms. Korth, she was able to secure help from the association of German dentists which has been the greatest financial contributor to the establishment of the medical facility in Bugko. The Rotary Club in Bonn is one of the consistent donors of medical and dental supplies and other relief goods. The club had previously sent a team from Germany for medical/dental missions and relief operations.

Ms. Korth also facilitated the renovation of classrooms destroyed by typhoon Glenda and distribution of arm chairs to the schools in Bugko which she solicited from the German European School in Manila. With the help and continuous support from the International Surgical Missions (ISM) led by Dr. Paul Radway, they were able to provide surgical services to outpatients free of charge. Aside from the regular medical and dental missions, Ms. Korth also facilitates surgical operations for indigent patients with hernia, thyroid enlargement, breast tumor, fibroids, gallstones, colon tumor, and cleft lip and palate.

She is like a mother who sees to it that everything is in order whenever she is not around through local counterparts, like Sister Veronica Tulipas, when she is not in the Philippines. She is also assisted by local volunteers who help them in the logistics and manpower during medical, dental and surgical missions.

"Do not allow your labours for me in my illness to be a burden for you, for God will repay you for me; He will reward you with all the fruits of your labours both in this world and in the next". These are the words of St. Francis of Assisi that have been guiding Ms. Korth and other volunteers to continue her altruistic work.

In conferring the Kaanib ng Bayan Award to Sabine Korth, the President recognizes her altruistic efforts in raising funds for the establishment of a health care facility in Bugko, Mondragon, Northern Samar and her outstanding philanthropic work for the welfare and well-being of the people in Northern Samar.



FAHDEL SHEIKH

Pakistan

For migrants, accessing healthcare within a multicultural setting is often a complex endeavor. Key issues that bar them from availing health services are lack of knowledge of the appropriate channels, language barrier, and the cultural attitude to health and interaction.

For Filipinos in Pakistan, access to medical services has become easier because of Fahdel Sheikh's selfless act in making these services more accessible for overseas Filipinos in the hospital where he works – the Aadil Hospital in Lahore. Established in 1987, Aadil Hospital provides quality health services to patients, including migrants, from all socio-economic backgrounds in the local community in Lahore. After decades in operation, the hospital earned its prominent status for meeting the health care needs of the community through incomparable patient-centered care.

Mr. Sheikh has always been impressed by the dedication and industry demonstrated by Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) in his home country. He also observed that they tend to neglect their health condition by refusing to go to the hospital when needed, just so they could save money that they would rather send to their families back home.

As the current director of the Hospital Administration, Human Resource and Marketing, Mr. Sheikh opened the hospital's doors to Filipinos who want to avail quality medical care and services. He personally gets in touch with them, not in his capacity as a businessman, but simply as a compassionate and caring man wanting to look out for the welfare of his fellow men. He managed to help Filipinos get immediate access to basic hospital services, and sometimes avail discounts. He also regularly sponsors medical, dental and surgical missions for Filipinos and their families in Pakistan. Eventually, Aadil Hospital has become not only a household name among the Filipinos, but also a trusted partner.

In 2014, he started a first of its kind policy in the hospital by offering first aid cards to OFWs, especially for those in South Punjab and Lahore. These cards act as identification cards which certify the holder's identity as a migrant while granting them discounts for regular hospital services and free first aid. Moreover, Filipina workers who are victims of domestic abuse are also treated in the hospital, free of charge. He personally supervises their treatment until full recovery before he approves their release. He also keeps a room in the hospital where Filipinos can meet and relax.

As a response to the World Health Organization's goal to eradicate polio, Mr. Sheikh initiated a polio eradication camp. Through the camp, polio drops and injections were administered, while International Certificates for Immunization for Travelers were issued to the beneficiaries. This has been made regular and comes with a general check-up, and evaluation of blood pressure and vitals. It also includes free screening for infectious diseases and blood collection and donation centers.

Mr. Sheikh has consistently proven that he is a friend of the Filipino community, even in their time of sorrow. The unexpected passing of the late Ambassador Dominador Lucenario, Jr. due to a helicopter crash in 2015 left the Filipinos in Pakistan shocked and saddened. Mr. Sheikh was the one who took over the funeral services. As an act of generosity, he also handled the repatriation of remains of the late ambassador back to the Philippines.

He also provides financial support in the holding of celebrations and cultural events organized by Filipinos organizations and the Philippine Embassy in Pakistan. Truly, every Filipino in Pakistan whom he has assisted and helped, considers him an angel. He has indeed become a pillar and strong supporter of the Filipino community.

In conferring the Kaanib ng Bayan Award to Fahdel Sheikh, the President recognizes his outstanding philanthropic contributions and dedicated service to help the Filipinos in Lahore, Pakistan such as opening Aadil Hospital to provide Filipinos quality medical care services.



TZU CHI FOUNDATION

Taiwan

When speaking of Taiwan, the first thing that comes to mind may be its night markets selling oyster omelets and bubble tea, or the fact that it is also the world's largest manufacturer of contract electronics, notebook computers, and independent semiconductor foundry. But perhaps, not everybody knows that it is also home to the

largest Buddhist humanitarian and charitable organization in the world, Tzu Chi Foundation.

Driven by the belief that the “lack of love for others” is the cause of suffering in the world, Dharma Master Cheng Yen, a Buddhist nun, set out on a mission to make a positive impact in the lives of other people and established Tzu Chi Foundation in 1966. With presence in almost 50 countries, the Foundation is committed to five major missions: charity, medical care, education, humanistic culture and environmental protection.

Seeds of unconditional love, compassion, and genuine concern have brought the foundation to the Philippines in 1994. Tzu Chi Foundation Philippines started out with humble yet determined beginnings, with meetings for relief operations and charitable activities held at volunteers' houses. But the volunteers' fervent efforts soon paid off when Tzu Chi Taiwan supported the purchase of a 4,400 square-meter lot, which eventually became its main operation center.

When Master Cheng received the Ramon Magsaysay Award – the Asian Nobel Prize, for community leadership, she donated half of her prize money to victims of Mt. Pinatubo eruption. Inspired by the Master's devotion to relieve the suffering of mankind, members of Tzu Chi vowed to continue carrying out humanitarian missions in the Philippines.

One of Tzu Chi's greatest contribution to the lives of many Filipinos was its relief operations during the aftermath of super typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan) in 2013. The organization launched a housing project for thousands of families in Ormoc, Leyte. To provide materials for the project, Tzu Chi set up a prefab factory in Sta. Mesa, Manila. The factory is able to provide temporary employment for some, and also helps them acquire skills in welding and machine handling.

Moreover, the Foundation conducted clean up drives in areas that were hard hit by super typhoon Yolanda. To encourage residents to take part in cleaning their own communities, Tzu Chi offered a cash-for-work program offering Php500 a day for the residents. Within 19 days, this program motivated and mobilized almost 300,000 residents of Tacloban, inspiring them to recover and stand on their own feet.

Tzu Chi also provided medical aid and temporary classrooms to survivors. Beyond the material and financial aid, the organization helped lift the spirits of the thousands of individuals and families and gave the survivors a renewed sense of purpose as they work together to rebuild their lives.

The unconditional love and compassion of Tzu Chi was also felt in the aftermath of typhoon Sendong in Cagayan de Oro, typhoon Pablo in Mindanao, typhoon Ondoy in Metro Manila, earthquake in Bohol and during the siege in Zamboanga.

Apart from relief operations, Tzu Chi also engaged in giving medical aid and social services to Filipinos. It has conducted 206 medical missions, the most recent of which was held in Sta. Mesa, Manila. A total of 3,151 Filipinos were provided with free consultations, treatments and medicines and services in general medicine, dermatology, ENT, dental, ophthalmology, acupuncture, pain management and minor surgery.

Tzu Chi also provided financial support worth Php3 million for the operation to separate conjoined twins, Jennylyn and Jerrylyn de Guzman. Their parents, Jason and Ludy de Guzman, were grateful knowing that their twins can now live normal lives. The Foundation vowed to continuously support the twin's needs, especially their education.

As Master Cheng Yen said, “to save the world, we must believe in transforming human hearts.” Tzu Chi indeed changed the lives of its beneficiaries, as well as volunteer members by fueling their hope for a brighter future, and lessons to inspire them to lead better lives.

In conferring the Kaanib ng Bayan Award to Tzu Chi Foundation, the President recognizes its exemplary philanthropic works and charitable missions that uplifted the physical, emotional and spiritual state of marginalized Filipinos in the Philippines.



SABINE KATHARINA WEISS

Germany

History books say that slavery was a thing of the past. But modern day slavery in the form of human trafficking is still rampant victimizing mostly poor, vulnerable women and children around the globe. Thankfully, there are people like Sabine Katharina Weiss who are committed to fighting this crime and putting an end to it.

Ms. Weiss is a lawyer by profession and a current member of the German Federal Parliament (Bundestag). She is a member of the board of Solidarity with Women in Distress (SOLWODI) in North Rhine-Westphalia. She is known for being a champion and defender of women's rights.

In 1989, she handled a case involving ten Filipinas who were victims of human trafficking in Germany. These women who were initially promised decent work, ended up as illegal migrants, caught between housework and forced prostitution. Through her generosity, she was able to help in the integration to the country of the five survivors by sponsoring their three-year vocational education. After the completion of their training, the women eventually returned to the Philippines.

To ensure that the women were able to reintegrate in their home country, Ms. Weiss flew all the way from Germany to visit them in their hometown in Pangasinan. She was happy to be reunited with the women she helped. But her three-week stay in the village of Palapar Norte in Malasiqui opened her eyes to a much bigger problem - the poverty situation and the misery surrounding families, that prompts some of the locals to migrate, even though scrupulous means.

With a burning desire to address one of the root causes of human trafficking and to make a difference in the lives of the underprivileged locals, she decided to establish Pangasinan e.V. A private development assistance organization, it aims to provide basic social services such as livelihood, health care, education, and immediate relief assistance for the welfare of Filipinos in Palapar Norte. She conducted fundraising campaigns to develop the village agriculturally. Through donations, they were able to acquire land, livestock, agricultural machines, and medical equipment. She supervises the programs of the association through her yearly visits to the village.

Today, around four thousand residents of Palapar Norte enjoy the fruits of the projects initiated by Ms. Weiss. The organization was able to establish the building of a school and setting up of a health facility. Successful fundraising activities were also organized for the benefit of scholarship programs for less-privileged students. The organization also helped in facilitating land purchases by the farmers themselves and ensuring water supply for rice, corn and tobacco plants through erected water pumps. Fields can now also be tilled even after the rainy season which triple the harvest of the farmers per year.

Ms. Weiss' dedication in helping Filipinos truly made a lasting impact, especially those that directly benefitted from the assistance. Her advocacy towards the fight against human trafficking continues as she engages herself in educating the public through information drives in schools. She also works hand-in-hand with the Philippine Embassy in Berlin in its efforts to address migration related issues, specifically safeguarding women's rights and welfare. Her willingness to provide care, and assist Filipino women in Germany and the residents of Palapar Norte, Malasiqui, Pangasinan significantly contribute to the betterment of their lives.

