



*Presidential Awards for Filipino Individuals
and Organizations Overseas*

2 0 2 1



*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 2021 PAFIOO Awardees were taken from the materials submitted to the Awards Secretariat as vetted by the Philippine Embassies and Consulates for consideration of their nominations.

پہلے
پہلے
پہلے
پہلے
پہلے
پہلے
پہلے
پہلے

MESSAGE



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Rodrigo Roa Duterte".

RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE
President, Republic of the Philippines

MANILA
November 2021

My warmest greetings to the organizers, participants, nominees and recipients of the **2021 Presidential Awards for Filipino Individuals and Organizations Overseas**.

I join the **Commission on Filipinos Overseas** as it honors Overseas Filipino individuals and organizations who have contributed much to the progress of their host and home countries. Indeed, you serve as our nation's ambassadors of goodwill in your adoptive lands.

It is my hope that you will continue to upgrade your skills, strengthen your unity and uphold Filipino pride in your respective communities. May other foreign organizations that will also be honored nurture their respective communities through various development programs and humanitarian causes.

Let us all work together to achieve inclusive growth and greater success for the Philippines and your adoptive countries now and in the years to come.

Congratulations and I wish you all the best in your endeavors.

MESSAGE



A stylized, cursive signature of Justice Francisco P. Acosta (Ret.) in white ink.

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

The Commission on Filipinos Overseas joins the rest of the Filipino nation in congratulating this year's recipients of the Presidential Awards for Filipino Individuals and Organizations Overseas (PAFIOO).

For 30 years, the Philippine government has continued to highlight and acknowledge the significant role that overseas Filipinos have played in societies around the world. We celebrate them by bestowing the highest honor from the President of this country through the PAFIOO to recognize their outstanding work and contributions.

We give tribute to these distinguished overseas individuals and organizations who, by their tireless and selfless endeavors, have uplifted the lives of our *kababayans* and advocated the causes of Filipinos worldwide. We also recognize those who continue to bring pride and honor to the Philippines by the exemplary practice of their profession and other pursuits.

We are deeply grateful for and proud of the eloquent examples of these individuals and organizations who have proven that our time-honored spirit of *bayanihan* and Filipino excellence continue to flourish everywhere in the world even in the most challenging situations. Their boundless commitment and noble efforts have not gone unnoticed and their achievements have earned them the admiration and respect of the world.

We likewise pay homage to our foreign partners for having voluntarily shared their time and resources that aided the marginalized. We are beholden to their solidarity with us in promoting the interest of the overseas Filipinos and the country's development efforts.

I would also like to applaud and convey my appreciation to the dynamic men and women of the Commission on Filipinos Overseas for rising above the adversities of the pandemic to ensure that the Awards process will carry through. I am also beyond grateful to our colleagues from the government, academe, civil society, media, and the religious sector for their invaluable support in the selection process for this year's Awards.

To the 2021 Presidential Awardees, your exceptional accomplishments and dedicated service have served as a beacon of inspiration to us all. You all truly deserve our accolade and gratitude.

Again, my warmest congratulations and best wishes to you all.

MESSAGE



A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Macatoman".

USEC. ABDULGANI M. MACATOMAN
Executive Director V
Commission on Filipinos Overseas

With the most profound respect, I offer my warmest greetings and sincerest congratulations to the 56 recipients of the 2021 Presidential Awards for Filipino Individuals and Organizations Overseas!

For the past two years, the world as we know it was changed due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. All over the world, Filipinos and other nationals alike experienced a change in their daily lives as social contact became minimal. It is during these trying times that we see how people become everyday heroes.

This year, we honor the 56 recipients of the 2021 Presidential Awards for Filipino Individuals and Organizations Overseas for their achievements for the Filipino community both abroad and in the Philippines. These honorable individuals rose to the challenge and worked tirelessly to benefit the Filipinos abroad and at home. It is only fitting for us to acknowledge their efforts and give due recognition to all their accomplishments.

We celebrate their efforts to ensure that Filipinos are represented and heard in their local communities, their efforts to initiate philanthropic activities for the marginalized sectors of society, and their efforts to establish close ties and partnerships between the Philippines and the countries they reside in. Furthermore, they have become exemplars of Filipino excellence in their respective fields of work. In doing so, they have contributed significantly to the Philippines and their local community.

I would also like to take this opportunity to recognize and express my gratitude to the members of the Awards Technical and Executive Committees, and the CFO PAFIOO Secretariat for their hard work and dedication in ensuring the success of this great endeavor. This event would not have been possible without them.

To the 56 recipients of the 2021 Presidential Awards for Filipino Individuals and Organizations Overseas, I offer my sincerest congratulations to you all once again. Each of you deserves to be included in the roster of Presidential Awardees for your pursuit of excellence, selfless service, and inspiring work for the Filipino community. May you continue to be an inspiration to Filipinos worldwide.

To the 2021 Presidential Awardees, Mabuhay and more power to you!

PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS FOR FILIPINO INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS OVERSEAS

The Presidential Awards for Filipino Individuals and Organizations Overseas (PAFIOO) is a biennial awards system intended to give recognition to overseas 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 by former President Corazon Aquino. The awards have so far been conferred on 485 individuals and organizations overseas since its establishment. President Fidel V. Ramos conferred on first and second sets of Presidential Awards to 22 and 45 recipients in 1993 and 1996, respectively. President Joseph Estrada conferred the third and fourth sets of Presidential Awards on 30 and 59 awardees in 1998 and 2000, respectively. President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo conferred on 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 on 24, 29 and 33 awardees in 2010, 2012 and 2014, respectively. While President Rodrigo Roa Duterte conferred the twelfth and thirteenth set of the awards on 23 and 25 awardees in 2016 and 2018, respectively.

The PAFIOO consists of four categories. The *Banaag Award* is conferred on overseas Filipino individuals or organizations 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 (LINKAPIL) Award* is conferred on overseas Filipino individuals or organizations for their exceptional or significant contribution to reconstruction, progress and development in the Philippines. The *Kaanib ng Bayan Award* is conferred on foreign individuals (natural born) 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.

In 2022, President Rodrigo R. Duterte honored 56 distinguished individuals and organizations based in 20 countries, who, because of their exceptional achievements or humanitarian efforts, have given form and substance to Filipino excellence and the time-honored values of *pakikipag-kapwa*, *pagtutulungan*, and *pagkakaisa*.

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

This year's awardees were selected from a total of 117 nominations from 31 countries through 39 Philippine Embassies and Consulates. Of the 56 awardees, 39 are individuals while 17 are organizations. The awardees came from Australia, Canada, China, Chile, France, Germany, Indonesia, Ireland, Isle of Man, Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Korea, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, and United States of America.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message from President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, *i*
Message from CFO Chairperson Francisco P. Acosta, *ii*
Message from CFO Executive Director Abdulgani M. Macatoman, *iii*
About the PAFIOO, *iv*

Kaanib ng Bayan Awardees

Issa Mohammad Ahmed, *p.2*
Yasonna H. Laoly, *p.3*
Montero Medical Missions (MMM), *p.4*
Philippine Bayanihan Society (Singapore) (PBSS), *p.5*
Temasek Foundation Ltd., *p.6*

Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino Awardees

Roxanne Racquel A. Cajigas, *p.8*
Vivian Kiefer-Vargas, *p.9*
Batangas Association UK (BAUK), *p.10*
Kayumanggi Chorale, Inc. (KCI), *p.11*
Philippine Institute of Civil Engineers
– Qatar Chapter (PICE-Qatar), *p.12*
The Filipino Association in the Isle of Man (FAIM), *p.13*
The Filipino Catholic Society of the Diocese
of Calgary (FCSDC), *p.14*

Pamana ng Pilipino Awardees

Russ Patrick P. Alcedo, *p.16*
Glenda Lynna Anne B. Tibe-Bonifacio, *p.17*
Josefino C. Comiso, *p.18*
Sheila Maria A. Conejos, *p.19*
Danilo M. Favor, *p.20*
Glenn F. Fernandez, *p.21*
Laura D. Garcia, *p.22*
Pamela D. Gotangco, *p.23*
Aurtenciano R. Miranda, Jr., *p.24*
Ronaldo B. Nilo, *p.25*
Caroline B. Ong, *p.26*
Glenn D. Pascual, *p.27*
Lord Leomer B. Pomperada, *p.28*
Karen Graciles L. Remo, *p.29*
Albert Remus R. Rosana, *p.30*
Leorey N. Saligan, *p.31*
Walter S. Villagonzalo, *p.32*

Banaag Awardees

Mario A. Balboa, *p.34*
Bella Aurora P. Belmonte, *p.35*
Ariel C. Bernardo, *p.36*
Roy G. Betinol, *p.37*
Vanda Marie M. Brady, *p.38*
Alex Chiu (✉), *p.39*
Aurora B. Dacanay, *p.40*
Nancy S. De Jesus, *p.41*
Fernandico Q. Gonong, Jr., *p.42*
Venecio V. Legaspi, *p.43*
Bennette E. Misalucha, *p.44*
Rose Cheryl P. Eclarinal-Murdock, *p.45*
Rolando M. Nicolas, *p.46*
Linda Nietes-Little, *p.47*
Dennis N. Rata, *p.48*
Jannelle So-Perkins, *p.49*
Cristy M. Vicentina, *p.50*
Elija Paul G. Villanueva, *p.51*
Felix Y. Manalo Foundation, Inc. (FYM Foundation), *p.52*
Filipino American Service Group, Inc. (FASGI), *p.53*
Igorot UK Charity (IGO-UK), *p.54*
Kapatiran at Ugnayan ng Natatanging Sining at
Talento Filipino (KUNST Filipino), *p.55*
London Filipino Centre CIC (LFC CIC), *p.56*
National Alliance to Nurture the Aged and the
Youth, Inc. (NANAY), *p.57*
Philippine American Friendship
Community, Inc. (PAFCOM), *p.58*
Philippine Bayanihan Association in Alberta (PBAA), *p.59*

Special Citation

Coalition of the Filipino American Chambers
of Commerce (COFACC), *p.61*

2021 PAFIOO Screening Committees, *p.62*
Gallery of PAFIOO Awardees, *pp.63-69*
Directory of 2021 PAFIOO Awardees, *pp.70-74*
About the Commission on Filipinos Overseas, *pp.75-76*
Awards Secretariat, *p.77*

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.

K AANIB NG BAYAN

Awardees

Issa Mohammad Ahmed - Jordan

Yasonna H. Laoly - Indonesia

Montero Medical Missions (MMM) - United States of America

Philippine Bayanihan Society (Singapore) (PBSS) - Singapore

Temasek Foundation, Ltd. - Singapore



ISSA MOHAMMAD AHMED

Jordan

A simple effort made for the betterment of others lifts us above ourselves. This statement is lived out professionally by Jordanian Issa Mohammad Ahmed, who has an exemplary passion for helping distressed overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) and people needing assistance in Jordan.

He has served at the Philippine Embassy in Amman as official translator for its Assistance to Nationals (ATN) section since 2013. He is tasked to provide valuable coordination with Jordanian authorities, foreign recruitment agencies, and OFWs on issues requiring practical and legal advice, case management, and final resolution of complaints. There are approximately 39,000 OFWs in Jordan, of which some 95% are household service workers (HSWs). The most common ATN cases he handles are labor-related.

Mr. Ahmed holds a bachelor's and master's degrees in tourism, with which he could have lived a more comfortable life if he chose to work in the hospitality industry. Previously, he worked in a company for international transportations as a reservation, reception and ticketing agent and at the Ramahi Tourism as a guide and driver. He is multilingual - being fluent in Arabic, English, and French.

In 2013, he volunteered when the Embassy building was affected by the massive flooding in Jordan. On his own volition, he rented equipment to remove floodwater and stayed with the 911 and Civil Defense Team to oversee operations.

He handled several ATN cases, always eager to help distressed Filipinos. In 2014, he assisted in finding a missing Syrian national married to a Filipina (and their children), who got separated while escaping the civil war in Damascus. He utilized his personal contacts from his family and tribe in Irbid Governorate to locate the husband and the children. He also assisted the Filipina wife take custody of the children so they could return to the Philippines.

In 2015, Mr. Ahmed assisted a Filipina distressed worker who had given birth prematurely. The baby had an eye defect and needed an immediate surgical operation. He was able to find an ophthalmologist who treated the baby and even provided the medication for free. Fortunately, the baby's eyes were saved from eventual blindness.

In 2017, he assisted a runaway Filipino worker from Irbid Governorate. He sought the assistance of his family members to provide shelter for the Filipino worker while waiting for the arrival of Police authorities and the Embassy ATN team.

Mr. Ahmed's intercession on behalf of the Embassy also resulted in the expeditious resolution of many cases, which would have taken a long time to be resolved had it not been for his effort to conclude the matter amicably between the employers and workers. One notable case in 2020 involved a Filipina worker in Aqaba City, wherein the latter's employer refused to settle the case and would not release her to work for a new employer. He went to Aqaba to meet the employer and succeeded in settling the case. After settlement, he helped the Filipina in finding a job and a new employer at the Aqaba Duty Free Shop with better working conditions and salary.

Mr. Ahmed also assisted in organizing the official visit of President Rodrigo Duterte to Amman in 2018, as well as

the official visit in 2019 of other Filipino dignitaries to Syria for the evacuation of stranded Filipinos because of the civil unrest.

According to the Philippine Embassy, he became instrumental in the successful repatriation of over 1,100 OFWs from 2019 to early 2020 under Jordan's 2019 Amnesty Law.

In many instances, Mr. Ahmed came to the rescue of Filipinos with work-related, legal, or health issues. He helps those in distress even beyond office hours. Many times, he offered to defray the expenses incurred by Filipinos he visited in jail, police stations, or hospitals. He provided milk, diapers, clothes, and other basic needs. He even spent his own money to provide for the immediate needs of Filipino runaways in Irbid Governorate. One of the Filipino community leaders in Jordan hailed Mr. Ahmed as a "well-meaning and sincere person. He has a heart for Filipinos in Jordan."

Because of his dedication to his work, he was conferred the 2020 Assistance to Nationals Award during the 122nd Founding Anniversary of the Department of Foreign Affairs in 2020. He is the first foreigner to receive such a distinction as he was recognized for his exemplary performance in providing assistance to Filipino nationals, and for the protection and promotion of the interests and welfare of overseas Filipinos in Jordan and Palestine.

In conferring the Kaanib ng Bayan Award to Issa Mohammad Ahmed, the President recognizes his dedication and exemplary service in assisting and promoting the welfare of distressed Filipino nationals in Jordan.



YASONNA H. LAOLY

Indonesia

The cordial bilateral relationship of the Republic of the Philippines and the Republic of Indonesia is a product of a long history of cooperation between the two nations. The consistent assimilation that kept its people as close as brothers and sisters were born out of the natural affinities, geographical, cultural, and linguistic ties that both nations share.

Such a strong spirit of kinship withstands the test of time. It is kept alive by those who ceaselessly toil in the vineyards of diplomatic goodwill in pursuit of a peaceful and harmonious Southeast Asia region. Among those at the forefront is Indonesian Minister Yasonna Hamonangan Laoly.

Minister Laoly is of mixed Nias and Batak heritage. Even as a college student, he was already socio-politically active - joining the local chapter of the Indonesian Christian Students Union, and becoming a founding member of the Nias Students Association.

After graduation, he worked as a lawyer and later joined Huria Kristen Batak Protestant Nommensen University as a lecturer in its newly established Faculty of Law. During his tenure in the academe, he earned a scholarship to study law abroad, first at Virginia Commonwealth University and later for his doctorate at North Carolina State University in the United States.

In 1998, he decided to enter politics, first as a member of the North Sumatra Provincial Assembly and later of the People's Representative Council representing the Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle. In his decades of service as a civil servant and member of the academe, his management expertise in human rights and immigration has greatly benefited the Filipino expatriate

community in Indonesia.

His service as the Indonesian Minister of Law and Human Rights has been crucial in ensuring the safety and security of Filipinos in Indonesia by providing legal instruments and humanitarian assistance. These would allow Filipinos to shelter in and secure their visas without leaving the country, especially in times of crisis.

Minister Laoly's excellent ability is best exemplified by his will to educate the public and socialize the provisions of the law to build a harmonious relationship with the people. His crusade in engaging the public by providing knowledge that will make them well-versed to the culture of law and society enshrined in some of the following books he authored over the past years notably, the "Political Party Dispute Management: An Effort to Organize Political Institutions in a Democratic Country," and "The Deadly Snare of Economic Welfare: Perspective on Drug Abuse, and Corrections and Legacy."

As the Minister of Law and Human Rights, he hosted a series of continued dialogues to ensure that the security issues of the Filipino community in Indonesia were heard. The immigration policies under his guidance recognized the welfare and condition of approximately 8,000 Filipinos in Indonesia, who primarily work as teachers, professionals, and factory managers, even before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

His care for the members of the Filipino community in Indonesia was further highlighted when he extended humanitarian assistance during the peak of the health crisis paving the way for an open people-to-people contact among Filipinos which is highly necessary in times of unrest.

He is also instrumental in the propagation of several business and commercial initiatives of Filipinos in Indonesia. In collaboration with the Philippine Business Club - Indonesia, the only Filipino organization fully registered under the Indonesian government as "perkumpulan" (association). Minister Laoly partakes in

actively promoting engagement among the members of the Filipino diaspora in Indonesia.

The undertakings effectively facilitated the flourishing trade and cultural relations between the Philippines and Indonesia which created extensive opportunities for the people and economy of both countries.

Through his political will and expertise as a civil administrator, the amiable Minister Laoly contributed significantly in fostering cooperation and collaboration among members of the Filipino diaspora in the region dedicated to pursuing social interactions, ensuring a secured stay of Filipinos in Indonesia, and the development of friendly relationship between the two nations.

Insignias of various academic, professional, and public service excellence on the Minister's chest are testimonies to his decades of experience in the field of law. Minister Laoly's staunch support to Filipinos in Indonesia is undoubtedly essential to the Philippines as a country whose sons and daughters are all over the globe.

The hope is high between the Republic of the Philippines and the Republic of Indonesia despite the challenges and difficulties that the changing course of time brings. In years to come, such ties will remain intact and continue to be strong with the likes of Minister Laoly working closely as an ally of our Filipino brothers and sisters living in the lands and waters of Indonesia.

In conferring the Kaanib ng Bayan Award to Yasonna H. Laoly, the President recognizes his dedication and efforts in ensuring the safety and welfare of the overseas Filipinos residing in Indonesia through his political will, expertise, and assistance.



MONTERO MEDICAL MISSIONS (MMM) United States of America

Learning about the high incidence of blindness and visual impairment in the Philippines during a four-day medical-surgical mission with Physicians for Peace in Surigao Province, mission stakeholders headed by Dr. Juan Montero II, a 2000 LINKAPIL awardee himself, established the Montero Medical Missions (MMM) in Chesapeake, Virginia in July 2011. MMM is a faith-based and inter-faith humanitarian international organization created to combine the work of a medical missionary and a Peace Corps volunteer.

Inspired by what the missionaries witnessed in Surigao del Sur, the organization's main objective is to recruit expatriate physicians and allied health professionals in the United States to return to their homelands and create sustainable healthcare projects. The group started to form when volunteers opted to create a philanthropic group that is more responsive to medically unserved and underserved Philippine rural societies after a five-year partnership with Physicians for Peace.

Since 2011, the MMM has been implementing its program called EyeSight2020. They partnered with the Provincial Government of Surigao del Sur to make the program more permanently available to the poor and low-income residents of the province. The Vision2020 - Surigao del Sur (SDS), as called by the Surigao Provincial Government, led to the creation of the Provincial Eyesight Board through Provincial Ordinance No. 28 in September 29, 2011.

With the provincial ordinance in effect, the Vision2020 - SDS program continues to receive from the MMM excellent quality spectacle frames, ophthalmic lenses, and eye surgical, operating, testing instruments or equipment. These are housed in the Adela Serra Iy Memorial Medical Center (ASIMMC) Vision2020 - SDS Eye Clinic at Madrid District Hospital, and the Philippine Red Cross Building, Surigao del Sur, to cater to identified service areas in different parts of the province.

The MMM also started its province-wide launch of the Children's Vision Program, a significant component of the EyeSight2020 program focusing on school children in the province of Surigao del Sur.

This program was in partnership with the Department of Education (DepEd) and the Optometric Association of the Philippines. The program includes free vision screening, eye examinations, dispensing eyeglasses in public schools, as well as the continuous training of school nurses and school staff for the Vision2020 program.

With the annual number of patients served by Vision2020 - SDS has contributed to poverty alleviation through blindness prevention and sight preservation campaign of the province and the country. Based in the Vision2020-SDS 2019 Accomplishment Report, 43,024 patients have already been served, to which the MMM has contributed significantly.

On July 23, 2013, during another large-scale medical mission, MMM adopted the first Department of Health (DOH) - controlled hospital, the ASIMMC in Tandag City. Former Health Secretary Enrique T. Ona represented the DOH during the signing of the Memorandum of Agreement, along with national and local government officials. The partnership was envisioned to facilitate the continuous flow of in-kind donations and academic, educational, and technical collaboration in the field of healthcare.

The MMM also assisted amputees in the Philippines by establishing the Prosthesis Clinic and Manufacturing in Surigao del Sur. The program provides sustainable prosthetic service in developing countries by educating and training the local technicians, practitioners, and other healthcare providers on appropriate prosthetic fitting and fabricating procedures. They work with the local governments of the host country and get the local public, private and other NGOs to take ownership of a Prosthetic Clinic. The MMM provides training from qualified prosthetic practitioners and teaches bio-mechanical principles on the proper fitting and fabricating techniques of prosthetic devices to reduce the risk of harm to the amputee. This program uses cost-cutting measures to make the prosthesis as affordable as possible.

Notably in 2017, a 40-foot container van arrived at the ASIMMC containing the complete set of prosthetics and orthotic fabricating equipment, ophthalmic or eye

testing, and diagnostic instruments, among many.

In the same year, MMM brought prosthetic expert Michael P. Smith to Bayabas, Surigao del Sur, along with one oven and other equipment and accessories for prostheses. They provided prostheses to deserving beneficiaries. Three leg amputees now walk with prostheses, two with artificial hands, and another two have their prostheses. In 2018, another brand new oven was delivered to Bayabas.

The Local Government of Bayabas provided a building to house the two ovens donated by the MMM for the prosthesis manufacturing project, making Bayabas a manufacturing center, one among a few in Mindanao. This manufacturing project will make prostheses available and accessible to the people of Surigao del Sur and the whole region.

In addition, the organization has also provided in-kind donations to the victims of Typhoon Yolanda in 2013 and the Marawi Siege in 2018.

At the moment, the MMM is raising funds to purchase a 19-meter shallow draft motorized fiberglass Trimaran boat designed to be used during calamities. The boat will be used as a floating medical clinic to conduct medical missions and other sustainable healthcare projects of the organization. The MMM has also set up a GoFundMe account apart from its regular fundraising events to raise funds.

The MMM also has a domestic project in the US that helps veterans, including Filipino-Americans, get access to healthcare to the private sector through an ongoing semi-annual health fair for veterans since October 2012.

In conferring the Kaanib ng Bayan Award to the Montero Medical Missions (MMM), the President recognizes the organization's sustainable healthcare projects benefiting the underserved and marginalized communities in the Philippines.

The Bayanihan Centre, a prominent yellow four-story building located at Labrador Park, is a “dream come true” for the Filipino community in Singapore. Since the administration of President Fidel Ramos, many Filipinos clamored for the establishment of the center. After receiving approval from the Singapore government through the representation of former President Joseph Estrada, the Bayanihan Centre was finally inaugurated in August 2001 by former President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo. Since then, the center with 28 rooms has become the second home of overseas Filipinos in Singapore, catering to their educational, social, and cultural needs.

To manage its operations, programs, and activities, the Philippine Bayanihan Society (Singapore) or PBSS was constituted in 2001. A registered society under the Societies Act of Singapore, PBSS’ principal objectives are to carry out social and community service and collaborate with other entities in Singapore on social development, humanitarianism, and volunteerism; promote the advancement of education and skills and provide the venue for the conduct of education, training, and personal development programs; and conduct socio-psychological counseling for Filipinos and others and provide referral services as supportive intervention.

Since its establishment, the PBSS Bayanihan Centre has provided classrooms, facilities, and support for volunteers and community groups to conduct numerous short-term courses for the skills development of OFWs in Singapore. Notably, it served as the home for Ateneo’s Leadership and Social Entrepreneurship (ALSE) Training, various skills training and upgrading courses of the Filipino Overseas Workers in Singapore (FOWS), Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) online assessment, and other seminars. The Center became the venue for celebrating various community events for overseas Filipino workers, such as Christmas parties, Workers’ Day, Bayanihan Centre Anniversary Day, fund-raising activities, and donation drives for different causes. Affiliate grassroots groups also benefited through financial assistance and the use of rooms for their meetings and

volunteer projects.

Apart from promoting skills training programs, PBSS also annually organized the “Bayanihan Walk” to raise funds for the maintenance and upgrading of the Bayanihan Centre facilities and support its charity work. The annual walk likewise provides a platform to strengthen relations between Filipinos and non-Filipinos in Singapore. A two-hour cultural program usually followed the activity with performances and raffles of free-remittance coupons and roundtrip air tickets.

In December 2002, the PBSS gained full membership in the National Council of Social Service (NCSS) as a Volunteer Welfare Organization and was registered as a charity under the Charities Act of Singapore in April 2004 with the Commission of Charities. Since then, PBSS has successfully led and supported donation drives and charitable causes that benefited the Filipino communities back home and in Singapore. Among these were the financial donation to the Yellow Boat of Hope Foundation for the Maluso community in Basilan; Gawad Kalinga Community Development Inc. for the meals of 2,000 Marawi students; Mercy Relief Foundation for the construction of three classrooms in Camansi Elementary School, and sustainable access to household water supply for the community in Tacloban City; and donation of cash and in-kind assistance to several Filipino communities affected by natural calamities such as the Taal Volcano eruption, Habagat, and Typhoons Yolanda, Maring, Pablo, and Sendong.

PBSS likewise provided scholarship grants to OFWs and Filipino students of engineering, education, and nursing courses from universities in the Philippines and Singapore, enabling beneficiaries to achieve their educational and career goals and pursue community initiatives.

PBSS organized two Bayanihan Lectures in 2019 and 2020 with the support of the Embassy of the Philippines in Singapore. The lectures aimed to draw individuals who have contributed significantly to social and community service to share their knowledge and experience and inspire volunteers to

further the cause of PBSS and strengthen social capital.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, PBSS continued to engage the Filipino community in Singapore on current and relevant educational talks and topics through its Bayanihan Talks: Webinar Series, using digital platforms, bringing together volunteer lecturers and speakers to share their knowledge and experiences in their respective fields. Among the topics discussed in the webinar series were employment laws of Singapore, health in the time of the pandemic, Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) benefits, consular and Philippine Overseas Labor Office (POLO) services under the new normal, cyber security, and financial literacy.

Prior to the the pandemic, the PBSS, in its mission to promote personal and social development programs through continuous learning, organized the monthly Bayanihan Talks: Understanding Series to discuss issues of social interest to the Filipino community in Singapore. Some of the topics addressed were Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA), Social Security System (SSS), Home Development Mutual Fund (PAG-IBIG) benefits and the regular financial literacy talks and special talk/activity on the Philippine art collection.

Currently, PBSS is headed by the Singaporean Honorary President Ranvir Kumar Singh, with eleven Board of Directors equally representing the Filipino and Singaporean communities.

In conferring the Kaanib ng Bayan Award to the Philippine Bayanihan Society (Singapore) (PBSS), the President recognizes its strong commitment and support in promoting the integration and advancement of education and skills of overseas Filipinos in Singapore as well as its charitable works that benefited the Filipino communities in need back home.

TEMASEK FOUNDATION

TEMASEK FOUNDATION LTD.
Singapore

As global issues grow in complexity, people have to gear themselves up to contribute to the needs of larger segments of society. On this account, Singapore-based Temasek Foundation Ltd. commits to shed light on current issues that have fallen through the cracks and are easily neglected, renewing a sense of purpose for overlooked individuals, families, and communities, consequently uplifting lives in Singapore and its neighboring countries.

The philanthropic arm of Temasek Holdings, Temasek Foundation Ltd. has grown over the last 15 years. The Foundation supports an array of programs across multiple domains including education, healthcare, governance, disaster response, emergency preparedness, business leadership, and international exchange. They offer their support with the primary purpose of strengthening social resilience, enhancing regional capabilities, advancing science, and protecting the planet for a sustainable world.

This community-oriented outlook enabled Temasek Foundation Ltd. to recognize the grave risks posed by the COVID-19 virus to public health and welfare. The Foundation was prompt in its actions, standing in solidarity with its partners across borders, sharing solutions in prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and support to keep overseas communities safe. It partnered with public and private sector organizations to deliver essential medical equipment and test kits to hospitals and medical facilities in Singapore and various Asian countries. With the scarcity of international flights due to border restrictions, the team worked closely with foreign embassies on shared solutions to deliver essential medical equipment and test kits globally.

Temasek Foundation Ltd. has donated an estimated total of USD 14.59 million (Php 709 million) to aid the Philippines in its COVID-19 response. In 2020, the Foundation donated more than 700 units of Yuwell Oxygen Concentrators to help purify the air and produce oxygen for patients with respiratory illnesses. These highly valuable machines are a life support mechanism for patients with severe cardiac and respiratory disease. Other donations included various medical-grade Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs), diagnostic tests, and ribonucleic acid (RNA) extraction kits.

