



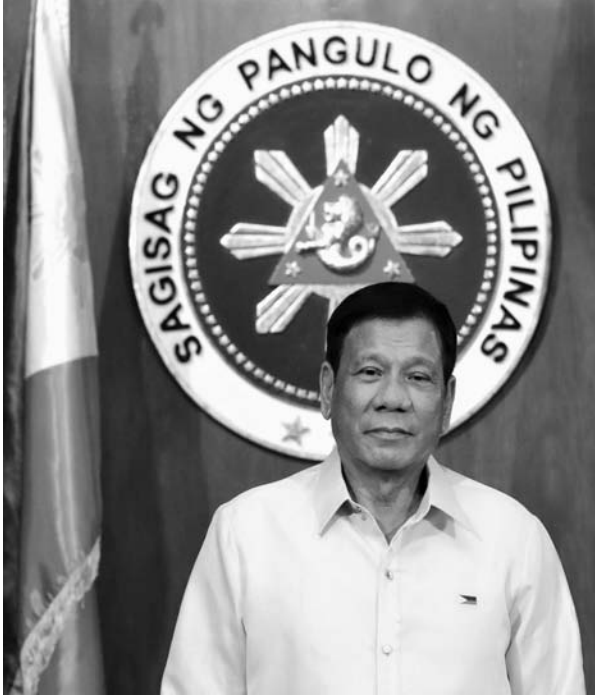
*The Year 2018
Presidential Awards
for Filipino Individuals
and Organizations Overseas*

*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 2018 Presidential Awards were taken from the materials submitted to the Awards Secretariat for consideration of the nominations.

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Message



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rodrigo Duterte".

RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE
The President of the Philippines

MANILA
December 2018

My warmest congratulations to the awardees of the **2018 Presidential Awards for Filipino Individuals and Organizations Overseas**.

Living or working abroad is no easy feat. It entails great sacrifice, perseverance and dedication for one to succeed while away from his or her home and family. Yet the men, women and organizations we are honoring today have demonstrated that they have the capacity not only to survive but, more importantly, to flourish and excel in foreign lands.

I thus join the **Commission on Filipinos Overseas** in recognizing outstanding Filipino individuals and organizations for their significant contributions to national development, for their exemplary achievements in their fields and for advancing the cause of overseas Filipinos communities. I likewise thank the foreign individuals and organizations being recognized today for their efforts in ensuring the welfare of Filipinos abroad.

May these awards encourage them to continue their pursuits as well as encourage others to do well in their endeavors. Rest assured that the government will remain steadfast in protecting the interests of Filipinos overseas even as we find ways to create more jobs and opportunities here in the Philippines.

Again, congratulations and I wish you all the best.

Message



COMMISSION ON FILIPINOS OVERSEAS



JUSTICE FRANCISCO P. ACOSTA (Ret.)
Secretary and Chairperson

Manila
December 2018

Congratulations to the 25 recipients of the 2018 Presidential Awards for Filipino Individuals and Organizations Overseas!

This year's crop of 25 outstanding individuals and organizations from 12 countries and territories have stood out and distinguished themselves by contributing their talent, expertise, time and resources to help their *Kababayan* Filipinos overseas. They also brought honor and pride to the Philippines by the exemplary and excellent practice of their profession, and in working tirelessly to help shape and support Philippine development.

This year's Presidential Awardees have gone over and beyond the call of duty, at times even beyond reason, to be of service to their fellow Filipinos and their country, the Philippines. We recognize them by bestowing the rare honor of being a Presidential Awardee, along with 460 previous recipients - Filipino and foreign personalities and organizations overseas, who belong to the roster of those recognized for their work for fellow Filipinos and the Philippines since 1991.

May your narrative of service, excellence, and advocacy inspire other Filipino individuals and organizations overseas to foster meaningful engagements with our compatriots and their communities in whatever part of the world they find themselves in.

Furthermore, I would like to recognize and express my sincere appreciation to my colleagues at the Commission on Filipinos Overseas for their dedication, boundless energy, quality work, and commitment in seeing through the whole selection, awards and post-awards process. Our gratitude likewise goes to our partners from government, the academe, civil society, media, and the religious sector for sharing with us their time and insights in coming up with the 2018 Presidential Award recipients.

Special commendation should be given to the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR), through Chairperson Andrea Domingo and President Fred Lim for sponsoring the transportation and accommodation of the awardees.

To the 2018 Presidential Awardees, continue to make the Philippines proud. Mabuhay and may Lord bless us all!

Message



COMMISSION ON FILIPINOS OVERSEAS



UNDERSECRETARY ASTRAVEL PIMENTEL-NAIK
Executive Director

Manila
December 2018

With deep respect and profound admiration, I congratulate the 25 individuals and organizations who are recipients of the 2018 Presidential Awards for Filipino Individuals and Organizations Overseas.

For the past three decades, the Philippine government has sought to recognize the outstanding and distinguished achievements of our overseas Filipinos and partners overseas. We are very much aware of the sacrifices that you had to make, the challenges that you had to overcome, and the glories and triumphs that you have carved out for yourselves, and in so doing, have uplifted the lives of others.

Each and every one of you rightfully deserves the honor and recognition of being a Presidential Awardee. You have tirelessly and selflessly advanced the cause of Filipinos and the Philippines overseas. Your excellent and outstanding practice of your profession has symbolized the high value and dignity of Filipino labor. And your unwavering support and contribution to Philippine development efforts and initiatives have shown the world that we care for our fellow Filipinos wherever our journeys have brought us.

We share in the pride you have brought to our country and our people. This day is yours, own it and bask in the glory as you receive the Presidential Awards Medallion, which symbolizes the nation's gratitude for what each and every one of you has done.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express my sincerest gratitude to the team of the CFO Presidential Awards Secretariat for the dedicated work that they have all put in to ensure that the individuals and organizations honored with this year's Presidential Awards from 12 countries and territories truly represent the best of our values as a people and as a nation. I am blessed and honored to be part of the CFO team.

Mabuhay and congratulations to the 2018 Presidential Awardees!

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 460 Filipinos and private organizations overseas since its establishment. President Fidel V. Ramos conferred the first and second sets of Presidential Awards to 22 and 45 awardees in 1993 and 1996, respectively. President Joseph Estrada conferred the third and fourth sets of Presidential Awards to 30 and 59 awardees in 1998 and 2000, respectively. President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo conferred the fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth sets of awards to 34 (with one special citation), 45, 48, and 31 awardees, in 2002, 2004, 2006, and 2008, respectively. President Benigno S. Aquino III conferred the ninth, tenth and eleventh set of awards to 24, 29 and 33 awardees, in 2010, 2012 and 2014, respectively. While President Rodrigo Roa Duterte conferred the twelfth set of the awards to 23 awardees in 2016.

The Presidential Awards consist of four categories. 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. The Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino Award is conferred on Filipino associations or individuals for their exceptional or significant contribution to reconstruction, progress and development in the Philippines. The Kaanib ng Bayan Award is 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.

On December 5, 2018, President Rodrigo R. Duterte will honor 25 distinguished Filipino individuals and organizations based in 12 countries, who, because of their exceptional achievements or humanitarian efforts, have given form and substance to Filipino excellence and the time-honored values of pakikipagkapwa, 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 96 nominations from 28 countries through 37 Philippine Embassies and Consulates. Of the 25 awardees, 18 are individuals while 7 are organizations. The awardees came from the United States of America, Australia, Peru, Italy, Taiwan, Sudan, Hong Kong, Switzerland, Portugal, Myanmar, Singapore, and The Netherlands.




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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

Corazon Alvarez-Francisco
Australia / Balaoan, La Union

Agnes Katbeth Ong-Kreimer
Peru / Manila

Dindo Buenaflor Malanyaon
Italy / Makati

Juliet Montano
Taiwan / Tanauan City, Batangas

**Pilipino Workers Center of Southern
California (PWC)**
United States of America

Maria Cristina Fernando-Sulaik
Sudan / Marikina

Wimler Foundation Hong Kong Ltd.
Hong Kong



CORAZON ALVAREZ-FRANCISCO

Australia

Hometown: Balaoan, La Union

For migrants like Dr. Corazon Alvarez-Francisco, the need to compete and stand out in an international setting may be a very daunting task to pursue. Migrating to Australia in 1987 as a Filipino doctor, her

dream to practice the profession in the country remained clear in her mind. Motivated with this sense of purpose, she studied hard for the required examinations, which eventually paid off; 4th out of 298 examinees at the Australian Medical Council (AMC) examinations for Medical licensure.

She was given several accolades because of her exemplary work, even achieving the titles “First Filipino Doctor in Australia to become a Fellow of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (FRACGP)” in 1996 and “First Filipino doctor in Australia to become a member of the Panel of Examiners for the Fellowship Exams for General Practitioners” in 1996. It may sound unchallenging to some, but its rigid evaluation process only allowed a handful of Filipino doctors to fully pass the college’s qualifications. From there, Dr. Alvarez-Francisco obtained a Resident Medical Officer position at Liverpool Hospital and a General Practitioner position at Quakers Hill Medical Center.

She has been a shining example of how one could stretch the challenges of life, despite being out of one’s comfort zone. Knowing very well the hardships of Filipino doctors to apply for eligibility in Australian society, she founded the Philippine Australian Medical Association (PAMA) in 1992. It was an organization that invaluablely contributed to the professional development of Filipino doctors in Australia. She organized review classes for those anxiously preparing to take the AMC exam, imbuing in its members a sense of camaraderie rather than of competition. From there, she rigorously linked them to Australian medical groups and institutions and organized seminars that would keep doctors abreast of the latest medical technology.

In the same year that PAMA was established, she also opened her own medical clinic with majority of her patients being Filipino-Australians. She became a highly respected member of the Filipino community in Australia as she contributed to the growth of 180 registered Filipino doctors now serving the Filipino-Australian community, compared to the initial 7 practicing doctors when she started. PAMA provides a platform for newly migrated Filipino doctors to make use of their full potential, which has evolved from a small study group to a humanitarian organization with over 200 members that conduct free medical, dental, and surgical missions in various remote communities in the Philippines. Aside from serving the Filipino-Australian medical industry, she has also participated in outreach programs with the Philippine Consulate General in Sydney, which has provided Filipinos in New South Wales an opportunity to obtain dual citizenship.

In addition to her strong civic sense of duty, Dr. Alvarez-Francisco has consistently been an active member of the University of the Philippines Alumni Association Australia – New South Wales Chapter (UPAAA-NSW). As President of the UPAAA-NSW from 2000 to 2002, she initiated a student exchange program in collaboration with the University of the Philippines (UP) and two prestigious universities in Australia – the University of New South Wales and the University of Sydney. Alongside her husband, she coordinated and spearheaded fund-raising activities in connection with the UPAAA-NSW Scholarship Grant Project, whose activities (such as the Oblation Cup Golf Tournament in Sydney from 2008-2012) generated a substantial amount of funds to support eight indigent yet deserving tertiary students in UP.

Through her impeccable leadership at the Timek Iti (translated as “Voice of”) La Union Association, Inc. (TILAUNA, Inc.) from 2013-2017, many activities were undertaken to promote both Ilocano and Filipino cultures, made possible from the renewed vigor and motivation she cultivated among the organization’s officers and members. She has not only elevated the image of Filipino doctors in the country, but she has also encouraged her fellow Filipinos in Australia to stay connected with their cultural roots.

In conferring the Banaag Award to Dr. Corazon Alvarez-Francisco, the President recognizes her exceptional leadership of the Philippine Australian Medical Association and other diaspora organizations, as well as in advancing the cause of Filipino-Australians and catalyzing civic engagement with the homeland.



AGNES KATBETH ONG-KREIMER

Peru

Hometown: Manila

“True service is working quietly, without counting the cost, without expecting fanfare, nor praises nor applause from anyone. True service chooses no time or place. Very often the urgent call comes at the least expected moment, at the most unlikely places.” - Rosa Rosal

As vicarious beings, it is natural for humans to develop an appreciation for theater and film. Audiences easily sympathize with actors on stage and on screen – about dilemmas they empathically experience. In the real world, however, only a few surpass the passive role of spectator to help true-to-life characters in distress. One of them is Agnes Katbeth O. Kreimer, a professional actress based in Lima who has dedicated her life to the service of troubled Filipinos in Peru.

Known as Keibi to her colleagues and fans, Ms. Kreimer has joined various studios in Peru for acting roles in cinema, television, and theater. At present, she is most active as actress and stage manager with the Asociación Cultural Teatro de Cámara. Her theatrical repertoire includes plays pertaining to the human condition in general and the Peruvian experience in particular. Among others, she plays roles in stage adaptations of Tradiciones Peruanas (Peruvian traditions) written by Ricardo Palma, a well-respected author and scholar known for his satirical take on Peruvian and Latin American history and politics.

Although accustomed to receiving recognitions and applauses as an actress, Ms. Kreimer volunteers as Filipino community coordinator without seeking profit or recognition. With no compensation and at times at her own peril, she provides humanitarian assistance to Filipinos in Peru. While an Honorary Consul is yet to be appointed in Lima, she is the de facto leader of a growing community of 170 Filipinos in her host country. On an almost 24/7 basis, she responds to calls concerning emergency situations and assistance-to-nationals (ATN) cases.

Her wide-range network makes her the ideal person to be in charge of logistical matters during the Embassy’s consular outreach missions in Lima. With her help, these missions conveniently give Filipinos in Peru the opportunity to acquire or renew passports, apply for dual citizenship, and register for overseas voting. Being the focal person in the Peruvian capital, she communicates with the Philippine Embassy in Santiago, Chile (which has jurisdiction over Peru) in times of calamities to report on the location and safety of community members.

She also aids Filipinos trapped in disadvantageous situations, especially women and children. These include prisoners, parolees, and trafficked

persons awaiting repatriation to the Philippines. She plays a pivotal role by giving them advice and assistance regarding immigration, legal, labor, and welfare issues. Moreover, she gives translation services among Embassy representatives, Filipino prisoners, and pro-bono lawyers.

To guarantee the security of her compatriots, she coordinates with agencies in Peru other than the Embassy. She processes and monitors Filipino cases at the Peruvian National Police Foreign Division and Immigration, the Corte Superior de Justicia de Callao, and the Ministerio Público. Undaunted by dangerous locations, she conducts visits even to high-security prisons like Ancon II and Sarita Colonia, where Filipino detainees face immigration-related and drug-trafficking charges.

Aside from legal advice and documentary assistance, she also occasionally provides prisoners with food, toiletries, clothes, and other basic necessities with the help of volunteers. In her altruistic endeavors, she involves friends like Sra. Maria Estelita Pelaez, a Peruvian public attorney and nun from the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul. The international service organization implements projects in Peru concerning education, healthcare, human services, and more.

Prior to her acting stint, Ms. Kreimer has had experiences with modeling, teaching, counseling, administrative work, and human resource management. A true woman of faith and service, her professional history betrays an inclination to work for the benefit of other people, whether they are customers, employees, students, audiences, or distressed persons.

Ms. Kreimer’s different roles in life and on stage have instilled in her values that transcend acting - empathy and sincerity. With her admirable talent, courage, and compassion, she is reminiscent of the legendary Rosa Rosal, a highly acclaimed Filipino actress and recipient of the 1999 Ramon Magsaysay Award for Public Service. Both women prove that practicing one’s profession is not the only way to make lasting contributions to society.

The Philippines and Peru, with their similar colonial experience, would no doubt, benefit greatly from extensive bilateral relations. In promoting Filipino-Peruvian diplomatic and cultural exchange, perhaps there is no better candidate than Ms. Kreimer. Her knowledge of the Peruvian terrain and history, mastery of the Spanish language, vast network of friends, and participation in cultural promotion make her a model of effective migrant integration. Her relentless devotion to the Filipino community in Peru is virtually unmatched by any award imaginable.

In conferring the Banaag Award to Ms. Agnes Katbeth O. Kreimer, the President recognizes her role in providing invaluable assistance to distressed Filipinos in Peru and creating a sense of solidarity and belongingness within the Filipino community in Lima.



DINDO BUENAFLOR MALANYAON

Italy

Hometown: Makati

“fare la filippina” (literally, “to act like a Filipina”), which means to do domestic work. For the Philippine government, it remains a challenge to enhance the image and the socio-economic conditions of Filipinos in Italy. Fortunately, there are selfless individuals like Dindo B. Malanyaon who turn this aspiration into reality.

Born in 1973 in Makati City, Mr. Malanyaon is a licensed health worker based in Rome whose advocacy includes upholding migrant rights and facilitating the integration of Filipino migrants in Italy. Having spent his early life with a father in the police force and a mother in the healthcare industry, he has developed a gift for helping anyone in need. Growing up, he was constantly reminded by his parents to always be of assistance to other people, especially his countrymen.