In conferring the Kaanib ng Bayan Award to Sabine Katharina Weiss, the President recognizes her proactive involvement in safeguarding the rights and protection of Filipino women migrants in Germany as well as her generosity in catering the needs of the people in Palapar Norte, Malasiqui, Pangasinan.



BANAAG

The *Banaag* Award is conferred on Filipino individuals or associations for their contributions which have significantly benefited a sector or advanced the cause of overseas Filipino communities.

A W A R D E E S

Marilou S. Chin

Fidel M. Escurel
Qatar

Kapit-bahayan Co-operative Ltd.
Australia

Rodrigo B. Maristela
Germany

Philippine Society of Mechanical Engineers
– Central Region, Saudi Arabia
Saudi Arabia

**Philippine Nurses Association of
Metropolitan D.C., Inc.**
United States of America



MARILOU S. CHIN

There are thousands of children with Filipino and Indonesian ancestry in Sabah, majority of whom are Filipinos. Their parents are Filipinos who fled from Southern Philippines mainly to escape poverty and conflict. These children do not have proper identification and documents that are required in enrolling in schools thus preventing them access to education. This has resulted in illiteracy and many were even forced to work at a very young age. These are just some of the glaring issues faced by Filipino children in Sabah but thankfully there are people like Marilou Salgatar-Chin who are providing them with the much needed assistance.

To address the education needs of the growing number of children, Ms. Chin, together with other Filipinos in the community, spearheaded the establishment of Stairway to Hope Learning Center in 2012. Situated in Kampung Kalansanan Inanam, Kota Kinabalu, the alternative learning school caters to children who cannot go to a proper school in Sabah.

Alternative Learning System (ALS) is a parallel learning system that provides a practical option to the existing formal instruction. When one does not have or cannot access formal education in schools, ALS is an alternate or substitute. ALS includes both the non-formal and informal sources of knowledge and skills. Since these children are citizens of no country, they are denied access to public schools and health care, ALS allows these children to catch up to their own abilities and diligence.

The idea of setting up the center came after Ms. Chin saw the plight and the dire situation of the undocumented children in Sabah, who really want to go to school like any regular children. She invited Filipino community leaders and individuals who have the heart to give migrant Filipino children a fighting chance to learn how to read and write. The primary objective of the center is to provide basic educational services for the underprivileged children in Sabah regardless of their nationality, race, and religion. The center also offers medical services, and recreational activities such as sports and craft creation. The funding for the center primarily comes from her own money and donations from different individuals and organizations.

In 2014, the Philippine Embassy in Kuala Lumpur together with the Department of Education, Commission on Filipinos Overseas and six alternative learning centers (including Stairway to Hope) forged a Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen the capacities of these centers and to increase access to education for the community-based Education Program in Sabah. The project was initiated right after the Federation of Filipinos Associations in Malaysia Visioning Workshop in 2012 through the guidance of Ambassador Eduardo Malaya. The project is also backed up by Persatuan Kebajikan Anak-anak Miskin Sabah (Association for the Welfare of Underprivileged Children in Sabah) which was approved by the Registrar of Society of Malaysia and registered in 2015.

Stairway to Hope is open five days a week, where the children are taught how to read and write in English, Filipino, and Bahasa Melayu. Math and Science subjects are also offered, as well as religion classes (both Muslim and Christian) and extra-curricular activities such as dancing, singing, guitar lessons and computer classes.

Because of Ms. Chin's compassion and dedicated effort, many of the children can now at least read, write, and count – life skills that they can use in their everyday lives. True to its name, the center has indeed become a path to hope for these children who dream of a better and brighter future.

In conferring the Banaag Award to Marilou S. Chin, the President recognizes her dedication and commendable efforts in establishing the Stairway to Hope Learning Center, which has provided alternative learning education to stateless children in Sabah.



FIDEL M. ESCUREL

Qatar

Fidel M. Escurel lives by the wise words of Winston Churchill – “We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.” He spends most of his days helping people and making a difference to the life of others.

Mr. Escurel comes from a simple family in Romblon, Romblon. His mother, a teacher, was his inspiration in pursuing higher education. He was also active in joining extra-curricular activities, and became a member of a cultural dance troupe, which later earned him a scholarship grant. He completed his Bachelor’s Degree in Electronics and Communications Engineering from Eulogio Amang Rodriguez Institute of Science and Technology (EARIST).

He migrated to Qatar in 1988 to work as a Computer Engineer in several companies. He currently works as Telecom/Web Coordinator of Qatar International Petroleum Marketing Company Ltd., also known as Tasweeq. The company does regional market research to the local industry that also aids in the decision-making of the Qatar government and the hydrocarbon national resource development in marketing. Among his work functions include administering and managing the online platforms and systems of the company. His professional excellence and dedication made him a recipient of numerous “Employee of the Month” citations from his previous and current employers.

His peers look up to his ardent display of dedication and commitment to his community advocacies. His innate leadership skills have enlivened his genuine love for his Motherland and fellow overseas Filipinos as demonstrated in his various community engagements. One of Mr. Escurel’s most recent endeavours was his chairmanship of the Philippine Independence Day Organizing Committee (PINOC) in 2012. The celebration of the Philippine Independence Day in Qatar was attended by more than 13,000 Filipinos. He also led fund raising efforts that raised US \$22,000.00 from various sponsors which was consequently donated to a myriad of causes in Qatar and in the Philippines.

Wherever work took him, his skill as a prime mover was very apparent. When Mr. Escurel transferred to Yemen in 1994 to take up a more lucrative offer, he organized their Christian Fellowship and bible-study group to ease the homesickness that he and his co-workers felt.

When he was forced to go back to Qatar due to civil unrest, he set-up the FilCom Toastmaster Club Doha together with other community leaders in 2002. The said club was crucial in furthering the capacity of the youth in public speaking and was thus encouraged to join in speech competitions. A year after, they put up the Foundation of Filipino Workers Worldwide (FFWW) with the support of the Embassy. The Foundation’s primary objective is to provide affordable medical check-ups, hospitalization and financial support to less fortunate families of overseas Filipino workers in the Philippines. The Foundation does not only limit its assistance to Filipinos in Qatar, but to Filipinos elsewhere. In 2005, FFWW provided financial assistance that facilitated the return of the remains of a Filipino in US to the Philippines.

Moreover, in 2015, he was instrumental in the establishment of the Middle East and Africa Network of Filipino Diaspora (MEANFiD). MEANFiD is a non-profit and dynamic international networking association of Filipinos in the Middle East and Africa that aims to bring the Filipinos together to promulgate the nationalistic sense of Filipino nationhood while they are away from the Philippines. Presently, he is the Overall-Chair of MEANFiD and has been very active in introducing its concept and objectives through his personal visits to other countries in the Middle East with huge presence of overseas Filipinos. His efforts had paid off as other countries like Bahrain, Ethiopia, Israel, Jordan, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Oman and United Arab Emirates joined MEANFiD and established their own chapters.

In the same year, he was the first Filipino community leader who received a Certificate of Recognition from Ambassador Wilfredo C. Santos for his invaluable service in advancing the interests of the Filipino community in Doha, and for his exemplary leadership in the areas of civic participation and social empowerment. His latest distinction is his 2016 Bagong Bayani Award conferred by the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration in recognition of his professional and unwavering commitment both as a community leader and an overseas Filipino worker.

In conferring the Banaag Award to Fidel M. Escurel, the President recognizes his exemplary professional achievements and his dedication and leadership in addressing the welfare and psycho-social needs of overseas Filipinos in his individual capacity and as founder of socio-civic organizations in Qatar.



KAPIT-BAHAYAN CO-OPERATIVE LTD.

Australia

Australia consistently tops the chart as one of the most expensive countries to live in. Hence, the country's high cost of living makes finding an affordable housing particularly challenging, especially for migrants. This gives housing cooperatives, like Kapit-bahayan Co-operative Ltd. (KCL), a paramount role in providing affordable yet convenient and comfortable accommodations to migrant families settling in Australia.

KCL, the first Filipino-organized housing cooperative in New South Wales, Australia, was registered in 1995 with an initial roster of 15 Filipino immigrants as members. Today, the cooperative is considered to be one of the most successful Filipino organizations in Australia in terms of long-term community benefits, social significance and asset value.

The win-win premise behind KCL is simple. The properties are voluntarily managed by the tenant-members in an organized, participative and democratic manner while being guided and supervised by the government. Its main objective is to house low-to-medium income Filipino-Australian families, but it also welcomes other ethnic families and individuals. Aside from the electricity and rental fee of 25% of the occupant's income, everything else is paid for by the cooperative.

KCL's success has been spectacular. It currently manages five property clusters: Auburn, Berala, Wentworthville, Merrylands and Canley Vale. Its sixth site, based in Leumeah, became a full-fledged housing cooperative. Helping in its transition was a milestone for KCL. Moreover, one notable achievement of the cooperative is its acquisition and development of Canley Vale Housing Project, which is bought through its equity fund or savings. This housing project also meets all government housing regulations complemented by ecological and power-conservation features.

KCL is more than bricks-and-mortars; it is about building a strong Filipino community whose members consistently practice Filipino traditions and culture. Tenant members promote the social character of a Filipino village while participating in community development and management activities. KCL conducts regular activities such as bi-monthly general meetings, public Christmas parties, participation in Clean-Up Australia, and Philippine Independence Day celebrations. Tenants also foster a supportive and welcoming environment, do ecological-friendly organic gardening, recycling and garbage composting, among others.

In addition, KCL's contributions go beyond the Filipino community, as it was also instrumental in forming other community groups. It spearheaded the establishment of the Alliance of Philippine Community Organizations (APCO), a federation of Filipino-Australian organizations in Australia. It also assisted in establishing the Auburn Small Community Organization Network (ASCON), a federation of ethnic communities operating in Auburn. The Sudanese, Sierra Leonean, Somali, Tamil, Filipino, Afghan, Hazara, Liberian, Iraqi, Burmese, Karen, Ukrainian and other South Asian organizations are represented in this network. The cooperative also helped in organizing groups from other ethnic communities, such as the Somalian, Hindus, Sudanese and Turkish.

The Filipino KCL continues to boost its credential as an outstanding cooperative by winning various performance based awards, including ABS-CBN's "Global Bayaning Pilipino Award (Gawad Geny Lopez Jr.)", "Most Outstanding Innovative Community Project" by Zest Award for Greater Western Sydney, "Innovation and Building Partnership Award" by the Cooperative Housing New South Wales, "Award for Excellence in Community Housing" by New South Wales Federation of Housing Associations, "Overall Excellence in Community Housing" by New South Wales Awards, "Excellence in Leadership and Innovation" by Association to Resource Cooperative Housing, and "Most Outstanding Community Organization" by Filipino Community Councils of Australia. These awards are well-deserved accolades given KCL's continuous service and commitment to the Filipino-Australian community.