The Foundation also donated 370 units of Yuwell Bilevel Positive Airway Pressure (BiPAP) machines and 100,000 pieces of N95 masks to the Philippine Department of Health

(DOH). BiPAP machines have a non-invasive mechanism to deliver pressurized air through a mask to a patients' airways, giving them immediate breathing relief. The following month, the Foundation made another donation of 80 High Flow Nasal Cannula (HFNC), which aid in treating patients with acute respiratory failure. In October 2020, it donated more than 2 million washable face masks distributed among different local communities in the Philippines.

In 2021, the Foundation made another donation of about 40 units of dialysis machines with a two-year supply of consumables and another batch of one million pieces of disposable BYD masks. The organization then collaborated with the Jollibee Group Foundation and *Kabuhayan sa Ganap na Kasarinlan* Credit and Savings Cooperative to provide financial subsidy, food packs, and meals to medical frontliners and families in need in Metro Manila and other nearby provinces.

The Embassy of the Philippines in Singapore believes that the unprecedented amount of donations and assistance from the Temasek Foundation Ltd. played a vital role in the Philippine government's successful management of the pandemic, especially when it was still at its nascent and most precarious stage. Its generous donations made a significant difference in protecting the lives of Filipinos, supporting the Philippine healthcare system and mitigating the damage to the country's economy from the debilitating effects of the pandemic.

Temasek Foundation Ltd. has a long history of assisting the Philippines in the face of unforeseen tragedies. In early 2020, the Foundation donated 3,000 Air+ Smart Masks, an N95-class disposable mask that expels trapped heat, humidity, and harmful carbon dioxide, and more than 300 micro-ventilators to the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) in light of the Taal volcano eruption. In 2013, it also provided critical assistance to several provinces devastated by Super Typhoon Yolanda by contributing USD 50,000 (Php 2.4 million) in relief supplies, including medical, health, and community kits.

The Foundation actively promotes collaborations that are deeply invested in developing practical solutions for a better life. With a close ear to the ground, it supports innovative and creative research and educational projects, bridging unseen gaps as it responds swiftly to the needs of communities. Since 2010, it has been supporting the Technical Education

Skills Development Authority (TESDA) in the development of its internal capability and improvement of the quality of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) graduates through the conduct of trainings on pedagogy, leadership and industry-based training for directors, administrators, and industry coordinators. This effort has been successful, as seen in the increased employability of TVET graduates since then.

Aside from its partnership with TESDA, the Foundation also supports economic and social development in the country through capacity building in healthcare and food safety technology in collaboration with the DOH and the Department of Science and Technology (DOST). It also promotes sustainable urban development and strengthens public administration in partnership with the National Wages and Productivity Commission (NWPC) and the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), and helps improve the country's disaster response and emergency preparedness with the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS).

Temasek Foundation Ltd. is indeed an ally to Asian countries, encouraging communities to continually share knowledge and friendships wherein people uplift each other and grow together as one, despite geographical, racial, and religious diversity. Temasek Foundation Ltd. fosters deep-rooted partnerships regionally and globally, sparking a culture of mutual assistance and interdependence among communities, resulting in a virtuous cycle of paying the favor forward. This collaborative spirit establishes a multiplier effect and continues to uplift lives and better societies.

Temasek Foundation Ltd. enables synergistic collaborations within communities towards a better-shared future. To date, it has successfully supported over 500 programs with more than 49,000 direct beneficiaries and participants and USD 236 million committed funding since 2007.

In conferring the Kaanib ng Bayan Award to the Temasek Foundation Ltd., the President recognizes its notable and consistent charitable works and support through its programs and initiatives that uplift and better the lives of Filipinos.

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.

LINGKOD SA KAPWA PILIPINO

Awardees

Roxanne Racquel A. Cajigas - United States of America / Maydolong, Eastern Samar

Vivian Kiefer-Vargas - Switzerland / Manila

Batangas Association UK (BAUK) - United Kingdom

Kayumanggi Chorale, Inc. (KCI) - United States of America

Philippine Institute of Civil Engineers

– **Qatar Chapter (PICE-Qatar)** - Qatar

The Filipino Association in the Isle of Man (FAIM) - Isle of Man

The Filipino Catholic Society of the Diocese

of Calgary (FCSDC) - Canada



ROXANNE RACQUEL A. CAJIGAS

United States of America

Hometown: Maydolong, Eastern Samar

If you want happiness for an hour – take a nap. If you want happiness for a day – go fishing. If you want happiness for a year – inherit a fortune. If you want happiness for a lifetime – help someone else.”

This Chinese proverb continuously inspires Dr. Roxanne Racquel A. Cajigas to make a difference in the lives of teachers, students, and less fortunate *kababayan* in the Philippines by helping them in the best way she can.

Growing up in Maybocog, Maydolong, Eastern Samar – one of the provinces in the Philippines with a high poverty incidence, Dr. Cajigas already knew the importance of education at a very young age. Together with her siblings, she used their *gasera* (*gas lamp*) every night to study for their lessons. At that time, electricity was not available in their town.

In pursuit of her dream, she left her simple life in Eastern Samar when she was 16. She took up Bachelor of Science Major in Biology, as preparatory to medicine, at the Far Eastern University (FEU) in Manila. After finishing her course in 1988, FEU offered her a teaching position. She seized this opportunity and taught Biology, Comparative Anatomy, and Zoology for five years.

As she began to fall in love with teaching, she decided to let go of her childhood dream of becoming a doctor, and instead focused on being a full-fledged educator, eventually earning a Doctor of Philosophy degree. Currently, Dr. Cajigas resides in Elmhurst, New York, and teaches Earth Science and Living Environment at the Edward E. Reynolds West Side High School in New York City.

Joining the Association of Fil-Am Teachers of America, Inc. (AFTA) in 2008 as Board Member, Dr. Cajigas noticed a significant decline in the implementation of *Balik-Turo* in the Philippines every year. Recognizing the invaluable impact of *Balik-Turo* on the

professional advancement of fellow educators in the Philippines, she revived and revitalized the annual implementation of the project. This was one of her notable accomplishments during her term as president of AFTA. She served as AFTA president for two more terms from 2014 to 2018.

She organized and implemented 20 *Balik-Turo* projects in the Philippines in 2011, 2016, to 2020. These include two online *Balik-Turo* projects held virtually in July 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. She served as the resource speaker in these seminar workshops, which benefited 2,021 teachers, students, and school administrators from different educational institutions in the Philippines.

For her years of dedication and voluntary work in *Balik-Turo* projects, she received several *Balik-Turo* Distinguished Awards from AFTA and recognitions from different participating schools.

As a firm believer that education is a passport to a better future, Dr. Cajigas has supported the education of poor but deserving students at the Eastern Samar State University (ESSU) - Maydolong Campus since 2009. In partnership with the university, she supported the education of her first scholar, Raffy Depallo, who eventually graduated with a degree in Industrial Technology in 2013.

This initiative of Dr. Cajigas gave birth to the Adopt-a-Scholar Project of AFTA in 2014 that provided scholarship assistance to underprivileged but deserving BS Education students enrolled in state colleges. Through the project, she has provided educational assistance to five more BS Education students of ESSU.

Now that matriculation in state universities and colleges is free because of the passage of the Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act, Dr. Cajigas’ educational assistance to her scholars every semester is used for their daily expenses.

Together with her colleague in AFTA, Mr. Melvin Dumaolao, she also extended educational assistance to Judith Victoria Valdez, a 21-year-old Aeta student and a second year BS Elementary Education student

at Tarlac State University.

To promote quality education for Filipino students, especially those in public schools, she expanded the Adopt-a-Classroom Project of AFTA to Adopt-a-School Project to benefit more students by providing educational materials and supplies to select public schools including those affected by natural disasters, calamities, and war in Marawi. Over 1,329 elementary students benefited from this project.

She has also been instrumental in the donation and shipment of three boxes of various reference books to the ESSU through AFTA’s Books for the Philippines Project. The donated books are an excellent reference for ESSU’s students and faculty. She collected these reference materials from AFTA members and shipped them to ESSU in 2015.

Every summer and before leaving for the Philippines to implement various projects, Dr. Cajigas has been volunteering to teach Filipino language, heritage, values, and culture to Fil-Am children aged 6-16 through the Paaralan sa Konsulado, a joint project of AFTA and the Philippine Consulate in New York. She has been doing this volunteer work since 2014.

In addition to her notable accomplishments, Dr. Cajigas also served as a volunteer mentor for the *Gabay Mag-aaral* Project of the Homecoming *sa Konsulado* in 2018 and 2019; donated financial assistance for the benefit of the victims of Typhoon Ambo in Eastern Samar, Typhoons Rolly and Ulysses in Luzon, and Taal volcano eruption in Batangas; and funded the rehabilitation of Barangay Maybocog Convent Chapel, which was damaged by an earthquake in April 2019 and Typhoon Ursula in December 2019.

In conferring the Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino Award to Roxanne Racquel A. Cajigas, the President recognizes her invaluable volunteerism, commendable contributions to AFTA, and dedication to upskilling and development of Filipino educators and students.



VIVIAN KIEFER-VARGAS

Switzerland
Hometown: Manila

Growing up in a family that is deeply committed to politics and charity work has influenced Ms. Vivian Kiefer-Vargas life's purpose - dedicating herself to the betterment of the lives of others, especially her *kababayan*.

Two years after graduating with a degree in Medical Technology at Centro Escolar University, she migrated to Switzerland in 1972. Back then, she was a young woman who had a burning passion for learning and navigating the complexities of the Swiss system.

In 1972, Ms. Kiefer-Vargas started her career in the Chemistry Laboratory of Kantonsspital in Liestal, Switzerland as a Medical Technologist. After serving in the institution for 16 years, she then transferred to F. Hoffmann-La Roche AG in Kaiseraugst, Switzerland and served as a Microbiology Technician and a Biology Research Technician from 1988 to 1996. Shortly after, she was assigned to the Prenatal Clinical Laboratory and Gynecology and Oncology Laboratory as a Research Technician from 1997 to 2012 at University Women's Hospital in Basel, Switzerland.

Aside from being a researcher in molecular biology and assisting post-doctorate students, she also co-authored eight publications in Switzerland. These contributed significantly to furthering research in the laboratories she worked in, focusing on the extraction of plasma and serum from blood, isolation of DNA and RNA from plasma and serum, immunohistochemistry, fluorescence in-situ hybridization (FISH), and enrichment of rare fetal hematopoietic cells from the circulation of pregnant women using the magnetic cell sorting method.

Trusted by many, she is known as a woman of dedication – from the projects she

initiated and supervised to helping others. Despite her success in Switzerland, she never forgot her roots. She became the President of the Philippine Swiss Association (2016 to present) and Maharlika-Switzerland (1995 to 2010). Both Filipino organizations have a two-fold purpose: to help Filipino migrants across Switzerland preserve their Filipino culture and increase Swiss' awareness of Filipino customs and traditions through various festivities and events.

Apart from that, these organizations have also strengthened collaborations with different civic and religious organizations overseas, benefiting the Filipino diaspora in Switzerland and advancing their interests through her leadership. These organizations have established themselves as credible partners of the Philippines Embassy in Berne in serving the Filipino-Swiss communities.

Ms. Kiefer-Vargas was able to raise CHF 22,000 (Php 1.29 million) for the housing project benefiting six homeless families in Barangay Panubtuban, Dauin, Negros Oriental. She spearheaded a project that acquired 2,000 square meters of land to build houses for homeless Negrense families. She applied to the lottery fund for grant and built three semi-detached houses for those families.

She also initiated a program that raised CHF 50,000 (Php 2.74 million) for the expansion and renovation of the multipurpose building of Barangay Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City. The building currently serves as a health center or outpatient clinic, children's library, event hall, and workshop room for the livelihood production of bags benefiting the local constituents.

She was also able to raise CHF 20,000 (Php 1.1 million) for the biogas reactor project for the benefit of 45 households in Miag-ao, Iloilo. The machine replaced the liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) used by the beneficiaries. It uses biological organic waste to produce gas that can be used for cooking and power lighting, which in the long run will reduce the biogenic waste that contributes to global warming. Her team, with the support of the local government of the province of Iloilo, also oriented the residents on the use of

the biogas reactor. In addition, the following projects were successfully completed in her role as Fundraiser/Finance Director: one-story duplex school building at San Isidro Elementary School and Umingan National High School in Pangasinan.

While gaining the attention in the Philippines by constantly helping her fellow Filipinos, she also earned the respect and admiration of her colleagues in Switzerland. Through her leadership and initiative as the President of the Philippine Swiss Association (2016 to present) and Maharlika-Switzerland (1995 to 2010), both Filipino organizations that help Filipino migrants across Switzerland to preserve their Filipino culture and to increase Swiss' awareness of Filipino customs and traditions through various festivities and events, different collaborations with several civic and religious organizations overseas, benefiting the Filipino diaspora in Switzerland and advancing their interests, have flourished and strengthened. In fact, under her guidance, these organizations have established themselves as credible partners of the Philippines Embassy in Berne in serving the Filipino-Swiss communities.

Along with her philanthropic goals to sponsor and finance developmental and charity projects in the Philippines, she continuously fulfills her dreams of contributing to the upliftment of the lives of her fellow Filipino citizens by providing them information and imparting knowledge through workshops and conferences. Even after her retirement, she is still offering free computer training courses, orientation on Swiss citizenship laws, German and Filipino language courses, and post-arrival orientation to her fellow Filipinos arriving in Switzerland.

In conferring the Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino Award to Vivian Kiefer-Vargas, the President recognizes her exemplary leadership and dedication towards charitable services that uplifted the lives of the Filipino communities in Switzerland and the Philippines.



BATANGAS ASSOCIATION UK (BAUK) United Kingdom

It has been said that the Taal Volcano could be a representation of the *Batangueños*. Like the volcano, *Batangueños* are usually calm on the surface. Still, there is always something seething, burning underneath the surface – it is the fiery determination and fierce resolve to overcome any obstacle and succeed. More importantly, just like the volcano which has made the soil of Batangas fertile (before its latest eruption), *Batangueños* are “nurturing people.” They value and care for their family – and that family extends to their clan, their community, and their country.

These traits were taken into account when a group of UK-based individuals from the province of Batangas founded the Batangas Association UK (BAUK) in 1993. The BAUK is a non-profit organization that aims to unite the *Batangueños* in the United Kingdom and provide them with a platform to give back to the country of their birth through philanthropic contributions.

For almost three decades, the BAUK has proven to be one of the most active and civic-oriented groups in the Filipino community in the UK. It has untiringly dedicated itself to helping the less privileged in the Philippines through its charity work and outreach programs.

The BAUK keeps aflame the spirit of giving and sharing during Christmas even though its members are thousands of miles away from their less fortunate *kababayan* back in Batangas. *Alay Pasko* is an annual outreach program launched in 2002 wherein food packs were distributed to indigents in six towns/cities of Batangas. Initially, it was to be conducted every year until all the towns and cities had been reached. It was such

a massive success that the BAUK decided to continue *Alay Pasko* even after all the areas were covered and are currently on its third rotation.

Another major undertaking of the BAUK is the regular support to the Santa Ana – San Joaquin *Bahay Ampunan* Foundation, a home for the elderly in Tanauan City, Batangas. Although situated in Batangas, it is open to the elderly from anywhere in the Philippines. Aside from funding several renovation projects in the *ampunan*, the BAUK continually contributes to the running costs of the shelter, which helps improve the well-being of the residents.

One of the missions of the BAUK is to transform the lives of young people through education. The association provided scholarships for poor but deserving students of the De La Salle Lipa, St. Catherine of Alexandria Catholic School in Aklan, and Taysan High School Child Development Center in Batangas.

The association also responded to the needs of the Philippines in times of calamities – sending cash, relief goods, and joining volunteer work in areas affected by the typhoon and *habagat* season, Taal Volcano eruption, and Covid-19 pandemic, among others. The BAUK has also worked with non-government organizations in the Philippines like Feed Hungry Minds to aid the poor in other parts of the country. It also worked with the Philippine Band of Mercy by donating to its Project Smile, the Down Syndrome Association of the Philippines, and the Taysan Medical Mission, to name a few.

For several years, the BAUK has also been actively involved in promoting Filipino culture in the UK by sponsoring and supporting art exhibits of upcoming Filipino artists. It provides for the venue and accommodation of the delegates from the Philippines. The association is also constantly involved in various activities

organized by the Philippine Embassy in London, such as the Philippine Independence Day Celebration, Philippine National Language Month, *Flores de Mayo*, and *Simbang Gabi*.

In 2011, the BAUK published a book of poetry and short stories - *Ako’y Batangueño at Iba Pang Akda* by Bert Cabual. Likewise, the association organized the Batangas Youth by conducting workshops for them in the UK, Austria, and the Philippines. This is to ensure that the youths appreciate and continue to recognize their Filipino roots and heritage. Furthermore, the BAUK organized numerous sports events and cultural presentations during its Dinner and Dance Anniversary Celebration.

From 2002 to 2020, the BAUK has provided a total of ₱1,789,110.00 (£23,691.25) financial and material donations to the Philippines and the Filipino community in the UK.

Since its inception, the BAUK has vigorously and selflessly changed and improved many lives. It is hard to measure the benefits received by our *kababayan* in the Philippines from the association. But BAUK’s love for the country and fellow Filipinos truly sets a shining example, and a reminder to all that charity can only come from the heart.



In conferring the Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino Award to Batangas Association UK (BAUK), the President recognizes its socio-economic assistance and services for the marginalized sectors and underprivileged communities in Batangas and other areas in the Philippines.





KAYUMANGGI CHORALE, INC (KCI) United States of America

Music can be a constructive way of expressing one's identity and feelings. It is through music that Kayumanggi Chorale, Inc. (KCI) was able to bring together Filipino talents on the international stage and showcase the greatness of Filipinos in singing, while at the same time help raise funds for the benefit of disadvantaged communities in the Motherland.

KCI is a duly registered charitable and non-profit organization in the State of New York, USA. It was established in 1991 primarily to develop cultural and social awareness of Philippine musical heritage; foster and develop Filipino talents and artists by creating opportunities for growth and advancement; promote and cultivate deep appreciation and desire for good choral music; and, more importantly, to help Filipinos during times of hardship and calamities.

The KCI is composed of 35 individuals from diverse backgrounds and professions, not necessarily related to music and theater. Its members include physicians, physical therapists, engineers, nurses, accountants, teachers, dentists, transportation specialists, information technologists, financial service specialists, music studio proprietors, physicists, and medical technologists. What brought these individuals together is their love for music, and a common goal in mind – sing, raise funds and contribute to worthy humanitarian causes.

Since its inception, the KCI was able to raise US\$ 50,000.00 which was donated to various Philippine-based charitable institutions like the Philippine Red Cross (PRC), International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IIRR), Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement (PRRM),

Filipino Children's Funds, Inc., Gawad Kalinga (GK), and ABS-CBN Foundation. KCI also partnered with several US-based non-profit Filipino American organizations in spearheading projects that benefited Filipinos in need, especially those affected by calamities back home.

During its early months of existence, the KCI helped the Philippine-American Chamber of Commerce in its initial massive fundraising effort on June 15, 1991 at the Alice Tully Hall, Lincoln Center, New York City. It was for the benefit of the victims of the Mt. Pinatubo eruption.

From then, KCI has performed numerous concerts in and around New York City, including Manhattan's CAMI Hall, Kalayaan Hall at the Philippine Consulate in New York, Merkin Concert Hall, Florence Gould Hall, Bruno Walter Auditorium at the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts, Equitable Auditorium at Princeton University, Newark Symphony Hall, Kaufman Theater, and various churches in the tri-state area to the delight of a wide variety of audiences.

In its early years, the KCI prioritized initiatives and efforts towards reconstruction and development of devastated communities by partnering with the PRRM, IIRR, and GK – organizations that help transform rural communities to make them self-sufficient, peaceful, and productive.

In partnership and collaboration with various churches and US-based Filipino-American organizations like the Association of Fil-Am Teachers of America, Inc. (AFTA) and Handang Tumulong Foundation, Inc. (HTFI), the KCI has conducted philanthropic activities for the benefit of Filipinos in the Philippines.

When typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan) struck the central part of the Philippines in 2013

that killed thousands and caused massive destruction in agriculture, livelihood, infrastructures, and properties, the KCI partnered with the HTFI in collecting and raising funds by holding pro bono concerts in the United States. The funds raised through these concerts were used to provide assistance and aid to the victims of Yolanda.

Other philanthropic endeavors of KCI were the distribution of calamity relief aid for the victims of Typhoons Milenyo (2006), Ondoy (2009), Lando (2015), Rolly and Ulysses (2020), as well as the victims of the Taal volcano eruption (2020); donation of educational materials to 645 students from Travesia Elementary School in Albay, Bahay Pag-Asa Pilot Primary School in Marawi City, Langka Elementary School in Nueva Ecija, and Kawayan Elementary School in Leyte through the Adopt-a-School project of AFTA, and financial assistance for the benefit of abused and neglected children through the *Bantay Bata* program of ABS-CBN Foundation in 2011.

Furthermore, in July 2020, the KCI was one of the benefactors of the first virtual *Balik-Turo* Program of AFTA, which aims to share with Filipino teachers in the Philippines, new information, knowledge, methods, and latest developments in different areas of teaching, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In conferring the Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino Award to Kayumanggi Chorale, Inc. (KCI), the President recognizes its passion for promoting Filipino musical talents on the international stage and its dedication to raising funds through music to help affected Filipinos in times of hardship and calamity.



PHILIPPINE INSTITUTE OF CIVIL ENGINEERS – QATAR CHAPTER (PICE QATAR)

Qatar

The Philippine Institute of Civil Engineers (PICE) represents more than a hundred thousand members of the civil engineering profession and has over a hundred chapters in the Philippines and abroad. One of its most notable international chapters is in the Middle East - the PICE Qatar.

PICE Qatar was founded in Doha, Qatar on May 25, 2007 by 25 Filipino civil engineers. Coming from different regions in the Philippines, the founding members were employed by various engineering and construction companies.

The PICE Qatar was established to facilitate the continuous professional development of civil engineers, maintain a support system within the membership, and foster camaraderie among civil engineering professionals. Its establishment was warmly received by many Qatar-based Filipino civil engineers who joined the organization and registered with the Chapter. Today, with more than 3,500 active members, the organization continues to give voice and platform to the Filipino civil engineers in Qatar and present a visible symbol identifying Filipino talent and profession.

As one of the most active PICE international chapters, PICE Qatar is not only after the professional growth of its members but in the same way, but also promotes corporate social responsibility by engaging its members in community services that benefit Filipinos in Qatar, and most especially those communities and groups in the Philippines that need assistance.

Since its inception, the organization has sustained its outreach program for distressed overseas Filipino workers in Qatar. Funded by the donations and contributions from active members and in collaboration with the Philippine Overseas Labor Office (POLO), this program aims to enhance the members' social responsibility and community involvement as one of the organization's core values.

PICE Qatar may be an overseas-based

organization but it never fails to heed the call for assistance by those who need it the most in the Philippines. In particular, when Typhoon Ulysses struck the Philippines in November 2020, the organization raised Php59,150.00 which was used to purchase food packs for an estimated 300 families in Cagayan province. Similarly, when Typhoon Rolly hit the country that same month, the organization revitalized its humanitarian efforts, organized a voluntary donation program, and raised Php 64,614.53 that benefited 30 families. Moreover, the organization donated an additional Php 64,347.00 to PICE – National in Manila when it facilitated relief efforts for those affected by calamities in the Bicol region.

PICE Qatar likewise maintains a scholarship program for incoming third-year civil engineering students in the Philippines who have financial difficulties pursuing their studies but excel in their chosen field. Three students from Zamboanga City, Bulacan, and Samar have already benefited from this program since 2017.

Two other programs that directly provide a positive impact to its beneficiaries are the *Green School Building Project* and *Deep Well Project*. The organization initiated the former to help improve the learning situations of school children. Since 2012, five single-detached classroom buildings have been built in chosen schools in Leyte and Tarlac. The latter project benefited far-flung communities which have little to no source of potable water source. Completed in 2020, the project benefited 289 households in Catanduanes and 200 households in Romblon.

Notwithstanding the challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, PICE-Qatar pursued its commitments to deliver programs and services to those who were severely affected. In April 2020, it donated Php 50,000.00 to the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) to support its COVID-19 relief and response. It also distributed food packs to Filipinos in Qatar who lost their jobs.

In May 2021, PICE Qatar was able to break ground on the construction of three handwashing/drinking water stations in San Jose National High School (SJNHS), Barangay San Jose Norte, Mallig, Isabela

(Luzon), Mapuyo Elementary School (MES) in Barangay Mapuyo, Kawayan, Biliran (Vizayas) and Pandakan Elementary School in Barangay Pandakan, Panglima Estino, Sulu (Mindanao). It also constructed the first male/female duplex toilet in Zarraga, Iloilo.

To help civil engineering students continue learning in the new normal, the organization volunteered in the PICE – National's Virtual Internship of Students via Mentoring or Apprenticeship (VISMA) in August 2020. The organization also provided school supplies and hygiene kits to several public schools in Rizal and Nueva Ecija.

PICE Qatar continuously gives excellent service to its members by conducting Continued Professional Development (CPD) webinars. In June 2020, the organization led a Virtual Technical Conference for the first time, which further demonstrated its commitment to advancing the welfare of its members. It also hosted the first-ever PICE International Collaboration Webinar with the 12 international chapters in May 2021. Apart from conducting various seminars and training, it also assists its members in their accreditation to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Engineering Registers. Today, it has five APEC engineers and 81 ASEAN engineers.

PICE – Qatar is the most active organization among the many international PICE chapters. It received the following recognitions for its accomplishments and contributions from PICE – National during its annual national conventions, such as the 2019 and 2018 Most Outstanding PICE Chapter, 2019 and 2018 Most Outstanding Community Project, and 2019 and 2018 Most Outstanding International Newsletter.

In conferring the Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino Award to the Philippine Institute of Civil Engineers – Qatar Chapter (PICE Qatar), the President recognizes the organization's significant contributions and generosity for the benefit of Filipino engineers in Qatar and their fellow Filipinos in times of need and distress.



THE FILIPINO ASSOCIATION IN THE ISLE OF MAN (FAIM)

Isle of Man

Filipinos are almost everywhere in the world. Even in the smallest island located in the middle of the northern Irish Sea between Great Britain and Ireland, known as the Isle of Man, Filipinos can be found living and working. Like this self-governing British crown dependency's Latin motto "*Quocunque Jeceris Stabit*," which means "Whichever way you throw me, I stand," the Filipinos in the Isle of Man stand strong to uphold their heritage, foster community spirit, and sustain their love for the country.

Maria Leonora "Nora" Loudon-Brown moved to the Isle of Man in 2000 at the time when the Island's Department of Trade and Industry was considering employing Filipinos as seafarers for Manx registered vessels operating worldwide. Through the years, the number of Filipino marine staff employed by the Manx Government continuously increased. A steady influx of Filipino workers found employment in other local industries such as health and financial service. This growing number of Filipinos in the island found themselves without any formal representation or support. Nora took it upon herself to form an organization – The Filipino Association in the Isle of Man (FAIM) – that would cater to the needs of the Filipino community in the island.

Established in 2007, FAIM has done a breadth of work promoting the Philippine heritage, community spirit, and good relations between the Filipino and Manx communities. What started as a welcoming group for Filipinos relocating to the Isle of Man has evolved and expanded to so much more, benefiting the island's growing Filipino community and the Manx people.

For more than a decade, FAIM has served as a catalyst in promoting Filipino culture and heritage in the Isle of Man. Its various activities have served as a bridged different cultures and people, fostering more profound understanding and friendship among the Filipino and Manx communities. Annual activities and

fund-raising events, such as the Philippine *Fiesta*, The Filipino Variety Show, Filipino Masquerade Ball, Filipino Festival, *Barrio Fiesta* International, and Little Miss Philippines Isle of Man organized by FAIM, saw hundreds of Filipino-Manx community members enjoy the dancing, food, and culture of the Philippines.

FAIM likewise supports cultural events and good causes organized by other organizations and migrant communities on an island with a large foreign population. Notably, it has supported activities such as The Global Village Event and Festival Manx Connections initiated by the One World Centre (OWC), and Festival Lantern Making and Film Festival by the Isle of Man Arts Council by offering Filipino food and cash donations as well as encouraging FAIM members and their families to participate as either performers or audience of the events.

FAIM continues to bring out the spirit of *bayanihan* even overseas through its various causes and charity work on the island and back home. Notably, FAIM has provided cash and in-kind assistance to calamity-stricken communities in the Philippines. It sent urgent financial aid through the Christ's Commission Fellowship (CCF) for the affected and displaced families due to the Taal Volcano eruption; to the Government of Kidapawan City medical outreach program for the residents affected by the earthquake; for the Hope Project for the construction of the Gracious God School in Leyte; and to Xavier University in Cagayan de Oro for the recovery efforts and community building initiatives for Typhoon Sendong survivors. FAIM's island-wide appeal and close coordination with the Manx Government likewise resulted in the almost P10 million financial assistance linked through the UK Disasters Emergency Committee, which benefited Filipino communities affected by Typhoons Yolanda and Ondoy.

FAIM believes that Filipino *bayanihan* knows no boundaries and nationalities. The

Manx people strongly felt this spirit through the generous support given by FAIM to the community. Financial donations were made by FAIM to various institutions in the Isle of Man to support different causes for families living with cancer, research and awareness campaign by those affected by cancer, and provide care and advice for people with Parkinson's disease. FAIM helped finance the outdoor play equipment for school children and supported the development, education, and cultural school projects. Likewise, it provided financial support for the construction of houses in the Philippines, provided food and clothes for homeless community members, and enabled assistance to people with learning disabilities.