His upbringing, combined with perseverance and compassion, sustains Mr. Malanyaon’s career as paramedic. He graduated from Centro Escolar University with a bachelor’s degree in Medical Technology in 1995. Since then, he has been an active participant in various postgraduate courses and training programs on emergency evacuation, first aid, ambulance operation, and firefighting. He worked at the Makati Rescue Team under the supervision of the Makati City Government. His assistance to migrants started in 2000 as an Emergency Medical Assistant at the Consulate of the Republic of Slovenia in Mandaluyong.

It was in 2002 when he moved to Italy as a caregiver. In light of Europe’s ageing population, Italy’s diminishing workforce and increased demand for health and household services have created a vacuum that foreigners are prepared to fill. By 2011, Italian statistics revealed that 71.6% of caregivers and domestic workers in Italy are stranieri or foreigners consisting mostly of Eastern Europeans (36%) and Filipinos (9%).

As a former caregiver, Mr. Malanyaon knew that OFWs in this sector earn less than €1,000 a month – significantly lower than the recorded average salary for all non-EU migrant workers. This knowledge inspired him to develop a mechanism to make them more competitive for employment vis-à-vis other migrants and at the same time, save the lives of people in danger. iPARAMEDICi, which he founded in 2011, is a non-profit organization that searches for displaced persons, provides first aid, transports the sick and wounded, and donates blood and organs in times of natural calamities and fire.

In conferring the Banaag Award to Mr. Dindo B. Malanyaon, the President recognizes his unwavering commitment to enhance the socio-economic welfare of and promote volunteerism among Filipino migrants in Rome and its neighboring cities.

The power of language can either bridge or widen gaps among people depending on how it is used. At times, language use not only reflects prejudice against certain social groups but worse, reinforces it. In Milan, it is not uncommon to hear the derogatory

iPARAMEDICi also offers basic life support and emergency rescue training programs that include modules in first aid, firefighting, and patient care skills. In support of the Philippine Embassy in Rome’s skills enhancement initiative, the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) fully funds Mr. Malanyaon’s training programs. These programs help Filipinos become more employable throughout the European Economic Area. Aside from pre-hospital care and emergency response, their modules equip participants with sufficient civic knowledge about Italy.

To broaden the scope of beneficiaries, the organization has opened its doors not only to OWWA members but also to irregular migrants in Rome and neighboring cities. Mr. Malanyaon is not alone in his endeavors. He receives support not only from Philippine agencies but also from Italian institutions like the Department of Firefighters, Public Rescue and Civilian Protection of the Ministry of Interior.

Since 2011, he has educated ten batches of students. Upon graduation from iPARAMEDICi’s Life Support Training Program, students are issued with EU-recognized certificates and are prepared for rendering voluntary community service in Italy – a requirement for renewing aliens’ permesso di soggiorno (Permit to Stay).

Some graduates of iPARAMEDICi left their previous (usually underpaid) jobs as domestic workers and pursued their careers in Europe as attendants at nursing homes, caretakers of establishments, and similar occupations. Ms. Jen Concepcion was a domestic worker in Rome when she trained with iPARAMEDICi. Currently, she is a health care assistant in Sweden. Others went back to the Philippines and rejoined the health and service sectors. Mr. Querwin Dolores, a registered nurse in the country, has undergone training with Mr. Malanyaon after two years of employment as a domestic worker. When he finished the course in 2017, he returned to the Philippines and now works as staff nurse at St. Luke’s Medical Center in Bonifacio Global City. After suffering unfair employment conditions as cook, Mr. John Tansinsin trained with iPARAMEDICi and returned to the Philippines. He now works at NAIA 3 and even earned the Diamond Award by Delta Air Lines in 2016 for his commitment to provide safe and secure operations to customers and other employees.

There is no doubt that there are hundreds of parallel stories throughout Europe. As the founder and president of iPARAMEDICi, Mr. Malanyaon is simultaneously saving and changing lives in Italy. He and his students show that behind motivations for economic well-being lies the greater and nobler mission of serving the Filipino community wherever they may be.



JULIET MONTANO

Taiwan

Hometown: Tanauan City, Batangas

Often, health is not valued until sickness comes. And there is no worse time to get sick than when one is overseas, far from home and the loving care of a family,

with a language barrier to contend with, and finances to worry about. Serving as a doctor to Filipinos in Taiwan for over 30 years, Dr. Juliet Montano understands this on a deeper and personal level.

Dr. Montano, also known by her Chinese name Mei-Hua Tsai, was born on December 20, 1959 in Tanauan City, Batangas. She earned a degree in Medicine at the University of Santo Tomas in 1983 and had her internship at the Jose Reyes Memorial Hospital. Upon completion of her rural service in Tanauan City, she took the licensure exam for doctors and passed.

Five years after, Dr. Montano migrated to Taiwan and had her residency at the Far Eastern Memorial Hospital in Taipei. Aside from successfully passing the medical licensure exam in Taiwan, she specialized in the areas of Family and Adolescent Medicine, which gave her a greater edge among other medical practitioners.

Shortly after her retirement from the Far Eastern Memorial Hospital, which caters to a majority of Taiwanese, Dr. Montano purposely set up a clinic at the Ban Ying Hospital, where she would have more latitude in accepting and dealing with patients. Since then, thousands of Filipinos in Taiwan have benefited from her medical expertise. In her clinic where Filipino is the main language spoken, almost all of her patients are overseas Filipino workers and overseas Filipino-Chinese. She performs numerous abdominal and breast ultrasound examinations, general check-ups, blood and urine tests, Pap smears, mammograms, electrocardiograms, and x-rays to Filipinos. Such medical services, which overseas Filipinos often choose not to avail due to additional expenses and fear of discovering their medical conditions, are offered for as low as TWD 80 (PHP 135.00) at Dr. Montano's clinic. She likewise voluntarily assists other Taiwanese doctors in translating communications to fully understand their Filipino patients and address their health concerns.

With utmost care and concern for her Filipino patients, Dr. Montano attends to the patients in nursing homes and the homes of

bedridden patients. Moreover, she ensures that her mobile number is available to all her patients so they can contact her anytime for any emergency or non-emergency medical concerns. She likewise finds time to visit them when they are hospitalized. She also used to visit female prison and juvenile facilities for check-ups and prescription of medicines for ten years.

Dr. Montano's sense of responsibility to the Filipinos in Taiwan goes beyond treating the sick as her approach is also proactive. For years, she has been sharing medical advice through her regular columns featured in Filipino publications such as *The Migrants* and *The Manila Post*, as well as at churches and other centers where Filipinos congregate. The catchy titles of her monthly health articles are humorous yet very relatable and informative to her Filipino readers. She also wrote numerous health educational materials in Filipino which she distributes among her patients to create awareness on health issues and promote preventive health.

Providing medical care services for the community is not limited within the corners of her clinic. Dr. Montano has gone on numerous medical missions in various communities in Taiwan, Cambodia and Gambia. These efforts have earned the respect and admiration of her colleagues, who have in turn elected her into leadership positions in several organizations and associations. She leverages her influence for the benefit of Filipinos, as when she was able to collect several boxes of clothes, toys, and relief goods for the benefit of Typhoon Yolanda victims.

To date, Dr. Montano is affiliated with many health societies in Taiwan. She is a member of the Taiwan Association of Family Medicine, Taiwan Society for Adolescent and Health, Taipei Medical Association, Taiwan Society of Ultrasound and Taiwan Academy of Hospice Palliative Medicine. She has authored several publications, published in Taiwan and USA, attended national and international conferences and received awards. She has also provided lectures on CPR and health related topics, emphasizing disease control and prevention, caregiving, sex education, and tobacco cessation in various overseas Filipino communities, different religious sectors, town halls, elderly communities, schools, and hospitals around Taiwan.

In conferring the Banaag Award to Dr. Juliet Montano, the President recognizes her unwavering commitment and assistance to overseas Filipinos in Taiwan by providing accessible and affordable quality medical care services, and raising awareness on the importance of migrants' health.



PILIPINO WORKERS CENTER

for the creation of the Pilipino Workers Center of Southern California (PWC) in 1997. It was established mainly to help alleviate the burdens and issues confronting the most vulnerable Filipino workers, particularly the domestic workers and caregivers. The organization strongly believes the principle that all people and communities have the right to a healthy and dignified quality of life.

Prior to its creation, PWC's founders were aware of the sad reality that many Filipino migrants in the US were employed in occupations that cannot sufficiently address their basic needs, thus, leaving them with no choice but to live and settle in deplorable and unhealthy conditions. These workers fall prey to wage theft, human trafficking, occupational safety hazards, unhealthy lifestyles, and their own despair. These are the problems and conditions that PWC sought to address.

The organization prioritizes leadership development, cooperative principles, and leading a community into action, while at the same time advancing policy reforms, educating the public and developing community-owned businesses for the improvement of Filipinos in Greater Los Angeles.

Deemed as one of the exemplary and effective Filipino-American non-profit organizations in Los Angeles, PWC launched its Wage Enforcement Campaign to uplift the dignity of the workers, fight for labor protection, and advocate for fair wages and suitable working conditions for caregivers and other domestic workers. Along with the caregivers, it launched a public campaign in 2017 against a homecare employer, which led the California Labor Commissioner's office to initiate an investigation. To date, PWC has won over \$800,000 in back-wages for Filipino and Filipino-American caregivers as part of its Wage Enforcement Campaign. This action sent a message to the homecare industry that the dignity of the homecare workers should be upheld, considering that domestic work is an integral part of the Californian society.

PWC also manages a program called COURAGE, or Caregivers Organizing for Unity Respect and Genuine Empowerment. It empowers the caregivers through knowledge, leadership development, individual case management, alliance building, advocacy, and self-help projects. Through this program, caregivers are informed about their labor rights and are provided legal assistance. This program also provides professional skills training that could help increase their ability to secure employment, as well as occupational health and safety training to protect their physical and mental well-being. Furthermore, this program is also designed to educate the public and their elected officials about the plight of many caregivers, in order to strengthen the laws for household workers.

PWC also supported the formation of a cooperative named COURAGE Home Care, which is owned and managed by caregivers to raise the standard of quality care for the elderly and differently-abled population.

PWC's utmost care for the Filipino communities can also be seen through an affordable housing initiative. Affordable housing is a sensitive issue among

PILIPINO WORKERS CENTER OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (PWC)

United States of America

Sometimes, it is essential to stand up and fight for what is right and good. This must have been the cause that paved the way

Asian-American communities. In 2013, it collaborated with Little Tokyo Service Center (LTSC) Community Development Center, and built the Larry Itliong Village. It was named after a Filipino activist, Larry Itliong, who led early labor movements in California. Located in historic Filipinotown, it serves as low-cost housing for Filipino families and other ethnicities. It has 45 low-cost housing units ranging from one to three bedrooms. PWC also provides its tenants with other ancillary services in health, technology and even agriculture.

In its fight against human trafficking, it runs an outreach education, a comprehensive case management, and an advocacy program to assist survivors and victims of human trafficking. To date, they have assisted over 100 Filipino victims and survivors of labor trafficking. An elderly trafficking survivor expressed that she started recovering from her ordeal when she was introduced to PWC. Among the support she received from PWC were navigating social services agencies, medical assistance, avenues for emotional and psychological healing through self-care workshops, legal assistance, family reunification opportunities, and provision of basic needs, such as food and housing. She won the case on forced labor against her employers and was finally reunited with her family back in the Philippines.

Leaving the Philippines for good can mean permanently missing countless memories and activities that are unique to the Philippine setting. This includes the Philippine jeepney, regarded as a cultural symbol, and the undisputed "King of the Philippine Road." With PWC's Historic Filipinotown (Hi Fi) Jeepney Tour in California, PWC brought back the iconic jeepney to California's streets. The Hi Fi Jeepney Tour is the first and only jeepney tour in California that educates its participants about the richness of the Filipino culture and the history of Filipino workers in the United States.

Commended by politicians and US government agencies and businesses within the region of Los Angeles, PWC achieved various remarkable accomplishments, such as the immigration assistance and deportation defense program, in which newly-arrived Filipinos are assisted in navigating the US legal system and provided low-cost immigration services. It also provides Filipinos with access to deportation defense programs, such as free legal clinics and workshops.

In partnership with the Los Angeles Food Bank, the organization also provides food assistance to over 50 families on a weekly basis. During food distribution, PWC takes advantage of the opportunity to conduct an information drive about workers' rights and capacity building among the beneficiaries. PWC also holds an annual weekend retreat to train Asian youth who want to explore the possibility of becoming a community worker/organizer.

Consumer protection is also included among the long list of priorities of PWC. It offers an 18-month credit cooperative course aimed at helping individuals and families save and access small or micro loans for their immediate needs.

Furthermore, PWC campaigns to strengthen the Filipino voice and the Filipino vote within the regions of Los Angeles and Southern California through its Filipino Voter Empowerment Campaign. PWC does not campaign for any specific candidate but rather works to encourage Filipino Americans to exercise their right to vote.

In conferring the Banaag Award to the Pilipino Workers Center of Southern California (PWC), the President recognizes its utmost dedication to perpetually empower and advance the rights of Filipino workers throughout Southern California.



MARIA CRISTINA FERNANDO-SULAIK

Sudan

Hometown: Marikina

Over the years in Sudan, overseas Filipino workers (OFW) with various backgrounds and professions come and go. Problems of maltreatments, incarcerations, hospitalization and cases of deaths of OFWs are also reported in the country. In the absence of a Philippine Embassy in Sudan, OFWs have to rely initially on each other for help before assistance from the Embassy of the Philippines in Cairo, Egypt can be obtained.

In scenarios like these, Ms. Maria Cristina F. Sulaik has been instrumental in assisting her fellow Filipinos who face difficulties in the country. In coordination with the Honorary Consulate and the Embassy of the Philippines in Cairo, she serves as the main contact of OFWs and other Filipinos in the host country to get assistance on certain consular-related concerns, such as labor issues and passport requirements.

Ms. Sulaik migrated to Sudan in 2004. Albeit a graduate of Banking and Finance, she struggled in finding the right work for her. For more than a decade, she opted to accept jobs that she was overqualified for so she could earn decently.

Her years of perseverance and determination bore fruit when she was hired in one of the leading hotels in Sudan, the Al Salam Rotana Hotel. She started off as a Sales Secretary, and then promoted to Marketing and Communication Executive. Currently, she's the Marketing and Communications Manager of the hotel. She is primarily responsible for the positioning of the hotel in the global market, managing its social media and other online channels, securing sponsors for its events and promotions, and maintaining strong relationships with media partners, among others.

Ms. Sulaik is admired and well respected by her colleagues. She was also instrumental in a number of awards and recognitions received by the Al Salam Rotana Hotel. On top of that, she is responsible for the conduct of charity events, donations, and health and environmental initiatives of the hotel.

Just as she takes her corporate responsibilities to heart, so she does, too, her passion for helping fellow Filipinos in need. Through her initiative and support, the Philippine Embassy in Cairo, Egypt was

able to repatriate OFWs, assist those in various detention centers, and repatriate the remains of Filipinos who died in Sudan. In particular, she assisted a 70-year old Filipino who was showing signs of Alzheimer's disease, had been in Sudan for the longest time, and lost communication with his family and relatives. Ms. Sulaik informed the Embassy about his condition, provided him food, medications, and temporary shelter. In 2017, after 32 years, the Filipino was finally repatriated to the Philippines.

She likewise assists her fellow Filipinos who are suffering from unjust situations. From providing temporary shelters, to assisting with their personal needs and processing their necessary documentation, Ms. Sulaik is truly a valued partner of the Honorary Consulate and the Embassy of the Philippines in Cairo in the protection and promotion of the welfare of Filipinos in Sudan.

As a key member of the Association of Filipinos in Sudan (AFS), Ms. Sulaik also organizes meetings and events, and participates in charity works organized by the Filipino community in Sudan. She even uses her personal funds and resources to help her fellow Filipinos in dire need of financial support.

On top of Ms. Sulaik's duties and responsibilities, she is active in promoting the Filipino culture. She initiated the annual Philippine week at the Al Salam Rotana Hotel. Already on its third year, the event features Filipino cuisine and culture and is attended by Filipinos, other expatriate communities, dignitaries, government officials, and the media.

Every Ramadan, Ms. Sulaik prepares Iftar boxes for Muslim brothers and sisters, including the Filipino Muslim student community. She has also been supporting Khartoum American School's traditional International Potluck dinner, an annual fund raising event for different charities in Khartoum. She was also the first to initiate a project in Sudan that led the students to conduct charity drives to help differently-abled children. She's a regular church member of the Philippine Catholic Community in Khartoum, and also a major solicitor for fund raising activities of the church.