In conferring the Banaag Award to the Kapit-bahayan Co-operative Ltd., the President recognizes its steadfast commitment in providing affordable, decent and comfortable housing accommodations to low-medium income Filipino and multi-cultural families, and for strongly promoting Filipino culture and values.



RODRIGO B. MARISTELA

Germany

“He who does not know how to look back at where he came from will never get to his destination.” Mr. Rodrigo Maristela lives up to one of the most enduring quotes from national hero Dr. Jose Rizal. As a registered nurse and a former member of a German boy band in Germany, “Oggie”, as he is known to many, has shown his worthy contributions to his fellow Filipinos. He is a loyal advocate for upholding Filipino culture and values in Germany. For his colleagues, friends and patients, he is a perfect example of a compassionate leader, a hardworking professional, and a Filipino who has shown a deep love for his country.

Mr. Maristela is currently Head Nurse at St. Josef Hospital in Essen, Germany. He migrated to Germany with his family when he was 12 years old. For 25 years, he has been an active community leader and volunteer, and a resource person for conferences held for Filipino diaspora from different European countries. He is a vital link between Filipino-Germans (FilGers) in promoting and preserving the Filipino culture and values in Germany. For two terms, he served as Chairperson of the Association Lending Assistance in Exigencies at Home (ALA EH), a non-profit overseas organization whose vision is to promote Filipino culture and tradition in Germany, and to uplift the lives of their fellow Filipinos by financing development projects and relief assistance to needy communities in the Philippines.

A dedicated Filipino who finds fulfillment in serving others, Mr. Maristela spearheaded fundraising campaigns and cultural affairs to strengthen the bilateral relations of the Filipino-German community and to support the promotion of Philippine culture. He organized cultural presentations and sponsored Filipino visual and performing artists. His leadership had set an example for second generation of FilGers to inspire and motivate them to continue the legacy of their elders in strengthening Filipino communities.

He had likewise been a representative of ALA EH and Germany to some conferences that were held for Filipino diaspora from different European countries. In 2013, he was elected as the representative of the Germany Chapter to the European Network of Filipino Diaspora (ENFID), an international networking association that seeks to cultivate a sense of shared nationhood and cooperation among overseas Filipinos in Europe.

He was instrumental in charity and fundraising events that sustain the projects of ALA EH in the Philippines such as the scholarship program that supports the education of 11 children, in partnership with the World Vision Philippines. He likewise supports its “Help Build the Philippines” project as Overall Coordinator of the ALA EH fundraising Gala Night Events which develops and supports long-term projects. These projects include construction of classrooms, health centers, sanitary toilets, deep wells, and multi-purpose rooms for the less fortunate Filipinos in the Philippines. Currently, there are more than 20 projects that the ALA EH is supporting with an allocation of € 2,500 per project.

In partnership with the Commission on Filipinos Overseas, under the Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino Program, ALA EH, through Mr. Maristela, set up the La Purisima Shrine Credit Cooperative in Brgy. Guindapunan, Palo, Leyte for survivors of super typhoon Yolanda. This cooperative focused on swine fattening and dispersal, and backyard poultry production. To date, the capital of the cooperative has reached Php 1.6 million with an increased membership from 67 to 127 families.

One of the amiable traits of Filipinos is that they support and help each other despite them being on foreign soil. As he continues his colorful journey overseas, the Filipino community will always have a special place in Mr. Maristela’s heart. His unwavering support to the second generation of FilGers in the field of music, art and fashion is still unparalleled as he continuously help organize shows and exhibits to showcase their talents in their field of interest to their new home.

In conferring the Banaag Award to Rodrigo B. Maristela, the President recognizes his dedication and unparalleled effort to diaspora philanthropy initiatives for the benefit of families and beneficiaries in the Philippines, and extensive contribution in keeping alive the Filipino spirit by promoting and preserving the rich Philippine culture and traditions in Germany.



PHILIPPINE NURSES ASSOCIATION OF METROPOLITAN D.C. INC.

United States of America

It is an honor for a country as small as the Philippines to be named an empire of care mainly because of its immense Filipino nurse labor force that is practically present in all of the world's continents. In the US, and elsewhere in the globe, Filipino nurses are highly prized because they can speak English fluently, are trained in state of the art and modern medicine, and enjoy a reputation for their tender loving care, treating patients as if they are real family members.

But it wasn't always an easy road for Filipino nurses, especially when they first migrated to countries like the US. Being foreign graduates, they need to pass stringent nursing licensure examinations before they could practice their profession.

In 1971, a small group of Filipino nurses led by Ms. Tess Sanchez Cauterrucci formed the Philippine Nurses Association of Metropolitan DC. (PNAMDC), primarily to assist newly arrived Filipino nurses in their area and help them pass the examinations. The association developed a board review curriculum and hired credential reviewers in preparation for the state board examinations. Upon receiving approval of the curriculum from the Nursing Boards of the District of Columbia, Maryland, Florida and Virginia, PNA MDC started to offer review classes to all foreign graduate nurses in preparation for the state boards for a minimum fee of \$5 per subject. It became instrumental in the review courses which most of the time boasts of a hundred percent passing rate in the board examinations.

After more than four decades, PNA MDC which is now part of the Philippine Nurses Association of America, still continues to thrive based on its commitments and fellowship, and under the present leadership of Ms. Lorna Imperial Seidel. PNA MDC's milestones and accomplishments as an association is enriched by the dedication of its past and present officers who maintain its mission to uphold the positive image and welfare of its constituent members, promote professional excellence and contribute to significant outcomes to healthcare and society.

In 2001, PNA MDC was instrumental in the elimination of the Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools (CGFNS) examination for licensed practicing Filipino nurses from other states seeking endorsement to practice in the District of Columbia. In 1995, PNA MDC collaborated with the PNA A in seeking legislation in the extension of H-1A visas to foreign educated nurses. As a result of this concerted lobbying efforts, a bill was passed averting the mass layoff of nurses mostly employed in long-term care facilities. The association also provides a comprehensive orientation program on integration in the US and assistance to job placements for the newly arrived nurses. It also launched a wellness initiative for the members, which includes dance exercise and fun run.

PNA MDC further extended their scope of involvement in civic engagement by holding conferences and trainings to improve the nurses' skills and professional excellence, inter-agency collaboration, and conduct of civic activities and humanitarian missions for the less privileged Filipinos in the US and the Philippines. The organization also initiated a health-screening program serving the local community of Washington, DC. It provides free health screening, first aid service and flu shot vaccinations to low income senior citizens. It also organizes health fairs, in partnership with other organizations.

As of 2015, PNA MDC has conducted a total of 13 medical, surgical and dental missions to the Philippines, which provided free healthcare services and medication to more than 50,000 indigent patients. These missions were conducted in underserved areas in Zambales, Ilocos Sur, Leyte, Cebu, and Misamis Oriental. The association also provided relief goods for the victims of Super Typhoon Haiyan. Remarkably, with the grant it received from the Philippine Humanitarian Coalition Supporting Orphans for the Prevention of Human Trafficking, PNA MDC was able to adopt and assist in the education of four children who became orphans in the aftermath of the typhoon.

In 2015, PNA MDC embarked on its new global educational outreach program in collaboration with Liceo de Cagayan University in Cagayan De Oro City for the academic development and clinical practice of their nursing students.

PNA MDC has come a long way and has evolved in terms of providing services which was recognized thru the awards they have received – 2009 Global Geny Lopez Jr. Bayaning Pilipino Award and 2014 PNA A Transformation Award.

In conferring the Banaag Award to the Philippine Nurses Association of Metropolitan D.C. Inc., the President recognizes its exemplary services in helping Filipino nurses be integrated in Metropolitan D.C., and philanthropic spirit in helping thousands of underprivileged individuals and families in the United States of America and the Philippines.



PHILIPPINE SOCIETY OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERS - CENTRAL REGION, SAUDI ARABIA

Saudi Arabia

“*Spearheading Global Excellence*” is the creed by which the Philippine Society of Mechanical Engineers - Central Region, Saudi Arabia (PSME-CRSA) subscribes to. The organization credits its creation to the unwavering pursuit for knowledge of bright young minds who recognized the value of global competitiveness, networks and connections.

A machine is the sum of its parts, in the same way, the PSME-CRSA would be nothing without its members, each one a component who contributes to its maximum efficiency. Starting from humble beginnings – a handful of members conducting free review classes – it has now grown into the largest professional organization for Mechanical Engineers in Saudi Arabia.

The organization uplifts those with a passion for mechanical engineering, starting with the youth through their PSME-CRSA Foundation and Scholarship Program. From 2011 until 2015, it supported nine beneficiaries, including a college student from Tacloban who lost his home during Typhoon Yolanda.

They then started providing additional support to future mechanical engineers by establishing the PSME Mechanical Engineering Review Center. Since the conduct of the first Special Professional Licensure Board Examinations (SPLBE) for OFWs in the Middle East, reviewers under the center registered the best passing rate for the Mechanical Engineers Program.

Furthermore, the organization also conducts Continuing Professional Development (CPD) technical courses in Saudi Arabia for the benefit of Filipino engineers and engineering graduates who wish to succeed and be one step ahead of their counterparts in the global employment market. Through their numerous aid to their members, they have established a tight-knit and well-respected community of engineers who in turn perform philanthropic acts and nurture future engineers.

The organization does not limit itself in the scope of its activities nor territory. In 2015, PSME-CRSA spearheaded the 1st ASEAN Engineer Exam for OFWs in KSA where PSME-CRSA candidates earned 100% passing percentage in said exam, and in 2016, they produced their first batch of ASEAN Chartered Professional Engineers (ACPE) and APEC Engineers.

Not only do they pursue excellence and professionalism, they imbibe among their members the spirit of charity in the conduct of both small-scale and large-scale outreach activities. These include providing financial assistance to their members suffering from serious medical conditions, as well as donating to socio-civic organizations.

PSME-CRSA has conducted various typhoon relief and calamity drives, bloodletting missions, dental missions, and medical missions in various areas in the Philippines, as well as in Saudi Arabia. An example of their admirable leadership in conducting their outreach activities was in 2014 when they had formed a partnership with the Healing Hands Foundation to execute Oplan Yolanda whereby the organization in partnership with the largest hospital in KSA conducted medical missions and relief distribution in Leyte, the actual site of the calamity.

In conferring the Banaag Award to the Philippine Society of Mechanical Engineers - Central Region, Saudi Arabia, the President recognizes its drive for professional excellence complemented by its philanthropic spirit, and its dedication to cultivate the skills and talents of young and aspiring Filipino mechanical engineers to be globally competitive.