Since its establishment, FAIM has also been instrumental in assisting the Embassy of the Philippines in London in its various activities for the Filipino community in the Isle of Man. The Embassy, with the support of FAIM, organized several Philippine consular outreach missions. These include overseas voting mobile registration, passport application and renewal, civil registration (reports of birth, marriage, and death), notarization and legal services, application for visa for those traveling to the Philippines, retention and re-acquisition of Philippine citizenship application, assistance to nationals, and Social Security System and Pag-IBIG Fund membership.

In conferring the Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino Award to The Filipino Association in the Isle of Man (FAIM), the President recognizes its steadfast dedication to promoting stronger ties between the Filipino and Manx communities through philanthropy and cultural exchanges and its laudable relief assistance efforts in calamity-affected communities in the Philippines.



THE FILIPINO CATHOLIC SOCIETY OF THE DIOCESE OF CALGARY (FCSDC)

Canada

Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.” – Colossians 3:2

The Filipino Catholic Society of the Diocese of Calgary (FCSDC) began as a small informal group that stemmed from the appeal of Filipino-Canadians in Calgary to have a monthly Filipino mass in 1986. From a mustard seed of an idea, its founders chose to extend their vision across the ocean and translate it to compassion and benevolence back in their home country. And for more than three decades, this society has quietly worked behind the scene, delivering goodwill, charity, and hope to those who need it.

The secrets of the FCSDC’s longevity are the people’s passion and faith. These bind the members together to do God’s will and practice His teachings. All are enlightened and transformed in God’s infinite love and mercy, outpoured in concrete works of charity. This is why FCSDC prides itself on its principles of inclusivity, ecumenism, and demonstrated generous acts. The organization always seeks to answer what needs can be immediately addressed based on spiritual strengthening and timely response to the least fortunate and needy, to be able to help them stand on their feet and restore their human dignity.

After the Canadian Government approved FCSDC’s registration as a charitable organization in 1991, its first mission was to provide monetary support to seminarians for their theological studies until their graduation. A thorough review of the candidates’ academic credentials

and demonstration of commitment to their calling are regularly conducted. The Society is also heavily involved in ensuring the scholars will complete their studies. Since then, FCSDC has assisted more than 50 seminarians from numerous seminaries around the Philippines, who became full-pledged, ordained priests. For the 2019-2020 school year, recipients were 10 seminarians from six seminaries.

The ordained priests serve their communities by inspiring the parishioners through their leadership in sustaining spiritual guidance and keeping the community’s faith. The organization helped not only Filipino seminarians but also numerous parishes in the Philippines. It was able to give almost Php 700,000.00 for the construction and renovations of several churches in the country.

In 1994, FCSDC started its next mission of providing support to orphans and abandoned street children in the Philippines. The organization makes sure that the younger generations are provided with necessities in their growth and development as responsible citizens. Like the seminarian beneficiaries, orphanages are screened and chosen from all over the Philippines, and the same comprehensive screening process is followed. The administrators of these orphanages are regularly updated on the incoming support and in turn, they report to the FCSDC the success stories of the children.

Through the monetary donation of FCSDC, an orphanage was able to provide the school and educational needs of the orphans. Young victims of human trafficking also finished their college education because of the untiring support of the organization to their shelter. Several orphanages and non-profit organizations benefited from the organization’s contributions amounting to more than Php1,000,000.00.

FCSDC will never forget the heart-rending victims of disasters and natural calamities. With hopes quashed and faiths shaken, FCSDC’s helping hands lifted them from the scary darkness to radiant lights of hope. Through a partnership with various parishes all over the Philippines, FCSDC was able to deliver support to the victims of major calamities amounting to more than Php 800,000.

While helping Filipino communities in the Philippines, FCSDC also supports *kababayans* in Alberta. It collaborates with other organizations when Filipinos in Alberta are hit with misfortunes such as death, accidents, hospitalization, or family problems. Usually, newcomers and temporary foreign workers are recipients of this aid and support.

FCSDC is well respected and known within the Calgary Filipino community, as well as the mainstream Canadian community. The Philippine Consulate of Calgary and FCSDC are also staunch partners in community relations for the betterment of Filipinos, and in any social and charitable events such as the Philippine Heritage Month and Fiesta Filipino Celebrations. Help and support by FCSDC are in the form of attendance, participation, promotion and synergies while operating within the guidelines of its Constitution.

In conferring the Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino Award to The Filipino Catholic Society of the Diocese of Calgary (FCSDC), the President recognizes its goodwill and generosity through philanthropic projects to support the education of seminarians and the construction of churches, as well as its exemplary deeds of charity for the young and victims of natural calamities.

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.

PAMANA NG PILIPINO

Awardees

Russ Patrick P. Alcedo - Canada / Kalibo, Aklan
Glenda Lynna Anne B. Tibe-Bonifacio - Canada / Tacloban City, Leyte
Josefino C. Comiso - United States of America / Narvacan, Ilocos Sur
Sheila Maria A. Conejos - Singapore / Ormoc City, Leyte
Danilo M. Favor - United Kingdom / Pili, Camarines Sur
Glenn F. Fernandez - China / Pagadian, Zamboanga del Sur
Laura D. Garcia - United States of America / Butuan City, Agusan del Norte
Pamela D. Gotangco - Switzerland / Rizal, Nueva Ecija
Aurtenciano R. Miranda, Jr. - Italy / Surigao City, Surigao del Norte
Ronaldo B. Nilo - Qatar / Cauayan City, Isabela
Caroline B. Ong - China / Bacolod City, Negros Occidental
Glenn D. Pascual - United States of America / Floridablanca, Pampanga
Lord Leomer B. Pomperada - United States of America / San Jose, Antique
Karen Graciles L. Remo - United Arab Emirates / Cuenca, Batangas
Albert Remus R. Rosana - Canada / Sta. Cruz, Laguna
Leorey N. Saligan - United States of America / Cagayan de Oro, Misamis Oriental
Walter S. Villagonzalo - Australia / Cebu City, Cebu



RUSS PATRICK P. ALCEDO

Canada

Hometown: Kalibo, Aklan

For Dr. Russ Patrick P. Alcedo, taking up a doctoral degree in the United States in 1996 proved to be the key to pursuing his real passion. He went to the US as an English major graduate of the University of the Philippines but received a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree in dance history and theory from the University of California, Riverside (UC-Riverside). While studying for his PhD, Dr. Alcedo became a researcher, dance reconstructor, and documentary filmmaker – his various jobs pulling him in the same direction and affirming his love for dancing.

For Dr. Alcedo, dancing had always been a lifeline even before he left the Philippines. As a boy growing up in Kalibo, Aklan, the modest fees he received for his dancing helped ease the family’s financial situation.

His love for dance was nurtured when he was growing up in a diverse town that celebrated the creativity, power and beauty of dance. Kalibo is host to the original and authentic Ati-atihan Festival celebrating the feast of the child Jesus. Unlike other festivals, the Ati-atihan celebrates originality, creativity and spontaneity.

Dr. Alcedo’s interest in dance was sparked by his sister. Accompanying her to dance rehearsals, his love for the art form grew as he watched his sister. It grew stronger when he was later asked to join the performance and dance with his sister. His commitment to his art brought Dr. Alcedo from the small stage of Kalibo, appreciated by a hometown audience, to bigger performance venues, seen by a more diverse international crowd.

The hard work, discipline dance and academic work require does not faze him. Waking up at 2 a.m. to study and prepare himself for the rigorous dance routines may be hard, but Dr. Alcedo knows success requires determination and sacrifice, not just talent and skills.

Dr. Alcedo has also been successful in imparting his love for dance to his young students. His passion for his art and his commitment to spark that same enthusiasm for dancing in his students has brought him multiple awards as a professor.

Three years after his arrival in Toronto, York University gave him the 2011 Faculty of Fine Arts Teaching Award. The fact that the award was given through a nomination by his own students makes it one of the biggest and most meaningful honors he has received.

In 2014, he was a recipient of the Government of Ontario’s Early Researcher Awards (ERA), the first and only researcher in the field of dance to be recognized with such a highly competitive award. Dr. Alcedo was honored for his investigation into the pivotal role of the Philippine folk dance in the formation of Filipino identity in Canada. The ERA is a highly competitive grant program that helps exceptional early career researchers build their research teams. Applicants must also demonstrate the research’s strategic value to Ontario.

York University bestowed on him in 2016 another distinction, the Senior Faculty Teaching Award. The institution was impressed by Dr. Alcedo’s enthusiasm as a teacher, and the positive feedback from both undergraduate and graduate students, as well as fellow academics. Students described him “an inspirational teacher, who creates a valuable space in and out of the classroom for theoretical engagement”. His dedication and innovation techniques were also highlighted.

In 2019, he received from York University the President’s University-wide Teaching Award for significantly enhancing the quality of learning and demonstrating innovation in teaching. According to the nominators, Dr. Alcedo exemplified pedagogical excellence and played an active role in curricular change, as well as providing leadership. They added that Dr. Alcedo’s shift from Western ballet and modern/contemporary dance to global forms such as Philippine folk dance enhanced diversity and inclusivity.

Dr. Alcedo was as honored as a dancer, as he was as a teacher. In 2014, the Fulbright Association presented Dr. Alcedo the prestigious Selma Jeanne Cohen Award for Dance and Dance Studies. The Selma Jeanne Cohen Fund for International Scholarship on Dance provides a dance researcher or practitioner the opportunity to present a major paper or interdisciplinary presentation, based on research or a body of accomplished work, at the Fulbright Association’s annual conference.

As a specialist in Philippine dance, Dr. Alcedo’s research explores the intimate but paradoxical relationship between folk festival production and notions of cultural authenticity, with the goal of preserving traditional, communal expressions of cultural heritage that adopted and adapted the forces of modernity.

Dr. Alcedo sought a broader audience for his concepts and theories on how dance can tackle various issues through his award-winning films. His documentary films demonstrate that dancing can be an avenue for higher discourse on such important and profound issues as race ethnicity and nationalism.

While Philippine folk dance has been taught and promoted by different groups around the world, Dr. Alcedo has developed a unique body of work that explains the cultural importance of Filipino

folk dance as an art form. As a scholar, he not only teaches or studies dance, but also popularizes the art form as a medium for cultural expression. He has been a driving force for increasing public recognition of Philippine culture and arts, succeeding time and again in elevating their prominence and integrity for both new and longstanding audiences.

Dr. Alcedo’s works are remarkably multidisciplinary. The works encompass excellence in three distinct fields of artistic and academic achievement: (a) his written scholarship that stands out for its exploration of indigenous, religious and regional identities in the Philippines; (b) his direction of dance performances that brought Filipino folk dances to live audiences, and has integrated groups into the academic world; and (c) his documentary film-making that has drawn many accolades, including prestigious film festival awards.

Dr. Alcedo’s feature-length documentary film, “A Piece of Paradise” film-documentary, won a pair of awards at the Toronto Reel Asian International Film Festival in 2017 - the Centennial Best Canadian Film Award and National Bank First Feature Award. The documentary featured three Filipino women who built their lives as immigrants and household service workers in Canada.

In 2019, his film “Dancing Manilenyos” won an Impact Doc Award, Spotlight Documentary Film Award, Global Shorts Award of Merit and Hollywood International Independent Documentary Award. It was also officially selected at three international film festivals: Toronto Reel Asian International Film Festival in 2018, the Ethnografilm in Paris, France in 2019, and the Diversity in Cannes Short Film Showcase, also in 2019. The film addresses the potential of dance to fight poverty and to use choreography against elitism.

Dr. Alcedo’s works critically deal with issues of race, ethnicity and class background. His films showcase Filipino culture, empower the underprivileged and, in his own words, “grip the heart.” His inspiring teachings has made a lasting impact on his academic journey and success.

For Dr. Alcedo, “having a passion for what you do is important because it’s what will sustain you through challenging times, and it’s that passion that will drive you to make a difference.”

In conferring the Pamana ng Pilipino Award to Russ Patrick P. Alcedo, the President recognizes his exceptional works in the academe, and fields of dancing and filmmaking that speak of issues of race, ethnicity, and class background that empower the underprivileged and showcase Filipino culture and arts for both new and longstanding audiences.



GLENDALYNNA ANNE B. TIBE-BONIFACIO

Canada

Hometown: Tacloban City, Leyte

The advent of digital and information technology has made most information available to anyone at any time. It has also revolutionized communication and access to knowledge. While it is convenient to access valuable sources of information at the tip of your fingers, it is critical to have scholars who search for new information and contribute to developing knowledge in a field of study.

For someone who has an insatiable thirst for knowledge in her field, Dr. Glenda Lynna Anne B. Tibe-Bonifacio certainly plays her part in academic research. She is a Full Professor of Women and Gender Studies at the University of Lethbridge (U of L) in Alberta, Canada, and an active Research Affiliate of the Prentice Institute for Global Population and Economy. Her field of expertise in research includes women, gender, migration, globalization, and religion. She has also authored and edited books on various topics related to gender and migration.

According to Dr. Bonifacio, women studies is one of the best fields of study as it covers various disciplines—politics, economics, science, philosophy, among others—as gleaned from the standpoint of women or gender. As a Professor at U of L, she relishes designing courses and enjoys being inspired by the difference she makes in the lives of her students. As the Chair of U of L's Department of Women and Gender Studies, she spearheads various programs and projects including *Samwak*, a community speaker series held every semester that showcases the new research projects of graduate students, undergraduate honors students, faculty members, and community professionals; and *Sanay*, an intensive presentation skills workshop offered to undergraduate and graduate students to enhance their skills in public speaking.

Dr. Bonifacio's publications use the gender lens to analyze the experiences of Filipino women in transnational contexts. She is the author of "Pinay on the Prairies: Filipino Women and Transnational Identities." Based

on interviews with first-generation immigrant Filipino women and temporary foreign workers in Canada, this book explores how the shared experience of migration forms the basis for new identities, communities, transnational ties, and multiple levels of belonging in Canada.

Her edited works reveal her expertise in a wide gamut of topics in Asian migration studies. These include four internationally-published works: *Global Youth Migration and Gendered Modalities*; *Global Currents in Gender and Feminisms: Canadian and International Perspectives*; *Gender and Rural Migration: Realities, Conflict and Change*; and *Feminism and Migration: Cross-Cultural Engagements*.

On top of these, she co-edited the following four publications: *Women and Religion: Contemporary and Future Challenges in the Global Era*; *Canadian Perspectives on Immigration in Small Cities*; *Migrant Domestic Workers and Family Life*; and *Gender, Religion, and Migration: Pathways of Integration*.

As an advocate of equity and racial justice, Dr. Bonifacio co-founded in 2017 the Support Network for Academics of Colour or SNAC in Lethbridge. Its goal is to provide support and assistance for students, faculty, and staff who find themselves in difficult situations because of their race or ethnicity.

True to her word that global education is critical to youth development, she organized her first summer field course in the Philippines in 2015 for her 14 Canadian students. During their month-long stay in her hometown Tacloban, the students visited government agencies, non-government organizations working in the area, evacuation centers, and women cooperatives, among others.

Moreover, along with other Filipino women and Canadian friends in Lethbridge, she established ReadWorld Foundation in 2014. By collecting, organizing, and shipping books to impoverished communities in the Philippines, the foundation aims to support the rebuilding of library resources in schools and universities affected by disasters in the Philippines. Since its establishment, ReadWorld has sent about 200 boxes of books to various regions in the Philippines.

Dr. Bonifacio's professional work in research and teaching intersects with her commitment to community service. From gender and women's studies, she also engages in post-disaster studies. In 2019, she was one of the U of L's faculty members and graduate students who received funding from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), a Canadian federal research funding agency that promotes and supports postsecondary-based research and training in the humanities and social sciences. Her project, however, is currently on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions on conducting fieldwork with graduate students. It is projected to resume in summer 2022 to cover the islands of Leyte, Cebu, and Bohol.

She has also received the Alberta Rural Development Network Fund to organize the workshop and symposium on women in rural Alberta participated in by students, community organizations, policymakers, and elected municipal officials in the province of Alberta.

Just recently, Dr. Bonifacio was awarded the FY2021 Japan Society for the Promotion of Science Invitational Fellowships for Research in Japan (long term) for her research entitled "Migrants' Experiences of the Pandemic: A Comparative Study of Filipino Migrants in Japan and Canada".

In 2015, she was named one of the 100 Influential Filipina Women in the World by the Filipina Women's Network (FWN). In 2012, she was conferred the Immigrant Achievement Award by the Lethbridge Family Services.

Dr. Bonifacio is a renowned scholar with thematic expertise in areas related to her homeland—with emphasis on diversity, equity, and inclusion. In addition to her prominence as a scholar, she is known for her excellent teaching methods that benefit the academic community.

In conferring the Pamana ng Pilipino Award to Glenda Lynna Anne B. Tibe-Bonifacio, the President recognizes her exemplary achievements in research on women, gender and development, migration, and religion.



JOSEFINO C. COMISO

United States of America

Hometown: Narvacan, Ilocos Sur

Arctic sea ice loss has been an unmistakable sign of climate change for the last thirty-some years. The phenomenon has a severe impact on the Arctic region up to down south given Earth's interconnected system. It has caused faster global warming, rising sea levels and extreme natural disasters in recent years. Undeniably, the study of the Polar Regions has become increasingly critical in understanding and mitigating the effects of climate change.

For polar studies, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the world's pioneer in space exploration, scientific discovery, and aeronautics, turns to tropics-bred Filipino scientist Dr. Josefino C. Comiso, one of the world's leading experts on polar science.

Hailing from Narvacan, Ilocos Sur, Dr. Comiso graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Physics degree from the University of the Philippines (UP) and was immediately offered a job at the Philippine Atomic Research Center. He then went on to teach at UP then traveled to the United States in 1964 to pursue a Master's degree at the Florida State University. He earned a Doctor of Philosophy degree in 1972 from the University of California where he became an Assistant Research Physicist. He moved to the University of Virginia in 1973 for a post-doctoral position.

In the early 1970s, Dr. Comiso learned about the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center's growing program on climate change. He started working at NASA indirectly as a Computer Science Corporation Senior Consultant then was hired as a Physical Scientist of NASA's Earth Science Directorate that was then involved in studying climate change processes. At NASA, he studies the global climate and environmental changes of the Polar Regions and sea ice, as observed from space through remote sensing techniques.

Dr. Comiso began working with other scientists on a project that used data from the Nimbus-5 satellite. This resulted in the first Atlases of Antarctic and Arctic sea ice. He has also undertaken considerable independent research, notably the creation in the 1980s of an algorithm for sea ice concentration calculations, which he developed further in later years. This algorithm is currently used by NASA and the Japan Aeronautics Exploration Agency (JAXA), European Space Agency (ESA) and other such organizations to put together satellite climate data sets on sea ice.

To further validate his algorithm studies, Dr. Comiso has done fieldwork in the Antarctic and Arctic regions, Alaska, and Greenland. Notably, he was a member of the first winter cruise in the Antarctic in 1986 on board the RV Polarstern that studied the Weddell Polynya (an irregular area of open water surrounded by sea ice in

the Weddell Sea) and provided the first opportunity for marine and physical oceanographers to fill in extensive knowledge gaps about the region. Since then, he has served as Principal Investigator or Chief Scientist of succeeding scientific cruises and aircraft missions in the Arctic and Antarctic that included a flight over a nuclear submarine near the North Pole.

Using satellite data on sea ice, Dr. Comiso published in 2002 a groundbreaking study showing that the perennial sea ice in the Arctic was shrinking at a much faster rate than expected. The following year, he observed that the temperature in the Arctic was rising three times faster than global average, primarily due to the ice-albedo feedback, a process where a change in the area of ice caps, glaciers, and sea ice alters the albedo and surface temperature of a planet.

These landmark discoveries meant great scientific and societal importance and impact. They indicated that the sea ice cover in the Arctic was declining rapidly, and less ice meant further warming and disturbance of global climate patterns. His findings ratcheted up the urgency of studying the Arctic sea ice and led to greater recognition of the vulnerability of the Arctic and the certainty of climate change in the area.

Dr. Comiso also expanded his sea ice work to look at other climate variables such as phytoplankton concentrations and surface temperatures of land, ice, and oceans. He later wrote the book "Polar Oceans from Space" that provided valuable insights into the current state of the polar environment and processes that govern the Earth's climate system.

Dr. Comiso's study of sea ice, global climate, and environmental changes resulted in around 143 published papers, eight books (authored or co-authored) and 22 chapters in other books. His papers are frequently and highly cited, with a total of more than 28,507 citations. He served as a member of the editorial staff of several journals and book publications and of several committees and panels related to scientific and international projects such as the "Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 2007 Report" that won half the Nobel Peace Prize in 2007 and IPCC 2013 Report, regarded as one of the most authoritative documents on climate change.

The recognition of the scientific merit of Dr. Comiso's studies is evident in the many newspaper articles, international and local speaking engagements, and numerous television and radio coverage of his work.

Dr. Comiso believes it is important to return to the Philippines and share knowledge that could help improve the country. For many years, he has been an active participant of the Balik Scientist Program (BSP) of the Department of Science and Technology. Leveraging his experience as a NASA scientist, he tirelessly shared his expertise in using satellite data to address pressing national concerns brought about by the changing climate and environment through various seminars and lectures in several institutions in the country. He has collaborated closely with local scientists and enabled joint publications of scholarly books and book chapters, and mentored and inspired many young Filipino scientists to follow his lead

and pursue various research activities on climate change and the environment.

Dr. Comiso popularized remote sensing technology by helping establish the Philippine Remote Sensing Society. He was instrumental in developing some algorithms for remote sensing applications in the Philippine scenario. He also played a vital role in helping the Philippines become a space-capable and space-faring nation by providing valuable contributions in defining the missions of the country's DIWATA-1, DIWATA-2, and MULA satellites. With the establishment of the Philippine Space Agency, he shares his expertise and guidance as the agency develops its National Space Program.

For his achievements, Dr. Comiso was awarded the NASA in Exceptional Scientific Achievement Medal, the highest honor bestowed on its own scientist by NASA. He has also consistently received other NASA recognitions, including the NASA Career Achievement Award, numerous NASA Group Achievement Awards, NASA Performance Awards, and NASA Special Act Awards.

His other notable recognitions include Hall of Fame Award by the Philippine-American Academy of Science and Engineering (PAASE); NASA Hydrosphere, Biosphere and Geophysics Division Best Paper Award; Balik Scientist Program Award; MARQUIS Who's Who A Lifetime Achiever; Election as Corresponding Member of the Philippine National Academy of Science and Technology; Contributing Author of the IPCC 2007 Report that won half of the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize; UPAA Distinguished Achievement Award in Science and Technology (UP Alumni Association); Father Burgos Achievement Award; Narvacaneo Outstanding Achievement in Science; PhilDevUSA Award of Excellence in Science and Engineering; Congressional Citation in PH Senate for work in Climate Change; Pan-Ocean Remote Sensing Conference Outstanding Achievement in Science Award; Most Distinguished Alumnus of UP; Circle of Leaders' 20 Outstanding Filipino-Americans; PAASE Founder's Lectureship Award for Science; and Filipino Image Magazine's 20 Outstanding Filipino-Americans.

Dr. Comiso continues to work as a Senior Research Scientist Emeritus at NASA and Adjunct Professor at UP, researching reforestation and deforestation, drought vulnerability and trends; and monitoring environmental pollution in lakes and watersheds in the Philippines.

In conferring the Pamana ng Pilipino Award to Josefino C. Comiso, the President recognizes his pioneering achievements in Polar science, which significantly influenced the world's understanding of the sea ice region and climate change, and for his commitment and invaluable contributions in facilitating knowledge and technology transfer to the Motherland, which raised the country's environmental science and space capability.



SHEILA MARIA A. CONEJOS

Singapore

Hometown: Ormoc City, Leyte

Moreover, her journal publication entitled “Green Maintainability Design Criteria for Nanostructured Titanium Dioxide (TiO₂) Façade Coatings” received the Emerald 2018 Literati Award for Highly Commended Paper.

With these accomplishments, she built herself to become an invaluable part of the STEM field. Colleagues and organizations tap her to provide critical insights on architecture, urban planning, and the environment. She was featured as an expert by Channel News Asia and Mediacorp Channel 5 to give views on the accidental clearing of the Kranji Forest Land in Singapore. She was also featured on The Strait Times to provide observations in the Dover Forest Conservation and Development. She is invited as a key resource speakers in conferences and seminars.

Her stellar work did not go unnoticed. In 2020, she received the United Architects of the Philippines (UAP) National Award for Outstanding Member (Foreign-based). In July of 2019, she was awarded a Special Recognition for her significant contributions and dedicated service to the Philippine organization in Singapore and the UAP, Singapore Chapter. She also received a Presidential Award of Merit from the UAP-Singapore Chapter. Finally, she was included in the 2015 Who’s Who in the World for her outstanding achievement in her field and significant contribution to the betterment of contemporary society.

With great passion, she promotes the concept of “adapt + maintain + sustain + circulate” of the built environment for a sustainable and resilient future. She serves as an excellent example of what it takes to be a career woman and is a true testament to the brilliance of Filipinas.

The progression of ideas and beliefs mutually accompanies the progress of time. In particular, society has seen the growing inclusion of women in traditionally male-dominated fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Women prove to be just as capable of and valuable to matters of deep intellectual thinking.

Dr. Ar. Sheila Maria A. Conejos is a prime example of a woman making significant inroads in the STEM field. Based in Singapore, this Filipina has 25 years of multi-disciplinary professional and academic experience. She is a licensed architect, urban and regional planner, forensic architect, heritage manager, and sustainable development specialist in tropical Asia.

She was born in Ormoc City, Leyte, on September 27, 1969. She received her Bachelor of Science in Architecture from the University of San Carlos, Cebu, in 1991. Before moving to Singapore, she worked for various architectural and engineering companies in the Philippines and managed Conejos Designs and Development, Incorporated. Despite already having a career as an architect, she sought to expand her knowledge and pursued further studies abroad. In 1996, she qualified for the Royal Government of Netherlands Scholarship Award, which allowed her to study Master of Science in Urban Development Planning and Environmental Management at the Asian Institute of Technology in Thailand. In 2013, she graduated with a Doctor of Philosophy in Sustainable Development and Architecture from Bond University, Australia.

With her rich educational background and work experience, it is no surprise that she is a sought-after academic professor who can shape the young minds of the next generation. She is the first Filipino faculty member hired by the Singapore University of Social Sciences (SUSS). Although she entered the university only in February of 2020, she became the Head

of Programme of the Bachelor of Science in Facilities and Events Management in July of the same year. Then, she became the Head of Programme of the Bachelor of Science in Facilities Management in February 2021 and Head of Programme of the Graduate Diploma in Facilities Management in July 2021.

In line with her career as an academic, she dedicates a significant amount of effort to research, contributing to the growing body of literature in architecture, urban planning, and sustainability. In her doctorate program at Bond University, her dissertation was entitled “Designing for Future Building Adaptive Reuse.” She developed and tested a new multi-criteria decision-making model suitable for evaluating the adaptability of a new design called ‘adaptSIAR.’ Her research bagged the Chartered Institute of Buildings (CIOB) Research Excellence Award upon graduation. She has presented her PhD research output in Hong Kong, Italy, and Brazil. As of July 2021, she has published a number of articles in journals and conference proceedings, two books, and one book chapter.

She also became a researcher at the Department of Building and Real Estate of Hong Kong Polytechnic University and the Centre for Integrated Building Energy and Sustainability in the Tropics, Department of Building, School of Design and Environment of the National University of Singapore. In 2019, she presented her research at the International Conference on Sustainable Built Environment in Seoul, South Korea, and the International Conference on Durability of Materials and Components in Spain, where she was the only Filipino forensic architect/urban planner and academic speaker at these conferences.

A true embodiment of her research acumen is her published works in her many years as a professional. She has authored and co-authored several peer-reviewed scientific papers in journals and conference proceedings and books and book chapters. Notably, her book entitled “Design for Maintainability: Benchmarks for Quality Buildings” was used as a reference by Spring Singapore in devising a new National Standard on Maintainability of Facilities and was showcased as one of the exemplary works by Filipino architects at the National Architecture Day Exhibit.

In conferring the Pamana ng Pilipino Award to Sheila Maria A. Conejos, the President recognizes her academic and research achievements, which provided critical knowledge and advancements in the field of architecture and environmental sustainability.



DANILO M. FAVOR
 United Kingdom
 Hometown: Pili, Camarines Sur

Danilo M. Favor always dedicated his time and effort to public service, especially for his local community in the United Kingdom. He was born in Pili, Camarines Sur, and graduated from the University of Saint Anthony in Iriga City, where he finished his nursing degree in 1980. He passed the licensure exam that same year, which started his career in the field of healthcare.

In 2000, he and his wife decided to migrate to the UK and became residents of East Grinstead. They are both employed as nurses at Queen Victoria Hospital NHS Foundation.

Aside from his job as a nurse, he also serves as a Town Councillor for the East Grinstead. He has held that position since 2011 and is serving his 3rd term until 2023. He was appointed as Deputy Mayor for a year, from 2018 until 2019, then Mayor from 2019 until 2020 becoming the first Filipino to become Councillor and Mayor in the United Kingdom and Europe.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the East Grinstead Town Council, under his Chairmanship as Mayor, formed a Voluntary Action Group to respond to the needs and calls of vulnerable people. The Emergency Action Group consisted of volunteers from the council staff, councillors, community group leaders, and members. They delivered prescriptions, medicines, groceries, among others. He provided financial donations and delivered free food and groceries to the vulnerable sector of the community.