For all her contributions and assistance, she has earned the respect and trust of her kababayan and the Philippine Embassy in Cairo. Ms. Sulaik's benevolence and admirable dedication in assisting fellow Filipinos in Sudan truly made a lasting impact in their lives.

In conferring the Banaag Award to Ms. Maria Cristina F. Sulaik, the President recognizes her bravery and commendable efforts in actively promoting the welfare and protection of overseas Filipinos in Sudan, which has significantly contributed to the betterment of their lives.



WIMLER FOUNDATION HONG KONG, LTD.

Hong Kong

Throughout the years, there have been numerous initiatives that make the dream of a better life a reality for thousands of Filipino migrant workers in Hong Kong and their families back in the Philippines. One of the most noteworthy is that of WIMLER Foundation Hong Kong, Ltd., a non-profit and charitable organization established in 2009 through the initiative of Leila “Lalay” Rispens-Noel together with Emilie Veringa-Tobias and Victor Neri. It was formally enlisted in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Companies Registry in 2011.

WIMLER’s mission is to promote the development and empowerment of migrant/ethnic communities in Hong Kong and support development-oriented projects in partnership with the public and private sectors. WIMLER supports and initiates customized capacity building trainings for migrant workers. At the same time, it conducts workshops or seminars on the link between migration and development focusing on the roles of migrants and the potential of hometown associations as agents of development.

From 2012 to 2016, a total of 258 mostly migrant workers attended the Leadership, Financial Literacy and Social Enterprise (LSE) training program for migrant workers organized by WIMLER in partnership with the Philippine Consulate General in Hong Kong. The LSE Program is a joint initiative of the Ateneo de Manila University School of Government (ASoG), the Overseas Filipinos Society for the Promotion of Economic Security (OFSPES), the Social Enterprises Development Partnerships Inc. (SEDPI), Overseas Labor Office (POLO HK), and the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA HK).

Some of those who attended the trainings and were mentored in the development and implementation of their business plans have now returned to the Philippines for good. This is no mean feat considering the challenges that lay before OFWs in their quest to successfully reintegrate back to the country. A total of seventeen LSE graduates from 2012 to 2014 composed of five teams and an individual received certificates of recognition from WIMLER for implementing the business plans they presented during the LSE training course.

Other trainings organized by WIMLER include household service workers’ (HSW) skills enhancement, financial literacy training, reintegration planning and counseling training conducted by Atikha, agricultural-livestock training course, and business plan writing workshop. WIMLER also conducted a Strategic Planning workshop for migrant organizations. It also organized a seminar on Doing Business in

the Philippines attended by 60 migrants. Another seminar organized by WIMLER is the “Kababaihan, Perang Padala at Utang” in partnership with PCG Hong Kong. A total of 125 migrants attended the Investment Forum on “OFW Portal for Investment in Coops to Develop the Local Economy” in partnership with NATCCO.

WIMLER also engages with multinational migrant organizations, concerned individuals, the academe, policy makers, public and private sectors to stimulate their active involvement in the promotion of migrants and their families’ well-being. To support community-driven projects in migrants’ countries of origin, especially in the areas of education of poor children and economic empowerment of local communities, WIMLER undertakes fundraising activities to mobilize resources for grassroots level initiatives.

WIMLER has also mobilized resources and raised funds to support the schooling of 1,375 students from primary to tertiary levels in Bansalan, Davao del Sur; M’lang, North Cotabato; Banate, Iloilo; and Solano, Nueva Vizcaya. A total of 2,700 books and 2,500 CDs, 17 balikbayan boxes of books and learning materials, 18 jumbo boxes from the Chinese National School were sent to children in various locations in Mindanao. They also raised HK\$139,150 for victims of Typhoon Yolanda. They also distributed relief goods, medicines, blanket, tents, and fishing boats to victims of Typhoon Pablo in Palawan, Cebu, and Iloilo. Part of WIMLER’s diaspora philanthropy initiatives also includes the distribution of medical supplies in Digos City and other localities.

Wimler also provide technical assistance and consultancy services, encourage and promote Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), and establishes alliances with organizations that share WIMLER’s mission and vision. WIMLER has partnered with Prime Credit, which provided a space for WIMLER’s trainings and seminars, and the Chinese International School, which donated ten used Macbook computers for use by migrant workers in preparing their business plans and SWIFT Asia Pacific, which supported WIMLER in the conduct of a research study entitled “Remittances: Behavior and Practices of Filipino Migrant Domestic Workers in Hong Kong” in 2012.

While relatively a young organization, the experience of WIMLER Foundation Hong Kong, Ltd. in making a big difference in the lives of its beneficiaries-migrants and their families, school children, victims of disasters, and partners is palpable and concrete. Truly, WIMLER embodies its core values of respect, making a difference, integrity, commitment, sustainable development, and migration and development as it continue moving closer to its mission, one migrant entrepreneur, one graduating schoolchild, and one victim turned survivor at a time.

In conferring the Banaag Award to WIMLER Foundation Hong Kong Ltd., the President recognizes its initiatives in making a difference to the lives of thousands of migrant workers in Hong Kong, in empowering the migrants and their communities in harnessing the gains of their migration experiences for personal, family, and community development.



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

Paul Cainto Balan

United States of America / Paete, Laguna

Edward Mendoza Brotonel

United States of America / Manila

Nicolas Mabale Caraquel

United States of America / San Isidro, Davao Oriental

Elizabeth Lajato Merto-Engle

United States of America / Dumaguete, Negros Oriental

Maria Theresa Angob-Eviota

Switzerland / San Francisco, Surigao del Norte

Pedro Andres Jose

United States of America / Dingras, Ilocos Norte

Teresita Gutierrez-Marques

Portugal / Batangas City, Batangas

C. Joe Sayas, Jr.

United States of America / Silang, Cavite

Jose Dennis Constantino Teodosio

Myanmar / Valenzuela

Saturnino Halili Tiamson, Jr.

Hong Kong / Angono, Rizal

Jhett Dizon Tolentino

United States of America / Iloilo City, Iloilo



PAUL CAINTO BALAN

United States of America
Hometown: Paete, Laguna

There are no secrets to success. It usually comes with hard work and sheer determination. Paul Balan, renowned painter and designer knows this from experience. He is a native of Paete, Laguna, a town famous for its sculptors, painters, musicians, and poets.

His maternal great-grandfather, Pablo Bague, was a master sculptor. His parents crafted wood furniture and chess sets to raise their family of five. While growing, he developed a love for drawing, inspired by the land and folklore he often heard as a child.

Pursuing his passion for the arts, he studied fine arts at the University of Santo Tomas in Manila. He, however, dropped out of school and started supporting himself by painting. He painted religious murals and began designing stained glass for churches.

In 2001, he immigrated to Chicago, Illinois. With only \$5 in his pocket, he was reluctant to go to America because he did not want to leave a fledging commercial art business in his hometown. But his wife Marra prevailed upon him to leave his art instruments behind so that they could start a new life overseas.

He first worked as a waiter but after landing a stable job with an electronics company, he started buying art supplies and resumed drawing, painting, and sculpting. His love for the arts was rekindled and he continued to produce a wide range of pieces with themes on faith, nature and his Filipino heritage. To keep up with his peers, he joined art exhibits, some of them sponsored by the Philippine Consulate during the Philippine Independence Day celebrations in Chicago, and other art competitions.

His life-changing break came when he won a spot in the prestigious Artistic Infusion Program (AIP) of the United States Mint. Established in 2003, AIP is a program of the United States Mint which invites American artists to create designs for U.S. coins and medals, most notably, the State Quarters series of coins. The US Mint is the nation's sole manufacturer of legal tender coinage for the nation to conduct its trade and commerce.

As an artist of the prestigious AIP, he is the first Filipino and first Asian US coin designer. His designs have been selected for commemorative coins and congressional medals since 2010. An AIP artist since 2009, the Philippine native says he is honored to be part of the program and the coin design evolution.

As an esteemed coinage and medal designer, the designs of Mr. Balan were consistently strong among the works of the artists of the US Mint's AIP. His design was nominated and selected for the 2018 "America the Beautiful Quarters Program" of the US Mint. He designed the Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore on the reverse of the newly released quarter which was launched in 2010, during which, the US Mint began issuing 56 quarter-dollar coins featuring designs that depict national parks and other national sites. It was his first circulated coin.

In 2016, Mr. Balan's version of an American eagle was chosen for the reverse of the 2016 American Eagle Platinum Proof Coin. This coin is the second release in a two-year series featuring coins with reverse designs that are innovative, beautiful, and representative of US core values of liberty and freedom. Mr. Balan's design for the coin depicts an American eagle rising in flight, gripping a branch in its talons.

The design moreover portrays Liberty, holding a torch of enlightenment in her right hand and an olive branch in her left to symbolize peace. The olives represent the Thirteen Original Colonies. A bald eagle with its wings outstretched appears beside Liberty. The coin's obverse features a "Portrait of Liberty."

In 2015, Mr. Balan's design was imprinted by the US Mint - the March of Dimes Silver Dollar Commemorative Coin. Historically, the March of Dimes was previously known as National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis after it was created on January 3, 1938 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt due to his personal struggle with polio, at a time when polio was rampant. The Foundation established patient aid-programs and funded research for polio vaccines. His design captured the symbol of the mission and programs of the March of Dimes Foundation and its distinguished record of generating Americans' support to protect children's health.

In 2013, of the 131 entries submitted for the National Humanities Medal Design Competition, Mr. Balan's entry was selected to replace the previous medal. Minted in brass and finished in polished gold plate, his design depicts a seated Lady Liberty, amidst detailed folds of cloth, and reminiscent of the Pre-Raphaelite style, and is surrounded by icons of a great civilization.

The National Humanities Medal is bestowed by the President of the United States in an annual White House ceremony to honor individuals or groups whose work have deepened the nation's understanding of the humanities and broadened US citizens' engagement with history, literature, languages, philosophy, and other humanities subjects. Mr. Balan's inspiration for his award-winning design was the Statue of Liberty, which he portrayed as representative of the history, wisdom, and generosity of the United States.

As he continuously produced his wide range of works, Mr. Balan received numerous accolades, and was profiled in local publications and news programs. He exhibits his paintings and sculptures regularly, most notably his Lupang Hinirang Series in 2009, the first-ever visual interpretation of the Philippine national anthem.

Many of his religious works, ranging from murals to stained glass, are on display at churches in the Philippines and in the US.

Mr. Balan stressed the importance of knowing where you came from and being a man of action. He urges young artists who aspire to be successful to just do their best despite criticisms that may come along their way.

In conferring the Pamana ng Pilipino Award to Mr. Paul C. Balan, the President recognizes his stature as the first Filipino and first Asian US coin designer, and an artist of the prestigious Artistic Infusion Program (AIP) of the United States Mint, whose designs were selected for commemorative coins and congressional medals since 2010.



EDWARD MENDOZA BROTONEL

United States of America
Hometown: Manila

Serving in the uniformed service is a noble, affecting endeavor. One attribute that sets Mr. Edward M. Brotonel apart from Filipinos pursuing their career overseas is his passion for military service. Without demanding for formal recognition, he is known to work tirelessly behind the scenes and resolving a wide range of investigative issues. Much like his father who was a World War II veteran, he pursued his military career as a Military Policeman and later as a Special Agent at the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command (CID) specializing in crimes involving the army.

After completing his college degree in criminology at the Philippine College of Criminology in 1976, Mr. Brotonel migrated to Chicago, Illinois, and spent his next 29 years in the U.S. Army. As he hit his stride in the conduct of felony investigations, people who came into contact with him have witnessed his technical competence as a colleague and as a leader. His supervision of cases resulted to high monetary recoveries, convictions of suspects, and the triumphant resolution of various complaints. Since assuming his duties, he has successfully investigated crimes such as fraud, theft, and black market operations in the military. His achievements earned him a nominee for Federal Employee of the Year in the Chicago Metro Area in 1981.

With his excellent judgement and ability to think outside the box, he was included in the Top 5% of CID agents in the Army and became the Law Enforcement Employee of the Year in 1981. Subsequently, he was awarded with his second Army Achievement Medal in 2001 and his fifth Meritorious Service Medal in 2003. After retiring from active duty in 2003, he was recruited to work as a civilian criminal investigator under the Special Inspector General in Baghdad, Iraq to resolve an overbilling allegation by an oil pipeline contractor from 2004 to 2005. This then resulted in a US\$15 million payment being withheld by the U.S. Program Contracting Office.

Almost a decade after his initial retirement, he was recalled again to active duty by the U.S. Army. In 2012, he participated in a major fraud investigation involving complex recruiting fraud schemes in the Army's National Guard Recruiting Assistance Program that was considered as one of the biggest fraud investigations in the history of the U.S. Army. His participation resulted in millions of dollars in recovered by the U.S. Government, as well as a multitude of convictions.

His tour of duty was extended for another five years. During that period, Mr. Brotonel also conducted over 40 felony investigations involving

complex recruitment fraud schemes and identified almost half a million dollars in losses to the U.S. Government. For his exploits, he was conferred with the U.S. Congressional Veteran of the Year Award by U.S. Representative Danny K. Davis and his sixth Army Commendation Medal in 2017.

Not only had he demonstrated excellence in supervising felony investigations, but he had also been an active leader of the Filipino-American Community in Chicago. He is a cultural advocate especially for educating Filipinos and Americans about military history. Outside the military, he participated in activities that supported groups of disabled veterans through his position as Post Adjutant of the American Legion, Westchester Post from 2012 up to the present. He has developed a natural sense of fueling the spirit of charity of people around him. As a member of the Knights of Columbus Council, he and his team have conducted events that promote the well-being of the community, such as organizing blood drives and providing monetary support to children with intellectual disabilities.

He greatly values and sees the need to reconnect the Filipino-American community with their cultural roots. One way is through a project entitled 10,000 Kwentos. This project was developed by the Chicago Field Museum of Natural History team to publicize and document stories of the more than 10,000 Philippine artifacts kept in storage at the museum.

From emphasizing the importance of historical familiarity, he also led the commemoration of the annual Bataan Day in Maywood when he became Director of the Maywood Bataan Day Organization (MBDO) in 2013. It was a day he wanted Filipino-Americans in Chicago to remember the incredible valor, sacrifice, and brotherhood that Filipinos have shown in defending their country.

He is a reliable member and leader, whose wisdom adds much value to various organizations he is affiliated with. By swiftly interacting with all sorts of people, he successfully administered programs across eight states in the Midwest as President of the Filipino American National Historical Society (FANHS) – Midwest Chapter from 2010 to 2014. In 2018, he received an outstanding service and leadership award from Lt. Gov. Evelyn Sanguinetti during the kickoff celebration of the Filipino American History Month (FAHM) hosted by the Governor of the State of Illinois. Overall, the achievements of Mr. Brotonel as a veteran community servant not only allows him to live a fulfilling life, but at the same time inspires others to stay connected with their Filipino roots despite being far from their home country.

In conferring the Pamana ng Pilipino Award to CWO Edward M. Brotonel, the President recognizes his distinguished career as Special Agent of the U.S. Army CID, his excellence in conducting felony investigations in the military, as well as his advocacy to promote Filipino heritage overseas.



NICOLAS MABALE CARAQUEL

United States of America

Hometown: San Isidro, Davao Oriental

Life's challenges often masquerade as a pathway to a far better place. Not everyone could see that but Atty. Nicolas Mabale Caraquel did, even at such a young age.

The young Caraquel, who was born into a poor family, started helping his parents in making ends meet when he was barely six years old. An early riser, he wakes up at 4:00 in the morning every day, so he could help his mother prepare their wares and sell barbeques.

At nine years old, he was asked by his parents to quit school because they could no longer afford it. Instead of studying, he was forced to grill and sell banana cue with his seamstress mother in a nearby bus station. For months, his disappointment was indescribable, especially at times when he would see his classmates heading to school. At a young age, however, he learned the value of hard work, patience, and perseverance.

Never giving up on his dream of studying, he took advantage of opportunities that came his way. Becoming a helper in a neighbor's grocery store afforded him to become a working student and finish his elementary and high school education. Thereafter, he was awarded with a scholarship that served as his ticket towards earning his Industrial Engineering degree from the Ateneo de Davao University.

Right after college, he landed a job in one of the world's top food manufacturing companies and was assigned in Cagayan de Oro City. Finally, he started earning decently. Gone were the days of having to skip meals and going on an empty stomach. Driven to strive further, he pursued his childhood dream of becoming a lawyer at Xavier University. In 2004, he passed the bar examinations. When another opportunity presented itself, he migrated to the US in 2007, and became the head of Nestle USA's Continuous Excellence department in Mount Sterling, Kentucky.