PAMANA NG PILIPINO

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

A W A R D E E S

Eduardo K. Araral, Jr.
Singapore

Manuel G. Asuncion
Australia

Danilo P. Buan
United States of America

Guillermo B. Capati
Australia

Emmanuel Crisanto B. Liban
United States of America

Paulino M. Lim, Jr.
United States of America

Hernan M. Reyes
United States of America

Rommel P. Sergio
United Arab Emirates



EDUARDO K. ARARAL, JR.

Singapore

“Fortune favors the bold.”

Dr. Eduardo K. Araral, Jr. has always been guided by these wise words of ancient Roman poet Virgil. A colleague recalls an interesting anecdote of how Dr. Araral had come to know of the Temasek Scholarship through an ad in a newspaper which was used to wrap something he had brought from the market. It is no wonder that fortune smiles upon him as he is the type of person to take immediate advantage of the opportunities that come his way. It is with the same take-charge attitude that he also earned himself a Fulbright PhD Scholarship with Elinor Ostrom, the 2009 Nobel Laureate in Economics as his mentor.

Dr. Araral is the Vice Dean of Research and Director of Institute of Water Policy of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy-National University of Singapore, one of the leading schools of public policy in the world. He is also a faculty associate at the Ostrom Workshop in Political Theory and Policy Analysis, the Coase Institute, and a visiting researcher at the University of Paris-Sorbonne. Much like his mentor with whom he had worked with for seven years, his field is in economic governance, particularly focused on the governance of the commons or the governance over shared finite resources. As an educator, he has influenced hundreds of public servants and future leaders in Asia and beyond. As a firm believer in development through sound public policy, he has contributed greatly to the prosperity of his mother country and that of others through his academic research.

Dr. Araral has been published in 20 journals, most of which are internationally-referred journals, among which includes, Water Policy, Water Resources Research, Water Resources Management, International Water Resources Development, Water Alternatives, Policy and Society, Governance, Journal of Public Administration and Research, World Development among others. He has also authored 17 other publications and presented in 40 conferences globally.

He is an asset to many countries' governments, as proven by his active portfolio of government advisory, consultancy and executive education. He previously served as Strategy Adviser to Kazakhstan's Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Development as well as to the Government of Vietnam for public administration reform.

In addition, he has undertaken consultancy projects for Asian Development Bank, World Bank, United Nations Development Programme, local governments and non-governmental organizations. He has also lectured in Executive Education Programs involving more than 3,000 government officials from 27 countries in Asia including Ministers, Permanent Secretaries, Directors, City Commissioners and Mayors, NGO leaders, CEOs of multinationals and ranking military officers. He has also implemented some 120 projects in the field for seven years as a Project Manager for an ADB-funded poverty alleviation project in the Philippines.

Although he and his family have already settled in Singapore, he has never forgotten nor weakened his bonds with the Motherland. He is a man passionate about the development of his country, determined to utilize his collective life experience to engage in policy issues consistently affecting the country. At present, he works on the ASEAN Secondary Cities (medium-size cities in Southeast Asia) Project as the country focal point for the Philippines Country Case study. This experience has allowed him to develop deeper insights on the policy reforms needed to improve the situation of information and communications technology in the Philippines. He worked on drafting the Philippines' Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Manifesto, which highlights the aspirations of a connected Philippines for 2016 and beyond.

Dr. Araral was the recipient of the Fulbright PhD Awards and a US National Science Foundation Grant. He was also granted fellowships from three research centers of Nobel Laureates in Economics and conferred the Ostrom Prize for the Governance of the Commons. His recognition and awards are clear testaments to his excellence in the field.

In conferring the Pamana ng Pilipino Award to Eduardo K. Araral, Jr., the President recognizes his significant contributions to the advancement of scientific knowledge in the field of economic governance and public policy, and the prestige he has brought to both the Philippines and Singapore in the global academic community.



MANUEL G. ASUNCION

Australia

The arts stimulate one's intellect and perspectives, and convey enriching experiences and personal enjoyment. But importantly, the arts nourish culture and heritage, while cultivating one's identity. A sterling example of this type of art in the world of theatre are the works made by Mr. Manuel G. Asuncion. They have contributed significantly to social cohesion and harmony of the Filipino-Australian community in Melbourne and the wider multicultural Australia.

Mr. Asuncion or Manny to his colleagues and friends, is a playwright based in Victoria, Australia. In 1987, three years after migrating, he co-founded Dulaang Bayan Melbourne, Inc. (DBMI), a Filipino community development theatre that aims to capture the experiences and struggles of Filipino migrants in settling and living in Australia, while highlighting their dreams, hopes and ambitions.

Fuelled with dedication, Mr. Asuncion has worked productively behind the scenes and produced a number of plays through the years, including Meeting sa Makiling in 2010, Ang Ikalawang Tag-Sibol ni Mang Florante in 2009, Summer of Butterflies in 2006, Mga Eksena sa Airport in 2004, Keshoda in 2001 and Autumn Sonata in 2000.

Mr. Asuncion's expertise is not limited to theatre. As a multi-faceted individual, he is also a writer, newspaper columnist, Filipino teacher and translator. From 1990 to 2010, he has written over 400 news articles, feature stories, film critiques and short stories that saw print in various Filipino-Australian newspapers, namely The Philippine Times, which he co-founded, Bayanihan and the Philippine Community Herald, both in Sydney, Munting Nayon Newspaper Magazine in Netherlands and Daily Mirror in New York, USA. In 2014, he launched a book that is a collection of his best plays entitled Seasons: An Anthology of Filipino Plays Down Under. Mr. Asuncion hopes that his writings will be useful to researchers, students and scholars who are interested in the Philippine arts, culture and language.

In 1994, he became one of the first batch of teachers of the Philippine School of Victoria. He also taught at Victorian School of Languages from 1990 to 1994 and Princess Hill Language School from 1991 to 1995. Moreover, he was also a chief examiner for Filipino Interpreters and Translators for the National Accreditation for Translators and Interpreters (NAATI) from 1996 to 2010 and chief lecturer of the Filipino Department of the Australian Defense Force School of Languages from 1998 to 2012.

Aside from his numerous engagements and endeavours, Mr. Asuncion also devoted his time with the Filipino-Australian Community through voluntary works in organizations such as the Philippine Community Council of Victoria (FCCVI), a non-governmental organization recognized to be the umbrella body of Filipino organizations in the state of Victoria; Filipino Community Councils of Victoria, the national umbrella body of Filipino Organizations in Australia; FILOZ Toastmaster Club, Melbourne, an organization that help members develop public speaking and leadership; Filipino Artists in Melbourne (FAME), which promotes Filipino artists in Melbourne and; Philippine Fiesta of Victoria.

His talent and contributions merited him recognitions from the Australian and Filipino communities. In 2008, his selfless voluntary service to the community was honored by the Philippine Community Council of Victoria. Consequently, in 2012, he received a Plaque of Appreciation for his service and dedication to the community from Philippine Community Council of Victoria. In 2014, the Filipino Community Councils of Victoria bestowed on him the Filipino-Australian Achiever Award. In 2015, he was conferred with the Victoria's Multicultural Award for Excellence from Victorian Multiculturalism Commission and the Eminent Alumni Award and International Jubilarian Award from Philippine Normal University. He was also recognized in 2016 by the Pinoy International Music and Arts Festival (PIMAF) for his outstanding contributions to the arts and culture while overseas.

Mr. Asuncion's success was honed through years of education and training. He holds a degree in Elementary Education and a degree in Arts, Speech and Drama, which he attained in the Philippines. In Australia, he obtained a Master's degree in Applied Linguistics, a Graduate Certificate in Literacy and a postgraduate degree in Education. In addition, he acquired special qualifications such as level 3 translator and level 2 interpreter of English and Filipino (both ways) and a Certificate of Teaching English as a Second Language.

In conferring the Pamana ng Pilipino Award to Manuel G. Asuncion, the President recognizes his exemplary devotion and passion in promoting Filipino culture and heritage through language, arts and drama in multicultural Australia.



DANILO P. BUAN

United States of America

There are few extraordinary people who make life easier for ordinary people. They are the inventors and innovators who have the natural skill and talent to transform their brilliant ideas into actual products or machines that make people's everyday life a little easier. Danilo P. Buan is an inventor and innovator who ushered in an era of new, easy to use, and more efficient sewing machines, desktop machines, mailing machines, and calculators, digital watches and clocks that make use of LED, LCD and microchip technology.

Mr. Buan was born in Camarines Norte, but it was in Pampanga though that he spent his years growing up. Eventually, he landed in Manila where he earned his Mechanical Engineering degree at the Mapua Institute of Technology in 1960. He worked as Lead Mechanical Engineer at Union Chemicals, Inc. in Pasig from 1960 – 1962, before he left for the US to pursue a Master of Science in Management Engineering at the Newark College of Engineering.

It was in the US that Mr. Buan started and spent 30 years of his professional life building a solid career in various capacities as Project Manager, Engineering Manager, Project Group Manager, and Technical Leader with companies such as the Singer Company (Consumer Products Division and Office Products Division), Velobind, Inc. (Equipment Engineering Department), Litronix, Inc. and Pitney Bowes, Inc.

In his eight years as Project Manager with Singer, Mr. Buan obtained 3 design patents on mechanisms for sewing machines. He followed this up with several design patents on bookbinding and paper punch machines at Velobind. It was during his 12-year stint with Pitney Bowes that his designs on postage meters and mailing machines were granted patents. He attained quite a rare achievement given that he has 28 US patents credited to him as inventor.

Mr. Buan became actively involved in the promotion and advancement of the mechanical engineering profession as a two term Chairperson of the New Haven Chapter of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (1992-1994). The chapter was involved in teaching young and talented high school science students the fundamental concepts of Photovoltaic microchip cells (solar cells). The students were also mentored in the design and construction of model solar-powered cars that were raced at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Immediately after his early retirement in 1994, Mr. Buan went back temporarily to the Philippines and volunteered to teach at the Saint Louis University and the Philippine Military Academy (PMA). Among the subjects he taught were product design and product development process. Equally important was the actual design and fabrication of model solar powered cars designed by the students from Mr. Buan's teachings. Engineering graphics and drafting courses were also taught to the plebes of the PMA.

In 2011, Mr. Buan was the recipient of the Outstanding Mapuan Award in the International Field of Endeavor in Mechanical Engineering, the highest honor that the school and its national alumni association confers to its alumnus.

Mr. Buan is married to Nelly Dudero of Dumangas, Iloilo and they have 3 children – Danilo Jr., Catherine, and Melissa – all graduates of top US universities who are all successful in their chosen profession.

At present, he focuses his energies in serving the community by joining civic and service oriented organizations. He serves as the Treasurer and Chairperson of the Scholarship Board of the Dumangas Association of Northern California (DANC) which provides financial support to 8 scholars annually at Iloilo State College. On a personal capacity, Mr. and Mrs. Buan also support the education of 8 scholars annually at the Western Visayas College of Science and Technology (Dumangas campus).