During his tenure as mayor, he supported three charities. The first charity was The Queen Victoria Hospital Charity,

a community hospital that provides burns and plastic reconstructive surgeries, ophthalmology, and trauma services. His support paved the way for the improvement of the hospital facilities, upgrading of equipment, funding of research, and development of new treatments for patients. His second charity was the East Grinstead Community First Responders, a team of residents who voluntarily respond to emergency calls within the locality. The group collaborates with the South East Coast Ambulance Service intending to respond to Category A 999 calls within 8 minutes. The group often arrives before the ambulance service and provides first aid treatments. Lastly, he supported the East Grinstead Street Pastors Youth Community Support Project, a group of volunteers working together with the police to patrol the streets of the town in response to urban problems, anti-social behavior, engaging with people to help. The charities are all focused on making high-quality health care accessible to the people of East Grinstead.

In support of his chosen charities during his mayoral year, he spearheaded six fundraising events. These fundraising events were able to raise £12,042.42. The total amount was divided equally among his main beneficiaries, each receiving £4,014.14. Aside from the funds raised, he also received a huge donation from a very generous organization that gave a cheque amounting to £50,000 with an additional £12,500. This amount was donated to the Queen Victoria Hospital, which received a total of £66,514.14.

Aside from his accomplishments as a Chairman of the Town, he also organized various charity works in England and in the Philippines, and had numerous contributions as a nurse. At the Queen Victoria Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, he is considered an expert and leader in his field. He has a track record of delivering clinical excellence, providing optimum patient experience professionally through direct nursing care. He is passionate about ophthalmic nursing and genuinely

wants the best for his patients. He actively participates in quality research initiatives, performs regular patient satisfactory audits, promotes evidence-based practice, and takes all opportunities to use current research to enrich his practice.

As his career progressed, he was assigned to leadership roles in wards and teams. As a leader, he has a kind, caring, and considerate disposition that endears him to his team members and colleagues. He acts as a mentor and assessor for staff and students in various areas of development. He is a leader who supports team members by acting as a role model and contributes to debates within the multi-professional team about the future of ophthalmic care within the organization.

For his numerous endeavors, he has been recognized for his achievements and dedicated service to the public. Some of his notable awards include the 2014 Presidential Banaag Award of the Republic of the Philippines, and the 2017 Outstanding Filipino Worker conferred by the Federation of Filipino Communities and Associations in Italy and Europe. For his achievements in the hospital, he received recognition for successfully passing a non-medical prescribing course in 2017, Certificate of Recognition for 20 Years of Continuous Service to the Trust, Essential Leadership Certificate, and a Nurse-Led Post-Operative Cataract Clinic Recognition.



In conferring the Pamana ng Pilipino Award to Danilo M. Favor, the President recognizes his excellence as a Town Councillor and Mayor of East Grinstead and as a professional nurse at the Queen Victoria Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, where he dedicated his time and efforts to be of service to the public in England and the Philippines.





GLENN F. FERNANDEZ

China

Hometown: Pagadian, Zamboanga del Sur

Almost five decades ago, one of the worst disasters in the history of the Philippines hit the Moro Gulf region and claimed the lives of around 8,000 people. The tsunami affected the coastal areas of Cotabato City, Zamboanga City, Lebak in Sultan Kudarat, and Pagadian, the hometown of Dr. Glenn F. Fernandez. Heartbreaking stories of the devastating impacts of that 1976 disaster in Mindanao prompted him to pursue graduate studies in disaster risk management.

As Japan is the world leader in disaster studies, Dr. Fernandez planned to learn from the best disaster scientists in Japan and apply his acquired knowledge and skills in the Philippines. In 2009, he obtained scholarship from the Japan Ministry of Education (Monbukagakusho) to pursue his master's and doctorate studies in environmental management specializing in disaster risk management at the Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies at Kyoto University, which is consistently ranked among the best universities in the world.

He is currently an Associate Professor, a job he started in 2018, at the Institute for Disaster Management and Reconstruction (IDMR), Sichuan University – Hong Kong Polytechnic University. He developed IDMR's research program on the roles of youth organizations in disaster resilience and institutional research and educational collaborations in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries. He serves as focal person for IDMR research on business continuity management (BCM), disaster waste management, and science diplomacy. He also teaches undergraduate and graduate courses related to disaster management and reconstruction.

Dr. Fernandez is also an Integrated

Research on Disaster Risk Program (IRDR) Young Scientist. IRDR is a research program co-sponsored by the International Science Council (ISC) and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR). In 2018, he became a Japan Foundation Asia Center (JFAC) Fellow. In 2019, he was invited to be one of the section editors of the Progress in Disaster Science Journal published by Elsevier.

He previously worked as a researcher at the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) in Bangkok, Thailand; the Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies (GSGES) at Kyoto University in Japan; Tokyo Development Learning Center (TDLC), World Bank Tokyo Office; and Section of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Head Office in Paris, France.

Since 2009 he has been involved as principal investigator, coordinator, or researcher in numerous international research and capacity development projects related to disaster risk reduction. These include "Inclusion of Business Continuity Management into the Curricula of Business Schools in the Philippines," "Reviewing Five Decades of Japan's Science Diplomacy in Southeast Asia," "Developing Capacity for Post-Typhoon Disaster Waste Management in Coastal Cities in Fiji and the Philippines," "Youth Participation in the Recovery of Marawi, the Philippines After The 2017 Armed Siege", "Climate Change Education in the Philippines," among others. His research and capacity-building projects were also presented in several international academic conferences, training, and workshops. They have resulted in scientific publications and policy inputs, disaster preparedness plans, and, most importantly, local disaster risk management actions.

He is the founding President of U-INSPIRE Philippines and is now one of its mentors. U-INSPIRE is the new Asian platform for youth participation and leadership in disaster risk reduction (DRR)

established in Jakarta, Indonesia in 2019 with the help of UNESCO, and it now has 12 active chapters in the region.

In the last ten years, he has actively contributed to the scholarship on youth participation in DRR. He has published a book, book chapters, journal articles, and a handbook on disaster education. He strongly believes that the youth are not merely passive victims of disasters but can serve as important actors in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from disasters. His master's thesis and Ph.D dissertation for his graduate studies at Kyoto University investigated youth participation in DRR through science clubs in the Philippines and the *Sangguniang Kabataan*.

His advocacy towards youth involvement in DRR also manifests through public service programs. As early as in 2010, he proposed and eventually co-organized a national youth summer camp in Tagaytay with the theme: "Alert Level '10: The RESCUE (Resilient, Empowered Science Clubs even Under Emergency)." This was in partnership with the Philippine Society of Youth Science Clubs (PSYSC), Kyoto University, the Asian University Network of Environment and Disaster Risk Management (AUEDM), the UNDRR Bangkok Office, the UNESCO Jakarta Office, and PHIVOLCS.

For his expertise on DRR, he received several grants, fellowships, and awards, including the 2019 Sichuan University Outstanding Teaching Award, 2017 IRDR Young Scientist, and 2019 The Outstanding Young Men of the Philippines (TOYM).

In conferring the Pamana ng Pilipino Award to Glenn F. Fernandez, the President recognizes his outstanding contributions in disaster risk management and for being the leading champion of evidence-based youth participation in disaster risk reduction in the Philippines and Asia.



LAURA D. GARCIA

United States of America

Hometown: Butuan City, Agusan del Norte

Anurse by profession and a teacher by passion, Dr. Laura D. Garcia has managed to fit into one lifetime achievement that would take others several lifetimes to accomplish.

Taking up nursing at Silliman University and briefly working in Cebu right after graduation paved the way for Dr. Garcia to be recruited by the Long Island College Hospital in Brooklyn, New York when they came to interview nurses. That fortuitous event enabled Dr. Garcia to spread her wings wide in the US as a nurse and later as an educator.

Dr. Garcia established a long and distinguished career as a nurse clinician in various medical institutions providing quality patient care to clients. She has received numerous recognitions for three decades for the excellence that she has shown throughout her nursing career. Dr. Garcia was also appointed by the National League for Nursing Commission for Nursing Education Accreditation as an on-site evaluator and became Credentialed Epic Trainer from the NYU Langone Medical Center.

Working as a full-time nurse did not stop Dr. Garcia from pursuing her passion for education. She earned an additional degree in communication, two master's degrees in nursing, and a doctorate in nursing practice. Thus, in addition to her nursing career, Dr. Garcia also established another job as a nurse educator, teaching in various medical educational institutions in the East Coast.

Never one to forget her roots, Dr.

Garcia also devoted her time to her alma mater as she actively engaged in the Silliman University Alumni Association (the US and International) activities as a *balik talent* on numerous occasions. She cemented her legacy of bringing honor and excellence when the Silliman University College of Nursing Honor Society was chartered as the Psi Beta Chapter of the Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI) Honor Society.

Dr. Garcia was also a leader among the Filipino community of health professionals serving in various capacities as Editor-in-Chief of the Philippine Nurses Association of New Jersey's official newsletter, Public Relations Officer, and Board Member. She also took on multiple responsibilities with the National Federation of Filipino American Associations (NaFFAA) and its New York and Northeast Regions chapters.

Several recognitions from her peers and *kababayans* for her significant contribution and outstanding achievements in the nursing profession were bestowed on Dr. Garcia by the Philippine Nurses Association of America (PNAA) and its New Jersey and New York chapters.

In addition to honors and recognition from the medical professional community, Dr. Garcia was also recognized as one of the Ten Outstanding Butuanon Awardees during the *Balik Butuanon* Year in 2020 and the Distinguished Icon of Impact by the Junior Chamber International (JCI) Philippines – New York for clinical mentoring and leadership in professional nurse advancement whose exemplary qualities made noteworthy contributions to the betterment and welfare of local and international communities.

As an educator, Dr. Garcia received America's Finest Teacher Award *Ulirang*

Guro conferred by the Association of Fil-Am Teachers of America (AFTA), Inc., the Most Influential Teachers of the Year Award (*Gawad Akay*) from the United Federation of Fil-Am Educators (UNIFIED), and the Pan American Concerned Citizens Action League (PACCAL) 2015 Award as a Nurse Educator in Honor of Filipino American Influential Women and Women Achievers.

Her stature and influence in the community were also recognized when Dr. Garcia was appointed as a member of the Community Board District Five, which oversees the delivery of city services such as sanitation and street maintenance, planning and reviewing land use applications, and making recommendations for each year's city budget affecting its 1.6 million residents.

Dr. Garcia is known to have an outstanding track record in her nursing profession and as a clinical instructor, helping thousands of nursing students who eventually became frontliners and are significant contributors to the healthcare delivery system in the US and around the world. She is also a community leader who puts her heart in being a nurse, an educator, and serving the public, a staunch advocate for human rights, particularly on public health, family unity, and racism.



In conferring the Pamana ng Pilipino Award to Laura D. Garcia, the President recognizes her professional excellence and outstanding track record as a nurse and educator, as well as her remarkable social impact, and selfless service to her adopted country and the Motherland.





PAMELA D. GOTANGCO

Switzerland

Hometown: Rizal, Nueva Ecija

Pamela “Pam” D. Gotangco’s art is deeply anchored in all her advocacies – to empower all women and girls; and to promote Filipino culture, heritage, traditions, and its people. Dubbed as “*Maryang Pinay in Europe*,” she also aims to unite the Filipino migrants abroad by highlighting the beauty of the Filipino culture, art, and heritage in her pieces, as well as encourage Filipinos all over the world to showcase their talent and shine.

Ms. Gotangco has been working in the corporate world based in the Middle East and the USA for 15 years when she decided to retire and move to Switzerland with her husband in 2008. As she can better express her thoughts through drawing, her husband Mathias accumulated many drawings of her feelings for him. One day, her husband came home with a car full of art materials to encourage her to start painting. Eventually, her calling as an artist could no longer be denied after she had her first exhibition “Spring Frolic Art Show” from April to June 2010 at the ApART GründKulturCafe, Zurich, Switzerland.

As a proponent of equal opportunity for women, she draws insights from the role of women in our present society. Her signature style for her first series of artworks in 2009 to 2015 was figurative, feminine, faceless geisha, which she often painted as soft and effeminate figures merged with media that gave depth and texture. With her desire to give tribute to her roots and to represent the Philippines, a second series was born in 2016. “The Adventures of Maryang Pinay” became Ms. Gotangco’s homecoming exhibition in Manila which centers on a traditional Filipina figure set against either iconic figures from different art epochs or commercial brands that are popular among Filipinos. Showcasing Filipino cultures and what it means to be Filipina in the age of social media, the series is also her homage to defining characteristics of Filipino people: hospitality, adaptability, and humor. All the paintings in this series are incorporated with *lahar* or ash fall she collected in one of her vacations in the Philippines.

Her third series “*Katutubo*– Tribute to Filipino Indigenous Women” was an exhibition geared towards indigenous traditions and narratives by interweaving textual clues into traditional patterns in the garments of the subjects. For this exhibition, Ms. Gotangco illustrates indigenous personalities from the T’boli, B’laan, Manobo, Bagobo, Tausug,

Mangyan, Igorot, Yakan, and Aeta communities. The *Katutubo* series recognizes the Indigenous People’s Rights Act of 1997 (RA 8371) and aims for Filipino migrants to be reacquainted with the culture of our indigenous people and learn about their beautiful mythology. This series was exhibited at the Sentro Rizal of the Embassy of the Philippines in Berne, Switzerland in 2019. In the same year, the *Katutubo* Series also became the Artist’s Homecoming exhibition in Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija.

In her fourth series, Ms. Gotangco made use of dried frogs, repurposed from frog wallets that are a novelty item in a tourist spot in the Philippines. She dressed the frogs to show different personalities, mounted on a canvass frame that mimics a dating app’s interface. With hopes that her art will humorously warn men not to act like toads and for the women to be guarded when they seek love online, “Tindero Prince” is a local version of her “Tinder Prince” project that was first exhibited at Art 333 Gallery, Switzerland in 2016. A local solo exhibition “Ligawan: Frogs, Fairytales and Contemporary Romance” and an offshoot project of “Prince Char” exhibition were both held in Taguig City in 2019.

Since 2010, her works have been well received in Switzerland and abroad. She had 54 solo and group art shows in major cities worldwide including the Philippines. She has penetrated the international scene, as some of her works have been selected by well-known curators from famous museums and galleries. In 2012, her artwork was spotted by art historian and Kunsthau Zurich curator Mirjam Varadinis and was included in the World’s Largest Online Exhibition “100 Curators, 100 Days Project”, which recognized 1,000 contemporary arts by the Saatchi Online Gallery in London.

Adding to her accolades is the digital display of her work in Times Square New York during the Art Takes Time Square (2012). She has also participated in prestigious art fairs such as The 16th Art International Zurich at the Kongresshaus Zurich, Switzerland (2014); SCOPE Basel 2016 – International Contemporary Art Show at Arteponte Gallery, Basel, Switzerland (2016); the Caroussel du Louvre, Art Shopping in Paris, France (2016); and 7th World Peace Forum of the Filipino Contemporary Artists in Switzerland (2017).

A strong advocate of female empowerment, she conducted a Workshop on Women Empowerment through Art with 80 locals and migrant women of Ahlen, Germany in 2019. Likewise, she organized a “Self-Care” Project, an outreach program on women empowerment through self-care to the T’boli Community in South Cotabato in partnership with the Cooperative of Women Health and

Development (COWHED), Lake Sebu. Aside from the self-care kits sponsored by the HBC, they have also distributed school supplies to around 100 T’boli children in Lake Sebu and Lemuhan Cultural Dance Troupe Children in Kiamba, Saranggani. The Philippine Embassy in Berne has also invited her to speak during its 2018 Women’s Forum: Women and Resilience as part of its Women’s Month Celebration.

Her art has also been instrumental in her philanthropic works. Since 2012, Ms. Gotangco has been donating her artworks for auctions to support several non-profit projects that help the underprivileged in the Philippines. Her recent auctions benefited International Christian Ministries based in Hong Kong.

Her intense passion for promoting Filipino culture, traditions, and products is undeniable. Since 2011, she would always be seen incorporating traditional clothing and indigenous Filipino textile products in her outfit while attending social events and holding exhibitions. In addition, as a response to the problem posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, she founded *PamPinay* Clothing corporation. *PamPinay* started as a social project to provide income opportunities for women weavers, embroiderers and seamstresses in the Philippines.

Ms. Gotangco was included in the 100 Most Influential Filipina Woman – Innovator and Thought Leader Category by the Filipina Women’s Network in 2018. In 2019, she was awarded as Outstanding Filipina European Artist of the Year by the Federation of Filipino Communities and Associations in Italy and Europe International (FEDERFIL); Women Leadership Award during the 2019 World Women Leadership Congress in Dusit Hotel, Philippines.

She has also received a *Natatanging Parangal* from the Department of Tourism (DOT) and National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) of Nueva Ecija for her invaluable contribution to the arts, culture, and tourism in Nueva Ecija through her artworks “*Katutubo*”. A Plaque of Recognition commending Ms. Gotangco as International Visual Artiste par Excellence was also given by the Municipality of Rizal in Nueva Ecija.

In conferring the Pamana ng Pilipino Award to Pamela D. Gotangco, the President recognizes her excellence as a Visual Artist and exemplary passion for advocating women’s empowerment and promoting awareness and appreciation for indigenous Filipino culture through her figurative visual arts.



AURTENCIANO R. MIRANDA, JR.

Italy

Hometown: Surigao City, Surigao del Norte

Learning martial arts is not easy, much less teaching and popularizing it. This has been the passion of Filipino martial artist Mr. Aurtenciano R. Miranda, Jr. Since childhood, he learned the family-inherited *Arnis* system Kali Istukada Miranda System. He is well known in Italy and the Philippine martial arts world for offering *Arnis/Kali* courses and lessons to his students since 1989. He is an accredited Grand Master in Wushu Kung Fu Moderno specializing in Kali Filipino (*Arnis Kali Escrima*) by the ASI Italian Sports and Social Associations, a sports promotion body that is recognized by the *Comitato Olimpico Nazionale Italiano* (Italian National Olympic Committee).

With his background in martial arts and connections made with his students, he was also hired in several film productions in Italy as a stuntman. What started as a Sunday training routine in Villa Borge, Rome for him and his brother Jorg eventually led them to have their first set of students, consisting of ten Filipinos. Soon after, their students included athletes who wanted to learn and practice Filipino Martial Arts (FMA) every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. He usually has 40 students from different fields and nationalities on regular days, and on Sundays, he teaches around twenty Filipino students.

In 1993, he decided to move to a gym closer to his residence. At Judo Preneste Gym, he taught martial arts every day and worked with martial arts practitioners from other specializations like Judo and Karate. It was also then that he discovered an idea from the Japanese martial arts culture, which is “to teach while forming instructors.” Realizing it was the best way to promote FMA in Italy, he decided to form his group of FMA instructors.

In 2001, he started training Italian practitioners to be FMA instructors. He has conducted separate courses for coaches and aspiring instructors in 2004 and 2009. He

successfully established *Mandirigma Italia* or the Italian Federation of Filipino Martial Arts in 2007. He has also organized FMA stages and tournaments in Italy to further his mission of advancing FMA in the country, eventually paving the way for foreign practitioners to participate in tournaments in the Philippines. He and his team were able to participate during the World Kali-Sports tournament in Manila, Philippines in 2008; Italian Championship WFC-WAO 2011, *Campeonato Internacional de Eskrima* in Barcelona in 2012, European Championship GSB in 2019 at Anagni, Italy and many more.

Through Mr. Miranda’s passion and consistency to introduce FMA and his family-inherited martial arts system to the martial arts enthusiasts in Italy, he was able to establish connections with various Italian organizations and was invited to impart his expertise to their members. To name a few, he has conducted FMA classes for self-defense and close-counter combat to local state agencies like the Italian Army Logistics Command, State Police Officers Command, City of Rome, State Police Officers of Anti-Riot Squad Station, City of Bologna and Military Combat Method (MCM), Italian Army.

Seen as a public figure in the martial arts world, he has also been featured in several magazines and media outlets. He has collaborated with the Official Italian Army monthly magazine for an article about FMA. He was frequently featured on the Bruce Lee Kung Fu Magazine for FMA and his fighting style. Moreover, he was featured in the children’s magazine *Disney Street Shark* in 1998 on Sports.

Recognized for his dedication to encourage patriotism and promote volunteerism among his fellow Filipinos, Mr. Miranda was appointed as the Chairperson of *Kilusang Pagbabago* International Italy Chapter on January 10, 2018. After his appointment, he started various projects and partnerships that aimed to support his fellow OFWs and the Filipino youth in Italy. Through his initiative, the group organized free theoretical and practical self-defense classes for OFWs and migrants, and fitness programs available to all Filipinos. He has also partnered with an Italian organization, ASD SPARTA300, to execute ITEC, an educational project that offers free computer courses for Filipino youth, especially for unemployed youth from previously disadvantaged minorities.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Mr. Miranda, together with several Filipinos in Italy, and Italian organizations, namely Sparta300 and Fukyo ODV Protezione Civile, were commended by the Philippine Embassy in Rome for volunteering during COVID-19 relief efforts amid the surge of cases in Italy. He was one of the few who initiated repacking grocery items provided by the Municipio di Roma III and EU Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD) and delivered them to affected Filipino and Italian families. The team assisted over 120 families.

In his 30 years of experience in the field of martial arts, Mr. Miranda has won multiple awards during tournaments held in Italy and the Philippines. Furthermore, while being recognized as an important figure in the technical development of FMA in Italy, he has also participated in the advancement of FMA in his country of birth. Notably, he has received recognition during the 1st National *Arnis* Congress for his support in the promotion and advancement of *Arnis* in the country. He is one of the main supporters of Senate Bill No. 1424, which eventually passed into law on December 12, 2009, declaring *Arnis* as the Philippine National Sport. He has also continued promoting FMA in Italy by offering FMA workshops and free internships to all martial arts enthusiasts and accepting invitations to demonstrate FMA during public events in Rome.

Some of his notable awards and recognitions include the ASI National Diploma of Technical Qualification Grand Master in Wushu Kung Fu Moderno (Specialty: Kali Filipino) in 2019; Gold Category by the Unified World Association Martial Arts: The 300 Masters in *Arnis* in February 2016 and July 2014; and a Certificate of Recognition (for supporting Senate Bill 1424) in 2009.



In conferring the Pamana ng Pilipino Award to Aurtenciano R. Miranda Jr., the President recognizes his passion and dedication to popularizing Filipino Martial Arts in Europe and his excellence in the field of martial arts in Italy.





RONALDO B. NILO

Qatar

Hometown: Cauayan City, Isabela

various projects, including refineries, substations, factories, steel towers, bridges, marinas, diaphragm walls, pontoons, jetties, gazebos, yacht platforms, a buoy for anchor block setting, residential and commercial buildings. A Sugar Refinery Project in Jeddah provided him with his big break as a Project Engineer.

2012, 2011) and the President in 2015.

Under his presidency, PICE Qatar's newsletter, The Tekton, was revived and went into circulation, providing updates on the organization's affairs. Moreover, Engr. Nilo was set on improving the quality of Filipino engineers, so he led the organization in the conduct of 18 seminars and training equivalent to 6,276 CPD hours and SPLBE review classes for 81 PICE Qatar members. Finally, he brought the Chapter and its members into the next level of competency by intensifying the APEC and ASEAN Integration and Global Recognition campaign. Thus, 3 PICE Qatar members were recognized as ASEAN Chartered Professional Engineers, and 17 PICE Qatar members were successfully approved as ASEAN Engineers.

Engr. Nilo's dedication and skills were rewarded with numerous accolades throughout his long career. In 2020 and 2017, he received the Distinguished Service Award from PICE to recognize his service as the organization's President in 2015. He also received a Presidential Citation thrice (2019, 2018, 2016) from the same organization for his exemplary work. He was certified as an APEC Engineer by the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Philippines. He became a Registered Grade A Civil Engineer - Design and Supervision, granted by the Qatar Engineering and Consulting Offices Accrediting Committee. He was also recognized as an ASEAN Engineer by the ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organisations (AFEEO) Governing Board and ASEAN Chartered Professional Engineer. Through his demonstration of knowledge and understanding of green building practices and principles, he attained the designation of LEED Green Associate.

Currently, Engr. Nilo lives in Doha, Qatar, with his wife, Maria Flor, and children, Marie Joy, Archimedes, Bernoulli, and Clapeyron. He believes in creating a legacy through the structures he builds, hoping that they will safely serve their purpose and outlast their intended design life.

In conferring the Pamana ng Pilipino Award to Ronaldo B. Nilo, the President recognizes his stellar work in building world-class infrastructures and large-scale development projects in the Middle East.

High-rise buildings and systematically planned neighborhoods are the emblems of modern-day development and technology. As society advances, structures provide ease and comfort in everyday living and serve an aesthetic function, becoming tourist attractions and a source of pride for States. Combining practicality and beauty is no walk in the park and relies on an engineer's mastery of mathematics, metals, and problem-solving.

In Qatar, a Filipino is making waves in the engineering field with his skill and expertise. Engr. Ronaldo B. Nilo is a Civil and Structural Engineering Lead and Chartered Professional with over 31 years of aggregate experience in design and construction under his belt. He is held in high regard and is responsible for numerous multi-scale projects in the Gulf Region.

Engr. Nilo was born on February 11, 1967 in San Guillermo, Isabela. Not being born into wealth made him realize the value of proper education. In both primary and secondary schools, he finished as valedictorian. Then, he graduated college from the University of the East in 1987 with a degree in civil engineering. In 1989, he received official registration and entitlement to practice as a Civil Engineer (CE) from the Professional Regulation Commission.

Before leaving for abroad, Engr. Nilo worked in the government in the Philippines. From 1989 to 1991, he was a structural designer for the Office of the City Mayor in Quezon City, and in 1992 he was the Special Operations Officer II for the City Administrator's Office.

Wanting to further help his family, he left for the Middle East. He spent 15 years working in Saudi Arabia as a Structural Engineer for Azzam Contracting Company. Afterward, he moved to Qatar, initially working as a Senior Structural Engineer for AECOM Middle East from 2007-2012, then transferred to TIME Qatar, where he holds the position of Civil Structural Engineering Lead up to the present.

During his time in Saudi Arabia, he was also responsible for the design, engineering, and supervision of more than a hundred structures for

He is dauntless in the face of challenges and handles large-scale projects handed to him by his engineering firm. From 2016 to 2021, he dedicated his time and effort to the construction of three stadiums and precincts for the 2022 Qatar FIFA World Cup - Lusail Stadium, Ras Abu Aboud Stadium, and Al Thumama Stadium, which all have more than 40,000 seating capacity. He completed the fabrication and delivery of 28,000 tons of structural steel from Vietnam to Doha. He was also responsible for other aspects such as design, structural productivity analysis, and implementation of design quality assurance programs.

From 2012 to 2015, he worked on the Msheireb Downtown Doha Project, a 20-billion Qatari Riyal development project. Moreover, he also worked on the Barwa City Project from 2007 to 2012. It was a 5 billion Qatari Riyal project comprising 128 residential buildings and various public services and amenities. He led a team of 21 engineers in the construction of the city.

His knowledge in the field and his vast working experience make him an adept resource person. He is often invited to technical conferences where he shares his expertise and learns from his fellow engineers. He has attended conferences in Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, and Saudi Arabia.

Engr. Nilo does not limit himself to advancing his career but also makes an effort to join and spearhead activities through organizations within the field to help fellow Filipinos in the Gulf region. In Saudi Arabia, he served as the Vice President of the Association of Filipino Civil Engineers – KSA. He helped organize the first Civil Engineering Board Exams held overseas, which was conducted in Jeddah in 2004. Moreover, he conducted seminars and lectures in CE subjects, including Structural Design.

In Qatar, Engr. Nilo has been active in the Philippine Institute of Civil Engineers – Qatar Chapter (PICE) since 2010. He has served terms as a chair for three different committees within the organization throughout the years. He was also the Vice-President for three terms (2014,



CAROLINE B. ONG

China

Hometown: Bacolod City, Negros Occidental

As more brands enter the market and technology continues to evolve, businesses are employing diverse marketing and advertising strategies. These convey the unique selling points of products, capture the attention of their target audience, and increase sales. Be it for start-ups or for established enterprises, one cannot simply deny that advertising has grown to be a crucial force in driving business success.

In China, there is one Filipina whose stellar creative works in advertising have been exported around the globe—gaining success in China, the Philippines, Asia, Europe, and US markets.

Shanghai-based Caroline B. Ong, fondly called Carol Ong, has brought Filipino creativity to the world stage. She has won in every major international and local award show on creativity, advertising, and market effectiveness. Her works have earned recognition even at the most elusive awards such as the Cannes Lions, D&AD, Clio Awards, The Webby Awards, The One Show, Innova Lotus, among others. She is also listed consistently as one of the “Hottest Creatives in Asia” by Campaign Brief Asia.

Ms. Ong was the first Filipino to join Bartle Bogle Hegarty (BBH), one of the world’s best creative ad agencies that have built many of the world’s most illustrious brands. In 2006, she was invited to join the team to help start-up BBH in China. From 2006 to 2017, her work at BBH was instrumental in uplifting the advertising creative standards in China and globally.