His ambition did not stop there. He continued working hard and saved enough money to prepare for the Bar examinations in New York to become a practicing lawyer. In 2012, he passed the bar examinations, got his work visa in just a few weeks and obtained his green card after a year. Four years later he left Nestle in order to become a full-time practicing immigration attorney in Queens, New York.

In conferring the Pamana ng Pilipino Award to Atty. Nicolas M. Caraquel, the President recognizes his exemplary professional skills in the field of immigration law, and his generosity in providing pro-bono legal services in service of the Filipino communities in New Jersey and New York.

Atty. Caraquel's professional skills cut across a wide range of industries, from engineering, supply chain management, to labor relations and immigration law. He has helped various clients all over the world obtain their respective US visas, and get reunited with their families and loved ones in the US. The normal processing of a fiancée visa would take 5 months, but, with his expertise, the average approval rating for his clients took only 1-2 months. For spouse visa on the other hand, his clients would not have to wait for a 9-month normal processing as he delivers an average approval of 4-5 months.

He has also successfully represented hundreds of individuals and companies in their respective U.S. immigration petitions, including family-based and previously denied applications. He is licensed to practice law in both the Philippines and the State of New York. Being a lawyer in the US, according to him, is no bed of roses. Language barrier and stereotyping are some of the few problems one might encounter.

In May 2018, he was selected as one of the "10 Best Attorneys" of New York in the area of Immigration Law by the American Institute of Legal Counsel (AIOLC). The AIOLC is an impartial third-party Attorney rating service that recognizes excellence among practitioners in the field. His inclusion in this exclusive list is a noteworthy feat since awardees should have attained the highest degree of professional achievement in his or her field of law, and must have an impeccable client satisfaction rating. In October 2018, The Outstanding Filipinos in America Awards (TOFA) awarded him with the 2018 Outstanding Filipino in America for Public Service. TOFA recognizes the contributions and celebrates the achievements of Filipino-Americans in the US.

An articulate and dedicated professional, Atty. Caraquel remains passionate in helping others, especially the needy. This stems from his humble beginnings back in the Philippines. He provides pro bono services to the Filipino communities in New Jersey and New York to increase their awareness on immigration matters. He never forgets his roots, too. Through his community-led charity events since 2002, he annually provides school supplies to the underprivileged students in the Philippines. For him, *"Poverty is a source of motivation in itself; you can become creative in finding ways to get out of poverty."*



ELIZABETH LAJATO MERTO-ENGLE

United States of America

Hometown: Dumaguete, Negros Oriental

In an industry traditionally dominated by men, Engineer Elizabeth Lajato Merto-Engle has proven that it is possible for a woman to be heard and show the world what she can do. As the first registered woman engineer in the state of Alaska, Engr. Engle served in various leadership roles, managed projects with precision, and worked collaboratively and fervently with different professionals over the years.

Known as Betsy to her friends and colleagues, Engr. Engle came from a modest beginning. She hails from Dumaguete City, Negros Oriental, where she spent her early childhood years together with her five siblings were spent in a home without electricity and running water. Through her parents' hard work, coupled with her own dedication, she obtained a degree in Civil Engineering at Silliman University in 1963, and later took up Sanitary Engineering at the Mapua Institute of Technology in 1965.

A year later, she tried her luck overseas by pursuing her engineering career in Virginia and Washington D.C. Then in 1968, what was supposed to be a seven-month structural engineering job in Fairbanks, Alaska became permanent as she got married to her immediate supervisor and eventually started her own family.

From 1971 to 1999, Engr. Engle worked in various capacities in companies in Fairbanks, Alaska, including the State Department of Transportation & Public Facilities, Northern Region (AKDOT&PF). While at AKDOT&PF, she rose from the ranks, starting as a Project Planner, then as Design Group Chief, and eventually, as Director of Design and Construction. She was responsible for numerous public work projects throughout the northern region of Alaska. She worked with state client agencies in developing project scopes and budgets, and administration of projects from concept development through design and construction.

She handled projects like upgrading of AKDOT&PF buildings in line with the American Disabilities Act; purchase of snow removal equipment for various airports in Alaska; Fairbanks International Airport maintenance and facilities improvement; and the Deadhorse Airport Combined Facility for the State of Alaska and the Federal Aviation Authority (FAA). The latter won the FAA's 1999 Facilities National Award for Excellence. She also did the renovation of the Fairbanks Youth Facility, as well as the Huslia Airport masterplan and improvements, among others.

Shortly after retiring in 1999, Engr. Engle was offered a Project Manager position at the world renowned Alyeska Pipeline Service Company (APSC) which designed, constructed, and maintains the 800-mile Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS). TAPS transports crude oil from Prudhoe

Bay to the northernmost port of Valdez in Alaska. The pipeline today is recognized as a landmark engineering feat and remains essential to Alaska's economy and central to the state's industry.

From 2000 to 2008, Engr. Engle was responsible for the tank inspection projects, management of major maintenance and new construction projects, from inception through project closeout. Moreover, she managed challenging jobs and made multi-million dollar decisions. Despite these, Engr. Engle had the uncanny ability to smile through the tasks and pull the best team together to do the work.

Among all the projects on the TAPS that she handled, the most challenging and high profile one was a bypass project due to a discovered leak in the transit line of British Petroleum (BP), the major owner and contributor of the oil that flows into TAPS. Pigging activities, solids management, and corrosion inspections were performed in three months with about 300 construction workers in the field, working 24 hours in 12 hour shifts and 50 support staff in the office in minus 35°F average outside temperature.

Now retired, Engr. Engle is highly involved in various activities, both in Alaska and in the Philippines. She is the current Chairperson of the Silliman University Alumni Council of North America (SUACONA), which has 15 chapters in the US and 3 chapters in Canada. She is also the founder of the Silliman University Alumni Association of Alaska (SUAA) and was its President for 10 years. Moreover, she was a member of the Board of Directors of Ice Alaska, which hosted the largest ice sculpting competition in the world.

Her exemplary contributions and accomplishments were recognized by various institutions in Alaska and in the Philippines. She was given the 2017 Woman of Distinction Award by the Farthest North Girl Scout Council. The award recognizes women from Fairbanks, Alaska and surrounding communities in Northern Alaska, who have demonstrated qualities of outstanding leadership and excellence in their professional, family and personal endeavors. In 2016, she was bestowed with the Outstanding Sillimanian Award in the field of Project Management in Engineering by Silliman University. In the same year, she was Silliman's Balik Talent Speaker for the College of Engineering.

Engr. Engle confronted three challenges when she migrated to the United States, i.e., to hold her own as an engineer in a field that is traditionally dominated by men, to deal with usual obstacles that go with being an ethnic minority person and to work in state with subarctic conditions. None of these daunted her as she proved her worth and capabilities, thus, exemplifying the Filipino's character can succeed in a way that few others can.

In conferring the Pamana ng Pilipino Award to Engr. Elizabeth Lajato Merto-Engle, the President recognizes her excellence in the field of civil engineering and her vital role as Project Manager in various high-profile projects with AKDOT&PF and TAPS.



MARIA THERESA ANGOB-EVIOTA

Switzerland

Hometown: San Francisco, Surigao del Norte

It was in the early 1990s when Maria Theresa Eviota made one of the most difficult decisions a mother could make – to leave her four young children so she could work overseas.

While she did work as an accounting clerk in Surigao del Norte, the income was not enough as she single-handedly took on the task of nurturing and providing her children's needs. However, she was determined to ensure the future of her children, even if it meant being away and leaving her sons and daughter in the care of her parents and older sibling.

Left with a limited choice, she had to take that difficult journey which led her to Berne, Switzerland – home to numerous embassies and diplomatic residence where nearly 80% of its residence managers, housekeepers, drivers, and local-hire administrative staff are Filipinos.

She found work in Berne beginning in 1992 and built a career out of keeping house for diplomats where her responsibilities include housekeeping and general maintenance of the residences, the organizing of or assisting in formal receptions and social events at the residences such as the Queen's Birthday party (with up to 600 guests in attendance), and the inventory and maintenance of residence properties. Currently, she serves as the House Manager of the Embassy of Tunisia.

In her work as a Housekeeper or House / Residence manager, Ms. Eviota makes sure that the skills, traits, and qualities she has acquired since she started working back in the Philippines translates into impeccable results for the diplomats she worked for. Her former employers, Ambassadors among them, have nothing but glowing words for the quality of work she has rendered. Her outstanding work with members of the diplomatic community in Berne resulted in more employment opportunities for her fellow Filipinos and added to the popularity of the Filipino brand of work.

With an entrepreneurial mindset, she and her family established the first ever all-Filipino cleaning company in Berne. Their staff is composed of Filipino men and women chosen for their high work standards. They are hardworking and reliable, honest and trustworthy. They have the combined experience of working in the embassies and diplomatic residences in Bern, as well as in private dwellings and offices. The Philippine Embassy and the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Berne are among their satisfied clients with the excellent cleaning service they provide - efficient, thorough, reliable and trustworthy

worthy.

As a long-time resident of and an active member of the Filipino community in Switzerland, Ms. Eviota has had many forms of community involvement and engagement. She is a member of Samahang Pilipina (SP) Berne (since 2005) and is currently the organization's President. She is also a founding member of the Tambayan Pinoy Swiss (TPS), a volunteer group making videos of Filipino success stories, achievements and significant events in Switzerland.

Under her leadership as President of SP Berne, she helped organize three financial literacy workshops in partnership with the Manila-based Social Enterprise Development Partnerships, Inc. (SEDPI) and the Philippine Embassy in Berne from 2012 to 2014. She also helped organize a raffle fundraiser for a 25-bed mission hospital for the St. Scholastica Sisters in Pambujan, Samar in 2012. Another fund-raising activity raised 2,000 Swiss Francs for the St. Scholastica Mission Hospital in the same locality.

Ms. Eviota also found opportunities to help other needy communities outside of Switzerland and the Philippines. She assisted the founders of Cecily's Fund, a UK-based charity helping orphans and vulnerable children in Zambia. It was set up by former British Ambassador Basil Eastwood and his wife Alison to honor the memory and the work of their child Cecily, who died in a road accident in Zambia while volunteering for a Zambian charity, in the yearly benefit fundraisers in Berne.

She also shared her time, talent and expertise as Coordinator responsible for the overall planning, conceptualization and the presentation of the entire program for the Philippine Independence Day celebrations in 2012, 2013, and 2015 in cooperation with the Philippine Embassy and other organizations.

She survived more than 20 years away from her children and family because she learned how to adapt. From her simple beginnings, she acquired social skills that would make her thrive in Berne where working for the embassies and diplomats was the norm for Filipinos. She made use of the network of friends and contacts that she had built up over the years. She also learned to build on the values that she was taught in childhood – of hard work and perseverance, of faith and trust in God, of hope and belief in oneself, and strength coming from the deep bonds among women.

In conferring the Pamana ng Pilipino Award to Ms. Maria Theresa A. Eviota, the President recognizes her excellence in her field of work, i.e., providing household services to members of the diplomatic community in Berne and her contributions to the Filipino community, which has helped raise the visibility of Filipinos in Switzerland.



PEDRO ANDRES JOSE

United States of America

Hometown: Dingras, Ilocos Norte

Born in the midst of war on December 6, 1942, in a disease-stricken town whose people are cured by herbolarios and smuggled medicine, it was no accident that a humble altar boy of Dingras like

Pedro Jose dreamt of becoming a doctor. Guerrilla raids of public schools and institutions in Ilocos Norte were rampant during the Japanese occupation. Unfazed, young Pedro diligently pursued his studies until he became the accomplished doctor, scientist, and professor that he is today.

From his formative years in the Philippines to his professional life in the United States, he has a proven track record of excellence and determination. He finished at the top of his class in Gabaldon Elementary School (1954) and Dingras Provincial High School (1958). He obtained his bachelor's degree and doctorate in Medicine at the University of Santo Tomas, where he graduated magna cum laude in 1965.

In a feat that spearheaded his medical career, Dr. Jose topped the 1965 Philippine Medical Board Examinations. In the same year, he moved to the US and worked as an intern at Kings County Hospital Center, New York. After years of internship, fellowship, and residency, he obtained certifications from the American Board of Pediatrics (1970) and the American Board of Pediatric Nephrology (1974). He defended his dissertation with distinction and earned his doctorate in Physiology at Georgetown University in 1976.

Dr. Jose is a clinical hypertension specialist. He holds two state medical licenses and can practice his profession in Virginia and Washington, DC. Currently a fellow at the Council for High Blood Pressure Research of the American Heart Association, his main goal is to determine the genetic and pharmacogenetic bases of human hypertension and metabolic syndrome. One of his most notable studies is on the role of GRK4 gene variants in those who have salt-sensitive hypertension, which was cited by the Director of the US National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute for its budget justification in 2004.

Throughout his career, Dr. Jose has written 282 peer-reviewed articles, four of which are covers to scientific journals. He has published 52 articles in book compilations, 90 review articles, and eight editorials among others. His Hirsch index, which measures a scientist's academic footprint, is 54 – a value that could mean a membership in the US National Academy of Sciences.

With more than 10,000 citations, Dr. Jose's prolific and high-impact career allowed him to become a member of editorial boards for nearly 40 science journals. He has published and continues to publish his work in high impact

scientific journals, most notably the Nature Genetics, Journal of Clinical Investigation, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, USA, Journal of the American Society of Nephrology, Circulation Research, Kidney International, Clinical Chemistry, Redox Biology, and Hypertension.

To ensure the continuity of discoveries in medicine and the health sciences, Dr. Jose encourages aspiring doctors and scientists through mentorship and pedagogy. His teaching career began in 1970 as an Assistant Professor at Georgetown University School of Medicine. Since then, he has taught and lectured in numerous academic institutions in the Philippines, Thailand, China, Japan, Israel, Portugal, Spain, France, Italy, United Kingdom, Ireland, Germany, Hungary, Poland, Finland, Sweden, Switzerland, Australia, Canada, and various states in the US. At present, he is a professor of Medicine and Physiology at the George Washington (GW) University.

With his team of eleven scientists, Dr. Jose heads The Jose Lab at GW University – a laboratory for hypertension research named after him. He has two patented works: 1) G Protein-related kinase mutants in essential hypertension filed in 2003 with co-researcher Robin A. Felder and 2) Compositions and methods for identifying and diagnosing salt sensitivity of blood pressure filed in 2012. Intending to pass on his knowledge and passion to the next generation, he serves as mentor to high school and college students, as well as PhD candidates and post-doctorate scholars.

Since 1960, Dr. Jose has acquired over 60 awards and honors worldwide, the most prominent of which are the Lewis K. Dahl Memorial Lecture Recognition Award (1988), Ernest H. Starling Distinguished Lectureship Award for Water and Electrolyte Homeostasis Section (2007), NIH Merit Award (2007), and Excellence Award for Hypertension Research (2015). Not one to forget his roots, he ceaselessly inspires the Filipino youth with personal stories and scientific studies that he shares with them during commencement exercises and lectures. He is a past president of the American Society of Pediatric Nephrology (ASPEN).

With as much enthusiasm as war heroine, social worker, founder of the Girl Scouts of the Philippines (GSP), and his second degree aunt, Josefa Llanes Escoda, Dr. Jose consistently donates and volunteers in post-disaster response and medical missions in the Philippines. At 76, he shows no signs of slowing down as he continues his quest for new discoveries to learn and new people to inspire. He lives in Virginia with his wife and daughters – all of whom are practicing doctors.

In conferring the Pamana ng Pilipino Award to Dr. Pedro A. Jose, the President recognizes his pioneering contributions in clinical hypertension research, impeccable academic scholarship and practice that benefit the United States, the Philippines, and other countries across the globe.



TERESITA GUTIERREZ-MARQUES

Portugal

Hometown: Batangas City, Batangas

A passionate music lover, Teresita Angeles Villanueva Gutierrez Ribeiro Marques echoes Friedrich Nietzsche's famous saying "Without music, life would be a mistake".

She was born in Batangas City in 1950, and obtained her Master of Music degree, major in Piano and minor in Musicology from the College of Music of the University of the Philippines, Diliman. As a member of the University of the Philippines Madrigal Singers, she participated in numerous festivals and international competitions between 1969 and 1976. Having married a Portuguese citizen, she moved to Portugal in 1977.

Music continued to be her life's work when she became a member of the faculty of the Lisbon National Conservatory of Music, teaching choir music from 1978 until her retirement in April 2017. In 1978, Teresita founded the Coro de Câmara de Lisboa (Lisbon Chamber Choir), composed of twenty-two young musicians who perform musical works of Portuguese and foreign composers from the Renaissance up to the contemporary period either in a *cappella* style or with the accompaniment of instrumental ensembles or orchestras.