In conferring the Pamana ng Pilipino Award to Danilo P. Buan, the President recognizes his expertise in mechanical engineering having resulted in a rare achievement of obtaining 28 USA patents, in sharing his expertise as an educator, and by providing scholarships to deserving students in Western Visayas.



GUILLERMO B. CAPATI

Australia

For Gold Coast in the south eastern part of Queensland, a city renowned for its stretches of white sandy beaches, kilometers of canals and waterways system, and amazing climate, the importance and impact of water cannot be emphasized enough. With its significant contribution to the local economy and the city's susceptibility to extreme drought, comprehensive planning to ensure water is sufficient, safe and sustainable is critical. For twenty-one years, this significant task lay in the hands of Guillermo B. Capati who serves as a Manager Service Sustainability at the Gold Coast Water.

As Manager Service Sustainability, Mr. Capati is responsible for the strategic long-term planning of the city's water and wastewater infrastructure assets. He ensures that the city has sufficient and continuous supply of safe and reliable drinking water and recycled water. He is also in-charge of safeguarding the collection, treatment, disposal and reuse of wastewater and residues, and that the process is carried out in a safe manner for the protection of human health and the environment

Mr. Capati is a registered professional engineer in the field of civil and environmental engineering who gained his bachelor's degree in Civil and Sanitary Engineering from the Mapua Institute of Technology and Masters in Architecture from the University of the Philippines Diliman.

Mr. Capati's groundbreaking work and achievement in the management of water resources have earned him and Gold Coast Water international recognition. He has led Gold Coast Water to four International Water Association (IWA) Project Innovation Awards (PIA), a prestigious global competition that recognizes and promotes innovation and excellence in water management. These Global Awards are in recognition of the following projects developed under his direction: Sewer Corrosion and Odour Research (SCORE) Project (2014, Portugal), Gold Coast Water Four R's Project (2010, Canada), Model Based Management for Hydrogen Sulfide in Sewers Project (2008, Singapore), and Pimpama Coomera Waterfuture Master Plan (2006, China).

Remarkably, the recent Millennium Drought, which almost crippled South East Queensland (SEQ) water supply, saw the planning and implementation of the largest water infrastructure project in Australia. A USD 6.9 billion SEQ Water Grid was built to service 3.2 million people and a regional approach to water supply planning, management and operation were made possible by institutional reforms to ensure the efficient and effective functioning of the diverse range of supply sources. For these outstanding contributions to the water future of Gold Coast and broader South East Queensland, Mr. Capati was awarded a "Public Service Medal" in 2013 by the Governor-General of Australia with the Authority of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The Public Service Medal also affirmed his earlier recognition as "Public Sector Professional of the Year" by the Institute of Public Administration Australia - Queensland in 2009, and the "Eric Brier Memorial Award" by Engineers Australia - Queensland Division in 2010.

Mr. Capati has been voluntarily collaborating with Manila Water Company to help achieve water security in Metro Manila. This collaboration started in 2010, in the Asia Pacific Water Conference held in Gold Coast where he shared with Manila Water his proven strategies and cost-effective solutions in infrastructure planning through the use of engineering GIS technology and advanced hydraulic modelling and asset management applications. These specific strategies and recommendations from him have provided Manila Water a competitive edge by designing, operating and managing better and more cost-effective systems, protecting the environment, and safeguarding public health in Metro Manila. Using his insights, Manila Water was able to effectively evaluate its operation and further improve the services to their customers.

The increasing need for cutting-edge science and innovation in water management to address the global demands for sustainably produced water, safe water supply and healthy waterways is highly significant to developing countries. This facilitated the partnership between Manila Water Company and the University of Queensland (UQ) where Mr. Capati has been serving as Adjunct Professor of the Advanced Water Management Center (AWMC). The partnership aims to further develop a range of innovative strategies which can be used to better manage water in large cities.

While Mr. Capati has been a productive citizen of Australia for decades, one of his most admirable traits is his care for Filipinos who have decided to make Australia their second home. He has mentored young Filipino professionals to increase their chances of succeeding in a new environment. He and his wife who is a medical doctor likewise funded a medical mission in Batangas where 300 patients who are over 60 years old were given laboratory test and provided opportunity to be checked by the other doctors who supported the mission.

In conferring the Pamana ng Pilipino Award to Guillermo B. Capati, the President recognizes his exemplary leadership and achievements in waste and wastewater management and his outstanding public service and contribution to the City of Gold Coast and the Philippine Motherland.



EMMANUEL CRISANTO B. LIBAN

United States of America

As transportation promotes mobility, accessibility and connectivity, one must also consider its safety and sustainability. Serving as the Executive Officer for Environment and Sustainability, Dr. Emmanuel Crisanto Liban oversees the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation (Metro) environmental compliance, environmental remediation, energy and renewable energy, climate change management, and water and resources management efforts; while supporting the agency's USD 40 billion transportation infrastructure expansion program.

Leading in the implementation of various programs at Metro, Dr. Liban uses technology advancements, creative financing, and leveraging non-traditional partnerships to effect social change in the communities that the agency serves throughout the County of Los Angeles. Together with his staff, he has accelerated the Metro's use of innovative technologies in energy and water efficiency and resource management. He has closely collaborated with its vehicle technology group in advancing the use of renewable natural gas to reduce environmental impacts in the planning, construction, and operations. These efforts generated millions of dollars in cost savings and currently displaces more greenhouse gas emissions, thus, significantly increasing the achievement of clean air goals for the region. He likewise authored some of the Metro's most sweeping Board approved policies including the Green Construction Policy, Water Use and Conservation Policy, Environmental Policy, Renewable Energy Policy, and Recycling and Reuse Policy. These policies have changed the way the Los Angeles region and other cities do construction work and infrastructure.

Dr. Liban has consistently achieved small business participation in all of his projects through the inclusion of both environmental and sustainability consulting and construction contracts. Working with the Philippine Consulate, Philippine Trade and Investment Center, and local Filipino Chambers of Commerce, Dr. Liban has increased the number of Filipino American and Filipino businesses who participate in LA Metro's procurement opportunities since 2012. He has also supported the community's active participation in the Business Advisory Council and has increased the number of minority and disadvantaged small businesses participation in the environmental and sustainability space. In addition, he holds a quarterly "Kapihan" with these small businesses to discuss business opportunities, as well as promote networking. He has tirelessly worked with many members of the Metro community to get alternative and innovative funding mechanisms to build, operate, and maintain many of its sustainability infrastructure programs. Partnering with other government agencies and private partners, Metro has been at the forefront of technology innovation and implementation, ahead of many transit agencies across the country.

Dr. Liban has consistently increased the number and availability of electric vehicle (EV) chargers throughout Los Angeles County. Beginning with just 20 chargers, up to 100 chargers were installed at about 30 park and ride locations throughout the Metro System. He has consistently supported economically disadvantaged areas in all of his sustainability infrastructure construction related efforts, particularly in renewable energy installation and green infrastructure jobs. He has over USD 100 million in programmed procurements that can potentially use workers from the said area.

In addition to his duties at LA Metro, Dr. Liban also currently serves as a Commissioner of the Los Angeles Board of Transportation Commissioners and the Los Angeles County Beach Commission. His recent appointment by the US Environmental Protection Agency Administrator to the National Advisory Council for Environmental Policy and Technology (NACEPT) will further take his local solutions and policy recommendations on environmental and sustainability challenges to the federal government stage. This is in addition to the already numerous national level contributions he has made as the chair or member of various panels in the Transportation Research Board; and his leadership roles in the American Public Transportation Association.

Dr. Liban has also been very active in the Filipino-American community having been involved for many years as a Filipino American Service Group, Inc. (FASGI) Board Member. As current FASGI Board Chair, he ensures that disadvantaged community members, specifically in Los Angeles's Historic Filipino town, have a social safety net through FASGI's transitional housing and preventative care center. The organization's Immigration Outreach Program has collectively increased in the number of permanent residents to consider, apply from and get US Citizenship; and thus play an active role in shaping the policies that impact the Filipino-American Community. He also plays an active role in increasing the safety of Temple Avenue through the installation of pedestrian lights at all of the 18 bus stops that are within the thoroughfare's Historic Filipino footprint. Filipino artwork will be incorporated into the poles and light fixtures to reflect three themes *Kapwa*, *Lakbay*, and *Kapayapaan* – the major traits that describe the Filipino Community in the United States. Dr. Liban and his fellow community members are using this opportunity to introduce and simultaneously create pride in Filipino Arts as this installation will be the first of its kind in the country.

Dr. Liban earned his bachelor's degree in Geology from the University of the Philippines, master's in Civil Engineering from Loyola Marymont University, and doctorate in Environmental Science and Engineering at the University of California.

In conferring the Pamana ng Pilipino Award to Emmanuel Crisanto B. Liban, the President recognizes his expertise and invaluable contribution in the field of transportation, environment and sustainability which have greatly served the County of Los Angeles and the Filipino-American community through his introduction of technology advancements, creative financing and leveraging non-traditional partnerships to effect social change in the communities.



PAULINO M. LIM, JR.

United States of America

Spellbinding, gripping, profound... these are only few of the praises received by critically-acclaimed novelist Paulino Lim, Jr. for his fiction and literary works that are constructive criticisms of the political, social, and religious ills and situations in the Philippines.

Born in 1935 in Camalig, Albay, Mr. Lim's potential as a writer manifested even when he was still in high school. He was studying at St. John's Academy in his hometown when he bagged first place at a regional essay writing contest. A few years later, he graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor's Degree in Education in 1956, and earned a Master's in English in 1959 from the University of Santo Tomas. He pursued a doctorate degree in English at the University of California, Los Angeles in 1967.

In 1985, Mr. Lim came out on top of other Filipino and Asian writers when he won first prize in the Asiaweek Short Story Competition, a continent-wide contest. His winning piece entitled "Homecoming" is now one of the most anthologized texts in short story collections in Asia.

Since then, Mr. Lim became known internationally for his literary exploration of significant theological and philosophical issues hurdled by Filipinos during the post-colonial period in the country. He became the author of the novels "Tiger Orchids on Mount Mayon" (1990), "Sparrows Don't Sing in the Philippines" (1994), "Requiem for a Rebel Priest" (1996) and "Ka Gaby, Nom de Guerre" (2001), "Curacao Cure and Other Stories" (2005), "Menage Filipinescas" (2008), "Death of the English Zen Professor" (2011), and "Sabong: Stories" (2015). Most of his politically-themed novels, set during the country's Martial Law period and against the backdrop of his hometown Bicol and the famed Mayon Volcano, are significant contribution to the growing body of fiction that attempts to rediscover Philippine history. His other published works also include a scholarly monograph titled "The Style of Lord Byron's Plays", two short story anthologies – "Passion Summer and Other Stories" and "Curaçao Cure and Other Stories", and two dramas – "It's All in Your Mind" and "Ménage Filipinescas".