One of her most notable projects is the 2009 breakthrough mobile campaign for World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) China. The “Fate’s in Your Hands” campaign swept innovation awards at The Webby Awards, the Adfest Innova Lotus, and major international festivals. The idea was to let the urban youth witness firsthand how wildlife struggle outside

its habitat, through their mobile phones. Back when mobile entertainment was limited to ringtones and Nokia snakes, her team created from scratch an Augmented Reality virtual bear that interacted with the real environment wherever you point your cellphone camera. It then directs the viewer to a digital petition to affect real change. Another of her works - the WWF China “Panda Series” poster and print campaign on biodiversity - was featured in the global best-selling book, “Hegarty on Advertising” by living advertising legend, Sir John Hegarty. The work was also recognized in the Clio Awards, Asian AdFest, and D&AD.

In her first year in China, she opened up humor advertising in China. Her Mentos Gum ad campaign was both a commercial and creative success. It was recognized as one of the Top 100 Ads in the World, by the Gunn Report. It swept the awards shows in China, including the “Best in Show” at the prestigious China 4As Golden Seal Awards. It helped put China’s advertising on the map, being one of the first ad campaigns that China successfully exported around the world.

Ms. Ong was part of the team that won the Sprite Global pitch in 2009. Her team repositioned Sprite to be “The Spark”, a platform to inspire fresh thinking through music, film, digital and mobile content. Her team also relaunched Burberry in China to be more digitally-forward thinking.

She is part of the team that did the KFC Pocket Franchise, one of the most awarded works in Mobile & eCommerce, including 2 Gold Cannes Lions for Mobile for Ho Communication (Accenture Interactive). It stems from the insight that your social media is valuable real estate, so build a virtual KFC franchise on it. And earn real cash.

Due to her stellar reputation in the creative industry, Ms. Ong has been invited to be in the jury of the prestigious International Festivals of Creativity, representing China, the Philippines, and Asia. This includes the Cannes Lions and Spikes Asia in 2017 and 2018; the Dubai Lynx Awards in 2020 and 2021. She has been a mentor at the Cannes Lions See It Be It, for rising women leaders in the global creative industry.

Apart from her creative endeavors, she

is active in giving back through Filipino-centered community service. In 2018, she co-founded the Philippine Chamber of Business and Professionals, Shanghai (PhilCham Shanghai), which aims to bridge businesses between China and the Philippines, as well as uplift the Filipino image in business.

At the height of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, she led the first mask donation drive in China for health workers in the Philippines. From gathering health experts to helping solve logistics and customs challenges, her team was able to help source 160,000+ personal protective equipment and masks, at a time when there was a global shortage. She helped negotiate affordable health checks for non-insured Filipinos at Suntec Hospital, a project that expanded to benefit 42 other nationalities. She organized Filipino markets and events to encourage entrepreneurship among OFWs.

Before China, Ms. Ong worked in the Philippines at ad agencies BBDO-Guerrero Ortega, ACE Saatchi & Saatchi, and (Publicis) Basic Advertising. Pizza Hut’s “Hate Late” campaign for Filipino punctuality was her brainchild. The term has become part of the Philippines’ pop culture since 2006. She launched the Biolink Green Papaya Soap ad campaign that helped catapult Philippine papaya soaps from a market niche into the mainstream beauty scene. Her work at FedEx proved that Philippine creativity can be exported successfully to Asia Pacific, Australia, and China.

Ms. Ong was part of the team that created a festival, the “Bacolaodiat Festival.” It started as a social experiment to foster understanding between the Chinoys and Pinoys in the multicultural city of Bacolod. The festival name, official song, and corporate identity were her ideas. Bacolaodiat is now an official holiday.

In conferring the Pamana ng Pilipino Award to Caroline B. Ong, the President recognizes her stellar work in the media advertising industry and her multi-awarded projects that showcased the creativity of Filipinos.



GLENN D. PASCUAL

United States of America
Hometown: Floridablanca, Pampanga

With a long list of academic credentials and global experience, Dr. Glenn D. Pascual, DNP, DHSc, FACHE, MBA, eMHL, MSN, OCN CPXP, is known as a great leader who is both a creative idealist with a strong business acumen and an evidence-based practitioner who can respond to any situation holistically. Dr. Pascual's leadership skills, combined with his strong personal commitment to have accountability, quality, education, and service, has earned him the names "Father of Patient Satisfaction and Care Experience" from his colleagues and "Most Potent Vitamin" from his patients and their families.

Dr. Pascual is revered for being a Master of Education who constantly teaches his team and looks out for both patients and staff. Notably, he has a doctorate in global leadership and organizational behavior and three executive post-graduate degrees in Healthcare Leadership, Business Administration, and Advanced Nursing Administration. He recently completed his second doctorate in Nursing Practice to expand his research on evidence-based practice. Since May 2021, he published three international articles.

As a team leader with the mission to give the patients utmost care and commitment, Dr. Pascual's intensity and passion for accomplishing goals for every member of the team have been evident throughout his career. He has been assigned several functions in the institution and consequently been responsible for various tasks, including strategic change implementation for quality and service differentiation, leadership team development, and initiatives associated with culture change. He spent most of his professional career at Kaiser Permanente, Woodland Hills, CA, from 2008 to 2019 as its Director of Operations/Administrative Services, Managing Director Maternity and Child Health, and Department Administrator, Telemetry and Observation. Currently, he is the Director of KHP Service/Patient Care Experience, the Labor and Management Q-Chair, and the Director of Nursing for Administration for Kaiser Permanente Santa Rosa. In 2018-2019, he served as the National Senior Director of Quality, Safety, and Experience at Kaiser Permanente's national office in Oakland, California.

Dr. Pascual has consistently been named as the Most Awarded Leader in Healthcare (won 63 state, regional, national, and international awards in healthcare). A combination of strong Ivy League education and outstanding work experience, acclaimed performance, and his commitment to improvement makes him an outstanding and highly desirable individual. Over the years, he has spearheaded and implemented notable programs such as the ED to Bed Initiative in 2019, which increased the one-hour transition of patients from the emergency room to the inpatient unit from an average of 55% to 84%. In 2018, he partnered with ancillary stakeholders in Kaiser Permanente Woodland Hills to standardize The ONE KP Experience to empower support services staff to positively impact the patient care experience by personally connecting with patients and their family members.

In 2017, he partnered with KPNational to create the Quietness at Night Program, Making Good Sounds Louder than Bad Noises. In partnership with multiple stakeholders, including ancillary leaders and member advocates, the team was able to devise a Quiet Hospital Bundle (structural, environmental, and behavioral interventions) and Sleep Hygiene Protocol (SLEEP). In 2016, he formulated a system to decrease the sitter (care companion) costs through The Bundling Sitter Initiative. Meanwhile, in 2015 he devised the curriculum project called Ethics: The Personal, The Professional, and The Corporate, a staff development program focusing on fundamental approaches to business ethics and business law that improved ethical discipline in the clinical practice and approached the process of decision-making as meaningful and experiential as it can be.

From 2013 to 2015, he visited local community colleges and universities and inspired nursing students through his education-based leadership program entitled The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Education. He motivated nursing students to achieve higher levels of education to be full partners in redesigning health care in the United States. In 2012, he worked with the national organization to win bronze in The National TELLY Award for a documentary. He also won several national bronze awards in his initiatives entitled Pain Badge Program and Admission Discharge Parade.

Through his program The Innovator's Prescription: Advance Education is a Must in 2012, care professionals have sought the advanced training and knowledge that has helped create and define the emerging role of professionals in medical practices and improved professional

education success rate. In 2010, he piloted RX Express, a pharmacy system that decreased patient discharge wait time from two hours to 25 minutes.

In 2009, he implemented the Six Pillars of Excellence Model for Goal Setting (Finance, Service, Quality, Growth, People, and Leadership) to improve organizational communication and transparency. The model provided the framework for an evaluation process and a roadmap to set the direction of every unit or department. In 2008, he pioneered the Thrive Don't Dive Campaign and the Exercise and Fitness Quest to Stay the Best program that adopted routine counseling and encouragement for physical activity improving outcomes, physical functioning, and optimized quality of life and overall health of geriatric.

As a consistent recipient of the Most Awarded Leader in Healthcare by the Los Angeles Business Journal in four different levels, some of Dr. Pascual notable awards at the local level include the 2019 Southern California Leadership Impact Award and the 2019 Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce Leadership Award. He also received the Man of Distinction in the Field of Healthcare and Business Management in 2018 and the CAL Everyday Heroes Award in 2016. For the regional level, he received the GEM Awards Patient and Staff Management Award (California Region) in 2015 and the Regional Nurse Excellence Award in 2013. At the national level, he received the 2017 National Research Corporation's Health Improvement Best Practice Award (Boston), the 2016 National Research Corporation's National Best Practice Innovation Award, and the 2016 National Leadership Award: Studer Group: Inaugural Difference Maker Award. Internationally, he was lauded as the 2019 Most Awarded Healthcare Leader (Los Angeles) and received the 2019 Global International Healthcare Leader Award (Japan). In 2018, he was part of the Hall of Fame Healthcare Leader (Japan) and was the 2018 Global Healthcare Leader of the Year (Japan). In 2017, he was the Inspiring Global Multi-Awarded Healthcare Leader (Zamboanga, Philippines) and the Global Golden Heart Medical Philanthropist (Yokosuka, Japan).

In conferring the Pamana ng Pilipino Award to Glenn D. Pascual, the President recognizes his passion and dedication to improving the patient care experience and healthcare services through his innovations, programs, and achievements in the United States of America.



LORD LEOMER B. POMPERADA

United States of America
Hometown: San Jose, Antique

Society has always seen the youth as the leaders of tomorrow rather than leaders of today. In New York, a young Filipino has proven to the world that “youth are not just leaders of the future, they are also the great leaders of today.”

At the age of 23, Lord Leomer B. Pomperada became the first Filipino, first Asian, and the youngest to start a term as the 5th Global President of the World Youth Alliance (WYA), a United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) accredited organization, committed to promoting the dignity of every person through policy and culture and to build solidarity among the youth. He is also the first WYA President re-elected for another term.

Before becoming a WYA Global President, Mr. Pomperada started first as a WYA member in 2011. He signed up for the WYA charter because he believed that each person was unique, important, and had a significant role in society. The following year, he completed his 3-month full-time internship program at the WYA Regional Office in Quezon City. In 2014, he was offered the position of WYA-Asia Pacific Regional Director where he was able to accomplish several projects that propelled him to be the youngest president of the organization. Under his leadership, the WYA-AP team gained over 7,000 members. It was also recognized as Outstanding Youth Development Organization by the Voice of the Youth Awards for its valuable contribution to youth empowerment.

In October 2015, Mr. Pomperada moved to New York, USA to assume his presidency. As President, he is in charge of implementing the global strategic plan and managing the WYA's 6 regional offices in Africa, Asia Pacific, Europe, Latin America, the Middle East, and North America. Through his leadership, they were able to increase membership engagement by 200% and scaled up the number of new WYA chapters by over 300%, and have been consistently growing since the start of his presidency. He also leads WYA's international events in New York and mentors young people through the WYA's internship program and online training courses. He has also effectively advanced WYA's mission by launching new programs to successfully engage the youth. One of these is the WYA Training of Trainers Program that helps members to develop themselves through trainings and certification, and the Human Dignity Curriculum (HDC), an innovative educational program that

focuses on personal development and human dignity. Since its launch in 2016, the HDC program has been implemented in over 10 countries in five continents. They also launched a project called Youth Colloquium where youth leaders from diverse cultural and religious backgrounds were gathered to study the human person and vocation. Through the Youth Colloquium held in Rome (2017), WYA has produced a publication “On Vocation & Destiny: A Study in the Human Person & Marriage”, a folio of essays that tackles the challenges of cultural and political upheaval.

Mr. Pomperada has been a global youth advocate delivering speeches in several United Nations institutions to promote youth inclusion and investment in the capacity of the youth to contribute to nation-building and the achievement of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As a world changer himself, he has empowered global leaders especially the young people to become change-makers as he speaks to various international conferences including the Just Governance Forum in India (2016), Youth Global Participation and Humanitarianism Seminar in Taiwan (2016), 15th Annual New York Junior League for Non-Profits: Foundations for Change Management and Sustainability (2017), National Family Conference in Kenya (2017), Lebanon Dialogue Initiative Youth Forum in Lebanon (2017), and the Global Youth Peace Conference in Nepal (2018). He was also invited back to the Philippines to speak at the 2017 AFS Philippines Global Citizenship Education Forum and the 2019 IGNITEMNL Youth Summit, organized by the US Embassy in Manila and the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI).

He was recognized at his college graduation in 2011 with the Community Service Award because of his dedication and commitment to promoting the deaf culture and Filipino sign language. In 2012, he led a community project called Deaf Friendship and Awareness Day where he brought together the deaf and the hearing youth community in Manila to learn from each other and to develop a friendship. The hearing youth were taught basic Filipino sign language and were able to practice it with the help of a deaf partner youth. When he was selected as one of the Philippine Youth Ambassadors of Goodwill to Japan and Southeast Asia under the 40th Ship for South East Asian Youth Program 2013 (SSEAYP), he spearheaded again another Deaf Friendship and Awareness Day in 2013, and together with his fellow Filipino youth Ambassadors, they promoted the deaf culture and Filipino sign language. In 2014, he collaborated with his friends and organized a Pay It Forward Fundraising Event for the benefit of the deaf community in Manila.

As part of the WYA, he continued to promote this advocacy and the inclusion of youth with

disabilities. Some of his projects include Human Dignity Workshop for Deaf Youth (2014), having sign language interpreters in major events, and launching of his sign language introductory video as part of the social media campaign for the 10th Anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2016). He also extended financial support to the Deaf Boholanos Society-Philippine Federation of the Deaf Youth Section, for its 3rd National Deaf Youth Camp (2019) and to The Learning Center, a special school for individuals with special needs based in Manila.

He has also provided financial support amounting to Php 70,000 to non-governmental organizations and individuals affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. He collaborated with his friends and classmates to raise funds to support targeted communities in Manila and Iloilo. Through the fundraising initiatives, they were able to raise Php 300,000 to purchase personal protective equipment such as face shields, gloves, surgical caps, surgical masks, toiletries, supplies, and food for affected families and individuals. These supplies were given to The Batasan Hills Annex Health Center, Commonwealth Health Center, Community Health Center in Tondo, Manila, Iloilo Doctors' Hospital, Inc., and the Western Visayas Sanitarium.

Raised in San Jose de Buenavista in the province of Antique, he graduated cum laude with a Bachelor's degree in Consular Diplomatic Affairs at the De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde (DLS-CSB), Manila in 2011. While serving as WYA President, he also completed various Executive Programs and Certificates from Harvard Kennedy School and Harvard Business School of Executive Education. Currently, he is pursuing a Master's Program in International Affairs and Diplomacy at the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (UOC).

As a young man who always pursues excellence in what he does, Mr. Pomperada has received various awards and recognitions from his schools and the Provincial Government of Antique. In 2015, he was awarded the Gawad ASEANO Youth Leadership Award given by the Association of South East Asian Nations Youth Leaders' Association.

In conferring the Pamana ng Pilipino Award to Lord Leomer B. Pomperada, the President recognizes his commendable leadership to the global youth as President of the World Youth Alliance, as well as his advocacy in promoting awareness of the deaf culture and Filipino sign language.



KAREN GRACILES L. REMO

United Arab Emirates
Hometown: Cuenca, Batangas

A well-known Filipina entrepreneur, community leader, and industry specialist, Dr. Karen Graciles L. Remo has set the standards for businesswomen and Filipinos in the United Arab Emirates. She is the Chief Executive Officer and Co-Founder of New Perspective Media Group (NPM), a group of PR, advertising, digital media, events and marketing agencies; the managing editor of 999 Magazine; and the publisher and editor-in-chief of The Filipino Times. Moreover, her knowledge in her field has caught the attention of high-level government officials and C-level executives, earning her rewards and recognition she deserves.

As the highest-ranking executive of New Perspective Media Group, Dr. Remo's primary responsibilities include the establishment of strategic goals and formulating plans to make sure those goals are met; making major corporate decisions; and managing the overall operations and resources of a company, including people, product and profit, as well as contributing to the sustainability of the planet. As co-founder and managing director, she provides a strategic function in providing the organization's vision, mission, and goals and establishing a policy-based governance system. Significantly, under her leadership, the group has helped more than 1,000 brands, companies and governments reach their target audience across 36 countries. Her position has also allowed her to put Filipinos on the center stage through her recent interview with Dubai TV. She shared how Filipinos were the third-largest expatriate community in the UAE and how their remittances were among the top three Gross Domestic Product (GDP) contributors in the Philippines.

Playing such an important role in the media industry, she fosters a positive relationship between the UAE and the Philippines.

With the aim of giving voice to and for the Filipinos in the region, she launched The Filipino Times in 2013, the biggest free newspaper in the UAE and the largest news digital platform for the Filipinos in the Middle East. As a publisher, she sets the editorial and commercial direction for the organization. As

the editor-in-chief, she is the manager of the print and digital publication. She determines the look and feel of the publication, has the final say in what is published and what isn't, and leads the publication's team of editors, copy editors, writers, designers, web developers, social media managers, sales and marketing executives, and producers.

To date, The Filipino Times has 4 million monthly readerships and has a weekly circulation of 60,000 copies, available for free in more than 2,500 locations across the UAE. As per Google Analytics, The Filipino Times online is read in 236 countries with 4.5 million page views and 35 million impressions per month.

Equally important, she heads The Filipino Times Reach, the leading Filipino marketing and communications agency in the Middle East. She has also launched The Filipino Times Awards, which highlights role models and trailblazers among Filipinos in the country and emphasizes the role of corporate brands that are trusted by Filipinos in the region - all vetted by some of UAE's most prominent Filipino industry leaders.

The Philippine Embassy in the UAE recognized the Filipino Times by bestowing the *Parangal sa Araw ng Kasarinlan* Award during the 122nd Philippine Independence Day celebration as the Philippine flag was on display on Burj Khalifa, the world's tallest tower. The award recognized The Filipino Times for exhibiting global excellence as a chronicler of the voice and viewpoints of the Filipinos in the UAE and for its invaluable role as a source of reliable and timely news and information in the genuine service of the Filipino migrant community.

She is also the publisher and managing editor of 999 Magazine, the official English publication of the UAE Ministry of Interior (MoI), which NPM publishes on behalf of the Ministry. MoI is the federal entity that integrates the systems and security of police authorities in the seven emirates of the UAE.

As part of her company's corporate social responsibility efforts, she led an initiative to promote financial literacy for Filipinos through the Philippine Property and Investment Exhibition (PPIE), the biggest and longest-running international Filipino investment expo and conference. Currently, in its 8th edition, PPIE continues to be the most trusted international Filipino property and investment expo.

As an expert in her field, Dr. Remo has given keynotes and industry insights to high-level government officials and C-level executives in the Middle East. She was the keynote speaker during the International Trade Centre's She Trades in partnership with Dubai Exports & Industries and UPS, the 2019 Global Trade Review conference and exhibition in Dubai, UAE, and the Current Practices & Future Trends in Media Communication (CPFTMC) 2019 at Amity University, Dubai, UAE. Along with this, she moderated a pool of heavyweights in the industry. She witnessed the solidarity of various stakeholders in the halal economy, spearheaded by Dubai Crown Prince H.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, during the launch of the State of the Global Islamic Economy (SGIE) Report 2020/21 at Nasdaq Dubai where she was a speaker. Moreover, in 2019, she was named Female Leader of the Year in the prestigious Middle East Economic Digest Awards. In 2015, she received the Asian Woman Leadership Award from the Asian Leadership Congress, making her one of the youngest top executives to receive international honors. One of her other notable endeavors has been her support for women's issues, particularly women in leadership positions in the business. In this role, she has encouraged many other women, not only Filipinos, to aim and achieve tremendous success in business and society around the region.

Aside from her advocacy of supporting women in business, Dr. Remo also started a campaign to demonstrate Filipinos' trust in the UAE government's efforts to eradicate the COVID-19. It also represents both countries' unwavering support for one another in their attempts to contain the disease's spread.

Dr. Remo continues to be an inspiring entrepreneur and community leader in the Middle East. She has not only earned the respect of Filipinos and the multinational expat professionals in Dubai but also inspired many women to pursue their careers in business.

In conferring the Pamana ng Pilipino Award to Karen Graciles L. Remo, the President recognizes her ability to lead, inspire, and influence Filipinos from all over the world while proving that women can be a pioneer in the field of business.



ALBERT REMUS R. ROSANA

Canada

Hometown: Santa Cruz, Laguna

Dr. Albert Remus R. Rosana was born and raised in a household filled with science; his mother was a fishery biologist, and his father was a farmer who specialized in integrated and sustainable farming. While most children have stuffed bears or plastic cars as their toys, the young Mr. Rosana had microscopes and scientific posters. Seeing the joy his parents had in their professions, he knew that he would also follow in their footsteps.

Indeed, he excelled in the field of science - graduating in 2005 *magna cum laude* with a Bachelor of Science in Biology degree from the University of the Philippines Los Banos (UPLB). In 2013, he received his master's degree in microbiology and biotechnology and was part of the Golden Key International Honour Society. Currently, he is a professor at Macewan University in Alberta, Canada, and is also working on his Doctorate Degree at the University of Alberta in the Department of Chemistry.

At the age of 35, he has successfully written and co-written 25 papers primarily focused on Bacterial Genome Sequencing. These papers have been published in multiple journals, such as the Oxford University Press Plant and Cell Physiology Journal and Journal of Bacteriology.

Moreover, he is a member of the UP Alumni Association Edmonton, where he has co-written two scholarship-related programs. First is the Philippine Arts and Culture Orientation (PACO). In line with this, they launched the *Bahay Kubo* Project, a monthly diorama building activity for kids aged 6-14 that introduced them to the rich culture of indigenous peoples in the Philippines. The second scholarship program is the Professional, Leadership, Continuing Education Program or PLACE, where they supported academic and educational projects undertaken by individuals and groups whose

lives had been affected by typhoon Haiyan.

Dr. Rosana is also part of the editorial board of the Journal of Nature Studies. Additionally, he is an international publication reviewer for International Microbiology in Spain, Applied Microbiology and Biotechnology in Germany, Philippine Journal of Science, Philippine Science Letters, and the Journal of Herbal Medicine in the UK, where his expertise is sought after for the approval of the publication of scientific papers in those journals.

He has also provided mentorship and financial support for fellow Philippine graduate students in the pursuit of science. He oversees funding and grants for the Czech Republic Science Foundation and the Great Britain Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council. Similarly, he has successfully obtained grants for applications from the Natural Science and Engineering Research Council Canada and the Office of the Vice-Chancellor for Research and Extension UP.

He actively promotes science as seen in his involvement in multiple conferences and workshops. Furthermore, he has contributed to the academic resources of the University of the Philippines to widen the range of knowledge made available to the students. Although he is already successful in his line of work, he still wants to be updated with the new trends and scientific findings - traveling to places like Germany, Singapore, Brazil, and the United States of America to widen his knowledge and impart it to fellow scientists.

His love for the sciences has earned Dr. Rosana multiple awards and honors for his contributions, accomplishments, and efforts to continue studying science. His most recent award was the Dorothy J Killam Memorial Graduate Prize. Recognition with this prestigious award is a testament to a graduate student's academic achievement and research, where Dr. Rosana is one of the only two recipients. This award granted him CAD 100,000 over the next two years to help with his research on controlling the spread of the mountain pine beetle epidemic, which not only threatens western Canadian pine tree forests but the entire country's forest ecosystem.

Outside science, he is also a community leader being one of the board of directors of the UP Alumni Association Edmonton (UPAAE). He has participated in promoting the Filipino culture through initiatives and programs such as the "Historya: Walking through the Story of the Filipino People," Edmonton Philippine International Center Initiative, a program supporting Filipino businesses in Edmonton.

Moreover, he is involved in the programs and activities organized by the UPAAE in Canada and the Philippines. He is involved in Project BicyCLEAN, which aims to promote and implement advocacies regarding environment-related issues. He is also involved in the READ Philippines Book Charity Project, which helps schools in far-flung areas access National Geographic books.

Dr. Rosana is also a co-founder of the Edmonton Filipino Fiesta, an annual event celebrating Filipinos in Canada. He engages with fellow Filipinos in a three-day fiesta filled with entertainment, arts, craft, and food featuring the best of the Philippine culture.

Lastly, he was one of the people who made it possible for Alberta to become the first Canadian province to designate the month of June as the "Philippine Heritage Month." The proclamation gives pride to the Filipino Canadian community where the province of Alberta recognizes their efforts and contribution to society.

Dr. Rosana is truly a testament that Filipinos can excel in their fields of study. He is an inspiration to future scientists and all Filipinos planning to work in the scientific field.



In conferring the Pamana ng Pilipino Award to Albert Remus R. Rosana, the President recognizes his expertise in the field of biology and biotechnology as well as his ingenious research on the mountain pine beetle epidemic which is an invaluable contribution to preserving Canada's ecosystem.





LEOREY N. SALIGAN

United States of America

Hometown: Cagayan de Oro, Misamis Oriental

Fatigue is a frequent and debilitating condition negatively affecting the quality of life of cancer patients. It can be a symptom of the disease itself or a side effect of treatment. The lifework of Dr. Leorey N. Saligan has been focused on searching for ways to lessen the burden of cancer symptoms, which his parents lived with while he was growing up in Mindanao.

Dr. Saligan studied at Silliman University and earned his first academic degree in medical technology in 1988. He earned a second degree in nursing from Liceo de Cagayan in 1992. He pursued graduate studies at Hampton University in Hampton, Virginia, finishing master's and doctoral degree in family nursing, specializing in cancer research, in 2003 and 2007, respectively.

He first worked as a bedside nurse in a nursing home and a nearby hospital in Midland, Texas. He then moved to Norfolk, Virginia, and worked as a nurse practitioner, caring for patients with sarcoidosis - an inflammatory disease affecting several organ systems. At present, he works as a tenured senior investigator at Symptoms Science Center, National Institute of Nursing Research, National Institutes of Health, and notably becoming the first Filipino and first Asian nurse to be awarded tenure. As a nursing professor and scientist, he heads a team of doctors, nurses, and other scientists to look for ways to ease patients' symptoms due to chemotherapy and other cancer treatments.

During his doctoral studies, he

discovered that fatigue was the top concern of patients with sarcoidosis. The fact that both his parents have cancer and are experiencing severe fatigue after various forms of treatment fueled his interest in the field. He believed that understanding the underlying biology of cancer-related fatigue (CRF) would help patients with other problems and further the avenues for nursing and supportive care for cancer patients.

In addition to specifying the type of disease and treatment, information such as comorbidity conditions and concomitant medications can provide context to the fatigue experience of individuals. Other factors also found to influence the fatigue experience include gender, age, race, economic status, social support, educational attainment, and psychological status. These are all important components in the study of CRF.

In collaboration with clinical physicians, translational investigators, basic scientists, behavioral researchers, and even patient advocacy groups, Dr. Saligan brought a multidisciplinary approach to the study of fatigue. Dr. Saligan and his team were able to use a variety of human disease models to investigate the biological causes of fatigue and other symptoms during and after cancer treatment. He and his team patented biomarkers for the CRF, determining which measurement and analysis can be utilized to diagnose and manage fatigue to facilitate the development of appropriate therapy and treatment. They did this by using a variety of human disease models to investigate the biological causes of fatigue and other symptoms during and after cancer treatment. Ultimately, this patent provides for a method of diagnosing a subject with CRF by detecting expression of at least one gene associated with CRF in a sample

obtained from the subject; and comparing expression of the gene to a control. This also describes a method of treating a patient with CRF by administering to the subject an agent that alters expression or activity of a gene associated with CRF.

Another important part of Dr. Saligan's life is church work. Starting as a five-year-old who sang with the Family Choir of the Cagayan de Oro United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP), he became its Youth Choir director during his teens. At Silliman, he sang with the Covenant Choir and Souled Out Singers and was a leader in the Christian Youth Fellowship (CYF) activities.

Even after moving to the United States, he continues to be active in church working with the youth group of the First Presbyterian Church in Odessa, Texas, to develop their interpretative dance program. He was also involved in the formation of the Filipino United Church of Christ (UCC) in Hampton Roads, Virginia Beach, VA.

Dr. Saligan now lives in Germantown, Maryland. He is a member of the UCC in Seneca Valley, where he developed the self-care ministry, put together a monthly self-care newsletter for the church, and serves on the Christian Education Committee.



In conferring the Pamana ng Pilipino Award to Leorey N. Saligan, the President recognizes his commitment and dedication to advancing research and studies on the management of cancer-related symptoms and fatigue to improve the quality of life of cancer patients.





WALTER S. VILLAGONZALO

Australia

Hometown: Cebu City, Cebu

For more than 20 years, Walter S. Villagonzalo has been volunteering in the diverse local communities of Australia to make newly arrived migrants feel at home and accepted. This endeavor stemmed from his migration journey to Australia, which has not always been smooth. A common theme with skilled migrants in Australia is the desire to go back to their home country, as they find it difficult to have their skills recognized.

Mr. Villagonzalo is a graduate of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) with five years of military service specializing in computer technology. When he moved to Australia, he felt that he did not belong and was not appreciated and recognized. Addressing these, and determined to show what Filipinos were capable of achieving, he decided to volunteer first in his Filipino community, then to the migrant community, then to the wider Australian community. He said that *“the more I volunteered and gave back to the community, the more I felt appreciated and accomplished. It’s a very rewarding experience.”*

Mr. Villagonzalo is the Founder and President of The Migrant Hub, Inc. - a social enterprise that aims to support migrants to become more integrated into Australian society. He organized the Hub together with other migrants in 2009 with no external support. He established community café which became a place to eat, meet and build a community. A lot of migrants come with skills and qualifications, but they are not recognized in Australia. Thus, The Migrant Hub established a business incubator to support start-up businesses of Filipinos and other migrants, and create more employment opportunities.