Under Ms. Marques' guidance and leadership, Coro de Câmara de Lisboa has performed all over Portugal and abroad and has maintained an artistic level that is widely applauded by the critics and the public. Parallel to this, they also have several recordings on discs. The tour and the recordings enabled them to project Philippine and Portuguese music and culture to the world.

Ms. Marques also founded the Ensemble Peregrinação at the Lisbon National Conservatory of Music in 2004. In 2006, the group was invited by the Fundação Oriente, to perform in the "Festival de Música Capela do Monte" in Goa. In 2007, they were invited by the French Government to perform in several cities in the north of France for the "Jeunesse Festival de la Musique." In 2008, the Ensemble Peregrinação recorded a CD entitled Cantos da Lusofonia which included folksongs from Angola, Brazil, Macau, Malacca (Malaysia), Moçambique, Timor Lorosae, Cabo Verde Islands and Goa (India).

Aside from founding chorale groups, she was also awarded a scholarship by the Spanish Government to attend the Polyphony Class

of the 21st International Music Course of Santiago de Compostela, under the direction of Angel Botia in 1979. She was sent by the Foreign Ministry of Portugal to give lectures at the Summer Courses in Music, held at the University of California (Sta. Barbara) in 1984. The Ministry of Education of Portugal also sent her to conduct training courses in vocal techniques for the teachers in the Azores Islands in 1996 and 1998. The European Federation of Choirs Europa Cantat invited her to direct the workshop Multiple Choir Music in 2001.

In December 2015, the Philippine Embassy in Lisbon requested Ms. Marques to create a recording project for a commemorative CD entitled "Amizade entre Filipinas e Portugal / Celebration of Philippine Portuguese Friendship" which has brought great honor to the choir. It includes seven Portuguese and seven Filipino folksongs. The pieces by Filipino composers are "*Katakataka*," "*Ili-Ili Tulog Anay*," "*Rosas Pandan*," "*Dahil Sa Iyo*," "*Tuksuhan*," "*Pagtulog Na, Nene*," and "*Mamayog Akun*."

Beyond the realm of music, Ms. Marques also helps out Filipinos and the Philippines in ways that she can. In 1980, she offered her services to translate court hearings involving a Filipino sailor accused of a criminal offense. In the aftermath of Typhoon Haiyan in 2013, she contacted PE Lisbon, Father Jovito Osalvo of the Catholic Filipino community in Lisbon, and the officers of the Filipino-Portuguese Association, and informed them of her interest to organize a benefit concert by the Coro de Câmara de Lisboa, the proceeds of which would be donated to the typhoon victims. Two weeks before the concert, the members of the Filipino community set up stalls and sold Filipino sweets and souvenirs as part of the fundraising program for the typhoon victims. The concert took place in December 2013, at the Igreja dos Mártires, Baixa Chiado. The proceeds were then channeled to different organizations in the Philippines; part of the proceeds were offered to some of the members of the Filipino community in Lisbon, whose families in the Philippines, had lost their homes.

She also established and managed the Coro Feminino and the Children's Choir in the Escola de Música Nossa Senhora do Cabo until her retirement in April of 2017. As a professor in the said school, she had trained and given opportunities to aspiring singers and musicians through vocal and piano training.

In conferring the Pamana ng Pilipino Award to Prof. Teresita G. Marques, the President recognizes her accomplishments as a professor of music and as founder and musical director of various choirs that enhanced the cultural relationship between Portugal and the Philippines and earned worldwide recognition for Filipino musical talent.



C. JOE SAYAS, JR.

United States of America
Hometown: Silang, Cavite

The story of David and Goliath is one of the most popular stories in the Scripture. It is a story of faith, hope, courage and overcoming what seems to be impossible. In a manner befitting

his life story, Los Angeles-based lawyer, Atty. C. Joe Sayas, Jr., has waged legal battles against giant corporations in the US on behalf of his Filipino and minority clients.

Atty. Sayas brings more than two decades of litigation and trial practice through the firm he founded in 1991 – the Law Offices of C. Joe Sayas, Jr. He has represented and fought for minorities and immigrants in the state and federal courts of California. With the support of his experienced Filipino-American legal staff who understands the language and culture of his *kababayan* in the US, he tenaciously advocates for Filipino-Americans, serving as their voice in US courtrooms.

His firm's mission is to litigate pro-employee and consumer actions against powerful entities that deny equal treatment and violate an individual's rights to life, liberty and property. Thus, the firm prevailed in actions ranging from discrimination on account of gender, disability and national origin, to civil rights violations and unfair business practices.

A champion of fellow Filipinos and low-wage earning minorities, Atty. Sayas had recovered million dollar settlements. In 2012, he was lead counsel in a class action suit (*Taylor v. Shippers Transport Express*), which sought regular employment status for 540 drivers against a trucking company, which misclassified their drivers as independent contractors and denied them their wage and hour rights. The three-year litigation resulted in a court victory and a settlement of \$11.4 million to the drivers.

That same year, in another class action suit (*Diaz v. AMPCO*), Atty. Sayas fought for the rights of parking employees who were being shortchanged by their company in unpaid overtimes and denied meal breaks. After five and a half years of litigation, he obtained a recovery of \$4.7 million in back wages for thousands of parking employees.

As the voice of Filipino-Americans in the US courtroom, he represented the family of a 39-year old mentally disabled Filipino who was fatally shot by a Long Beach, California police officer. He argued that the officer failed to implement a tactical plan, which would have allowed him to understand that the victim was non-violent. A two-year hotly contested litigation followed, in which the victim's family received \$2 million in settlement.

Another case involved a 73-year old Filipino who worked as a security guard. His battle was against his employer who prodded him to accept his salary monthly, instead of wages based on hourly rate and forced him to work seven-days a week, without overtime. Atty. Sayas was able to obtain a favorable verdict and an unprecedented amount of \$425,000. It helped that he speaks Filipino, which enabled him to communicate effectively with his Filipino clients.

More than being an exceptional lawyer, Atty. Sayas also lends his support to the Filipino-American community in California. He is a long-time member of the board of directors of the Search for Pilipino Americans (SIPA), an organization that provides a wide-range of programs and services to Filipinos in Los Angeles.

Moreover, since 2017, he has donated \$20,000 to the Pilipino Workers Center (PWC) to help its Employment, Education and Outreach Program (EMPLEO). He also gave \$5,000 to the Pilipino Migrant Center (FMC) to support its anti-human trafficking activities.

For his notable work and accomplishments, he received several accolades from his peers and legal media. He was one of the 2015 Top Labor and Employment Attorneys by the Daily Journal and is consistently being recognized as a Super Lawyer in the field of employment law by the Los Angeles Magazine. In 2016, he received the Community Champion Award from the Philippine-American Bar Association, the Apo Award from SIPA in 2017, and just recently, the Justice Award from the FMC.

Atty. Sayas' roots can be traced to Silang, Cavite. His knowledge and expertise were refined through years of education and law practice. He acquired both his Political Science and Law degrees from the University of the Philippines, in 1978 and 1982 respectively. In 1990, he obtained his Master of Laws from the Georgetown University in Washington D.C. He has worked with the famed Angara Abello Concepcion Regala & Cruz (ACCRA) Law Offices and a number of other law firms in the Philippines and in the US prior to establishing his own firm.

Atty. Sayas' exceptional work in fighting for the rights of the marginalized and underprivileged are notable not only in the amount of settlements recovered, but also on the impact it brought to halt unlawful practices and provide equal rights to Filipinos and other minorities. For all his accomplishments, he remains to be a person of integrity, with a passion for truth and fairness. He does not only exemplify the American dream, but is also a sterling example of the values that Filipinos hold sacred.

In conferring the Pamana ng Pilipino Award to Atty. C. Joe Sayas, Jr., the President recognizes his exemplary efforts in championing the rights of the underprivileged and the minorities, and in serving as the voice of Filipino-Americans in US courtrooms.



JOSE DENNIS CONSTANTINO TEODOSIO

Myanmar

Hometown: Valenzuela

A creative, highly respected and multi-awarded writer for TV, cinema, advertising, and the stage,

Mr. Jose Dennis C. Teodosio is firm in his belief that “those who have privilege to know have the duty to act.”

Lack of confidence was the reason Mr. Teodosio almost did not fulfill his dream of becoming a writer. Today, Mr. Teodosio is considered as one of the prolific, most successful and well-respected writers both in the Philippines and in Myanmar.

His journey to Myanmar began when he was prodded by his colleagues to join them to work for a local media conglomeration, the Forever Group Co., Ltd. He worked in the field of scriptwriting and training among Myanmar’s local media. He arrived in Yangon in 2011 when Myanmar was transitioning from military rule to representative democracy. There was a high level of excitement, as pledges to promote an independent and pluralistic media were carried out.

He flourished and composed several ground-breaking and top-rating TV series shot in full HD, namely: “The Sign of Love” (2011), “Flowers & Butterflies” (2012), “Pan Nu Thway” (2013), and many more. His scripts, written in English were adapted into Myanmar by a pool of local and young scriptwriters. His first opus, “The Sign of Love,” a romantic drama, propelled Myanmar’s position in the TV series map in the region. In 2013, it garnered major nominations in the Seoul International Drama Festival and won, for Myanmar, the highly-coveted Camelia Award in the 4th China-Southeast Asia-South Asia TV Week.

His short stories and essays were compiled by UP Press, UP Likhaan, and PSICOM Publishing, to name a few. Meanwhile, his stage plays were mounted by The Virgin Labfest/CCP, Gantimpala Theater Foundation, PETA, and Artist Playground.

Described as a writer of pronounced yet unsentimental humanism, his comedy works have been described too, as witty, hilarious, perfectly-timed, and thematically-provocative.

On the other hand, his dramatic works have been praised as honest, pulling the heart to a place of filial love and devotion.

In 2012, he was named as one of the recipients of Gawad Rizal by the Provincial Government of Rizal. He was cited for his outstanding achievements in the field of arts and entertainment. He launched e-Dyaryo, a monthly electronic newsletter documenting the stories and experiences of Filipinos in Myanmar. As a newsletter, it primarily aims to support the information dissemination drive of the Philippine Embassy in Yangon and the Filipino community.

He runs a column in the newsletter entitled, “Taas Noo” where he features the untold and inspiring stories of Filipinos in Myanmar. As each write up is introduced by a short teaser video, he was later motivated to write, direct, and produce the advocacy film entitled, “Mga Dayo, Stories of Filipinos in Myanmar.” The film-documentary was adjudged in 2017 as the “Best Documentary on Migration” of the CFO’s Migration Advocacy and Media Awards. The documentary focused on the lives and community contributions of six Filipinos who made Myanmar their second home. The Philippine Embassy said that the film is a tribute to the Filipinos in Myanmar who are the bedrock of Philippines-Myanmar relations.

He also formed an informal film group called, The Creative Playground. It later became one of the highly-respected independent film groups in Myanmar. Its debut project, “An Untold Story,” written, produced and directed by Dennis, won the prestigious “Min Ko Naing Award” as Best Short Narrative Film. Its subsequent short narrative film, “Pan Hlaing: The Journey to the Land Where Flowers Bloom,” won “People’s Choice Award” in the 1st Myanmar Youth Film Festival.

Mr. Teodosio also played a vital role as senior trainer in Myanmar Media Development Center (MMDC), Forever Group’s training arm. He conceptualized, developed and facilitated numerous ground-breaking programs honing and benefiting “the future leaders of Myanmar’s media”.

In conferring the Pamana ng Pilipino Award to Mr. Jose Dennis C. Teodosio, the President recognizes his excellence as a writer and his outstanding accomplishments as an educator in the field of mass media in Myanmar.



SATURNINO HALILI TIAMSON, JR.

Hong Kong
Hometown: Angono, Rizal

When words fail, music speaks, much more when it is shared and moves people. This adage aptly describes the professional work of Saturnino H. Tiamson, Jr., a Hong Kong based musician. His musical ingenuity as a percussionist evokes heroism from his heart. His exemplary achievements and leadership in music has not only earned him a sustainable living, but also has brought pride and honor to the country.

At 9 years old, he was already inclined to music when he joined the Angono Elementary School Drum & Lyre. He also eventually became part of the Angono Wind Ensemble, Inc. in 1993. In 1998, he began a Diploma course in percussion at the University of the Philippines College of Music. He also had intensive training in percussion under the ABS-CBN Philharmonic Orchestra Principal Percussionist, Mr. Elizalde Tolentino. He performed in the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra, Manila Philharmonic Orchestra, San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra, Tanghalang Pilipino and toured with the Asian Youth Orchestra in 2001 and 2004.

After completing his diploma course, he started performing at Hong Kong Disneyland when they opened in 2005, a feat for a Filipino. From thereon, he made Hong Kong his home while doing his training sessions, conducting shows, and sharing his craft.

His expertise got noticed when he was designated in 2017 as a consultant of the Annual Asia Pacific Drummer Competition, under the auspices of Hong Kong International Drummer Festival. In 2016, he represented Hong Kong in the 20th Annual World Champions of Performing Arts (WCOPA) in the United States. Being the first-ever Filipino to qualify in the WCOPA is an achievement itself. But he punctuated the feat with his wins of several medals. For his exceptional performance, he won 4 gold medals and 1 silver medal in the categories of instrument jazz, open, contemporary, original works and classical. He was also awarded the Overall Champion in the instrument jazz category.

In September 2016, he bagged the 2nd prize with Diploma of Merit for the Drum Set Category during the 14th edition of the Italy Percussion Competition that was held in Pescara, Italy. Again, he was the first and only Filipino in the competition. That same year, he was chosen as one of The Outstanding Young Men of the Philippines (TOYM) 2016 for Arts in Music because of his lifelong dedication to

his craft and his extraordinary effort in promoting music and bringing positive impact to many young aspiring musicians.

He also received the Disney Legacy Award for Outstanding Employee in 2012. He was awarded for his dedication in community and social services in Hong Kong and extraordinary talent as a musician and trainer. To be given this award also means he went the extra mile to create happiness for guests and team members, and found creative ways to deliver the Disney magic.

His continuing quest for excellence also earned him the Specialist Drums Certificate with Berklee Music Online Celebrity Scholarship Award by Cris Williamson from the Berklee College of Music. He was likewise awarded the Grade Percussion Certificate with Distinction by the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music and was chosen as the envoy of the Pambansang Samahan ng mga Banda sa Pilipinas, Inc., a Band organization that helps musicians in the Philippines.

He was also the recipient of several awards from his hometown of Angono such as the Dangal ng Bayan Award for Music in 2011, Sangguniang Bayan Award for Music in 2013 and the Gawad Sining Award for Most Outstanding Musician from the Gawad Sulo ng Bayan in 2015.

Every year, he returns to the Philippines to conduct free annual drums and percussion workshops in Manila and several provinces. Sharing his time and resources to promote music among the young earned him the Bagong Bayani Award for Culture and the Arts in 2014, ABS-CBN Gawad Geny Lopez Jr. Bayaning Pilipino Award para sa Asya Pasipiko in 2015 and UPAA Distinguished Alumnus Award for Culture and the Arts in 2018.

When not working, he gives free online music tutorials to students from around the world using technology and social media platform such as Facebook, Skype, and Facetime. He also holds free musical and percussion workshops and free consultancy to the Mindanao Hong Kong Workers Federation Drum and Lyre (MINFED) band.

Besides teaching at Harrow International School, ISF Academy, HKIDF and performing in Manila and Hong Kong, he is also consistently invited as an inspiration resource speaker during special occasions and events.

In conferring the Pamana ng Pilipino Award to Mr. Saturnino H. Tiamson, Jr., the President recognizes his extraordinary talent as musician and percussionist, as well as his dedication in community and social services in Hong Kong and in the Philippines, all the while promoting Filipino talent, culture and the arts.



JHETT DIZON TOLENTINO

United States of America

Hometown: Iloilo City, Iloilo

“Poverty is not a death sentence.” That’s how Filipino-American Jhett D. Tolentino inspires the underprivileged younger generation of this time. He is a beacon of hope and a shining example of someone who wrestled his way out of poverty. He proved that even though he was born into an impoverished family in Iloilo, Philippines, he became, thru hard work and sheer determination, a three-time Tony and Grammy Award-winning Broadway producer in New York City.

Mr. Tolentino owns the Jhett Tolentino Productions, LLC, which produces live theater shows and musicals. He is known for being the first Filipino to win both a Tony and Grammy, two of the highest awards that recognize excellence in live Broadway theater, music and films, respectively.