Many critics praise his style of writing citing that he is a master in recreating a milieu, and never fails to stimulate, arouse, and excite the reader's intelligence with witty humor, astute narrative strategy and lucid prose.

Aside from being a prolific writer, Mr. Lim also had a distinguished career in the academe. He first taught in San Beda College before becoming a Fulbright lecturer in Taiwan, a visiting professor at De La Salle University in Manila, and professor of English for 33 years at California State University (CSU), Long Beach. He was the Faculty Adviser of the campus group, the Pilipino-American Coalition (PAC), composed of students born in the Philippines and the US. After retiring from full-time classroom teaching, he supervised student teachers in middle and high school for five years to help them fulfill a California credential requirement. He also volunteered to develop and conduct courses for senior citizens at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at CSU. He also gave lectures in philosophy and creative writing to student groups.

For his literary skills and ingenuity, Mr. Lim was awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award by the University of Sto. Tomas in 2016.

In conferring the Pamana ng Pilipino Award to Paulino M. Lim, Jr., the President recognizes his significant contributions to Philippine literature thru his politically-themed literary and scholarly works about Philippine history.



HERNAN M. REYES

United States of America

Dr. Hernan M. Reyes is a maestro in his own right. Akin to a musician with his instruments, he has mastered his surgical tools with precision and delicate grace. He performs his operations the same way a maestro conducts a great orchestra. An internationally recognized surgeon, medical educator and researcher, surgical administrator, member of governmental commissions and boards, surgical association leader, medical volunteer, and Christian missionary, Dr. Reyes is all that and more.

He graduated from the University of Santo Tomas in 1957 and continued his career in the US where he attained notable achievements. His excellence in the field of surgery is recognized both in the Philippines and overseas. From his humble beginnings at the Cook County Hospital in Chicago in the year 1958, he has steadily climbed the ladder of success. From being an attending surgeon, he became the Chairperson of the Division of Pediatric Surgery in 1976 and the Department of Surgery in 1987. Dr. Reyes is the first foreign medical school graduate who was appointed as a permanent chairman in the said hospital, serving the post from 1986 up to his retirement in 1998.

He was also an attending surgeon at the University of Santo Tomas Hospital, Little Company of Mary Hospital, and the Wyler Children's Hospital of the University of Chicago, where after eight years, he academically rose to the rank of associate professor of Surgery. He has also worked at the Rush-Presbyterian St. Luke's Medical Center, the Children's Hospital of Southwest Florida, and at the University of Illinois Hospital as a professor of Surgery and Chief of the section of Pediatric Surgery for fourteen years.

Dr. Reyes also considers himself as an accomplished academician. He was a professor of Surgery at the Pritzker School of Medicine, University of Chicago in 1973. He was also promoted to the position of Assistant Dean for the Surgical Programs at the Rush Medical College at Cook Country Hospital, and frequently gave lectures in various universities in the Philippines, the U.S, Costa Rica, Thailand, Taiwan and Venezuela.

In the field of research, Dr. Reyes directed 19 clinical research activities, and published 73 scientific publications in peer reviewed journals, 22 book chapters, and 41 published bulletins and abstracts. He also presented numerous scientific papers at local, regional, national, and international assemblies.

What is truly outstanding about Dr. Reyes is that he is not merely an intellectual. He has proven himself to be a capable leader, as exemplified in his admirable record of government and community service. He voluntarily worked in non-salaried positions with different government departments and its committees, such as, the Chicago Department of Health, holding the record as the first Filipino physician to be appointed in the department. He also initiated the creation of Pediatric Trauma Centers in Chicago in 1987, centralizing care for the children of the city. This system is now applied to the whole state of Illinois.

Dr. Reyes spearheaded the establishment of the Society of Philippine Surgeons in America in 1972 with the aim of establishing interactive discussions among Filipino-American surgeons to gain further knowledge in surgical specialties. He is deeply conscious of his identity as a Filipino-American and works to better serve his fellow Filipinos at home and abroad.

He exemplified a doctor's active engagement in the political process as he led the delegation of Filipino physicians who lobbied against the unfair provisions of the Health Profession Education Assistance Act of 1976 and the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1977 in the US Congress. Along with other advocacy groups, their collective efforts resulted to an amendment in favor of their position, paving the way for a large number of foreign medical graduates residing in the US who were already in active practice to receive their permanent residence card. Moreover, he maintains his coordination with the Philippine Embassy in Washington to put forward issues affecting the Filipino-American community in the US, as well as in the conduct of medical missions and relief drives back in the Philippines.

When asked about his crowning achievement, Dr. Reyes asserts it has been about extending surgical care to thousands of suffering patients and saving them from diseases.

In conferring the Pamana ng Pilipino Award to Hernan M. Reyes, the President recognizes his impactful contributions as an academician, his outstanding professional achievement as a surgeon in the United States, his leadership in establishing the Society of Philippine Surgeons in America, and his invaluable service that saved lives in the Philippines and in the United States of America.



ROMMEL P. SERGIO

United Arab Emirates

The future of the world lies in the classrooms of today. This has been tested through time and could even be attested by an exceptional but humble educator based in Dubai, Dr. Rommel P. Sergio who believes that education is a powerful weapon that could change the world for the better.

The son of an elementary school teacher and a soldier, Dr. Sergio grew up in his hometown of Morong, Rizal, with firm belief that education is an important element to reach one's goal and make a difference in life. To financially support his family and his education, he was forced to work and sell charcoal around his neighborhood. He attained success in life because he made perseverance his bosom friend. After years of hardwork and dedication, he obtained a PhD in Organizational Psychology (with Highest Distinction) from De La Salle University, Philippines and is certified by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business as Academically Qualified to teach in Management. He earned his Postdoctoral Bridge to Business in Management qualification from Tulane University, New Orleans, USA. He also obtained a Master of Arts in Organizational Psychology from University of Manila, Philippines, and a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from University of Rizal System, Philippines.

With his credentials, Dr. Sergio could have easily landed a high-paying corporate job. But he chose to do what is considered to be the noblest of professions - becoming a teacher. He is an associate professor and the Chair of Human Resource Management Program, School of Business Administration at the Canadian University of Dubai (CUD), in the United Arab Emirates. He has more than 15 years of teaching experience in the areas of human resource management and organizational psychology. As the only Filipino head in CUD, he feels blessed because landing a teaching job at universities and colleges in the UAE is not an easy feat for a non-western educator, much more holding a top position. He teaches organizational behavior, organizational development and change, leadership and motivation, business research, among other human resource management courses at the graduate and undergraduate levels.

Prior to university teaching, he served various organizations as Human Resources Manager then later on as HR/Organizational Development Consultant in the UAE and in the Philippines. He felt that the corporate world served as a solid training ground so that he can teach based from experience. He has also authored and co-authored several studies being a contributor of several professional journals. His research interests include emotional intelligence, work values, compassion at work, cross-cultural orientation, strategic human resource management, career development, and talent management. He has participated and presented in a number of international academic conferences, including Harvard University.

Having benefitted from several scholarships when he was still a student, he paid it forward by establishing his own scholarship program - the Dr. Rommel Sergio Scholarship Foundation based at the University of Rizal System in Rizal Province starting in 2015. He has also been serving for three years at the United International Private School as Volunteer Trainer-Facilitator in Dubai. He renders programs such as behavioral classroom management series for teachers and on career mapping sessions for students.

Dr. Sergio's exceptional talent and expertise in the field of education did not go unnoticed in the international scene. Some of the awards and citations he received include the "2016 Top 50 Global Educators Award in Business" by Oxford Journal, "Outstanding World Researcher Award" by the International Association of Multidisciplinary Research, "Outstanding Asian Faculty" in Human Resource Management by Asian Leadership in Education Awards, and "Most Outstanding Faculty in Research" at the Canadian University of Dubai.

In conferring the Pamana ng Pilipino Award to Rommel P. Sergio, the President recognizes his outstanding accomplishments as an educator at the Canadian University of Dubai, and for his scholarly works in the field of human resource management and organizational psychology that led him to participate in a number of international conferences, including Harvard University.

Year 2016 Presidential Awards for Filipino Individuals and Organizations Overseas Screening Committees

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Interim Officer-In-Charge
Commission on Filipinos Overseas

ALTERNATE

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Commission on Filipinos Overseas

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Cable News Network (CNN) Philippines

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Dynamic Outsource Solutions 1

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MS. MA. DIVINA GRACIA Z. ROLDAN
Professor
De La Salle University

MR. LUTHER Z. CALDERON
President
Kabalikang Ng Migranteng Pilipino, Inc. (KAMPI)

Awarding Ceremony

19 December 2016, 3 p.m.
Rizal Hall, Malacañan Palace

Programme

Invocation

Mr. Luqman L. Bin Usman Imam
Shariah Counselor-at-Law
University of the Philippines-Diliman

Welcome Remarks

Secretary Silvestre H. Bello III
Department of Labor and Employment

Presentation of Awards by the President

President Rodrigo Roa Duterte
President of the Republic of the Philippines

Response on Behalf of the Awardees

Mr. Erlend E. Johannesen
Kaanib ng Bayan Awardee

Introduction of the Keynote Speaker

Speech of the President

President Rodrigo Roa Duterte

Photo Opportunity

Cocktails

Ms. Ma. Camille T. Lacaba
Master of Ceremonies

Gallery of Presidential Awardees

1991 AWARDS FOR FILIPINOS AND PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS OVERSEAS

LINGKOD SA KAPWA PILIPINO AWARD

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

KAAKABAY NG BAYAN AWARD

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

KAANIB NG BAYAN AWARD

Continental Air Micronesia (Guam)
World Opportunities International (USA)

BANAAG AWARD

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

SPECIAL AWARD

Gatbonton, Corazon (Australia)
Lega Italo-Filippina Filippini Emigrati (Italy)

1992-1993 PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS FOR FILIPINOS AND PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS OVERSEAS

LINGKOD SA KAPWA PILIPINO AWARD

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

KAAKABAY NG BAYAN AWARD

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

KAANIB NG BAYAN AWARD

Books for the Barrios (USA)
Pag-Asa Group (Japan)
"Salamat Po Kai" (Japan)

BANAAG AWARD

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

Filipino Ladies Association of Guam (FLAG) (Guam)
Helbig, Aurea G. (Germany)
Hernandez, Carmencita R. (Canada)
Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Concepcion (Japan)
Paterno, Ramon A. P. (USA)
Seguritan, Reuben S. (USA)
Tahanan (Diocesan Center for Filipino Migrants) (Spain)

PAMANA NG PILIPINO AWARD

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

1996-2014 PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS FOR FILIPINO INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS OVERSEAS

LINGKOD SA KAPWA PILIPINO AWARD

1996

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

1998

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

2000

Montero, Juan II M., M.D. (USA)
 Navarra, Victoria C., M.D. (USA)
 Tan, Elton See (Taiwan)