Mr. Villagonzalo established MiRefuge project under The Migrant Hub, providing short-term accommodation facilities (25

apartments) and settlement support for more than 1,000 asylum-seekers through a partnership with the Australian Red Cross. Moreover, he hired local Filipinos and other migrants to maintain the facility.

One of the special projects of The Migrant Hub is the establishment of *“Pinoy Ako Pinoy Tayo”* (PAPT) in Melbourne. Co-anchored by Mr. Villagonzalo, PAPT is a public service, news, and entertainment show that is live-streamed on Facebook with almost 50,000 monthly viewers. PAPT also supports Filipinos, including international students, and those affected by calamities such as bushfires and the COVID-19 pandemic in Australia. It facilitates the shipment of balikbayan boxes to NGOs and community groups in the Philippines and holds a daily raffle of one sack of rice for avid viewers.

In the field of politics and public service, Mr. Villagonzalo is the first Filipino to be elected to a government position in Victoria. He was a Councilor of the City of Wyndham (2016-2020) and Deputy Mayor in Victoria (2017-2018). Victoria is the second most populated state in Australia and Wyndham is one of the fastest growing and most diverse cities in Australia with around 11,000 Filipinos. He represented the interests of Filipinos in the Council and became their go-to person for anything - be it government, social enterprise, business, or community needs.

He also accumulated an array of positions throughout the years that include being the President, Canopy Accelerator Co-op in Wyndham (2021); Founder and Project Manager of WynCubator Inc. (2021); Adviser of the Association of a Generation of Inspiring Leaders or AGILA (2021); Adviser of the Australian BBQ Festival and Competition (May 2021); Cofounder of Wyndham Digital Hub Co-op (2020); Vice President for New Ventures, Social Enterprise, International and National Business Networking and local Government Representation – Australian Council for Multicultural Entrepreneurs, Inc.; Member of the Ministerial Council for Volunteers (State of Victoria) (2017- 2018); Business

Mentors for Enterprising Tarneit, Centre for Multicultural Youth/ Scanlon Foundation (2015) and Multicultural Entrepreneurs Initiative, Wyndham City Council (2015); CALD Committee Member of the Victorian Electoral Commission (2014); Member of the Regional Advisory Council (Western and Northern Metropolitan), Victorian Multicultural Commission (2012-2016); Co-founder of the Australian Council for Multicultural Entrepreneurs Inc. (2012); Co-founder of the Katipunan Australia consisting of former AFP and PNP Personnel (2010); Founder of the Filipino Australian Business Association Inc. (2009); Charter President of FILOZ Toastmasters Club (1997); Chairman of Wyndham Multicultural Committee (1991); and President of the Filipino Community Club of Werribee Inc. (1990).

For his dedication and exemplary volunteer work, he became the first Filipino and first resident of recent migrant background to receive the Citizen of the Year Award (2015) from the City of Wyndham. He is also the recipient of the Project Achievement Award (2010) conferred by School for Social Entrepreneurs (Melbourne); 2016 Social Enterprise Champion Award conferred by Social Traders Australia; 2015 Community Engagement Award conferred by City of Wyndham; Highly Commended, Dame Elizabeth Murdoch Award Finalist 2015 conferred by Premier’s Volunteer Champions Awards, State of Victoria; 2015 Paul Harris Fellow for Community Service; 2016 Philippine Australian Achiever Award conferred by Filipino Community Council of Australia; and the 2021 Megaworld Exemplary Global Achiever Award.



In conferring the Pamana ng Pilipino Award to Walter S. Villagonzalo, the President recognizes his commendable social entrepreneurship and volunteer service to his local community in Australia, benefitting not only Filipinos but also other migrant nationalities.



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.

BANAAG

Awardees

Individuals

Mario A. Balboa - Saudi Arabia / San Nicolas, Ilocos Norte
Bella Aurora P. Belmonte - United States of America / San Nicolas, Ilocos Norte
Ariel C. Bernardo - South Korea / Santiago City, Isabela
Roy G. Betinol - Chile / Dumaguete, Negros Oriental
Vanda Marie M. Brady - Ireland / Polomolok, South Cotabato
Alex Chiu (+) - Canada / Candaba, Pampanga
Aurora B. Dacanay - Canada / Pasuquin, Ilocos Norte
Nancy S. De Jesus - France / Cainta, Rizal
Fernandico Q. Gonong, Jr. - United States of America / Paoay, Ilocos Norte
Vencio V. Legaspi - Saudi Arabia / Las Navas, Northern Samar
Bennette E. Misalucha - United States of America / Cebu City, Cebu
Rose Cheryl P. Eclarinal-Murdock - United Kingdom / Jose Panganiban, Camarines Norte
Rolando M. Nicolas - Saudi Arabia / San Carlos City, Pangasinan
Linda Nietes-Little - United States America / San Jose, Antique
Dennis N. Rata - Kuwait / Libacao, Aklan
Jannelle So-Perkins - United States of America / Quezon City, Metro Manila
Cristy M. Vicentina - Singapore / San Fernando, Pampanga
Elija Paul G. Villanueva - United Kingdom / San Juan, Metro Manila

Organizations

Felix Y. Manalo Foundation, Inc. (FYM Foundation) - Canada
Filipino American Service Group, Inc. (FASGI) - United States of America
Igorot UK Charity (IGO-UK) - United Kingdom
Kapatiran at Ugnayan ng Natatanging Sining at Talento Filipino (KUNST Filipino) - Germany
London Filipino Centre CIC (LFC CIC) - United Kingdom
National Alliance to Nurture the Aged and the Youth, Inc. (NANAY) - United States of America
Philippine American Friendship Community, Inc. (PAFCOM) - United States of America
Philippine Bayanihan Association in Alberta (PBAA) - Canada



MARIO A. BALBOA

Saudi Arabia

Hometown: San Nicolas, Ilocos Norte

The extensive and multifaceted involvement in the fields of engineering, telecommunications, information technology, business analysis, and consultancy work of Engr. Mario A. Balboa greatly benefited thousands of engineers and architects in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He was also hailed as a model in promoting the general interest of Filipino professionals worldwide.

Engr. Balboa is a graduate of Electronics and Communications Engineering from the University of the East (UE) – Caloocan. He also pursued further studies and crash courses in Financial and Managerial Accounting where he finished as class valedictorian while employed in Riyadh.

Working overseas for 18 years, he is at present the B2B Enterprise Product Management Professional of Saudi Telecoms Company, one of the largest telecommunication firms in the Middle East. He has served the company for the last 18 years. In recognition of his brilliance and profound dedication in his field, the STC group of companies has bestowed upon him the Most Outstanding Professional in Electronics Engineering in 2016 and 2017. He was a recipient of various awards including the Most Outstanding Electronics Engineer in 2016 by the Institute of Electronics Engineers of the Philippines (IECEP); Most Outstanding Professional in the field of Electronics Engineering in 2017 by the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC); Outstanding Engineering Alumnus in 2018 by the UE; and Bagong Bayani as Outstanding Employee in 2018 by the Bagong Bayani Foundation, Inc. (BBFI).

Engr. Balboa founded and established the Philippine Council of Engineers and

Architects (PCEA) as a response to the critical need of Filipino professionals, particularly engineers and architects, to make direct representation and dialogue with institutions regulating the practice of the profession by foreign nationals in Saudi Arabia. PCEA is an umbrella organization of multiple engineering and architecture organizations in Saudi Arabia whose primary objective is to safeguard and administer the professional development of engineers and architects to be at par with the borderless professional practice globally.

As the Chairman Emeritus of the PCEA and driven by a deep intellectual curiosity, Engr. Balboa was propelled to link civic, professional, and cultural Filipino organizations in Saudi Arabia. The forging of the Memorandum of Understanding was made possible in 2014 for the welfare of the 12,500 Filipino professionals in the country.

This landmark accomplishment institutionalized the official collaboration of the Saudi Council of Engineers (SCE) and the PCEA to develop a framework of cooperation for the exchange of information and expertise on the latest developments and standards for the mutual benefits in advancing engineering and architecture professions of the Philippines and Saudi Arabia.

His commitment, effort, and advocacy as one of the key initiators of the ASEAN Integration and Mobility of Professionals through the ASEAN Engineer Register (AER), ASEAN Chartered Professional Engineer Register (ACPER), and APEC Engineer Register have placed many Filipino engineers and architects in Saudi Arabia in a vantage position of respect for their recognized qualifications and professional practice. As one of the lead convenors in the mass registrations of qualified engineers within Saudi Arabia and the Middle East, many professionals have passed and were conferred as ASEAN engineers by the ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organizations (AFEO).

Engr. Balboa's volunteerism and active participation as an overall coordinator in the preparation, planning, information dissemination, and facilitation of the Special Professional Licensure Board Examination (SPLBE) of the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC), its yearly conduct in Saudi Arabia has been successful. It has also produced hundreds of professionals from different disciplines - a total 608 successful Filipino examinees from 2011 to 2015.

One of his laudable accomplishments is being the Founding President of the Institute of Electronics Engineers of the Philippines (IECEP) - Riyadh Chapter, in 2010. His impeccable leadership paved the way to the bestowment of five consecutive awards to IECEP - Riyadh Chapter as the Best and Most Outstanding Foreign Chapter from 2013 to 2017. The institution also produced multiple conventions, fora, and conferences that Engr. Balboa spearheaded and where he imparted technical knowledge, which led to career advancement and professional accreditations and upgrades of his fellow Filipino engineers and architects in Saudi Arabia.

His commendable qualities as a great leader, his passion for helping the professional development of the Filipinos to be globally competitive, and untiring efforts for his advocacy have garnered Engr. Balboa many recognitions and awards. More importantly, his immeasurable dedication to serving his *kababayan* has been an inspiration to different community groups in the Middle East and is paving the way to the development of more Filipino future leaders.



In conferring the Banaag Award to Mario A. Balboa, the President recognizes his unwavering commitment to the professional development of Filipino engineers and architects in Saudi Arabia and the Middle East.





BELLA AURORA P. BELMONTE

United States of America

Hometown: San Nicolas, Ilocos Norte

The United States of America is home to roughly 4 million Filipinos, most of whom immigrated from the Philippines to find better-paying jobs or opportunities within their respective fields of study, while others were brought in by their immediate family who went there ahead of them. After overcoming the initial challenges of assimilating into the American way of life and achieving success with their personal goals in their host country, many of them eventually choose to give back and serve their community of fellow Filipino-Americans. Such has been the path exemplified by Bella Aurora “Amie” P. Belmonte.

Born in Ilocos Norte, raised in Hawaii, and finally settled in Nevada, Ms. Belmonte, also known as Amie, has dedicated her life to supporting children, missionaries, and the elderly in the Filipino-American community in Nevada. Being a graduate of BS Social Work and MS Public Health, she founded her own geriatric care company. She also supports several Filipino-serving organizations.

In between being the president of her company, she works for several organizations. She is the President and Co-Founder of the Fil-Am P.O.W.E.R., or the Filipino American Political Organization With Equal Representation. This organization provides education and assistance to Filipinos in attaining US citizenship. Fil-Am P.O.W.E.R. also holds voter registrations during elections and organizes face-to-face meetings with political candidates.

During her presidency in Fil-Am P.O.W.E.R., she established several projects that promote inclusivity of Filipino-Americans in the political, government, business, social, and cultural maps of

Nevada. These projects are geared toward creating new voter registration campaigns, providing citizenship classes, and the like. Through her projects, she has successfully proven to Nevada politicians that Filipino-Americans are educated, professional, and knowledgeable in mainstream political issues.

Moreover, she currently serves as a National Trustee for the National Federation of Filipino American Associations (NaFFAA) and was previously the Desert Mountain Region Chair. She has created projects under her leadership at NaFFAA that further enhanced the unity and camaraderie of the Filipino-American community. One of the most significant projects she launched was the Fiesta Filipino Event. The event drew the largest attendance ever, with 17,000 attendees and over 200 mainstream and local businesses as participants. Significantly, it generated the most funds for the NaFFAA Nevada since 1997. Another one of her projects was the Mabuhay (long live) Expo, the first project to promote Filipino American businesses in Nevada. She has also successfully published the Fil-Am Recipe Book, an exclusive collection of recipes from Las Vegas-based Fil-Am chefs and food connoisseurs. In addition, she serves as a leader for the Ilocano American Association of Nevada (IAAN) and has received several awards for her service to the community.

In 2019, she also co-organized an educational forum with Philippine Police Attaché, Brig. Gen. Sotero Ramos, Jr.. She was also part of the welcoming committee for the newly arrived Special Education teachers in Clark County School District of Nevada, where she participated in the planning and orientation of the event.

In the same year, she also participated in planning the Public Safety Awareness campaign of the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, where they provided training on what to do during an active shooter situation. Within the same month, she conducted a leadership empowerment

class on effectively dealing with people with different personality temperaments. In June 2019, she helped plan the celebration of the Philippine Independence Day in Nevada, which many members of the Fil-Am community highly attended.

In the year 2020, she organized community events to help address the COVID-19 pandemic. In October, she was a resource speaker for the CFO Online Ugnayan sa Los Angeles and provided information on how the Filipino-Americans in Nevada were dealing with the pandemic. From March to December, she co-chaired the Bayanihan project, which distributed food, masks, and face shields to frontliners and to the members of the Fil-Am community who lost their jobs. Finally, from August to February 2021, she organized and led prayer vigils for the Filipino-American community whose family members and friends have died from the virus.

In March 2021, she helped organize a roundtable discussion and forum with the Asian American Pacific Islander community leaders and law enforcement agencies to address the increase in Asian hate crime rates.

Ms. Belmonte’s contributions and accomplishments accurately encapsulate what she deems as her purpose – to be a servant leader. Not only does she practice it, but, according to Mr. Bernie A. Benito, Co-Founder and Board Member of the Fil-Am P.O.W.E.R., “she also shares, trains, and teaches others her knowledge and expertise in ‘servant leadership’.”

In conferring the Banaag Award to Bella Aurora P. Belmonte, the President recognizes her commendable service to the local Filipino diaspora of Nevada, and her efforts to place the Filipino community at the forefront of the political field.



ARIEL C. BERNARDO

South Korea

Hometown: Santiago City, Isabela

It is a struggle to have a 3D job (*Dirty, Difficult, and Dangerous*) as a Filipino migrant worker in South Korea while securing a stable future for oneself and the family left behind in the Philippines. On the bright side, difficult times also strengthen the Filipinos' faith in God. Dr. Ariel C. Bernardo, a Pastor, is a living testimony to these realities.

In the hopes of finding better economic opportunities, he flew to South Korea to try his luck as a factory worker under the Korean Employment Permit System (EPS). He worked from 2006-2008 at Gwang Myeong San Eup and from 2008-2012 at Choong Ang San Eup. The hardship he experienced working overseas bolstered his Christian faith, eventually leading to his profound devotion to the pastoral mission. He was able to finish his Master's in Divinity at Seoul Hanyoung University in 2017 and his Ph.D. in Leadership at Yemyeung Graduate University in 2021.

His newfound mission and globally acclaimed leadership mentoring, resulted in a compendium of programs and activities he spearheaded for the welfare and development of Filipino overseas workers in South Korea and other countries.

Notably, he authored the "*PABAON: An OFW Kit, Ang Gabay sa Matagumpay na Panginigibang Bansa*", an exemplary book featuring the ways in adapting to a foreign country as a migrant worker. After the success of his first publication, he published five more books also dedicated to OFWs. They are widely available at National Bookstore as well as at the Philippine Christian Bookstore. Proceeds from the sales of his books amounting to more than PhP 600,000 were donated to

OFW communities in South Korea and our underserved *kababayan* in the Philippines.

His church works are also significant to his mission of advancing the greater good of the Filipino communities in South Korea. He is the founding Secretary-General of the Philippine Organization of International Ministers and Evangelizing Nations (POIMEN), an interdenominational organization of Filipino church leaders and ministers in South Korea established in 2014. Under his leadership, the church organization has successfully convened Filipino communities through faith and community services, with over 1,200 members from the Philippines, South Korea and Australia. He is also the current head pastor of the Diaspora International Christian Ministries (DICM). It is considered one of the fastest-growing Filipino-led churches in South Korea, manifested in its five outreach ministries in Seoul, Songnam, Yangju, Pocheon, and Pyeongtaek, with more than 100 members to date.

Seeing that relationship problems are common in the cases of OFWs, he and his wife established the annual Love Conference. The project seeks to help Filipino couples in South Korea strengthen their relationship through practical tips and advice about love, parenting, and reconciling broken marriages and families.

Through his leadership, the *Tulong sa Pagsulong* outreach program was founded in 2014. It's an annual project which has blessed many places and provinces, has provided some basic necessities and financial aid to communities in Baguio, Zambales, Cavite, Bulacan, and Isabela, sourced from the volunteers' own pockets, church networks, and private efforts.

With his experiences as an OFW and his acquired proficiency in global leadership, Dr. Bernardo has become a sought-after speaker in various workshops and seminars/webinars in South Korea, vital for the welfare and development of OFWs. He has been constantly invited to share

his knowledge at seminars and workshops conducted by the Philippine Embassy in Seoul, Philippine Overseas Labor Office, and other Korean organizations, aimed at empowering the Filipino migrant workers, with their significant contributions to the country's labor force. He is also regularly invited to radio shows at Kiss FM and DWAY 104.3 FM, where he shares with the listeners tips on establishing a good working relationship with their Korean employers and co-workers, on entrepreneurial and financial management, and on having a good spiritual life.

The global health crisis brought on by the COVID-19 did not hamper Dr. Bernardo's perseverance in reaching out to OFWs. He shared remarkable insights on the webinar "*The Happy Pandpreneur: Paano maging negosyante sa gitna ng pandemya?*" organized by the Philippine Embassy and POLO-OWWA in September 2020. He also continued to advocate for the welfare of the OFWs by serving as a key speaker in the "*Tapatan sa Karapatan*" webinar in March 2021. During the webinar, he discussed the labor and human rights of Filipino workers overseas regardless of their visa status. These initiatives continuously uplift the lives of OFWs in South Korea and amplify their ties with each other.

In retrospect, Dr. Bernardo has amassed an extensive list of accomplishments for his *kababayan* in South Korea – both in sectarian and non-sectarian engagements. His dedication is indeed a moving story of migration and continuous service to Filipinos overseas.

In conferring the Banaag Award to Ariel C. Bernardo, the President recognizes his unwavering commitment to assist and uplift the lives of overseas Filipino workers in South Korea through his pastoral mission and other inspiring endeavors.



ROY G. BETINOL

Chile

Hometown: Dumaguete, Negros Oriental

Homesickness is one of the common challenges faced by overseas Filipino workers (OFWs). Though they work tirelessly to provide for their loved ones, living alone in a foreign country often makes them feel isolated and lonely. For the Filipino community in Santiago, Chile, Mr. Roy G. Betinol welcomes OFWs into his home as a family, making them feel less homesick.

Before migrating to Chile, Mr. Betinol graduated from Silliman University in 1976 with a BS in Mechanical Engineering degree. Before coming to Chile, he first went to the United States in February 1990 where he worked on engineering projects involving pipeline transport systems. Later on, he co-founded BRASS Engineering International, LLC with his associate, where he worked as their Senior Hydraulic Specialist. He specializes in designing and commissioning pipeline projects. He also serves as a consultant for international emergencies in pipeline operations, and is a member of the Board of Directors as the Director of Latin America. He is the President for BRASS Chile.

While he may be busy with his profession, it did keep him from being a leader in his community in Santiago. He is viewed as one of the pillars of the Filipino community. He has earned the community's trust, respect, and admiration because of his philanthropy - providing a "home away from home" for his *kababayan* and engaging in numerous charity and humanitarian work.

He advocated for the welfare and promoted the interests of the overseas Filipinos when he served as President of the Filipino Community in Chile from 2010 to 2015. Even after his term,

people continued to look up to him, as his leadership and compassion brought the Filipinos together. He created a precedent and inspired Filipinos to organize themselves, support other Filipino community projects, and join the socio-cultural projects of the Philippine Embassy in Santiago. Being a long-time partner of the Embassy, he played a valuable role in the overall promotion of the Philippines in Chile. He is always ready and willing to extend his help for projects related to the betterment of the community and cultural promotion.

In times of crises such as the devastating Philippine earthquake in the 1990s, he took the initiative to help his fellow Filipinos in need. In the aftermath of the disaster, a lot of Filipinos lost communication with one another due to the loss of electrical power. Recognizing the need for alternative means of communication aside from the phone, he developed and became the administrator of a website for the use of Filipinos. As the administrator, he made sure that the website was only used to exchange useful information, advice, and productive dialogue between Filipinos to bridge the information gap.

He is also well-known for being the first Filipino community leader to organize regular get-togethers with other Filipinos in the community at his home. Every Christmas, he organizes a Christmas party for Filipinos who are not able to return to and be with their respective families in the Philippines. Knowing how special Christmas is for the Filipinos, he makes them feel like they have family and distributes gifts. His generous and thoughtful actions endeared him to the Filipino community.

Aside from keeping his home open for those in need, he also extends help through donations. In particular, he sponsored the transportation of 40 Filipinos so they could join a Fiesta celebration dedicated to Mother Mary in 2018. He also donated to the cause of Filipino missionaries so they

could continue their religious mission in Chile. He also assisted other OFWs to find employment in Chile. As the President of BRASS Chile, he prioritized hiring Filipino engineers in his company and helped them launch their careers.

His charitable and humanitarian work extends beyond the Filipino community in Chile and includes Filipinos in the Philippines and Chileans alike. He provided financial assistance to affected families of Barangay Nueva Vista in Ormoc Leyte in the wake of Typhoon Yolanda in 2013. He spearheaded the distribution of food, medicine, and an emergency generator through his company. In that same year, he also donated a total of PHP 41,200.00 and an emergency generator to the Diocese of Talibon in San Isidro, Bohol. In 2015, he extended aid to the Chilean community in Ovalle after a magnitude 8.3 earthquake. He provided goods and consumables to the sector of De Maiten in Montepatria. He also donated an office building at Colegio de la Republica Filipinas in Santiago, Chile. The school caters to the poor and marginalized Chilean and migrant children. The building he donated is currently used as an administrative office and a learning center for children.

Mr. Betinol was given recognition for his exemplary contributions. In 2015, he was hailed as the Manager of the Year by the European Business Assembly in London, England. In 2016, he was recognized as a *Balik-Talent* by the College of Engineering and Design of Silliman University.



In conferring the Banaag Award to Roy G. Betinol, the President recognizes his exemplary leadership and efforts in championing the interests of the Filipino community in Chile, as well as his humanitarian assistance in the Philippines.





VANDA MARIE M. BRADY

Ireland

Hometown: Polomolok, South Cotabato

There is usually a greater burden imposed upon every *Iskolar ng Bayan* to give back and serve the country after finishing their studies. This is something that Ms. Vanda Marie M. Brady has taken to heart despite leaving the hallowed grounds of the University of the Philippines (UP) in Diliman almost three decades ago.

A UP cum laude graduate in Broadcast Communication, Ateneo full scholar post-graduate in Communication and a former lecturer at both top-tier universities, Ms. Brady has over twenty years of experience and proven skills in digital and traditional marketing, customer relations, events management, public relations, partnership development, media, and audio-visual production.

She used to work at the Asian Institute of Management, the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education, and J. Romero & Associates in the Philippines. She then pursued overseas work as a business development manager of a fitness franchise in the United Kingdom and as a training coordinator of Lewisham Southwark College in London.

As fate would have it, she found love or perhaps love found her in a foreign land. She got married, and together with her husband, decided to live and establish a family in Ireland, where the latter originally came from.

Finding love and living in a distant land did not deter her from doing various socio-civic works in furtherance of the Filipino community.

She became an active community volunteer and has empowered young migrants, women, and other marginalized communities in Ireland. Armed with a good

education, a strong work experience, and a variety of skills that she wanted to make good use of, Ms. Brady believes she can make a difference. Where else is the first port of call to volunteer but in the Philippine Consulate then headed by Honorary Consul Mark Congdon, from whom she got an initial briefing on the issues and concerns of the Filipino diaspora. She has been appointed to manage the marketing and communications needs and overall management of the Philippine Honorary Consulate in Dublin. She has been the lead organizer of the Philippine Embassy Outreach Missions in Ireland since 2016 after moving to Ireland from London.

When Honorary Consul Raymond Garrett took over the Consulate in 2019, he did not hesitate to appoint her as Director of Marketing and Communications. He is convinced of her initiative, dedication, and commitment to serve the diaspora. To date, she has served over 5,000 Filipino overseas workers in Ireland in various transactions.

She has extensive experience in the voluntary sector. She has formed multiple community organizations in Ireland, such as the Filipino Association of Cavan, the Cavan Cross-Cultural Community, Outreach Ireland, and the European Network of Filipino Diaspora (ENFID)-Ireland. She actively contributes to The Next Chapter Europe and Cavan Multicultural Society.

She is the founder and secretary of Cavan Cross-Cultural Community (from November 2018 to the present), an association that highlights multicultural development and integration in a community setting. The group has made a significant impact on promoting Cavan's diversity and inclusion through various events and training.

She also established the Filipino Association of Cavan (FAC) in 2018 to promote knowledge and appreciation of the Philippines and other marginalized communities. It was awarded a Festivals Grant by the Cavan County Council in March 2019, which funded the first cross-border event on diversity featuring Philippine

Independence Day in June 2019.

She formed Outreach Ireland in January 2018, a volunteer group that facilitates Philippine Embassy outreach missions in Ireland and Philippine-related events to help protect and promote the welfare of Filipinos in Ireland.

In addition, she founded and chaired the ENFID-Ireland from October 2015-December 2017, linking Filipinos in Ireland with 17 other member countries of the diaspora joining the mission, to promote the Philippines and the welfare of Filipinos in Europe.

Five years on, she has proven to be an instrumental member of the Filipino diaspora through her various volunteer efforts. Her notable work includes helping organize and promote the GoFundMe fundraiser for the family of murdered Jastine Valdez, which raised 154,000 euros in one month from May to June 2018. She also provides continued support to the parents of Jastine Valdez.

Another welfare case she facilitated was the reporting and translation for the legal requirements of the case of OFW Joel Alama, who died in a work-related accident in Donegal, Ireland, in 2015. After corresponding between Solicitor Gerard Keane and Mr. Alama's family in Mindanao, the family was successfully compensated in May 2018.

Ms. Brady plays five instruments: drums, ukulele, recorder, piano and guitar, and also composes music.



In conferring the Banaag Award to Vanda Marie M. Brady, the President recognizes her steadfast commitment, unparalleled dedication, and service to the Filipino diaspora in her capacity and as a founder of various socio-civic organizations in Ireland.





ALEX CHIU (†)

Canada
Hometown: Candaba, Pampanga

Mahatma Gandhi once said that “*the best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.*” This quote could best describe the life of Alex Chiu, who, for 33 years until 2018, was considered to be the longest-serving City Councillor of Markham City, Toronto, Canada. In his more than three decades of public service in Markham, he consistently advanced the causes and interests of Filipinos and other migrants in the area.

Mr. Chiu was born in Candaba, Pampanga in 1938. He took up Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering at the Mapua Institute of Technology in 1960 and pursued computer programming studies at the College of Automation in Des Moines, Iowa in 1966. After completing the program, he settled in Chicago and worked as a computer programmer/operator at Quaker Oats and the Gillette Company offices there. It was also in Chicago that he met his future wife Alicia, whom he married in 1972. The couple was blessed with two children, Cherrie-Marie and Christopher.

The family eventually left the US and settled in Toronto, the capital of the province of Ontario and the most populous city in Canada. Like most immigrants, Mr. Chiu also faced struggles and difficulties as he established himself in Canada. Seeing the need to effect positive change about the conditions of Filipinos and other minority migrants, he became involved in the community and was elected Chair of the Board of York Condominium in 1975.

When he moved 15 kms. northeast to Markham, Mr. Chiu became the unofficial neighborhood organizer, listening to residents’ concerns, liaising with the city and homebuilders’ officers to improve the community, and hosting meetings in his garage. He later joined a school council and a committee that helped construct a local church. Owing to his active involvement in community activities, Mr. Chiu successfully established a network with other community leaders and was unanimously elected as Ward 8’s first councillor in 1985. He would hold on to this position and continuously be reelected for 33 years until his retirement in 2018.

As one of the visible minority politicians in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA), Mr. Chiu was admired for breaking the glass ceiling of political power. His

influence expanded GTA-wide as other immigrants consulted him on their integration problems. In succeeding elections in the area, other migrant groups started to win seats for their candidates.

In 1987, Mr. Chiu established the Rainbow Centre, which assists distressed Filipino domestic workers. From a venting process, the project eventually became a full assistance program involving many Filipino volunteers and homes being offered as safe houses, creating a network of good Filipino Samaritans. The program later added formal classes on workers’ rights and obligations, job situation training, and job search.

In 1989, Mr. Chiu mobilized fellow local community leaders in the area and helped establish the Markham Federation of Filipino Canadians (MFFC) and the Federation of Chinese Canadians in Markham (FCCM), two of the most successful and widely recognized Asian migrants’ organizations in Toronto. The MFFC, also a 2006 Presidential Banaag awardee, took over the Rainbow Centre project of Mr. Chiu, and until today still operates an OFW program as one of its regular activities. Similarly, through the efforts and initiatives of Mr. Chiu, the first-ever community center in the area, the Milliken Mills Community Center, was established in 1990.