The youngest of four children, a life in theatre was the farthest thing from his mind then. He grew up in a household with no running water but went on to finish high school and college through a scholarship grant from Meguko Society, a charitable Japanese foundation at the Jesuit-run Sophia University in Tokyo, which raises scholarship funds for indigenous children in India and the Philippines.

After completing elementary school, he was told by his parents to stop schooling and wait for his other siblings to finish school, with the understanding that his siblings will then send him to school once they graduate. Determined and confident with his own abilities, he searched for a scholarship and was fortunate to have been granted one promoted by the Parish of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, which was funded by the Meguko Society. After high school, the foundation agreed to continue funding his college education. He was able to finish an accounting degree at the University of Iloilo in 1997. He first worked as a general bookkeeper in his home province but eventually tried his luck by moonlighting in Hong Kong.

In 2002, he moved to the US in the San Francisco Bay Area for a sales and marketing job, while moonlighting as a waiter, caregiver, and babysitter. Soon, he decided to move to the New York Tri-state area for a mortgage and finance job in 2004,

where he has learned much about the theatre industry. He has sidelined as a nursing assistant in 2006, and when the market crashed due to the 2008 recession, he worked in the healthcare profession full-time.

While in New York working in finance and healthcare, he started writing reviews of theatre shows in his blog. He first got into the habit of watching plays as a way to relax when he moved to the East Coast. By 2009, he was already being invited to attend opening night performances, as well as previews, workshops, readings and even rehearsals. It was at this point in his life that he recognized the opportunity to get into the industry himself.

Since 2013, he has produced 13 Broadway productions and 5 off-Broadway shows. His first project was a theatrical adaptation of Chaim Potok’s 1972 novel “My Name is Asher Lev.” The play won the “Best New Off-Broadway Play Award” from the Outer Critics Circle in 2013, beating 400 other productions. He won his first Tony Award for Best Play in 2013 for “Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike,” which he co-produced. More Tony Awards followed for the musicals he co-produced in 2014, including Best Musical for “A Gentleman’s Guide to Love and Murder” and Best Revival for a Play for “A Raisin in the Sun.” In 2017, he won his first Grammy Award for Best Musical Theater Album for his production of “The Color Purple” in 2016.

On top of these accolades, he was also awarded “Ten Outstanding Young Men and Women of the Philippines,” “Ani ng Dangal,” and “Outstanding Filipino Americans for Entertainment.”

In 2018, he produced and directed his very first award-winning autobiography documentary “Life is What You Make It.” It tells of his struggles, triumphs, and colorful life from Calumpang, Iloilo to Broadway. He always reminds the youth that education is the best way to break away from the shackles of poverty and pursue greatness. He now plans to pay it forward by establishing a scholarship foundation that will fund scholarships for poor and needy students in the Philippines.

In conferring the Pamana ng Pilipino Award to Mr. Jhett D. Tolentino, the President recognizes his inspiring excellence as a Broadway producer and for becoming the first Filipino to win both the Tony and Grammy Awards.



LINGKOD

SA KAPWA PILIPINO

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

A W A R D E E S

**Association of Fil-Am Teachers
of America Inc. (AFTA)**

United States of America

Salvacion Guit-Cimanez
The Netherlands / Daraga, Albay

**Filipino American Law Enforcement
Officers Association (FALEO)**

United States of America

Friends Indeed USA (FIUSA)
United States of America

Hilda Leuterio-Gigioli
United States of America / Manila



ASSOCIATION OF FIL-AM TEACHERS OF AMERICA, INC.

United States of America

Teachers are the unsung heroes in a world that has a lot to learn. They are the exemplary leaders fighting to make the world better through the positive influence and wisdom that they impart to their students. For the Association of Fil-Am Teachers of America, Inc. (AFTA), they have not only remained loyal to their profession, but have also exceptionally devoted their free time and resources in helping their fellow teachers and underprivileged students in the Philippines.

The AFTA is a non-profit organization whose vision is to create a sustainable environment enabling Filipino-American teachers to perform at their highest potential and be competitive as educational professionals anywhere in the world. Established in 1989 by Filipino teachers from New York and New Jersey, their goal is to strive, maintain, and persevere in achieving the highest level of competency in the teaching profession, and to provide charitable and civic services to the national and international community.

AFTA has several notable projects, foremost of which is the *Balikturo* (Return to Teach). Implemented since 1994, *Balikturo* is a yearly missionary teacher training program which brings US-based Filipino teachers to the Philippines to share the latest information, knowledge, techniques and expertise in teaching through seminars, lectures, and workshops. The project has benefitted almost 15,000 education major students, teachers and administrators in the Philippines.

AFTA also helps improve the delivery of educational resources in the rural areas by donating books, textbooks, workbooks, dictionaries, encyclopedias, and other instructional materials to different public schools in the Philippines. To date, a total of more than 50 balikbayan had been distributed boxes to underprivileged schools around the country. In 2013, their donations benefitted the Eastern Samar State University, Maydolong National High School and Maybocog Elementary School in Samar. The libraries of which were destroyed by Typhoon Yolanda/Haiyan. Moreover, they also help in the repair of classrooms and provide financial donations and provision of relief goods to victims of natural calamities in the Philippines.

In 2015, AFTA launched their Adopt a Scholar Project to fund the four-year academic scholarships of underprivileged students enrolled in the BS Education program in state colleges or universities in the Philippines. They are currently supporting 14 deserving scholars who dream of becoming teachers and educators.

In conferring the Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino Award to the Association of Fil-Am Teachers of America, Inc. (AFTA), the President recognizes its members' exemplary deeds in raising the competitiveness of Filipino-American teachers, generosity in projects that transfer their skills and knowledge back to the homeland, and kindness in their other education-related philanthropic projects that benefit the teachers and students in both the US and the Philippines.

In addition to its commitment to help disadvantaged students, AFTA also started a program called Adopt a Classroom in the Philippines. Since 2015, the organization has been donating school supplies to several municipalities and cities nationwide. Through its Gawad Teknolohiya Project, they donated audio-visual materials such as projectors and other instructional softwares and scientific calculators to selected schools and colleges, including Caraga State Senior High School, Granja-Kailawan High School, Philippine Normal University, Central Mindanao State University, Eastern Samar State University, Eastern Visayas State University, Granja-Kalinawan High School, Philippine Normal University – Mindanao, and Central Mindanao University.

Aside from their commendable projects in the Philippines, AFTA also has undertakings in the US that benefit Filipino-American teachers, and the Filipino community. Among these projects are: *Paaralan Sa Konsulado*, a flagship project of AFTA and the Philippine Consulate General aimed at propagating Filipino culture among Filipino-American children born and raised in the US; *Tuklas Talino*, a talent search in the literary and visual arts among Filipino American youth from the tri-state area (New York, New Jersey and Connecticut); *Pagdiriwang ng Kulturang Pilipino*, where they showcase positive Filipino values, culture and traits through cultural celebrations parades, and performances; and Professional Development, where they conduct free seminar-workshops to Filipino teachers in the tri-state area with opportunities to learn new strategies in Reading, Math, Science, and Technology, and to enhance their teaching styles and improve curriculum planning.

Since 1993, AFTA has been giving recognition to deserving Filipino-American teachers who have contributed significantly in the field. Among them are: *Balikturo* Service Award, TANGLAW Award (*Taglay Ay Ningning at Galing Lingkod Ay Wagas*), *Dangal ng Lahi* Award, Crystal Apple Service Award, *Ulirang Guro*, and Dona Teodora Alonzo Award.

For their laudable initiative and services, AFTA has also received several awards and accolades including the 2017 Unsung Heroes Awards of Community Service, Top 25 Organizations for 2015 by the Philippine American Friendship Committee, Inc., 2012 Heritage Award by the Ten Outstanding Filipino-American New York, 2011 Pillars of Hope by the National Federation of Filipino American Associations, Inc., and 2011 Award of Excellence by the Philippine American Friendship Committee, Inc.



SALVACION GUIT-CIMANEZ

The Netherlands
Hometown: Daraga, Albay

Nikos Kazantzakis once said, “True teachers are those who use themselves as bridges over which they invite their students to cross; then, having facilitated their crossing, joyfully collapse, encouraging them to create their own.” Such as the deeds of teachers like the likes of Salvacion G. Cimanez who build bridges that serve as pathways to the unseen world, and connect the dreams of the marginalized to reality.

Teaching has always been the one thing that drives Ms. Cimanez to work - for herself and for the people. After completing her education degree at the National Teachers College in 1973, she spent her time enjoyably teaching at the St. Catherine Academy in Taytay, Rizal from 1983 to 1985, then at Pasig Catholic College from 1985 to 1988. In 1987, she happily found love in a Dutchman, who constantly advised her not to worry about finding a job. After they got married and migrated to the Netherlands, Ms. Cimanez dedicated her time volunteering for organizations that operate for the good of others, namely the Kinder Opvang in Amsterdam, the World Health Organization, St. Dominicuskerk, and the St. Bonifatius Church in Leeuwarden.

After the unfortunate demise of her husband in 1995, she believed it was time to reconnect with her roots in Bicol. Coming back to visit in 1999, what caught her sight are not those that changed after 12 good years, but those she could improve. As she walked through the halls of her elementary alma mater, reminiscing about the good old days, she witnessed students cramped in small classrooms. That’s when she realized that as much as had done good for others in her host country, she can too right in her own local community in the homeland. Many intended beneficiaries were children with disabilities who needed extra facilities and services to fully internalize the lessons being taught.

Ms. Cimanez always had a burning desire to serve the underprivileged community. As she came back to the Netherlands, she decided to establish a foundation for deaf

and blind children. Fueled by the belief of providing decent learning opportunities should be for all, the Philippine Services for Deaf and Blind Children Foundation (PSDBCF) was officially registered with the Netherlands Chamber of Commerce in 2000.

The first project of the Foundation gained financial support from the Wild Geese Foundation, a Dutch non-government organization with special interest in sponsoring social initiatives beyond the Netherlands. With their assistance, a school for deaf and blind children in Daraga, Albay was inaugurated in 2005. The building continually accommodates special education (SPED) students with space wide enough for indoor games and livelihood training.

The funds and resources gathered by the PSDBCF are also used to provide financial assistance to marginalized children at the Laguna Resettlement Community School, Barrio Langgam, San Pedro, Laguna. After 13 years since the foundation extended help, their initial batch of beneficiaries are finally moving up to secondary level and are performing exceptionally well in their academic classes. The school’s students may come and go, but the impact the Foundation made will surely remain in their hearts. The third beneficiary school was the Special Education School in Naga City. Any type of assistance the school needed, the foundation found a way to provide – be it repainting of structures, roof replacement, or seeking sponsorship for the school’s activities.

Any kind act, no matter how small, is never insignificant. As Mark Twain puts it, “Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see.” Children with special needs and disabilities are the absolute minority; they are the most vulnerable to abuse, violence, and the like. Not only has Ms. Cimanez played a big role in the realization of these special need centers, but she has also helped the Philippines move steps closer to narrowing the gap toward full educational access.

In conferring the Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino Award to Ms. Salvacion Guit-Cimanez, the President recognizes her selfless acts of empowering and supporting the learning needs of special education students through the Philippine Services for Deaf and Blind Children Foundation, whose heartfelt assistance have profoundly changed the lives of its beneficiaries for the long-term.



FILIPINO AMERICAN LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ASSOCIATION (FALEO)

United States of America

Police officers are often portrayed in the media as intimidating figures despite being sworn protectors of the community. People sometimes forget that underneath their uniforms and badges, are hearts that care for others – family, friends, community, and even strangers. An exceptional police association in the United States could attest to this.

The Filipino-American Law Enforcement Officers Association (FALEO) is a non-profit organization established in 2008 by a group of Filipino-American law enforcement officers. It is composed of active and retired personnel from various local, state and federal law enforcement agencies. Its membership also includes non-uniformed personnel that serve in the law enforcement community and those who support FALEO's goals and objectives.

FALEO was established by SFPD officers – Lt. Eric Quema and Lt. Randy Caturay to promote fraternal relationships and cultural awareness amongst all members in law enforcement. The organization is an exemplary Filipino-American fraternal organization that is rooted in the Filipino values of *malasakit*, *pagkalinga* at *pagkamakabayan*. These values are manifested through their various programs and activities in the US and the Philippines since their informal founding more than two decades ago.

For the members of the FALEO, their hearts remain committed to their home country, the Philippines, thru the commendable programs and services that they have established.

The Philippine Exchange Training (PET) Program is the organization's flagship project. The PET Program is funded by team members who collect, solicit, purchase and deliver boxes of material donations to police stations, schools and neighborhood groups in the Philippines. Since their first outreach, the program has grown to be a comprehensive exchange training program that enjoys the support of key business groups and the Philippine Congress, besides their donors in the US.

The primary goal of the program is to share, demonstrate and discuss current trend, tactics and best practices employed in

policing, taking into account the different laws of the land, cultural considerations and availability of resources. From training PNP personnel, the program has grown to include barangay tanods, youth, students of criminology, private security professional and business groups.

FALEO members also distribute police supplies, gears and equipment to PNP stations, as well as educational references, school supplies, toys, hygiene and mini-disaster kits and computers to pre-school, elementary and high school students in the Philippines. In addition to the large volumes of material donations, the officers take time to interact with students talking about the importance of education, good citizenship, kindness, compassion and life goals. Laudably, they pay their own expenses for airfare, hotel and per diem when visiting the country. They also use their own personal time (vacation) to participate in the two-week program. To date, more than P 5 M worth of goods and materials have been donated or expended during the course of this program.

Every year, the organization awards scholarships to deserving students in the Philippines who seek a degree in criminal justice. Since 2011, the total scholarship grant amounted P 1.23 M which benefitted 25 Filipino students of criminology. The amount of financial assistance given to each student ranges from P 35,000.00 to P 200,000.00. It likewise provides professional grants to deserving law enforcement professionals. To date, the recipients include 15 police officers with a total grant of P 200,000.00 since 2011.

The PET program has received recognition from various sectors. Notably in 2010, FALEO received the Gawad Geny Lopez, Jr. Bayaning Samahang Pilipino Award for its consistent and outstanding display of the heroic values of humanitarianism, industry, determination and dedication to public service.

While FALEO began as a fraternal association for Filipino-Americans, the organization has already opened their doors to others races and ethnicity. Over the years, it has accepted those with good reputation in law enforcement and willing to commit to the mission of the organization.

In conferring the Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino Award to the Filipino-American Law Enforcement Officers Association (FALEO), the President recognizes its important role in promoting stronger ties between and among the law enforcement communities of the United States and the Philippines and its laudable efforts in undertaking socio-civic projects in the home country.



FRIENDS INDEED USA, INC. (FIUSA)

United States of America

No one can change the world in a day, neither can anyone do so alone. Passionately driven by the cause to serve the poor, Friends Indeed USA (FIUSA), Inc. is a registered, non-profit

organization in the United States composed of individuals who encourage sharing with the less privileged. Through their Filipino – American friends in the United States, they have successfully held fundraising events to supply various types of humanitarian aid to their countrymen in the Philippines, imbuing in their members a sense of civic consciousness since 2005.

The organization encourages its members to live by three main virtues - kindness, generosity, and balik-bayanihan – attributes that have made their first housing project a success. Seeing the need for decent shelter for their kababayan, they were able to generate US\$28,000 from the Friendship Charity Grand Ball of the members alone and were able to collect an additional US\$10,000 from other benefactors. These activities allowed the organization to purchase 300 square meters of land in Totolan, Daus, Bohol to jumpstart a housing project. In partnership with Gawad Kalinga, 29 houses with potable water supply and a multi-purpose court were constructed in 2006 and turned over in 2007 for 29 families.

The Philippines is a country more adversely affected by natural disasters, such as flooding and landslides. With knowledge of the indigent's difficulty in bouncing back from strong typhoons, they have humbly donated cash and relief goods for victims in areas of Aklan, Capiz, Cagayan de Oro City, among others; also giving away solar lamps, water pumps, generators, and vegetable seeds. Food packages were also given as valuable gifts to a wide set of beneficiaries, including, abandoned and abused girls in Matina, Davao City; orphanage for boys in Guianga; Badjaos in the Matina Aplaya; Aplaya and Aeta community in Gabaldon and Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija; and Tahanan ni Maria Center in Cabanatuan City.

The organization grew from the relationships they created amongst each other and the world. From assisting their countrymen in times of disasters to donating two water tanks for the 300 prisoners in Tagbilaran City Jail, their members have rebuilt the lives and touched the hearts of people they have come into contact with.