2002

Cagas, Cosme R., M.D. (USA)

2004

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

2006

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

2008

Association of Philippine Physicians in America (USA)
 Enverga, Tobias, Jr. C. (Canada)
 Filipino Women's Association
 United Kingdom (United Kingdom)
 Stichting Kapatiran (The Netherlands)

2010

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

2012

Aguman Kapampangan UK (United Kingdom)
 Caddac, Manuel A., M.D. (USA)
 Guerrero, Christopher M., M.D. (USA)

2014

Serenata (Saudi Arabia)

KAAKABAY NG BAYAN AWARD

1996

Volunteer Business Counselors (VBC) of Doha (Qatar)

1998

Filipino Community in Thailand (FCT) (Thailand)

2000

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

KAANIB NG BAYAN AWARD

1996

Consuelo Zobel Alger Foundation (USA)
 Association Philippines International
 of Geneva (Switzerland)
 Tsakos Shipping and Trading, S.A. (Greece)

1998	Association Alouette (France) Philippine Development Assistance Programme (PDAP) (Canada)	Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants-Riyadh Chapter (Saudi Arabia) Rizal-Blumentritt Society (Austria) Astillero, Mohamed Ali Carlito, M.D. (Omam) Juele, Lilia R. (USA) Ramos, Angel T. (Hong Kong) Steiner, Mona Lisa L. – (Austria) Uy, Emelio Y. (Guam) Zamora, Prospero C. (Guam)
2000	Anesvad Foundation (Spain) Jules and Paul-Émile Léger Foundation (Canada) Operation Smile International (USA)	
2002:	International Medical Help for Children (A.M.I.E.) (Belgium)	1998
2004	-- no awardee	Acosta, Rodrigo C. (Bahrain) Aranilla, Leticia R. (United Kingdom) Bautista, Antonio C. (Saudi Arabia) Cheng, Dr. Sian Chun (Hong Kong) Docoy, Fr. Eugene Jr. (South Korea) Dasodas, Catherine D. (Spain) Hongkong Bayanihan Trust (Hong Kong) Kawayan Philippine Language and Cultural School (Australia) Mataac, Celso Jr. T. (USA) Miyake, Chiyo (Japan) Philippine Heritage Band (Canada) Quiblado, Conrada P. (Hong Kong) Sabio, Fr. Raymond T. (South Korea) Tendencia, Benita B. (Italy)
2006	California Technological Care, Inc. (USA) CORA - Filipino American Task Force/Advisory Board (USA) Hanazaki, Misao (Japan) Ma'Ma Children's Center of Norway – (Norway) Martens, Robert Sommer, Ph.D. – (Germany) Operation Rainbow Australia Limited (Australia) Social Welfare Corporation Raphael Clinic (South Korea)	2000
2008	Catholic Medical Mission Board (USA) Children's Chance CT (USA) Heetens Helpgood Center Philippines (The Netherlands) Ligier, Laurence C. (France)	Acebuche, Nestor A. (Turkey) Andes, Phoebe Cabotaje (USA) Angelical, Lilia (Switzerland) Bayoumi, Mohammad Ahmad (Saudi Arabia) Bulos, Alice P. (USA) Cueto, Alex M., M.D. (USA) Cunanan, Aguedo Q. (Oman) Cunina Organization (Belgium) Dela Paz, James Allan (Canada) Filipino Coalition for Solidarity, Inc. (USA) Florentino, Sr. Magdalena S., FMM (+) (Libya) Ginete, Alex Jose R. (Bahrain) Go, Mildred Aires (China) Halasz, Fr. Luis, SVD (Hungary) Ick, Claire R. (USA) Kanagawa Women's Space Ms. La (Japan) Kinderhilfe Philippinen, E.V. (Germany) Lädeli, Theresa (Switzerland) Lammawin, Francis L. (Taiwan) Lubang-Looc International (USA) March, Marina Roma, M.D. (Canada) Natividad, Cornelio Ruiz (USA) Paragas, Rodolfo DL (Oman) Philippine School Bahrain (Bahrain) Racinez, Sr. Olivia, WCW (Switzerland) Sirmata (Vision) 2004 (USA) Tenorio, Pedro P. (CNMI) Tordjman, Paul Semo (France) Vargas, Orlando R. (Australia) Victorian Community in Belgium (Belgium)
2010	Caritas Lebanon Migrants Center (Lebanon) Lam, Phoebe Bik Che (Hong Kong) Lam, Sunny Kai Chor (Hong Kong) Salpeter, Simha (Israel)	
2012	Haba, Gonen, M.D. (Israel) Löehlein, Christian, M.D. (Germany)	
2014	American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (AJJDC) (Israel) Humana Child Aid Society (Malaysia) Segaert, Dominiek (Belgium)	
BANAAG AWARD		
1996	Al Zedjali, H.E. Essa Mohammed (Oman) Balik Bohol Medical Mission (USA) Filipino American Human Services, Inc. (USA) Penang Support Group for Migrant Filipinos (Malaysia)	

2002

Babaylan – Switzerland (Switzerland)
 Beatty, Estrella C. (Cyprus)
 Benzon, Norma R. (USA)
 Centre for Philippine Concerns-Australia (Australia)
 Compas, Lolita B. (USA)
 Concepcion, Zenaída S., M.D. (Libya)
 Dechavez, William D. (USA)
 De Guzman-Formoso, Ruby L., M.D. (Canada)
 Del Rosario, Sonia S. (Canada)
 Filipino Association in Brunei (Brunei Darussalam)
 Filipino Communities Council
 of Australia, Inc. (Australia)
 Filipino Community Center, Inc. (USA)
 Fojas, Marcos R., M.D. (Greece)
 Kalayaan (United Kingdom)
 Lew, Bridget (Singapore)
 Maharlika – Switzerland (Switzerland)
 Manglona, Benjamin T. (CNMI)
 National Organization of Professional
 Teachers – Hong Kong (Hong Kong)
 Philippine Association of
 Metropolitan Washington Engineers (USA)
 Ravindranathan, N., M.D. (Brunei Darussalam)
 Talangbayan, Francis V., M.D. (USA)
 Tomelden, Benjamin Jr. S. (United Kingdom)

2004

Berdos, Imelda Vollenweider (Switzerland)
 Buhain, Wilfrido J., M.D. (USA)
 Casamina, Roland C. (USA)
 Centre for Filipinos (United Kingdom)
 Cuizon, Virgilio G. (Germany)
 Fiesta Filipina Dance Troupe of Canada (Canada)
 Filipino Cultural Club – (Kuwait)
 Gödicke, Charlotte (Germany)
 Home-Reach Foundation, Inc. (Canada)
 Hyechwadong Filipino Catholic
 Community (South Korea)
 Kinderhilfe Philippinen (Germany)
 McGuinness, Amor Ilao (USA)
 Natividad, Alicia Ll. B. (Canada)
 Natividad, Evelyn D.A., Ph.D. (USA)
 Nemivant, Emma Balquiedra (USA)
 Panday Tinig Choral Ensemble (Canada)
 Philippine Australian Sports
 and Culture, Inc. (Australia)
 Philippine Cultural Foundation of Hawaii (USA)
 Pilapil, Virgilio D.R., M.D. (USA)
 Salazar, Lourdes A. (Hong Kong)
 Search to Involve Pilipino Americans (USA)
 Verstraeten, Jean Paul (Belgium)

2006

Bagong Kulturang Pinoy, Inc. (USA)
 Buchholdt, Thelma Garcia (USA)
 Farmer, Lolita L., Ll. B. OAM (Australia)
 Filipino American Medical, Inc. (USA)
 Filipino Association of Singapore (Singapore)

Go, Engr. Roman Ting (China)
 Iskwelahang Pilipino, Inc. (USA)
 Lahing Kayumanggi (United Kingdom)
 Manuel, Vladimir James M. (USA)
 Markham Federation of Filipino Canadians (Canada)
 Navarra, Eduardo J. (USA)
 Philippine American Group of Educators
 and Surgeons (USA)
 Philippine Cultural Foundation, Inc. (USA)
 Quinto, Edgardo R. (Switzerland)
 Reed, Loline Lualhati (United Kingdom)
 Sales, Justina L. (Israel)
 Tigno, Rosario B., M.D. (UAE)
 Tuluyang Pinoy
 (Philippine Centre Zurich) (Switzerland)
 Veterans Equity Center (USA)

2008

Asuncion, Alexander E. (Saudi Arabia)
 Berberabe, Patricia A. (USA)
 Carandang, Angeles R. (USA)
 Casambre, Sr. Mary Aida C. (Hong Kong)
 Derpo, Esperanza R. (Nigeria)
 Filipino Korean Spouses Association (South Korea)
 Garcia, Lamberto S. (USA)
 Ho, Eleanor B. (Taiwan)
 Magdalena, Joseph I. (Saudi Arabia)
 Muzones, Santiago Jr., L. (USA)
 Noblejas, Dr. Antonio N. (USA)
 Overs, Lilian Y. (Canada)
 Philippine Community Council of
 New South Wales (Australia)
 Philippine Nurses Association of America (USA)
 Philipsen, Adelina R. (The Netherlands)
 United Filipino Council of Hawaii (USA)

2010

Abagat, Dr. Emely D. (South Korea)
 Computer Society of Filipinos
 International (Saudi Arabia)
 Congress of Visayan Organizations (USA)
 Federation of Filipino Communities in Israel (Israel)
 Gange, George G. (USA)
 Kasimieh, Marilyn Wafa R. (UAE)
 Kinding Sindaw (USA)
 Olalia, Sr. Lucia C. (South Korea)
 Ybo, Evangelina V. (Jordan)

2012

Alpay, Carlito E. (Saudi Arabia)
 Argel, Atty. Maria Imelda L. (Australia)
 Avendaño, Tomas P. (Canada)
 Castaños, Rafael S. (USA)
 Filipiniñana Europa V.Z.W. (Belgium)
 Filipino Community of Seattle, Incorporated (USA)
 Filipino Digerati Association (UAE)
 Micabalo, Luzviminda S. (USA)
 Perez, Alfonso Jr., S. (USA)
 Quema, Eric Michael B. (USA)

Santos, Robert N. (USA)
 Tsai, Ma. Luzviminda C. (Taiwan)
 Stichting Bayanihan (The Netherlands)

2014

Daegu Filipino Community Council (South Korea)
 Favor, Danilo M. (United Kingdom)
 Institute of Integrated Electrical
 Engineers (Saudi Arabia)
 Libron, Rosa Angelica C. (South Korea)
 Mercado, Gus (USA)
 Migrant Heritage Commission (USA)
 Navarro, Victoria (USA)
 Sasaki, Anita (Japan)