Recognizing the need for more resources to finance the various programs and projects close to his heart, Mr. Chiu mobilized his friends and established in 1999 the Alex Chiu Golf Tournament (ACGT), which raises funds annually to support causes, projects, and activities of the community. It eventually expanded to support other projects in the Greater Toronto Area, Canada, the Philippines, and other countries seeking aid and assistance. For more than 20 years, the ACGT raised more than CAD 2 million to support various projects such as the purchase of the Centre for Markham Federation of Filipino-Canadians; construction of the Markham YMCA; construction of the York Regional Police Community Safety Village; operations and service improvements of the Unionville Home Society, the Yellow Brick House, the Sing Tao Canada Foundation–Centre for Information and Services of Toronto, and three York Region hospitals namely Markham Stouffville Hospital, Mackenzie Health, and Southlake Regional Health Centre. It also raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for ALS Double Play and ALS Canada to fund research for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), an illness that claimed the life of his dear son, Christopher. The ACGT also financed the construction of 51 housing units in a poor community in Las Piñas City called the Markham Village, and another 40 housing units for the victims of Typhoon Yolanda in Palo, Leyte in 2014, in partnership with Gawad Kalinga

(GK) - Canada.

Mr. Chiu lobbied and raised funds for the construction of the life-size statue of Dr. Jose Rizal at the Boxgrove Community Park in Markham, which was unveiled on June 12, 2019, fulfilling the aspirations of Filipinos in Markham to have a heritage park and to instill pride for their Filipino identity. Through his advocacy to popularize Filipino culture in Canada, he initiated and started the celebration of Philippine Independence Week in 1989 with support from the MFFC - an annual activity for the Filipino community that includes a Philippine flag-raising ceremony at the City hall, mini-parades, cultural presentations, a week-long art exhibition by local Filipino artists, and a picnic of Filipino food and delicacies for all. To shine the spotlight on Philippine symbols, Mr. Chiu was a leading sponsor of Council resolutions that named three streets in Markham City to Rizal Avenue, Manila Avenue, and Luzon Avenue.

In support of education, the ACGT donated thousands of dollars to the GK School of Experimental and Entrepreneurial Development Program (SEED) and established the Alex Chiu Community Involvement Award in Markham at the York University Markham Campus Center (MCC).

For all of these endeavors, Mr Chiu received various accolades and awards from different organizations, such as the 2020 Certificate of Appreciation from the Philippine Consulate General in Toronto that was given to Filipino Canadians who made significant contributions in promoting Filipino culture and identity in Markham City and providing assistance to Filipino nationals; the Leadership in Advocacy and Innovation Award in 2019 from the Men of Honour –York Region; the Lifetime Achievement Award in 2014 from the Markham Federation of Filipino Canadians, and the Outstanding Asian Canadian Community Awards in 2011 from the Canadian Multicultural Council Asians in Ontario, among others.

Mr. Chiu passed away in May 2021. The citation for his Presidential Award, which was received by his survivors, reads:

In conferring the posthumous Banaag Award to Alex Chiu (†), the President recognizes his legacy as an exemplary Filipino leader in the City of Markham, who was deeply committed to promoting Philippine culture and heritage to the Filipino community and advocating for the welfare and interests of overseas Filipinos.



AURORA B. DACANAY

Canada

Hometown: Pasuquin, Ilocos Norte

Education may formally commence in the classroom, but it indeed becomes boundless when teachers set up students for the path forward that is life itself. As a result, these educators inspire and motivate not only their students but also the whole community.

This encapsulates Aurora B. Dacanay's more than four decades of teaching career in Calgary, Canada. She migrated from Singalong, Malate, Manila, to Canada in 1965 and immediately began her teaching career. She holds a Master of Arts degree in Curriculum and Instruction, as well as a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Education, both obtained from the University of Oregon, USA. She previously obtained her double-major 3-year Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education and Home Economics from the Philippine Normal College (now University) in the Philippines.

As a teacher, 79-year old Ms. Dacanay believes that education does not end in the classroom. Her passion for making a difference in the community continues as a driving force wherever she goes, especially for her students and the Filipino community.

Fondly called Tita Auring, she is a lifelong educator and woman of purpose, passion, and compassion. She demonstrated outstanding community service as a dedicated educator, cultural ambassador, community volunteer, and mentor to many. She always shows up with a warm smile, a kind heart, and a strong desire to learn, teach, and serve others.

In her teaching career, she has a wide range of enjoyable and fulfilling instructional and learning experiences in the field of education in Grades K-12.

For some, she is a shining example of someone who works to support and promote the Filipino language and culture in Calgary. Outside of her official teaching responsibilities, Ms. Dacanay continues to advocate for opportunities for the Filipino community, most especially the

youth. She wants them to engage in cultural and linguistic opportunities so that they continue to connect with their roots, find strength in them, and not lose a sense of their valuable heritage.

Ms. Dacanay's retirement from the teaching profession in 2007 did not diminish her presence as her influence on the youth is still widespread. In 2015, she initiated the advancement and implementation of the Philippine Cultural Center Foundation (PCCF) Scholarship Program for Filipino youth to address one of their issues about pursuing tertiary education.

The highlight of Ms. Dacanay's championing of Filipino language and culture was in 2015 when the Alberta Education accredited the Filipino language curriculum known as Filipino 15, 25, and 35 for Senior High School courses, the development of which she actively participated in. Although elective courses, these are high school courses worth five credits each that could be used towards additional units for graduation and admission to post-secondary institutions. It was developed by a consortium of dedicated individuals that included Ms. Dacanay. Filipino language curriculum for grades 4, 5, and 6 was also completed in 2015.

She helped hundreds of students of Filipino heritage gain valuable credits for graduation and marks for post-secondary entrance by conducting the Filipino 35 Language Challenge examinations in Calgary Catholic School District. She assisted in revising student portfolios, and in supervising and interviewing students through oral and written examinations. She also allotted specific time and attention to mentor, counsel, and encourage students to continue their studies. All these involve her boundless personal and professional commitment.

Her being principal of the Filipino Language and Culture Education program of the PCCF is instrumental in realizing her passion for ensuring that the Filipino language and culture continue to flourish and be passed on to the next generation. In 2001, she spearheaded and coordinated the development of some of the PCCF's programs, such as the Filipino Heritage Language and Youth Enhancement and Health and Wellness.

She is very involved in promoting Filipino heritage, especially to the Filipino youth who

grew up overseas. Countless parents have expressed their appreciation to Ms. Dacanay for helping their children acquire Filipino language skills. Through her efforts, they learned, enjoyed, and embraced the Filipino culture and traditions depicted in folk/native dances and songs, poems, musical instruments like the bandurria guitar, and even Filipino cuisine.

Though she has officially retired from her teaching responsibilities, she is currently serving as a volunteer principal, coordinator, and teacher for the PCCF's Heritage Language Program for grade school children and adults, a program that takes place on Sundays.

Ms. Dacanay also serves as a Board Member of Southern Alberta Heritage Language Association (SAHLA), a position she has actively held for the past 16 years. SAHLA is a non-profit educational association based in Calgary that represents 50 different community-based language schools with over 7,500 students. It works in close partnership with Alberta Education, the University of Calgary, and the Calgary Board of Education to develop and promote international languages education.

As a dedicated, hard-working, friendly, and reliable volunteer, she assisted in organizing conferences, professional development activities, and fundraisers for a large, vibrant and diverse body of community language instructors from around the world. Currently, she is an active member in her church community, the Pastoral Care Team, in bringing Holy Communion to the sick, the elderly, and those unable to attend Sunday mass.

Even though she retired from her professional work, she continues her involvement with the community. The Filipino community lauds her leadership and positive influence.



In conferring the Banaag Award to Aurora B. Dacanay, the President recognizes her deep involvement in promoting Filipino culture and heritage, and ensuring that the Filipino language continues to flourish and be passed on to the next generation, particularly Filipino youth overseas.





NANCY S. DE JESUS

France

Hometown: Cainta, Rizal

Armed with a degree in Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy from the University of Santo Tomas and having passed the Philippine Pharmacy board exams, 20-year-old Nancy S. De Jesus found herself taking a huge leap of faith when she boarded the plane to the city of love in 1998.

In Paris, Ms. De Jesus knew that one of the biggest challenges she faced was learning the French language. She took night classes, practiced with written work in school, and proactively honed her oral skills while working as an *au-pair*. It was only after learning the French language that she pursued her studies in the medical field.

Ms. De Jesus dreamed of integrating and working in the French Healthcare system. With diligence and hard work, she continued her studies in France as a scholar, then later on she qualified for the French Public Employment and was offered various government hospital student-contracts.

After passing a highly selective concours (competition), Ms. De Jesus was accepted at the Université Paris Descartes - Faculté de Médecine. She interned at various hospitals, learning not just the medical practice in France but also the culture of healthcare in Europe. She became a teaching professional and became a mentor to interns, nursing students, and aides. She later pursued double degrees in graduate studies and graduated magna cum laude in 2018 from the Université Sorbonne Paris Cité with a Master's degree in Science and a Master's

degree in Public Health specializing in Patient Therapeutic Education and Health Education.

Ms. De Jesus is a committed lifelong learner and due to her perseverance and hard work, she was able to successfully integrate into France's healthcare as a medical professional; practicing as Clinicienne Spécialisée (specialist clinician) and coordinating patient therapeutic education and health education for a French government hospital.

When the COVID-19 pandemic started, many Filipinos in France have misgivings about vaccines. Ms. De Jesus took the lead in an education campaign for compatriots, by translating the many protocols and explaining health information that was based on official French health guidelines. She made the narrative easier to understand despite the language barrier for many Filipinos in France. She also assisted in prioritizing the most vulnerable sector in getting COVID-19 vaccine shots regardless of nationality or documentation. Until now, Ms. De Jesus serves as a patient therapeutic educator and a resource speaker on health issues and concerns for migrants. She has become an active voice for the Filipino community in France.

With her continuing education and first-hand experience in fighting the pandemic, Ms. De Jesus is one of the consultants in the drafting of the World Health Organization's Global Learning Strategy 2021 and a regional technical expert on the implementation of the European Framework for Action on Mental Health (EFAMH) through the pan-European Mental Health Coalition. The strategy aims to make lifelong learning in health a genuine force for improving people's health, protecting them from emergencies, and ensuring universal health coverage and better health and wellbeing. The coalition

draws from lessons learnt in the dramatic developments of the COVID-19 pandemic including the resulting lockdowns that have made digital platforms more accessible and familiar to people.

As a strong mental health advocate, she is the author of the scientific research article "Exploring Mental Health Carers' Caregiving Experiences in France," published in the United Kingdom in 2020. Furthermore, Ms. De Jesus supports the Sandigan Association and the Filipino Social Service in France (FSSF) which provide help to distressed Filipinos in France. She also actively volunteers at the Union Nationale de Familles et Amis de Personnes Malades et/ou Handicapées Psychiques (UNAFAM), a non-profit health organization that assists individuals suffering from mental disorders, as a consultant and speaker since 2017.

At the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, Ms. De Jesus has been featured several times on Philippine television due to her extensive public health knowledge and scientific expertise. Her health advocacy is also reflected in her social media accounts and her website, (www.clinician-nancy.com). They all contain easy-to-understand information on evidence-based public health, patient education, and her professional experiences in France.



In conferring the Banaag Award to Nancy S. De Jesus, the President recognizes her invaluable role in sharing her health expertise and promoting the Filipino community's health and welfare in France during the COVID-19 global pandemic.





FERNANDICO Q. GONONG, JR.

United States of America

Hometown: Paoay, Ilocos Norte

The City of Los Angeles, California hosts the largest Asian population in the United States. It is also home to one of the biggest Filipino populations in the US. Hence, in a city where migrants from different countries pour by tens of thousands every year, one cannot deny that representation and strong leadership play an essential role in shaping the experiences of the members of the Filipino community.

Architect Fernandico Q. Gonong, Jr., “Jun” to his peers, has been at the forefront of projects and activities of the various organizations that seek to empower Filipinos in the Los Angeles area. He likewise helped revitalize the Historic Filipinotown. Previously called Little Manila, it is a historic-cultural neighborhood in LA where the Filipino community thrived since the early 1900s.

From 2016 to 2020, Architect Gonong served as the President of the Filipino-American Community of Los Angeles (FACLA), the oldest Filipino organization in LA. In the first year of his presidency, he moved to renovate the aging but historic Filipino Cultural Center, which is also the organization’s headquarters. It is noteworthy that the Center served as a halfway house for Filipino workers shortly after the Second World War. Today, it serves as a performing arts and event center for the activities of the Filipino community. It also welcomes newly arrived Filipino immigrants and helps them adjust to their new lives in California.

As President of FACLA, Architect Gonong also lobbied on behalf of the Filipino community to appoint more Filipinos and minorities to important positions in the Los Angeles City

Government and Los Angeles County. By organizing voter registration drives and partnering with other Filipino groups in organizing projects that serve Filipinos in the US and the Philippines, he helped bring more Filipinos into the corridors of leadership in California. He also launched a campaign to rename part of Temple Avenue in LA, which traverses the Historic Filipinotown, to Larry Itilong Avenue. The campaign was to honor late Filipino-American labor leader and organizer Larry Itilong.

Architect Gonong is also active in other Filipino communities and civic organizations, serving the following as: President of Davao Association of USA; President of Sons, and Daughters of Paoay, USA; President of Media Business Club of LA County; Director of United Architects of Southern California; Los Angeles Area Commander of Knights of Rizal; Immediate Past President of Los Angeles Brilliant Lions Club; President of Rotary Club of Historic Filipinotown; and Adviser of National Federation of Filipino American Associations.

Despite his many involvements in Filipino organizations that require much of his time, Architect Gonong has relentlessly and actively participated in many community projects. He helped raise funds to provide support and assistance to Filipinos who need an educational scholarship or legal support. He also supports philanthropic missions to the Philippines. Together with other Filipino organizations, such as Pilipino Workers Center (PWC) and Search to Involve Pilipino Americans (SIPA), he helped organize workshops and seminars to acquaint new Filipino immigrants with worker’s rights and immigration rules. He also led fundraising activities in cooperation with other civic organizations for victims of natural disasters in the Philippines.

As President of the Rotary Club of Historic Filipinotown, Architect Gonong organized a golf tournament in February 2021 to raise funds for those needing

COVID-19 relief assistance in the Philippines. Also, in January 2021, he turned over a USD 2,000 check to the PWC for its advocacy of providing education and legal assistance to Filipino workers.

In 2019, he organized a trade mission to Davao City and nearby provinces to find areas of trade, agriculture, and other businesses that Davao Association of USA members can invest in or initiate partnerships with. The mission resulted in the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement with the Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA) for the organization to act as the conduit for Mindanao farmers to export their products to the USA.

Architect Gonong also made his mark in the business and design industry. He owns and manages Gonong Designs, Inc., a company he established in 2009 which designs and builds homes for the rich and famous in Los Angeles.

Before having his own design company, he had a string string of projects for famous personalities and celebrities like Los Angeles former Mayor Richard Riordan, actresses Halle Berry and Annette Bening, talent agent Michael Ovitz, actor Warren Beatty, and US Congresswoman Jane Harman, among others. Architect Gonong was also the personal architect for then Prince, now King Salman Abdulazziz of Saudi Arabia where he stayed for five years before migrating to the United States.



In conferring the Banaag Award to Fernandico Q. Gonong, Jr., the President recognizes his remarkable achievements as an outstanding leader who inspires the Filipino community in Los Angeles, and for his contributions in advancing the interests of Filipinos in the field of politics, education, and culture.





VENECIO V. LEGASPI

Saudi Arabia
Hometown: Las Navas, Northern Samar

An erstwhile economically challenged boy of Northern Samar, now a servant-leader for his fellow overseas Filipinos and one of the highest-ranking Filipino banking executives in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia best describes Mr. Venecio V. Legaspi's life.

Mr. Legaspi has been working and living in Saudi Arabia for almost 29 years now. He is currently the Vice President and Head of the Compensation and Benefits Division of the Bank AlJazira in Jeddah. As one of the highest-ranking Filipino banking executives in Saudi Arabia, he has spent most of his productive years serving the bank, its officers, and employees. He is a consistent team player and always ready to help others. He has earned his colleagues and superiors' respect, trust, and confidence.

Aside from his successful career in the banking industry, he is also a well-respected member of the Filipino community. He was elected to various leadership roles and had served multiple organizations that benefited his *kababayan*.

He is now in his sixth year as the Director-General of the OFW Council of Leaders (OCL), an organization he co-founded in 2015 that aims to unite and bridge the gap among almost 70 Filipino groups in Western Saudi Arabia. He had undertaken various initiatives and advocacies in favor of overseas Filipinos and migrant workers, especially distressed OFWs, in close coordination

with the Philippine Foreign Service Posts in Jeddah and Riyadh.

Through community cooperation and solidarity, many annual activities were initiated under his leadership, such as the OCL Mini Olympics, *Pasasalamat*, food pack assistance to company-distressed OFWs, and even mediation/conciliation between and among OFWs and Filipino organizations.

At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown measures in Saudi Arabia in 2020, OCL stepped up and spearheaded the Food Bank Drive in March. Under Mr. Legaspi's leadership and in partnership with the Philippine Consulate General in Jeddah, the organization distributed 7,000 food packs to pandemic distressed OFWs. This undertaking succeeded despite the strict mobility restrictions in the country. And even when the pandemic situation started to improve in the country, OCL continued the drive.

On top of his work, Mr. Legaspi has been designated and regularly invited to represent OFWs in various consultations where he articulates the sentiments and concerns of his *kababayan*, including other issues relevant to the migrant workers' sector.

He had also made representations with Department of Labor and Employment Secretary Silvestre Bello for an additional 10,000 slots of the DOLE *Abot Kamay ang Pagtulong* (DOLE-AKAP) program for distressed OFWs in Western Saudi Arabia.

In addition, OCL, through him, partnered with the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) and other agencies and organizations in July 2020 for the program "Ka-PIPPs," one of the 10-point programs and special projects

of PEZA that seek to build partnerships with international and domestic business chambers and industries' associations, People's Organizations (POs), and groups to help market and promote PEZA economic zones and investment promotion programs worldwide.

His service for his *kababayan* does not end there. Additionally, he is the host and producer of *Barangay OFW*, a weekly multimedia program that features success stories of OFWs in Saudi Arabia. This program provides inspiration to guide Filipinos in their overseas journey. It also offers a platform to share worthwhile deeds by Saudi employers and their contributions for the betterment of the lives of many OFWs.

Mr. Legaspi is a highly-praised professional and leader of the Filipino community. His service to the Filipino community in western Saudi Arabia and his support to the programs and projects of the Consulate are acknowledged by the Philippine Consulate General in Jeddah.

His professional accomplishments did not go unnoticed as well. Since he joined the Bank AlJazira 29 years ago, he has received awards and commendations that serve as a testament to his professionalism and dedication. Among other recognitions, he had received the Platinum Award, the highest award given by the bank.



In conferring the Banaag Award to Venecio V. Legaspi, the President recognizes his exemplary professional achievements, dedication, and leadership in assisting distressed Filipino migrant workers in Saudi Arabia.





BENNETTE E. MISALUCHA

United States of America
Hometown: Cebu City, Cebu

Entering politics was first a destiny, before an act of duty and devotion, for Senator Bennette E. Misalucha. She is one of the very few who did not aspire to it but fortuitously got it.

Senator Misalucha who hails from Cebu and is now based in Aiea, Hawaii, is a Senator of Hawaii representing Senate District 16 at the State Legislature. Her first taste of politics began upon her appointment by Governor David Y. Ige in July 2020 to fill the Senate vacancy left by the late Senator Breene Harimoto. She later became an elected State Senator in the last election in November 2020.

Through the years, she has developed a stellar career in public service - from media, community affairs/engagement, business associations to politics. She is deeply involved in community and non-profit work in Hawaii where she represents the Filipino community.

Early in her career, she was a media reporter in Cebu while she was still in her senior year in AB Mass Communications at the University of the Philippines-Cebu. When her family migrated to the US, she continued her studies at the University of Hawaii-Manoa and earned her AB Communications degree. Her media experience brought her closer to the hearts of Filipinos in Hawaii by being the Managing Editor of the *Fil-Am Courier*, the longest-running Filipino publication in Hawaii. She was responsible for the editorial content of the newspaper that has a circulation of 20,000 copies throughout the State. She also worked as the first producer of *Action Line*, a news segment on consumer advocacy of KHON Channel 2 News in Hawaii.

After working in the media industry in the Philippines and Hawaii, she shifted to banking and marketing where she held various executive positions. She pursued graduate studies in banking but later had to leave the corporate industry to embark on community work and pursue her passion for serving the Filipino community of Hawaii.

Senator Misalucha has many accomplishments in community work to advance

the interest of the Filipino community while doing volunteer/civic duty.

In the State Capitol, she is the Vice-Chair of the Committee on Energy, Economic Development and Tourism, which introduces measures relating to housing, renewable energy, mitigating climate change, consumer protection, and employment, among others. She is also one of the members of the Committee on Human Services that has purview of programs on public assistance, youth and child services, and promotion of general well-being. These two important committees tackle issues that are relevant to the interest of overseas Filipinos.

With the onset of the COVID-19 global pandemic and Hawaii having the highest unemployment due to travel restrictions and decline in tourists, she reached out to various organizations in Hawaii for donation for food and other essential supplies. She also initiated efforts to collaborate with companies in the provision of internet service and refurbished laptops for the distance learning of children who are from disadvantaged and rural communities. Medical services for the elderly were also provided through her efforts.

She chaired the Filipino Complete Count Committee (FCCC) of the US 2020 Census composed of an ad hoc group of Filipino community leaders and volunteers. She was instrumental in bringing together efficient volunteers who are influential leaders of their respective organizations. The Committee's mission is to educate the public about the importance of being counted in the census, particularly the Filipino community in Hawaii. It was a challenging task for her considering that the Filipinos were identified as a very difficult population to reach during the 2010 Census. With her effective planning and organization skills, additional financial and human resources came in for the cause.

Notwithstanding the threat of the pandemic, she spearheaded the distribution of census information materials through the Philippine Consulate General in Honolulu, community events, schools, churches, Filipino community organizations, and other civic groups. Media campaigns conducted to help in the dissemination of information, such as radiothons and interviews, as well as public service announcements in social media. With her leadership, the efforts of the FCCC in Hawaii resulted in a significant increase in the participation of Filipinos in the Census. The Committee was also recognized for setting the pace among complete count committees and

was invited to share its best practices.

In the midst of her immense responsibilities, she also heads the Congress of Visayan Organizations (COVO) which is a statewide umbrella of more than 26 organizations of Filipinos in Hawaii with Visayan ancestry. She also serves as one of the directors of organizations that promote and perpetuate Filipino culture in Hawaii - Kauai Philippine Cultural Center, Filipino Community Center, and Philippine Celebrations Coordinating Committee of Hawaii.

She is also actively engaged in the Filipino business community through the Filipino Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii (FCCH) which she has been continuously serving in various leadership positions for the past 21 years. Early 2021, she engaged the organization and business leaders in Hawaii for relief efforts in the Philippines to provide personal protective equipment for medical frontliners. She also facilitated leadership development activities for FCCH fellows to mentor young Filipino-American leaders who are the future of the community.

Her achievements and leadership have earned her various awards and recognition. The most recent was The Outstanding Filipinos in America (TOFA) Awards in 2021. She is also the Outstanding Women Achiever Honoree of the Hawaii Filipino Women's Club for her unsurpassed contributions to journalism. The Filipino Women's Civic Club also named her Filipino Woman of the Year for her advocacy on higher education. She was also a Mother of the Year finalist for the Star Advertiser (2009), Top Ten Women Volunteer in the State awarded by Pacific Business News (2008), Mother of the Year awarded by Mothers Incorporated (2007), Pacific Century Fellow (Hawaii's version of White House Fellows Program) (2003), and Girl Scout's Woman of Distinction (2002).

In conferring the Banaag Award to Bennette E. Misalucha, the President recognizes her exemplary dedication as an outstanding and well-rounded leader showing conscientiousness in her duties that inspire the Filipino community in Hawaii, and for her contributions to advancing the interest of Filipinos in the field of politics, media, business, education, and culture.



ROSE CHERYL P. ECLARINAL-MURDOCK

United Kingdom

Hometown: Jose Panganiban, Camarines Norte

Journalism is the art of communicating the truth to the masses. Contemporary society requires the acquisition of up-to-date and factual information to keep up with the happenings all over the globe. As such, it is a journalist's responsibility to collect, write, and broadcast news and stories that are timely and purposeful.

In London, Ms. Rose Cheryl P. Eclarinal-Murdock is an award-winning Filipina journalist who dedicates herself to providing Filipinos, both abroad and in their home country, with accurate and helpful information and a medium for their voices to be heard.

Born on September 30, 1974 in Jose Panganiban, Camarines Norte, she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Communication, Major in Broadcast Communication degree at the University of the Philippines - Diliman in 1996.

She wasted no time afterward, immediately pursuing a career in the broadcast industry by working for ABS-CBN. She started as a researcher and writer for the investigative magazine *Inside Story*. In the network, she also became a senior producer, story editor, reporter, executive producer, and correspondent. Eventually, in 2009, she joined *The Filipino Channel* (TFC) family in Europe, where she continues to work until now, as a Senior Correspondent.

Despite the intense demands of being a journalist, she furthered her education by pursuing graduate studies and journalism courses in Europe. In 2001, she got a diploma in International Broadcast Journalism from the Thomson Foundation in Wales, United Kingdom, and received another diploma in International Broadcast Journalism TV (Social Conflict and Cohesion) from the Radio Netherland Training Center in 2005. In 2008, she graduated with distinction from the University of Wales, Swansea (in partnership with the University of Aarhus in Denmark and the University of Amsterdam in The Netherlands) with a Master of Arts in Journalism and Media within Globalization: The European Perspective (War

and Conflict Specialism).

As part of the Filipino diaspora, Ms. Eclarinal-Murdock is motivated by the need to uplift Filipinos and share their compelling tales of triumphs and challenges as migrants in Europe. Despite already doing a stellar job as Senior Correspondent in Europe for ABS-CBN for over a decade and now as Chief of Europe, Middle East and Africa News Bureau, she felt that there was always more that could be done to bring out the full potential of Filipinos through journalism.

In 2014, she conceptualized, funded, and produced a magazine show called *Juan EU Konek* that showcased Europe-based Filipino journalists' strengths and told the extraordinary stories of *kababayan* in the continent. It was initially going to be a one-off special for *The Filipino Channel's* 20th Anniversary. Yet, the program was so trailblazing in its storytelling that ABS-CBN incorporated it into its regular programming.

From 2014 to 2016, *Juan EU Konek* aired every first Sunday of the month on TFC in Europe and the Middle East and on TFC.tv worldwide. Ms. Eclarinal-Murdock, together with Danny Buenafe and Gene Alcantara, served as the main hosts. The program showed the many faces of *Juan* (referring to Filipinos) who, despite having found a new home on foreign shores, never forgot their Filipino roots. The TV show was TFC Europe's first foray into long-form magazine reporting, one-of-a-kind for its Europe audiences. As proof of its merit, *Juan EU Konek* won Best Television Show Award – Regular Category in the CFO Migration Advocacy and Media (MAM) Awards for two consecutive years (2014-2015).

Juan EU Konek underwent a three-year hiatus and came back in September of 2019 on a digital platform, available on Facebook and Youtube. She was still its pioneer as Executive Producer and Company Director when Kiara Gregorio and Crystal Dias joined as co-hosts of the show. The program remained true to its promise of using storytelling to educate, recognize, honor, inspire, and entertain Filipinos in Europe and beyond.

In March 2020, *Juan EU Konek* suspended filming due to the Great Lockdown in Europe brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. Undeterred, she used her ingenuity to continue to be of service to Filipinos in Europe. Thus, her project program, started doing a livestream public service program in May to provide

relevant information about COVID-19 and become a source of entertainment for Filipinos. The show's new digital format made it more accessible to the audience.

Through her resourcefulness, she was able to secure funding of £12,000 over six months for *Juan EU Konek* from the National Lottery Community Fund. At that time, many Filipino health workers in the UK became disproportionately affected by the pandemic. Thus, the fund was used to establish the "*Kontra Corona*" docuseries. The docuseries was divided into six parts, detailing the experiences of Pinoy frontliners in Europe. She sought a partnership with ABS-CBN Teleradyo to share the docuseries with wider audiences. The documentary series was aired on online platforms (such as Facebook, Youtube) and cable channels of ABS-CBN Teleradyo and Channel 26 on Sky Cable.

She continues to put Filipinos first in many of her endeavors. She initiated partnerships with other companies to do feature stories about Filipinos in a multi-platform circulation. Some of her partnerships are with Facets, One Philippines, and Aura Magazine.

She also supports Filipinos who are in need. She was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation in 2009 for her valuable contributions to Filipino artists Jojo Austria, Sam Penaso, Emmanuel Santos, Robert Fernandez, and Marcial Pontillas during The Young Art Philippines Exhibit. She also organized an online fundraiser through *Juan EU Konek* for the victims of a typhoon in her home province.

As a journalist, she continues to pursue and raise awareness of eye-opening and compelling stories of Filipinos. Notably, she has written on the plight of domestic workers and nurses in the UK, Filipino fishermen in Northern Ireland, and human trafficking in Malta.