Apart from small-scale infrastructures, they have also been providing free medical and surgical services since 2007. They conducted their first surgical mission at the Eastern Samar Provincial Hospital with three volunteer-surgeons performing 12 major surgeries. This was followed by a 2nd surgical mission at Quezon Memorial Hospital with four volunteer-surgeons performing 19 major and 56 minor surgeries, such as cataract eye surgery, cleft palate surgery, and lump removal, among others.

In total, they have donated roughly P16 Million, reaching 35,000 beneficiaries in various sectors in the Philippines. Aside from medical and surgical services, they donated medical supplies and equipment such as electrocardiogram (ECG) machines, high blood pressure wall monitors, dialysis machines, portable oxygens, and infant suction machines.

Like many developing countries, the poorest of the poor often experience a scarcity of resources. To fill this Gap, its members donated 10 sacks of fertilizers and 100 sacks of rice in Brg. Tacla-on and Carmen in Eastern Samar.

FIUSA, Inc. has also shown support to the anti-drug campaign of the Philippine government as they believe that a drug-free environment is essential to realize the full potential of each individual. To help reduce drug demand and dependency, they have partnered with the People's Volunteer against Illegal Drugs (PVAID), for preventive education and values formation. They have also coordinated with TESDA for their skills development program to provide livelihood opportunities to their barangay recipients. With the organization's commitment, selflessness and dedication to serve Filipinos, FIUSA, Inc. certainly serves as an inspiration to Filipino communities and organizations around the world.

In conferring the Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino Award to Friends Indeed USA, Inc. (FIUSA), the President recognizes its socio-economic assistance and services for the marginalized sector and underprivileged communities in the country.



HILDA LEUTERIO-GIGIOLI

United States of America
Hometown: Manila

Spacecraft Structures Engineer and former The Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) Young Woman Engineer of the Year awardee Abbie Hutty equips “The whole idea of being

an engineer is about solving a problem that hasn’t been done before.” From generation to generation, engineers have positively transformed the lives of communities through new discoveries and technological advancement. Ms. Hilda L. Gigioli embodies the ideals of the profession and is proud to live by that legacy, not only as an engineer, but also as a philanthropist.

From her undergraduate degree in computer engineering at the Catholic University of America (CUA) to her Master’s Degree in Systems Engineering at Boston University, the skills she learned along the way from the academe and the businesses she had worked for have greatly contributed to the establishment of Roccamar, Inc. in Washington, DC, a defense contractor company she has been successfully leading as Chief Executive Officer since 2002. With an extensive background in software development and systems engineering, there is no doubt that various U.S. Government offices have continually trusted her company for the quality technical service it has been providing for years.

When she became an active volunteer at the District of Columbia Council of Engineering and Architectural Societies (DCCEAS) in the 2000s, people knew then that she was destined to lead. From being its Vice President in 2010, she accelerated to becoming the first Filipina President of DCCEAS, where she earned a Meritorious Service Award in recognition of her outstanding contributions for the advancement and welfare of its members.

Likewise, the US-Philippines Society (USPS), an organization that aims to bridge the gap between the United States and the Philippines, would not be the premier organization it is now without the efforts of Ms. Gigioli. As director of USPS, she lent her business expertise to projects that bolstered economic development and helped their members sustain historic ties with the Philippines.

Behind this strong representation of a successful Filipina is a woman who embodies the empathizing quality of a leader. Her perseverance to invest in the dreams of the youth was one initiative that stood out, which touched the lives and uplifted the standard of education of many Filipinos in the Philippines.

Ms. Gigioli is aware of the costly route towards pursuing the Engineering profession. This became the catalyst to her pursuit of a burden-free educational and cultural experience for Filipinos. Following the launch of the first scholarship grant at the University of the Philippines in 1981, she was appointed chairperson for scholarships at the Philippine Association of Metropolitan Washington Engineers (PAMWE), which granted 117 scholarship grants in the Philippines and in the United States. Ms. Gigioli donates P250, 000.00 annually in support of the fund-raising golf tournament

organized by PAMWE for Filipino scholars in the Philippines. Aside from educational opportunities, this fund-raising activity has also provided logistical support for communities in the Philippines to improve their way of living.

In honor of her late father, who was an alumnus of Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Ms. Gigioli established the Mariano P. Leuterio-PAMWE Scholarship for students enrolled at MIT, which has so far funded a three-year scholarship to a deserving 3rd year engineering student. She did not stop there. She also tapped her alma mater, the School of Engineering at CUA, in working tirelessly with universities in the Philippines to give its students opportunities to study abroad. CUA has since hosted 10 Filipino students with P10M worth of scholarship grants. Going above and beyond, she took care of the first 2 master’s degree scholars, welcoming them into her home and treating them as if they were her own. Her role as chairperson of the Catholic University’s Pope Francis Scholarship Program (PFSP) was most noteworthy as she has given an opportunity not only for Filipinos to realize their full potential as engineers, but also for the Philippines to gain highly qualified professionals who could provide a multiplier effect to aspiring engineers in the Philippines.

Aside from her educational pursuits, she has been involved in humanitarian organizations that restored schools and communities in the Philippines. As fundraising and finance committee chair of the Philippine Humanitarian Coalition (PHC), she played an integral role in raising critical funds through a benefit concert that raised over \$2 million, which in turn rehabilitated communities damaged by Typhoon Haiyan in 2013. Embodying the leadership of Tandang Sora, she and her team were also able to build a school and evacuation center in the worst hit province of Leyte to prevent the sudden and untimely discontinuation of much needed education among children there.

Ms. Gigioli’s commitment to social responsibilities was once again demonstrated when PHC raised funds for earthquake victims of Nepal through an Arts Exhibit and a 5K fun run. As shown in the fundraising activity with the Philippine Nursing Association of America (PNA), USPS, and PHC, her ability to liaise and establish good relationships with people from different disciplines allowed events such as the Afternoon Tea and Ilustrado Ball to raise around \$10,000 in total. This markedly funded the rebuilding and restoration of the sieged city of Marawi.

She also promoted advocacies that preserved the Congressional Gold Medal for Filipino World War II veterans and the Bataan Death March Memorial in New Mexico. Ms. Gigioli serves as an inspiration for the youth. She has proven how people can pursue both their profession and passion at the same time. In a country 8,000 miles away, she has evidently and substantially influenced the hearts of Filipino-Americans, at the same time changing the lives of Filipinos in need.

In conferring the Lingkod sa Kapwa Filipino Award to Ms. Hilda L. Gigioli, the President recognizes her remarkable accomplishments in her professional field of work, her philanthropic deeds benefitting disadvantaged Filipinos, and for her promotion of Filipino diaspora interests.



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

**Foreign Domestic Worker Association
for Social Support and Training (FAST)**
Singapore

Stichting LOOP
The Netherlands



FOREIGN DOMESTIC WORKER ASSOCIATION FOR SOCIAL SUPPORT AND TRAINING (FAST)

Singapore

Based on International Labor Organization figures, an estimated 11.5 million migrant domestic workers around the world provide essential services that enable others to work outside of their homes. Thus, they help keep labor markets and economies working around the globe. Despite their vital contributions to their host economies, they are considered to be among the most vulnerable sector of migrant workers. They are confronted with challenges and restrictions in their mobility and violations of their human and labor rights.

In Singapore, a non-profit organization known as Foreign Domestic Worker Association for Social Support and Training (FAST) has been making headways to help build the capabilities and promote the overall well-being of foreign domestic workers (FDWs). The organization recognizes that its first-world country was built by a massive foreign labor work force with migrant domestic workers, comprising a large number of its labor force, and it is necessary to protect their interest and welfare. FDWs from Singapore usually come from the Philippines and Indonesia.

FAST was established in 2005 under the ambit of the Ministry of Manpower of Singapore to provide various support services to FDWs. Its objective was to create a conducive environment for the FDWs to enjoy a balanced work life, ensuring that every FDW has access to needed social support services. In addition, subsidized vocational skills and employability training are also provided to help them integrate into the community. The organization works closely with many partners that include ambassadors and staff from embassies, training providers, employment agencies, civil society groups and government agencies. Thousands of FDWs are trained by FAST each year, majority of them, Filipinos.

As a non-profit organization, FAST ensures that foreign domestic workers are provided with subsidized vocational and professional training to help them in their work and upgrade their skills to prepare them for future employment and in the event that they want to transit to another line of work. To date, they have trained more than 140,000 FDWs in Singapore.

In 2013, FAST launched a 24-hour helpline where FDWs can inquire regarding labor-related concerns and issues, work contracts, eligibility for day-offs, salaries, requests for transfers, vacation leaves and such.

After having received calls from lonely and homesick FDWs who needed someone to talk with, the organization launched the Befriender Service to provide FDWs with an avenue to socialize through group activities. It also organizes pro-bono legal clinics to advise FDWs on their legal rights and responsibilities, and provide free mediation service and humanitarian assistance to ensure that their needs are addressed.

In 2014, FAST set up the FDW Befrienders Clubhouse for FDWs, so that the latter could spend their time meaningfully during their rest days. A first of its kind in the world, the clubhouse is a recreation place and space for almost 10,000 FDW members. The clubhouse serves as a venue for them to celebrate their birthdays, join fitness classes, pick up culinary skills, access computer services to be able to connect with their loved ones in their home countries, watch movies, sing karaoke and listen to talks on financial planning and self-improvement. The clubhouse serves as a good platform for the FDWs to mingle and make new friends.

In 2014, the organization also started organizing major events highlighting the various independence days of FDW source countries, as well as the local Singapore festivities for FDWs to immerse themselves with various cultures and traditions.

Aside from promoting work life balance for FDWs, FAST also provides volunteering opportunities to encourage FDWs to give back to society. Filipino members have participated in charity events such as the MEGA 5000 for the elderly during Singapore's 50th Independence Day, visit to nursing homes, FAST car wash fund raisers, and other community events to support the needy. Since 2013, 468 Filipino FDWs have participated regularly in these worthwhile activities.

To show appreciation and recognize their immense contributions to Singapore, FAST organizes an annual Foreign Domestic Worker Day. In 2018, more than 9,000 FDWs attended a carnival-themed event, which featured celebrities and singers from local and overseas. During the event, "FDW and Employer of the Year Awards" were also conferred. Notably in 2014, a Filipina named Chona Bandejas was recognized as the FDW of the Year. The 47-year old was hailed as a devoted caregiver to her employer of 22 years. In the past editions of the celebration, the Guest of Honor included the Senior Parliamentary Secretary, the Senior Minister of State, and Minister of Manpower, and dignitaries from FDW source countries. Government agencies, sponsors, employment agencies, trade associations, and employers also joined the FDWs for a day to promote mutual care and respect.

In conferring the Kaanib ng Bayan Award to the Foreign Domestic Worker Association for Social Support and Training (FAST), the President recognizes its steadfast commitment, devotion and immeasurable contributions to the protection and well-being of migrant domestic workers, as well as its laudable initiatives in creating a conducive environment for them.



STICHTING LOOP

The Netherlands

One of the viable solutions in alleviating poverty especially in developing countries is through fair trade. It fosters local sustainability and enables communities, producers, and farmers to acquire fair shares on their products and services. With this principle in mind, a group of Dutch volunteers established Stichting LOOP, a foundation with the noble aim of supporting communities in the Philippines by strengthening rural enterprises and marketing Philippine-made products. Founders of Stichting LOOP believe that as trade stimulates entrepreneurship and generates jobs, it could also be the optimal way to sustainable development.

‘Stichting’ is the Dutch term for foundation, while ‘LOOP’ symbolizes the continuing exchange of ideas among the Foundation’s volunteers and partner organizations in the Philippines. Setting up the Foundation was the main idea of John van de Winkel, a Dutch national who visited the Philippines in 2006 to do volunteer work and consultancy projects. He worked with several organizations and agricultural cooperatives that include Youth at Venture (an organization that assists youth by providing entrepreneurship trainings), Share People and Inter-Church Organization for Development Cooperation (ICCO), and Upland Marketing Foundation, Inc. (UMFI).

During his volunteer work in the country, he was approached by the officers of UMFI who requested if he could export Philippine-made products, such as coco sugar and rice, to the Netherlands. But it was only in 2012 that the partnership materialized. Mr. Van de Winkel’s primary requirement was that the products should be outside the mainstream market and must fit the development of small-scale agriculture. The foundation then started to link with a number of cooperatives and organizations, and in February 2013, it started requesting for orders twice or thrice a year.

Stichting LOOP advertises and sells Philippine-made products online directly to consumers and wholesalers in the Netherlands, without the services of middlemen. The

foundation provides extensive information on the products and its partners in the Philippines through its website www.loop-products.com.

Stichting LOOP’s partners include Alter Trade Philippines, an organization that endeavors to develop and strengthen rural enterprises and empower marginalized producers. It supplies Stichting LOOP with organic muscovado. It also acts as the consolidator and shipper for the Foundation. Another partner is Don Bosco Foundation for Sustainable Development (DBFSD), a Mindanao based NGO which advances biodynamic and organic farming. On an average of two shipments per year, it delivers organic red, black and brown rice to the foundation.

Stichting LOOP also markets banana chips in different packaging and specifications produced by a small enterprise in Binalonan, Pangasinan, which is supported by the Center for Agriculture and Rural Development (CARD), a micro-finance and community-based organization. Other banana chip products are made by farmers and local communities supported by Villa Socorro Agri-Eco Village in Laguna. It also imports coconut products from Andy Albao/Cocowonder, a champion in organic farming that partners with coconut and cacao farmers.

Aside from selling online, the foundation also sets up booths and showcases the Philippine-made products in Amsterdam and Maastricht, during the weekends of April to October of every year. To further reach out to more people, it distributes a quarterly newsletter which contains information on new deliveries, products, partners, events, and recipes.

By paying fair prices to their suppliers from the Philippines, Stichting LOOP intends to make a lasting contribution to poverty reduction in the country. Despite the challenge in marketing Filipino products in the Netherlands in the early stages of the business, the Foundation pursued, exerted effort, and succeeded in doing so.

In conferring the Kaanib ng Bayan Award to Stichting LOOP, the President recognizes its invaluable support to communities and agricultural cooperatives in the Philippines through fair trade and marketing of Filipino products in the Netherlands.

Year 2018 Presidential Awards for Filipino Individuals and Organizations Overseas Screening Committees

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JUSTICE FRANCISCO P. ACOSTA (Ret.)
Secretary and Chairperson
Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO)

ALTERNATE

**UNDERSECRETARY ASTRAVEL
PIMENTEL-NAIK**
Executive Director
Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO)

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Senior Special Assistant, Office of the
Undersecretary for Migrant Workers Affairs
Department of Foreign Affairs

MR. EDGARDO H. CAYTON
President
Dynamic Outsource Solutions I

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Head of International Operations
GMA Network, Inc.