PAMANA NG PILIPINO AWARD

1996

Alcantra, Anacleto R. (USA)
 Aranda, Jacob V. (Canada)
 Bebars, Evelyn Panganiban (UAE)
 Clemente, Lilia Calderon (USA)
 Cordero, Paciente Jr. A. (Oman)
 Cordova, Frederic and Dorothy (USA)
 Garcia, Jorge M., M.D. (USA)
 Goh, Ma. Cynthia J. (Canada)
 Igarta, Venancio C. (USA)
 Layosa, Erlinda R. (Hong Kong)
 Mandac, Evelyn L. (USA)
 Medalla, David C. (United Kingdom)
 Natividad, Irene (USA)
 Pagtakhan, Rey D. (Canada)
 Pangilinan, Manuel V. (Hong Kong)
 Recana, Mel Red (USA)
 Sunico, Raul M. (USA)
 Tabuena, Romeo V. (Mexico)
 Voloria, Velma R. (USA)

1998

Alih Salih, Sharifa Zeannat (Saudi Arabia)
 Balcos, Ophelia G. (USA)
 Bobis, Dr. Merlinda (Australia)
 Castrence, Pura Santillan (Australia)
 Castro, Salvador P. (Brunei Darussalam)
 Chen, Anita B. (Canada)
 Garcia, Dr. Manuel M. (Canada)
 Hagedorn, Jessica (USA)
 Lewis, Loida Nicolas, LI.B. (USA)
 Maulana, Nasser B. (Saudi Arabia)
 Sagun, Teresita B. (USA)

2000

Abad, Pacita (Indonesia)
 Aguirre, Bayani S. (Sudan)
 Antonio, Camilo C. (Austria)
 Armit, Amelita Aranas (Canada)
 Camara, Jorge G., M.D. (USA)

Cielo, Angel B., M.D. (USA)
 Del Rosario, Remedios K. (USA)
 Diaz, Jose Duddley (Italy)
 Fitzsimmons, Edith Dizon (Australia)
 Flores, Eddie Jr. (USA)
 Haley, Ma. Luisa Mabilangan (USA)
 Ho, Anita Magsaysay (USA)
 Llamas, Antonio Garcia (+) (Spain)
 Moguel, Milagros K. (Guam)
 Rodriguez, Manuel Sr. A. (USA)
 Santos, Emmanuel T. (Australia)
 Soriano, Edward (USA)
 Tabalba, Camilo M. (Canada)
 Zwaenepoel, Rev. Paul P. (Belgium)

2002

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

2004

Abinsay, Felipe Jr. P. (USA)
 Bernardo, Rodolfo S., Ed.S. (USA)
 Buhay, Wilfredo R. (USA)
 Cadawas, Eliodoro Jr. C. (USA)
 Esclamado, Alejandro A. (USA)
 Fernandez, Jovelle Laoag, M.D., Ph.D. (Japan)
 Fuentes, Dante C. (Indonesia)
 Lim, Lenore R.S. (USA)
 Quiambao, Rodolfo C. (USA)
 Taguba, Maj. Gen. Antonio M. (USA)
 Uy, Constanca S., M.D. (USA)
 Velasco, Gundelina A., Ph. D. (UK)
 Viola, Arturo T. (Canada)

2006

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

2008

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

2010

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

2012

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

2014

Asperilla, Marianito O., M.D. (USA)
 Cinco, Michael (UAE)
 Collo, Kristoffer L. (USA)
 Comerford, Cristeta (USA)
 Coronel, Sheila (USA)
 Dar, William D., PhD (India)
 Dela Cruz, Roderick M. (USA)
 Gelvezon-tequi, Ofelia (France)
 Hoegsholm, Filomenita M. (Denmark)
 Irabagon, Jon (USA)
 Lee, Jasmine (South Korea)
 Licad, Cecile B. (USA)
 Lirio-Marcelo, Sheila (USA)
 Lopez, Robert (USA)
 Luzuriaga, Katherine R., M.D. (USA)
 Olivera Baldomero, PhD (USA)
 Roces, Alfredo R. (Australia)
 Salonga, Lea (USA)
 Silva, Paolo Antonio S., M.D. (USA)
 Valderrama-Savage, Lolita (USA)

Special Citation

2002

Filipinas Magazine (USA)

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Directory of 2016 Awardees

LINKAPIL AWARDEES

EDGAR E. ARAGONES

Isabela, Philippines
Email: edgar_aragones@yahoo.com

PAGYAMANIN LIKAS MUSIKA

Mr. George G. Gange
Santa Clara, USA
Email: chiefgange@sbcglobal.net

REUNION E.V. CLOPPENBURG

Ms. Magdalene Lügen
Cloppenburg, Germany
Email: magdalene.luegan@t-online.de

MARINA R. SULSE

New York, New York, U.S.A.
Email: marinasulse@aol.com

KAANIB NG BAYAN AWARDEES

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Tacloban City, Philippines
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Email: sabinekorth65@gmail.com

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Lahore, Pakistan
Email: fahdel@aadhilhospital.com

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Dinslaken, Germany
Email: sabine.weiss@bundestag.de

BANAAG AWARDEES

MARILOU S. CHIN

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Email: fescurel@yahoo.com

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RODRIGO B. MARISTELA

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Email: megaoggie1@gmx.de

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Ms. Alice Namata-Andam, R.N.
Washington DC, USA
Emails: amiableinfo@gmail.com; presandam@aol.com

PHILIPPINE SOCIETY OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERS - CENTRAL REGION, SAUDI ARABIA

Mr. Orben M. Dela Cruz
Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Emails: psme_crsa_chapter@yahoo.com; norben_4@yahoo.com

PAMANA NG PILIPINO AWARDEES

EDUARDO K. ARARAL, JR.

West Coast Crescent, Singapore
Email: sppaej@nus.edu.sg

MANUEL G. ASUNCION

Victoria, Australia
Email: masun@iimetro.com.au

DANILO P. BUAN

California, USA
Email: dbuan@yahoo.com

GUILLERMO B. CAPATI

Queensland, Australia
Email: gcapati@goldcoast.qld.gov.au

EMMANUEL CRISANTO B. LIBAN

Los Angeles, USA
Email: cliban@hotmail.com

PAULINO M. LIM, JR.

California, USA
Email: paulino.lim@csulb.edu

HERNAN M. REYES

Florida, USA
Email: hmr.pds@gmail.com

ROMMEL P. SERGIO

Rizal, Philippines
Email: email@rommelsergio.com



The Commission on Filipinos Overseas

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

B.P. 79 mandates CFO to:

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

VISION and MISSION

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.



ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

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

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

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

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

2016 Presidential Awards Secretariat

MS. MARIA REGINA ANGELA G. GALIAS

Interim Officer-In-Charge
Commission on Filipinos Overseas

MR. RODRIGO V. GARCIA, JR.

Officer-In-Charge, Policy, Planning and Research Division

MEMBERS

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Ms. Patricia Marie M. Salvador
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Mr. Jayson S. Gregorio
Mr. Michael C. Gregorio
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Ms. Rowena V. Jubinal
Ms. Ma. Camille T. Lacaba
Ms. Jhena Nikka D. Manalo
Mr. Fernando P. Marcos
Mr. Brian D. Milante
Ms. Evangeline C. Nepomuceno
Ms. Graciela Antonett A. Paguinto
Ms. Princess Mayumi Peralta

Ms. Benilda R. Pereyra
Mr. Rustico P. Perez, Jr.
Mr. Allen Dennis T. Pulma
Mr. Jose D. Quilala, Jr.
Ms. Janet B. Ramos
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PESO SENSE
THE PHILIPPINE FINANCIAL FREEDOM CAMPAIGN

MOBILE APPLICATION



www.pesosense.com

Peso Sense is a nation-wide Financial Literacy campaign funded by the Western Union Foundation, e-Biz and PETNET. It is designed to encourage improving productive expenditure, improve the capacity for saving, and promote entrepreneurship among Filipino beneficiaries of international or domestic remittances. It is implemented by the Commission on Filipinos Overseas and overseen by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) - Philippines.



Ano ang Human Trafficking?



Ang paghihikayat ng mga tao...



Ang pagbibiyaha o paglilipat ng mga tao...



Ang pagtanggap o pagkanlong ng mga tao...



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

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



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

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

prostitusyon at pornograpiya.



pagbebenta o pagtanggap ng anumang bahagi ng katawan ng tao.



sapilitang paggawa.

sa armadong pakikibaka sa Pilipinas o sa ibayong dagat.



1343 ACTIONLINE
AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Report Human Trafficking!
Call or Text 1343
Call (02)1343 if outside Metro Manila

E-mail: 1343actionline@cfo.gov.ph
Facebook: [fb.com/1343Actionline](https://www.facebook.com/1343Actionline)
Web reporting: 1343actionline.ph

1343 Actionline
Mobile App

Download for free at



LABAN kontra Human Trafficking
Laban nating lahat!



BaLinkBayan

Overseas Filipinos' One-Stop Online Portal for Diaspora Engagement
www.balinkbayan.gov.ph

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



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

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

BaLinkBayan Features



START A BUSINESS

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

DONATE & VOLUNTEER

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



ACCESS GOVERNMENT ONLINE SERVICES

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



VIEW INTERACTIVE MAPS

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



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National Commission on Culture and the Arts



Office of the President of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON FILIPINOS OVERSEAS

VIRTUAL SENTRO Rizal

2nd Edition



THE VIRTUAL SENTRO RIZAL

...a digital Filipiniana collection with 225 annotated interactive entries that are translated in English, Filipino, Spanish and local dialects – Bicolano, Mëranaw, Ilocano & Sebwano...

...classified by genre across regions and uploaded in a 500 gigabyte external drive...

- About Jose Rizal
- Animation
- Architecture
- Artist
- Crafts
- Cuisine
- Dance
- Design
- Digital Arts
- Education
- Enterprise
- Environment
- Fashion
- Festivals
- Film
- Games
- Geography
- Government Agency
- Heritage Sites
- Heroes
- History
- Indigenous Peoples
- Jewelry
- Leaders
- Literature
- Museums
- Music
- Performing Arts
- Religion
- Symbols
- Tourism
- Traditions & Beliefs
- Visual Arts
- Women



Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino (Link for Philippine Development Program)

www.cfo-linkapil.org.ph

Give back and help your kababayan.

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

Education



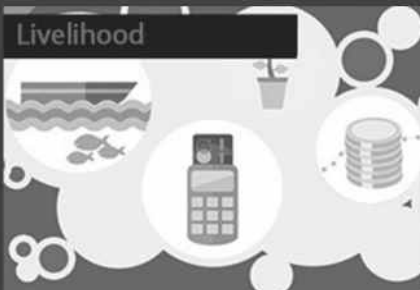
Education is one of the components of the Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino (LINKAPIL) Program where overseas donors may support the education of Filipino children and youth interested to go to school but are hindered by poverty.

Community Building



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

Livelihood



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

Health & Welfare



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

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



www.facebook.com/linkapil

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Office of the President of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON FILIPINOS OVERSEAS

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