MR. ENRIQUE M. MARIANO
Jesus is Alive Community

Technical Committee

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Department of Foreign Affairs

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Department of Health

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National Commission for Culture and the Arts

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Professor, Political Science Department
De La Salle University

MS. CECILLE PAULINE H. MONTENEGRO
President
*Batis-Association of Women in Action for Rights and
Empowerment (AWARE)*



Year 2018
Presidential Awards for Filipino
Individuals and Organizations Overseas

Awarding Ceremony

Wednesday, 05 December 2018
Malacañan Palace

Programme

Welcome Remarks

Justice Francisco P. Acosta (Ret.)
Secretary and Chairperson
Commission on Filipinos Overseas

Opening Remarks

Administrator Hans Leo J. Cacdac
Overseas Workers Welfare Administration

Message

Secretary Silvestre H. Bello III
Department of Labor and Employment

Presentation of Awards

Presidential Awards for Filipino Individuals and Organizations Overseas

Model Overseas Filipino Workers Family of the Year Awards

Introduction of Keynote Speaker

Secretary Silvestre H. Bello III
Department of Labor and Employment

Speech of the President

President Rodrigo Roa Duterte
Republic of the Philippines

Photo Opportunity

CFO Undersecretary Astravel Pimentel-Naik
OWWA Deputy Administrator Arnaldo Ignacio
Masters 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)

KAABAYAN 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)

KAABAYAN 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)

1996-2016 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, Sariel G.G., M.D. (USA)
 De Venecia, Guillermo B., M.D. (USA)
 Filipino Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii, Inc. (USA)
 Iletto, 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)

2016

Aragones, Edgar E. (Israel)
 Pagyamanin Likas Musika (USA)
 Reunion e.V. Cloppenburg (Germany)
 Sulse, Marina R. (USA)

KAAKABAY NG BAYAN AWARD (*discontinued*)

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)
- 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)
- 2004 -- no awardee
- 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)
- 2008
Catholic Medical Mission Board (USA)
Children's Chance CT (USA)
Heetens Helpgood Center
Philippines (The Netherlands)
Ligier, Laurence C. (France)
- 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)

2016

- Johannesen, Erlend E. (Norway)
Korth, Sabine (Germany)
Sheikh, Fahdel (Pakistan)
Tzu Chi Foundation (Taiwan)
Weiss, Sabine Katharina (Germany)

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)
Philippine Institute of Certified Public
Accountants-Riyadh Chapter (Saudi Arabia)
Rizal-Blumentritt Society (Austria)
Astillero, Mohamed Ali Carlito, M.D. (Oman)
Juele, Lilia R. (USA)
Ramos, Angel T. (Hong Kong)
Steiner, Mona Lisa L. – (Austria)
Uy, Emelio Y. (Guam)
Zamora, Prospero C. (Guam)

1998

- 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)

2000

- 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)
Lädéli, 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)
- 2002
- Babaylan – Switzerland (Switzerland)
Beatty, Estrella C. (Cyprus)
Benzon, Norma R. (USA)
Centre for Philippine Concerns-Australia (Australia)
Compas, Lolita B. (USA)
Concepcion, Zenaida 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)
Avenidaño, Tomas P. (Canada)
Castaños, Rafael S. (USA)
Filipiñiana 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)

2016

Chin, Marilou S.
Escurel, Fidel M. (Qatar)
Kapit-Bahayan Cooperative Ltd. (Australia)
Maristela, Rodrigo B. (Germany)
Philippine Society of Mechanical Engineers –
Central Region, Saudi Arabia (Saudi Arabia)
Philippine Nurses Association of Metropolitan
D.C., Inc. (USA)

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)
Veloria, 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, LL.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)
 Villarín, 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)
- 2016
- Araral, Jr., Eduardo K. (Singapore)
 Asuncion Manuel G. (Australia)
 Buan, Danilo P. (USA)
 Capati, Guillermo B. (Australia)
 Liban, Emmanuel Crisanto B. (USA)
 Lim, Jr., Paulino M. (USA)
 Reyes, Hernan M. (USA)
 Sergio, Rommel P. (UAE)
- Special Citation**
- 2002
- Filipinas Magazine (USA)
- end----

Directory of 2018 Awardees

BANAAG AWARDEES

CORAZON ALVAREZ-FRANCISCO
Bella Vista, Australia

AGNES KATBETH O. KREIMER
Lima, Peru
Email: keibi.kreimer@gmail.com

DINDO B. MALANYAON
Rome, Italy
Email: dindoparamedico@yahoo.it

JULIET MONTANO
New Taipei City, Taiwan
Email: hohohomanilaroc@hotmail.com

**PILIPINO WORKERS CENTER OF
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (PWC)**
Ms. Aquilina Soriano Versoza
Los Angeles, USA
Email: aqui@pwsc.org

MARIA CRISTINA F. SULAIK
Khartoum, Sudan
Email: tintinmfernando@yahoo.com

WIMLER FOUNDATION HONG KONG LTD.
Mr. Ferdinand Ng
Kowloon, Hong Kong
Email: info@wimler.org

PAMANA NG PILIPINO AWARDEES

PAUL C. BALAN
Wisconsin, U.S.A.
Email: pmbartstudio@gmail.com

EDWARD M. BROTONEL
Illinois, U.S.A.
Email: ebrotonel@aol.com

NICOLAS M. CARAQUEL
New York, USA
Email: attycaraquel@iDream-America.com

ELIZABETH LAJATO MERTO-ENGLE
Alaska, USA
Email: betsyengle@alaskan.com

MARIA THERESA A. EVIOTA
Bern, Switzerland
Email: marisaangob@bluewin.ch

PEDRO A. JOSE
Virginia, USA
Email: pjose@mfa.gwu.edu

TERESITA A. MARQUES
Lisbon, Portugal
Email: teresitamarkes@hotmail.com

C. JOE SAYAS, JR.
California, USA
Email: attyjoe@joesayaslaw.com

JOSE DENNIS C. TEODOSIO
Yangon, Myanmar
Email: hapingmanunulat@yahoo.com

SATURNINO H. TIAMSON, JR.
Tung Chung, Hong Kong
Email: saturnino_tiamson@yahoo.com

JHETT D. TOLENTINO
New York, USA
Email: jhetttdolentino@gmail.com

Directory of 2018 Awardees

LINGKOD SA KAPWA PILIPINO AWARDEES

ASSOCIATION OF FIL-AM TEACHERS OF AMERICA INC. (AFTA)

Ms. Roxanne Raquiel A. Cajigas, Ph.D.
New York, U.S.A.
Email: afta.inc1989@gmail.com

SALVACION GUIT-CIMANEZ

Leeuwarden, the Netherlands
Email: sgcinamez@outlook.com

FILIPINO AMERICAN LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ASSOCIATION (FALEO)

Mr. Bradley Bautista
California, U.S.A.
Email: faleopresident3@gmail.com

FRIENDS INDEED USA

Nena L. Smith
New York, U.S.A.
Email: nenalsmith@gmail.com

HILDA L. GIGIOLI

Maryland, USA
Email: hilda.l.gigioli@roccomar.com

KAANIB NG BAYAN AWARDEES

FOREIGN DOMESTIC WORKER ASSOCIATION FOR SOCIAL SUPPORT AND TRAINING (FAST)

Mr. Seah Seng Choon
Jalan Bukit Merah, Singapore
Email: contact@fast.org.sg

STICHTING LOOP

Mr. John van de Winkel
Doetinchem, the Netherlands
Email: john.vandewinkel@loop-products.com



The Commission on Filipinos Overseas

Established on 16 June 1980 through Batas Pambasa 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, as well as to maintain strong and mutually beneficial ties between overseas Filipinos throughout the world and the motherland.

FUNCTIONS

Specifically, 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

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.



Guided by these vision and mission, CFO takes a more pro-active role for and with all overseas Filipinos, whether working or living in other countries, to maximize the development potential of international migration while at the same time to minimize migration's significant social costs.

QUALITY POLICY STATEMENT

We in the Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO), a government agency responsible for upholding the interests, rights and welfare of overseas Filipinos and strengthening their ties with the Philippines, commit to effectively and efficiently deliver gender-responsive policies, programs and services for the well-being and empowerment of the community of Filipinos overseas.

In pursuit of this commitment, we shall:

Capacitate our people through continuous professional development anchored on social responsibilities;

Formulate policies and facilitate quality and citizen-centric programs and services that exceed expectations of the public we serve; and

Optimize the benefits of migration with overseas Filipinos as development partners of the Philippines and their host countries while addressing the social costs.

With the commitment to uphold the principles of good governance and highest standards of excellence, we adhere to comply and continuously improve our quality management system and other legal requirements.

“Kalidad na serbisyo para sa mamamayan, abot sa labas ng bayan”.

CLIENTELE

Under B.P. 79, the primary clientele of the CFO are:

- *Filipino emigrants and permanent residents abroad;*
- *Filipino overseas who have become naturalized citizens or dual citizens;*
- *Filipino spouses and other partners of foreign nationals;*
- *Descendants of Filipino overseas;*
- *Filipino youth overseas; and*
- *Exchange Visitor Program (EVP) participants*

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The CFO is composed of a nine-person 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 (PCOO)*
- *National Commission for Culture and the Arts*
- *Secretary, Commission on Filipinos Overseas*

The CFO is headed by a Cabinet-rank Secretary who is assisted by an Executive Director with a rank of Undersecretary, both of whom are appointed by the President.

To achieve effectiveness and efficiency in the delivery of services and implementation of programs and projects, the CFO is consists of the following divisions:

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

2018 Presidential Awards Secretariat

JUSTICE FRANCISCO P. ACOSTA (Ret.)

Secretary and Chairperson
Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO)

UNDERSECRETARY ASTRAVEL PIMENTEL-NAIK

Executive Director
Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO)

MR. RODRIGO V. GARCIA JR.

Officer-in-Charge
Policy, Planning and Research Division

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Mr. Michael A. Apattad
Mr. Alfred Ulysses G. Del Rosario
Ms. Joanna Lyn S. Rodriguez
Ms. Patricia Marie M. Salvador
Mr. Frencl Louie T. Tingga

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Mr. Manolo V. Tibe
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Mr. Ronald Villamin
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Ms. Michelle Dawn C. Bande
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Mr. Ralph Carbonilla
Mr. Erwin Paul S. Cristobal
Mr. Elmer T. Diaz
Ms. Cherry Lou N. Duron
Mr. Francisco O. Endradan, Jr.

MS. MARITA DEL ROSARIO-APATTAD

Director, Project Management Division

MS. MARIA REGINA ANGELA G. GALIAS

Director, Administrative and Finance Division

MS. IVY D. MIRAVALLES

Director, Migrant Integration and Education Division

MR. ALLEN DENNIS PULMA

Officer-in-Charge, Management Information System Division

DESIGN AND LAYOUT

Mr. Troy D. Agcanas

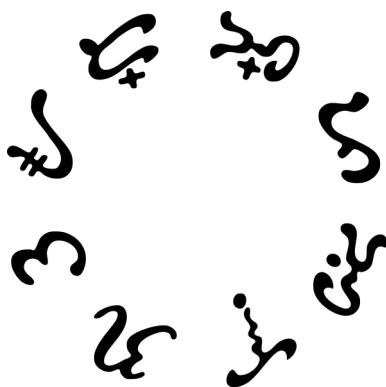
Computer Graphics Artist
Management Information Systems Division



Office of the President of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON FILIPINOS OVERSEAS



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*Presidential Awards for Filipino
Individuals and Organizations Overseas*



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BaLinkBayan Features



START A BUSINESS

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

DONATE AND 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 ONLINE GOVERNMENT SERVICES

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

Localized BaLinkBayan websites





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.



Overseas Filipino Youth

"I want to reconnect with my Filipino roots and discover the rich Philippine heritage."

Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs)

"I want to know and access the government's services to me and my fellow workers."



First Generation Migrant

"I want to rekindle my ties with the Motherland and contribute to its development."



Overseas Filipino Retirees

"I want to come back and retire in the Philippines."



"Be part of nation building!"



EDUCATION



HEALTH & WELFARE



INFRASTRUCTURE



LIVELIHOOD

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Donation will incur an **additional 1%** of the provided amount for the **convenience fee**.

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 COMMISSION ON FILIPINOS OVERSEAS

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Commission on Filipinos Overseas
pmo@cfo.gov.ph | (632) 552-4737-38



PESO SENSE

PHILIPPINE FINANCIAL FREEDOM CAMPAIGN

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.





YouLeaD
Youth Leaders in
the Diaspora



TRACE
your roots

DISCOVER
your cultural heritage

UNDERSTAND
your Filipino identity

The YouLeaD is a Philippine cultural immersion program intended for overseas Filipino youth. Joining the program would aid them in the journey of understanding a significant part of their identities, which would hopefully move them toward a more meaningful relationship with their Filipino families and the nation itself.



YouLeaD Secretariat
Commission on Filipinos Overseas
1345 Citigold Center, Pres. Quirino
cor. Osmeña Highway, Manila
Tel. No.: (632) 552-4729
Email: youlead@cfo.gov.ph
Website: www.youlead.cfo.gov.ph
Facebook: www.fb.com/youleadph



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!



National Commission on Culture and the Arts



Office of the President of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON FILIPINOS OVERSEAS

VIRTUAL SENTRO Rizal

2nd Edition



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- 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



PAG-ALALAY SA NASALANTA... PAGCOR

Mabilis na umaalalay sa mga nasalanta ng kalamidad ang PAGCOR. Bilang kabalik ng Office of the President, batid nito ang mga pangangailangan ng mga mamamayan na dapat agarang matugunan.

“SAGIPIN ANG PINOY!”



Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation

Creating Opportunities Beyond Gaming

www.pagcor.ph



PAG TULONG SA KOMUNIDAD... **PAGCOR**

Ang mga siyudad kung saan may sangay ang PAGCOR ay binibigyan ng pondo kada buwan para sa kanilang proyektong pang-komunidad, tulad ng "clean water programs."

"ALAGAAN ANG KAPALIGIRAN!"



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PAG KILALA SA ATLETA... PAGCOR

Mula pondo para sa pag-ensayo hanggang premyo kapag nanalo, sagot ng PAGCOR ang atletang Pinoy gaya ni Olympic champion **HIDILYN DIAZ**. Ito ay sa bisa ng RA 10699 (National Athletes and Coaches Benefits and Incentives Act) at RA 6847 (PSC).

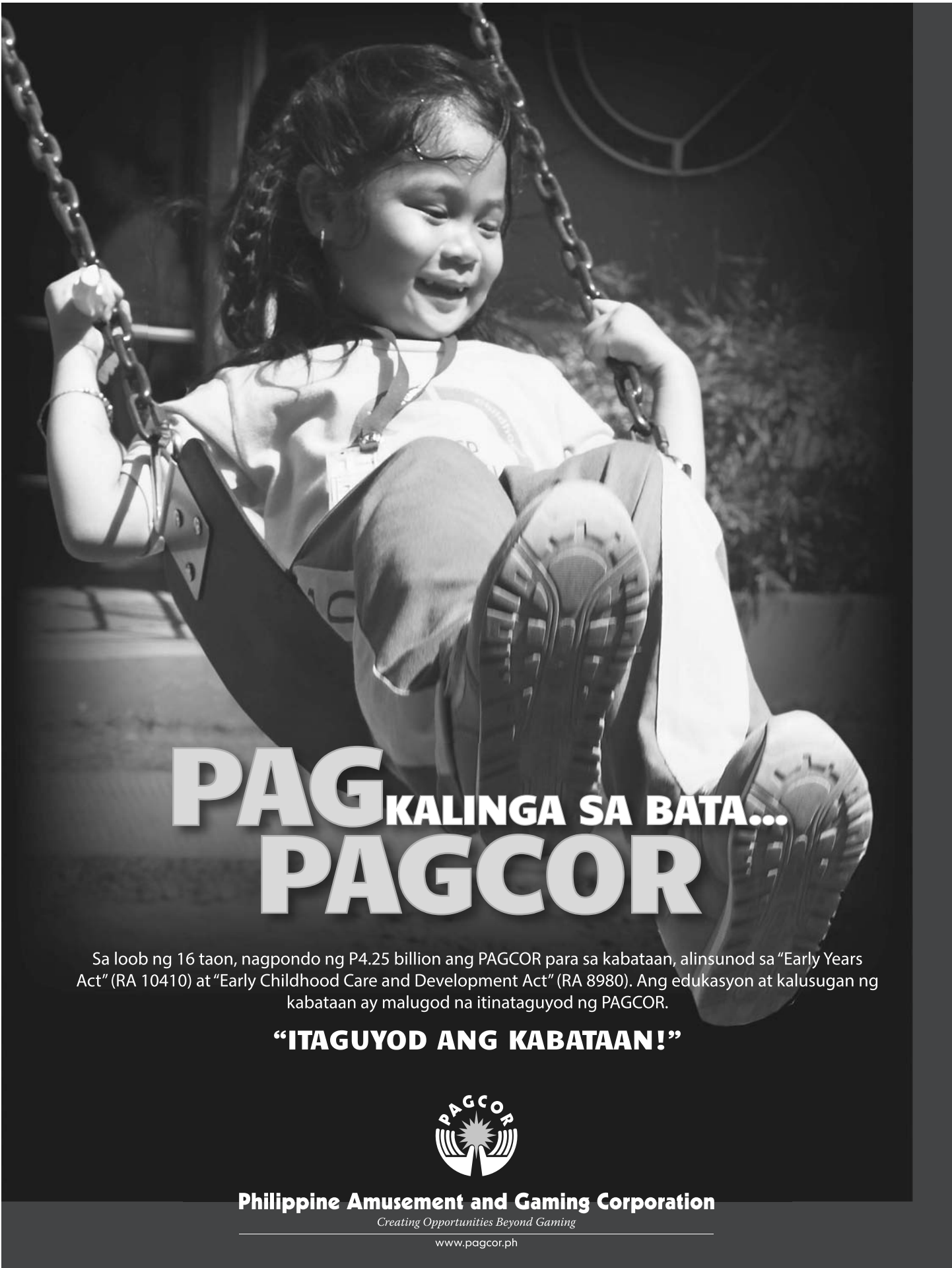
“GANTIMPALAN ANG KAMPEON!”



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PAGKALINGA SA BATA... PAGCOR

Sa loob ng 16 taon, nagpondo ng P4.25 billion ang PAGCOR para sa kabataan, alinsunod sa "Early Years Act" (RA 10410) at "Early Childhood Care and Development Act" (RA 8980). Ang edukasyon at kalusugan ng kabataan ay malugod na itinataguyod ng PAGCOR.

"ITAGUYOD ANG KABATAAN!"



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Office of the President of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON FILIPINOS OVERSEAS

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