At present, Ms. Eclarinal-Murdock lives in London with her husband and daughter. She aspires to be a consistently effective cross-border messenger and advocacy journalist.

In conferring the Banaag Award to Rose Cheryl P. Eclarinal-Murdock, the President recognizes her utmost dedication and efforts to put the interest of the Filipino community in Europe in many of her endeavors throughout her career in journalism.



ROLANDO M. NICOLAS

Saudi Arabia

Hometown: San Carlos City, Pangasinan

Skills recognition and upgrading are key in realizing overseas Filipino workers' full labor potential and professional development, showing that they could be at par with their foreign colleagues and counterparts. In the Middle East, Engr. Rolando M. Nicolas is instrumental in bringing the engineering profession and the Filipino professionals to a greater height of pride, professional accolades, and international recognition.

An electrical engineer by profession, he received his bachelor's degree in 1986. After passing the board examination in 1987, he started teaching at Virgen Milagrosa University Foundation in San Carlos City, Pangasinan as a laboratory instructor. As a licensed engineer, he dedicated seven years to teaching at the university. In his fifth year, he became a full-time instructor and department head of the Electrical Engineering Department of the university.

After he left his teaching post in 1994, he flew to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) and worked as an electrical design engineer on a Riyadh Air Base Project. He remained in KSA eventually becoming one of the many seasoned Filipino electrical engineers.

He successfully passed and was awarded the ASEAN Chartered Professional Engineer during the 9th Filipino ASEAN Chartered Professional Engineers (FACPE) conferment held in 2019 in Manila. This is in view of the ASEAN Mutual Recognition Arrangements (MRA) which aim to

facilitate the mobility of professionals within the South East Asian region through the recognition of qualifications, experience obtained, requirements met, or licenses and certifications granted by the relevant authorities in the ASEAN Member States (AMS).

He serves as one of the mentors for the Professional Electrical Engineers (PEE) aspirants in preparation for the Technical Upgrading of PEE given by the Board of Electrical Engineering of the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) in Manila. In 2012, he served as Chairperson of the Philippine Professional Organizations – Central Region Saudi Arabia (PPO-CRSA) and assisted in the successful conduct of the 2012 and 2013 Special Licensure Board Examinations (SPLBE) at Elite International School in Riyadh. Since 2013, has served as a reviewer for the annual Special Professional Licensure Examinations (SPLE), conducting a series of review classes for Registered Electrical Engineers (REE) and Registered Master Electricians (RME) examinees.

From 2016 to 2020, he served as ASEAN Engineer Registers (AER) coordinator and mentor for the Integrated Electrical Engineers of the Philippines, Inc. – Central Region Chapter, Saudi Arabia (IIEE-CRCSA). Before that, he held various positions, serving as Board Director from 2008 to 2009, Vice President for Technical Affairs from 2010 to 2011, Chapter President in 2012, and Chapter Adviser in 2013.

From 2019 to 2020, he served as ASEAN Chartered Professional Engineer Register (ACPER) Committee Chairman/Chapter Coordinator. He mentors the aspirants in preparation for the ACPE Panel of Experts interview conducted by the ASEAN Monitoring Committee on Engineering Services of the Philippines (AMCESP). Several OFWs have

been admitted as ASEAN Chartered Professional Engineers.

He is the Founding Vice Chairperson of the Philippine Council of Engineers and Architects (PCEA-KSA). PCEA-KSA is the first and only professional organization accredited by the Saudi government.

Engr. Nicolas also utilizes his talent in helping the Philippine government. He is a Technical Committee member in the construction of a Multi-Purpose Hall Project of the Philippine Embassy in Riyadh, serving pro-bono as one of the consultants. A groundbreaking ceremony was held at the embassy ground in 2020.

For his professional achievements and significant contributions to his organization, he was conferred the 2018 IIEE National President's Award, 2018 Bagong Bayani Award for Outstanding Employee, 2017 IIEE Most Outstanding Electrical Engineer in the Field of Consultancy, IIEE-CRCSA Presidential Service Award as 2019 SPLE Instructor, Service Award as 2019 ACPE Committee Chair, 2012 IIEE Chapter Excellence Award (Gold) as Chapter President, and 2012 IIEE-CRCSA Leadership Award as Chapter President, among others.



In conferring the Banaag Award to Rolando M. Nicolas, the President recognizes his commendable contributions to the skills upgrading and professional development of the Filipino electrical engineers in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Middle East.





LINDA NIETES-LITTLE

United States of America
Hometown: San Jose, Antique

Ms. Linda Nietes-Little is a living example of someone who forges her own path and leaves a trail for people to follow. In line with her being a bibliophile, she cemented her legacy as a cultural activist for the Filipino diaspora in Los Angeles by providing them access to literature from their home country. She aims to help Filipinos to never lose touch with their roots and to be proud of the rich culture they are born with.

Born in San Jose, Antique, on May 27, 1937, Ms. Nietes-Little is the fifth child of Emigdio V. Nietes and Iluminada Uy Kimpang. At a young age, her father taught her the ideals of patriotism and service to humanity. She studied at San Jose Elementary School in Antique, and at Instituto de Mujeres, Manila. She then went to secondary school at the University of Santo Tomas, where she later earned an undergraduate degree in commerce in 1958. While taking graduate studies, she was hired as an Assistant Instructor in Economics by her Alma Mater.

She worked with Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner, and Smith (MLPF&S), an investment management company in Hong Kong, from 1964 to 1967. Eventually, she was promoted as operations manager when the Manila branch (Asia Regional Office) opened in 1967 and was one of only three women Operations Managers in the whole international office of the company.

When Martial Law was declared in 1972, Ms. Nietes-Little made the bold decision to resign from MLPF&S. She opened Casalinda Bookshop in San Antonio Plaza in Forbes Park, Makati, despite the uncertainties at that time. Her rationale for opening the bookshop was that she felt that young Filipinos were not expressive or impressed by their ancient cultural heritage. She wanted to see a change in that situation. There were only two other bookshops in Manila around that period, and she made Casalinda different by carrying Philippine antiquarian materials: books, prints, and maps that catered to Filipino collectors.

She promoted contemporary books written only by Filipino authors and some written by

foreign authors whose subject matter focused on the Philippines. Her bookshop also held literary soirees so that young people would have a chance to meet known authors. She went a step further and collaborated with Gilda Cordero Fernando of GCF books, who published beautiful and fully illustrated coffee table books on various aspects of Filipino culture.

Ms. Nietes-Little carried that same love for books and country when she moved to Los Angeles, California in 1984. Though it was not easy to start again from scratch, she opened Philippine Expressions bookshop and built another home for Philippine writings across the Pacific. Her vision was for the bookshop to carry all the expressions, sentiments, and emotions embodied in volumes of History, Literature, Art, Social Sciences, and other categories. Her collection also grew to include writings by Filipino Americans and Filipinos in the diaspora.

The bookshop provides representation for Filipinos who have been living in America for a long time and has promoted Philippine works since its inception. It hosts regular publication parties, book talks, lectures on Philippine culture by visiting Filipino scholars, poetry readings during the National Poetry Month in April, and other literary soirees. Ms. Nietes-Little conceptualized the idea of an Author's Night wherein new books and authors would be launched to the public. The initiative has helped Filipino, and Filipino American authors place themselves on the literary map of Los Angeles and has stimulated intellectual growth in academic circles.

Philippine Expressions also celebrates "Pinay Gathering" every year to honor Filipino and Filipino American women authors during the "International and National Women's History Month" in March.

For seventeen years, the bookshop participated in the LA Times Festival of Books at the campus of the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) and at the University of Southern California (USC). Over the years, it has also supported various community events such as the LA Festival of Philippine Arts and Culture (FPAC) and the biennial conference of the Filipino American National Historical Society (FANHS). It also participated in the Filipino American Book Festival at the San Francisco Public Library.

In 2017, Philippines Expressions opened its

affiliate PINTADOS Philippine Art Gallery as a venue for Filipino and Filipino American artists to exhibit their works and showcase indigenous art from the Philippines. Ms. Nietes-Little continues to look for ways to expand beyond the bookshop and further serve the Filipino diaspora's cultural needs.

During the pandemic, the physical bookshop was open only on Saturdays, and by appointment, but the bookshop was available online through its website and by hosting regular virtual Book Talk programs., www.philippinebookshop.com

Outside her work in the bookshop, Ms. Nietes-Little involves herself in organizations that aim to study and preserve Asian culture, such as the: Filipino American National Historical Society, Association of Asian American Studies, and National Federation of Filipino American Associations. To further increase the visibility of Filipinos in America, she was on the Board of civic and church organizations like the Palos Verdes Sunset Rotary Club, the Los Angeles Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women, and the Friends of the Croatian Cultural Center in San Pedro. In September 2007, she was honored with the Community Service Award during the annual Festival of Philippine Arts and Culture in Los Angeles. In October 2007, the Filipina Women's Network chose her as one of the 100 Most Influential Filipina Women in the US in the Founders and Pioneers Categories. In April 2009, she appeared on the cover of The Asian Journal Midweek magazine to honor her transformational activism that made a difference in the Filipino American communities all over the United States.

As a Filipiniana specialist, she is considered a gatekeeper of knowledge in the Los Angeles Filipino community and continues to help preserve and promote Filipino culture and heritage through literature and art to benefit succeeding generations of immigrant Filipinos.

In conferring the Banaag Award to Linda Nietes-Little, the President recognizes her commitment and dedication to preserving and promoting the Philippine culture and art by establishing the Philippine Expressions bookshop as a home for Filipino writings in the United States.



DENNIS N. RATA

Kuwait
Hometown: Libacao, Aklan

The resolve to sustain his family's financial needs was one of the main reasons Mr. Dennis N. Rata, a 37-year-old aluminum technician and steel welder, considered working abroad. Life was hard for his family back then. From Panipiason, Madalag, his family evacuated to Janlud, Libacao, Aklan. His parents did not have enough resources to provide for their needs and send him to college, so he decided to work and help his family at a young age.

After graduating from high school, Mr. Rata worked as a construction helper. He saved money and came to Manila, then enrolled himself in a security guard training center. He served as a security guard for various fast food chains and commercial business establishments around Metro Manila for almost four years. He then became a motorized messenger and delivery fabricator/leadman in an aluminum company.

With meager financial resources and a desire to further support his brothers and sisters' education, he took the leap of faith and pursued an overseas job. He came to Kuwait in 2014 to work as an aluminum technician for the World of Design but was assigned to the steel fabrication department. He experienced a lot of difficulties because of his unfamiliarity with the work. He tried his best and worked harder to master his craft despite being the only Filipino in the department. He later became an "all-rounder" - installing glass, cleaning machines, doing maintenance, welding brackets, working on monorail systems, among other things. He completed the company's low and high rise building projects, including a project at the Shadadiyah Sabah Al Salem Kuwait University, one of the largest campuses in the world, which he considers a milestone in his career.

Ever since he came to Kuwait, Mr. Rata heard many stories about OFWs being physically and mentally abused by their employers. As an OFW himself, he always wished he could do something to help those in vulnerable situations. This burning desire reached its turning point in 2016 when one of his friends working as a household service worker in Kuwait experienced abuse from her employer. The household service worker was sexually harassed, overworked, not paid, and transported to Lebanon without proper

documentation. The worker took a chance and escaped from her employer in the middle of the night with nowhere to go and hid in the garbage area then called him for help. He took the initiative to pull out the worker from her location and bring her to the Embassy of the Philippines.

Since then and knowing his other kababayan were in the same situation, helping OFWs in distress has become his lifetime commitment and advocacy. He has strengthened his network with the Embassy of the Philippines, Philippine Overseas Labor Office (POLO), OWWA, POEA, and various non-government organizations to refer and coordinate the various concerns of OFWs, especially the household service workers, and their families in the Philippines. Through his personal Facebook and WhatsApp accounts, complaints, and requests for assistance from OFWs, not only in Kuwait but other countries in the Middle East, poured in.

He likewise founded a Facebook private group called Bigo International Friends / *Kapatiran ng mga Mamamayan Pilipino Internasyunal OFW's Helping Center* (BIF-KAMPI OFW's HC) as another means of receiving distress cases and disseminating information and updates on the various Philippine government programs and services for OFWs. At present, the Facebook group has 1,800 members composed of OFWs and their families.

Mr. Rata is very detailed and organized in referring cases as if he is a full-time case officer. He makes sure to provide the complete information about the OFWs and their complaints and the necessary documents to the Embassy and POLO to facilitate immediate assistance and rescue if needed. Not only does he refer cases to the proper authorities, but he also follows them through until the OFWs are finally rescued and repatriated back to the country.

He is considered a "hero of distressed OFWs" and has been instrumental in the efforts to successfully pull out and repatriate household service workers and other OFWs in the Middle East. Since 2016, he successfully assisted 133 OFWs with various complaints against their employers, such as maltreatment, unpaid salaries, poor working condition, detention, overwork, molestation, illness, and transfer to another employer. Aside from attending to cases and complaints, he regularly disseminates information and updates on the programs of the government, provides advice, and responds to queries of OFWs.

In April 2020, Kuwaiti authorities placed the

Mahaboula of Kuwait City on lockdown to curb corona virus spread. The OFWs strongly felt the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic and hard-lockdown, especially those in no-work, no-pay arrangements. The lockdown also made it initially difficult for the Embassy and POLO-OWWA to provide immediate assistance to affected OFWs. They reached out to Mr. Rata to find ways to extend assistance to the Filipino communities in Mahaboula. Despite the risks of the pandemic and strict rules of Kuwaiti authorities, he volunteered to buy and repack relief goods using the POLO's financial support and distribute them to OFWs in need.

During the first batch of assistance, he did all of these on his own. Eventually, he was able to establish networks among the Filipino community in Mahaboula. For the subsequent batches of relief efforts, he took the leadership role to organize relief and cash assistance coordination and distribution by assigning coordinators per district/block. Other OFW organizations were inspired and stepped in to help. Household service workers also approached their employers for donations. A total of 3,980 OFWs were assisted in the relief efforts that he helped coordinate with the POLO-OWWA and Filipino community in Mahaboula.

For his noble acts and genuine concern for the welfare and condition of the OFWs, Mr. Rata was conferred the *Parangal para sa mga Natatanging Pilipinong Indibidwal at Organisasyon sa Kuwait Ngayong Panahon ng Pandemya* (2021) by the Embassy of the Philippines, and *Bagong Bayani Awards for Community and Social Services* (2018) by the *Bagong Bayani Foundation, Inc.* (BFFI). The *Sangguniang Panlalawigan* of Aklan Province also issued Resolution No. 2018-874, commending him for his immense contributions in protecting and promoting the rights and welfare of OFWs in the Middle East. For his strong leadership, dedication, and contributions, Dennis also received numerous recognitions from the Filipino community organizations in Kuwait.

In conferring the Banaag Award to Dennis N. Rata, the President recognizes his selfless dedication and untiring efforts to safeguard the rights and welfare of overseas Filipinos in the Middle East and his exemplary volunteerism and leadership that were instrumental in assisting overseas Filipinos affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.



JANNELLE SO-PERKINS

United States of America
Hometown: Quezon City, Metro Manila

running Filipino daily talk show outside the Philippines, it ran for eight and a half years under her leadership, highlighting crucial issues affecting the Filipino American community and sharing stories of encouragement, struggles, and motivation.

board. She has also been involved in alleviating poverty in the Philippines and helping make education available for low-income families as the youngest person elected to the Board of Directors for *Gawad Kalinga-USA* and LA Associates Board of Teach for America. She chaired the month-long Filipino American History Celebration in the City of Carson, CA, in 2012, for which she was recognized as Supreme Bayani (Hero) by the Filipino-American Chamber of Commerce South Bay. She is also a passionate volunteer for the Center for the Pacific Asian Family (CPAF), where she helps victims of domestic violence and serves as translator and host for their various events and projects. She is also an active member of the Asian American and Pacific Islander (APPI) Community.

Those who lived through the late 1990s and early 2000s would remember Ms. Jannelle So-Perkins as the well-liked outside reporter of the Philippine Basketball Association (PBA). This cum laude graduate of Communication Arts from Miriam College stood out in a male-dominated sport with her charm and incredible courtside reporting. She further expanded the scope of her network and career to boxing when she covered the fights of the Philippine boxing pride Manny Pacquiao and to print media, having maintained a weekly lifestyle and sports column titled “The Score” in *The Philippine Star*.

After running the whole operations of *Kababayan Today* for almost a decade, she decided it was time to take a break to work on an even bigger production - a family. She has been married to Lester Perkins since 2014 and has a daughter named Lilly and a son named Leo. She is a very hands-on mom, effectively balancing a thriving life of motherhood and entrepreneurship when she launched her own company Jannelle So Productions (JSP) in 2015.

Highlights of her six-year print and broadcast journalism career included her coverage of the top local and international events such as the 1997 ASEAN Informal Summit in Malaysia, 1998 Asian Games in Bangkok, 1998 Philippine Presidential Elections, 2000 Centennial Celebrations in the Philippines, 2002 Asian Games in Korea, and the 2006 NBA All-Star Weekend in Houston.

A role model for immigrants, women, and young people seeking to enter the entertainment field and own their company, she has changed the media landscape for Filipino Americans. In 2017, she launched her new weekly lifestyle magazine show, “SO Jannelle,” which airs on US-wide cable channel The Filipino Channel (TFC), ANC, and digital channel KNET 25.1. Her show features issues, current events and highlights a variety of aspects of the Filipino lifestyle in North America – from fashion to politics to sports and community affairs. Through the show, she continues to make content for Filipino Americans and the global Filipino audience tackling issues and current events that are often overshadowed but of great relevance to the community, including spotlighting Filipinos and their many impactful contributions to the United States. Using her platform, she has improved the Filipino representation in media, guided the community, and changed conversations between Filipinos abroad and the Philippines while encouraging the community to give back to Filipinos in need back home.

She was at the prime of her career when she left for the United States in 2003 to follow her family, who moved to Los Angeles a few years before her. After a fruitful beginning in her journalism career in the Philippines, she built on her success in the United States. But success was not handed to her on a silver platter. The media industry in the United States is bigger and more competitive.

In Los Angeles, she took up a certificate course in print and broadcast journalism at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). Prior to her TV stint in the United States, she was into sales, working as an advertising agent for a newspaper. She saw that Filipino Americans were underserved in media. When the opportunity came to host and produce her own daily Filipino show, she started America’s first and only daily talk show for and about the Filipinos - *Kababayan LA/Today*. She created, hosted, and produced the talk show, which aired on *KSCI-TV LA18*. Considered the longest-

She also has an impressive track record of social work and community service to benefit Filipinos in the United States and abroad. She serves on the board of multiple non-profit organizations and has also taken lead roles in events that elevate Filipino-Americans. Her passion and enthusiasm are contagious, and she inspires others to get involved.

Her hard work and accomplishments as a media practitioner have been recognized by mainstream and Filipino organizations. She was a recipient of the Migration Advocacy and Media Awards - Regular TV Program (2021) for her show *SO Jannelle*, The Outstanding Filipino-Americans (TOFA) 100 List of Influential Filipino-Americans (2020), TOFA Honoree (2018), Media and Publishing Award (2018), Women of Worth Outstanding Women of Achievement Award in Broadcast Journalism (2017), Outstanding Community Reporting for Television Award (2013) for her story *Human Trafficking Special: A 4-Part Series*, *Bayanihan Award* (2012), Los Angeles Press Club Honorable Mention (2011), and 100 Most Influential Filipinas by *Filipina Womens Network* (2011). For her stellar achievements and leadership excellence in her field and invaluable contributions to the community, she has also received a certificate of recognition from City Mayor Eric Garcetti, California State Assembly, City of Los Angeles Board of Public Works, and City of Los Angeles Council.

She currently serves as Director of Strategic Partnership of the National Federation of Filipino American Associations (NaFFAA-National) and the NaFFAA Greater Los Angeles regional

In conferring the Banaag Award to Jannelle So-Perkins, the President recognizes her exemplary achievements and contributions as a successful media professional and entrepreneur, as well as her various diaspora engagement endeavors which uplifted and inspired Filipino Americans and strengthened their ties with the Philippines.



CRISTY M. VICENTINA

Singapore

Hometown: San Fernando, Pampanga

The world of banking and finance is awe-inspiring for the common folk. However, for Ms. Cristy M. Vicentina, financial matters are right up her alley, and she uses this knowledge to empower the overseas Filipino community in Singapore. Ms. Vicentina is a financial trader, licensed treasury professional, and banker while also serving as a teacher, leader, and friend.

Born in San Fernando, Pampanga, she is the fourth child in a brood of six and lost her father at age 6. Her single mother taught her and her siblings how to dream and uplift themselves through education. Following this, she studied at the University of the Philippines in Los Baños and graduated in 1992 with a Bachelor of Science in Applied Mathematics degree. She also took up a Master's degree at the University of the Philippines-Diliman Extension Program in San Fernando, Pampanga and graduated with a Master of Management in Business Management in 1998.

In the Philippines, she worked as a Senior Lecturer at the University of the Philippines in Manila and the University of the Philippines Extension Program in Clark, Pampanga from 1994 to 2006. In 1997, she began her career as a banker with the Philippine National Bank (PNB) in Guagua, Pampanga, and would soon rise in rank through the years.

In 2005, Ms. Vicentina received her Treasury Certification from the Ateneo - BAP Institute of Banking, which opened opportunities while working for PNB. In 2006, she was promoted as Treasury Chief Dealer for PNB Singapore. Thus, she left the Philippines and started her career in the Lion City state. Currently, she is the General Manager and Regional Head for Asia and Oceania of PNB Singapore.

She serves the Filipino community in Singapore through her professional work. With the pandemic continuing to claim numerous lives, going out is always a risk. She re-introduced Online Remittance to protect Filipinos while still allowing them to go through with their transactions. She also aggressively re-marketed the *Pangarap* Loan to prevent OFWs from falling victim to money lending companies. The *Pangarap* Loan is a short-term financing product that allows OFWs to start small businesses.

She forged a partnership between PNB and the Social Security System (SSS), implementing

a reduced remittance fee, from 3.50 SGD to 0.99 SGD, allowing Filipinos to save more of their hard-earned money. Moreover, she provided special space in the PNB branch to process the release of the DOLE-AKAP for OFWs and even waived associated bank fees.

Ms. Vicentina's passion and regard for continuous learning started at a young age. Immediately after graduation, she started doing community organizing and teaching. She consistently volunteers to conduct various Financial Literacy and Personality Development Talks for Filipinos to manage their finances better and make sound financial investments. Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, she continued to share her knowledge and expertise through a series of webinars. She joins and supports the Philippine Embassy's Post Arrival Orientation Seminars (PAOS) that welcome newly arrived OFWs in Singapore and volunteers for the Migrant Workers and Other Overseas Filipino Resource Center (MWORFC). Moreover, she is a consistent volunteer with many skills-upgrading schools. These include the Overseas Skills Program & Services (OSPAS), AIMS Learning International, ASKI Global Ltd, Filipino Overseas Workers in Singapore (FOWS) – CARE Academy Home-based Elder Caregiver Program, NeoVita Training Centre, and the Ateneo Leadership and Social Entrepreneurship Program (ALSE).

Ms. Vicentina is also an active member of several Filipino organizations in Singapore. She has been part of the Board of Directors of the Philippine Bayanihan Society Singapore (PBSS) since 2009 and has been the Honorary Vice-President of the organization since 2019. She is a member of the PBSS core committee for the annual *Bayanihan* Walk. She also organized Effortless Leadership with Gilly Chater, a leadership training program for the PBSS.

In 2018, she partnered with Business Network Group (BNG), and together they organized the "BNG Run for a Cause." Proceeds of the event went to three beneficiaries, namely: Foreign Domestic Workers Association for Social Support and Training (FAST), a 2018 PAFIOO awardee; Serving People with Disabilities (SPD), and the PBSS.

In a collaboration project between the University of the Philippines Alumni Association Singapore (UPAAS), the Association of Mapua Alumni, Singapore (SAMA), and PBSS, she was part of the core management team that brought the famous Giant Lantern in Pampanga to Singapore. The month-long display of the Giant Lantern at the Cathedral of Good Shepherd showcased the lantern-making industry of Pampanga, as well as the Filipinos' love for God and family. She was also part of the UPAAS' Management Committee that published and launched the *Metro Cuisine*

book that showcased Filipino culture and heritage through food. Proceeds from the sales of the book were donated to the UPAAS Scholarship program that funds four scholars at the University of the Philippines at any given time. She continues to support the UPAAS Scholarship Program through sponsorships of different events and projects that help raise funds for current and future scholars.

Ms. Vicentina consistently participates and represents the Filipino community in Singapore's People's Association (PA) integration projects. The events are aimed at helping migrant workers feel more integrated into the local community and provide an opportunity to form lasting friendships with Singaporeans and other nationalities. The activities also come with the chance to showcase the Filipino traits of kindness and hospitality.

To continue reaching out to Filipinos in Singapore during the COVID-19 pandemic, she joined the weekly *Rated J Facebook* live sessions. Believing in the vision of the show's creator, Jun Rigonan, she shared her office space to film live shows. Together with three fellow UP alumni, they started a mini-talk show through Facebook titled *Kuro-Kuro Sessions*.

She gives her support to various Filipino-organized sports events and teams. For most sports events, she participates as a player in the tournaments as they are often for charity. In other instances, she graces the sports events as a guest of honor, providing inspirational messages and helping the various organizations solicit tokens and raffle items for the participants.

Believing in the importance of empowering women, she consistently supports personality development projects through fashion and beauty pageants participated in by Filipino household service workers in Singapore. She is usually invited as one of the judges or as a trainer for the participants.

Ms. Vicentina believes that the ultimate form of being empowered is to allow other people, especially women, to be equally empowered. This can be achieved by sharing one's knowledge and resources. She tries to apply this principle in her initiatives and endeavors in Singapore.

In conferring the Banaag Award to Cristy M. Vicentina, the President recognizes her immense contributions and passion to share her knowledge and empower the Filipinos in Singapore through her involvement in the community and the leadership she possesses.



ELIJA PAUL G. VILLANUEVA

United Kingdom

Hometown: San Juan, Metro Manila

Those who came out of and survived life's storm, are rarely the same person who walked in. Mr. Elija Paul G. Villanueva is a living testament to this. At the age of 17, he became the family breadwinner, working part-time in a call center, earning extras on a few commercial shoots, and managing different shops in the Philippines. He engaged in different social functions and activities for youth all over the country. He was even featured in different news stories as an active youth leader and became an anchor at the Armed Forces of the Philippines radio station through the Confederation of Student Government of the Philippines. In 2008 he represented the country at different youth activities around Asia and headed the Philippine delegation to South Korea. He finished his secondary level with honors, was a consistent Dean's lister and graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree at Dominican College. He received his professional license as a nurse. All his achievements were supported by the Dominican priests, nuns, local government officials as well as different people who believed in his skills and talent. At a very young age, he went to the United Kingdom to study and work at the same time. Luckily, his employers in the Philippines sponsored his trip in search of a better life for his family after his father got sick.

He immediately landed a job as a health care worker while pursuing a degree in Bachelor of Arts in Business Management at Glyndwr University London. While working and studying at the same time, he never stopped helping different communities and was recognized for his talent and skills by the Filipino communities. Mr. Villanueva won numerous awards such as Mr. Philippines United Kingdom 2011, Finalist and winner of different photography competitions in the UK. He was invited to give talks and inspire the youth in different countries.

In 2011, Mr. Villanueva was conferred the first-degree order Knight of Rizal (KR) in recognition of his dedication to the national welfare and his interest in and willingness to emulate and propagate the lofty ideals, values, and teachings of our national hero, Dr. Jose Rizal. He was very active in promoting Rizalian values among Filipino communities in London, so much so that he was conferred the second degree rank Knight Officer of Rizal (KOR) in 2013 and was exalted

to the third-degree Knight Commander of Rizal (KCR) in 2017 in Brussels, Belgium. In 2020, he became the Commander of the Knights of Rizal in London but had to leave his position prematurely to spearhead community and voluntary projects in the UK.

During his knighthood, Mr. Villanueva conducted seminars, lectures, and fundraising events to encourage appreciation and understanding of Rizal's life overseas. These include the first Rizal London Youth Workshop, Gallery Talk: Rizal in London, held in 2018 at the Museo ni Jose Rizal in Calamba, Laguna in cooperation with the National Historical Commission of the Philippines, as well as charity. He is very keen on providing service and sharing his talent and skills to benefit other people while pursuing his passion which earned him the Distinguished Service Medal Award given by the Order of the Knights of Rizal in 2014.

He also founded a voluntary group based in London called YAPAK (footprint) which provided food assistance to 5,000 Filipinos and non-Filipinos in the UK during the Covid-19 crisis, empowered 350 YAPAK ambassadors, and sponsored the education of 40 student scholars in the Philippines. YAPAK organizes various contests and activities that foster the talent and skills of young Filipinos in the Philippines and the UK while seeking to advance their knowledge and education on Philippine literature, arts, and culture. During the COVID-19 pandemic, YAPAK conducted an online spoken word poetry competition that honored Filipino frontliners for their immense sacrifice and invaluable dedication to serving the Filipino people. To date, Mr. Villanueva has remitted a total amount of Php 200,000.00 to YAPAK in support of its projects and initiatives.

Since 2012, he used his own money to provide financial aid and support various art workshops, trainings, and feeding and outreach programs in the Philippines. He believes that the meaning of life is to find your gift and the purpose of life is to give it away thus giving back to the community is the key to find happiness. He has generated funding and supports through photography and being the master of ceremony in countless programs both in the Philippines. He supports the diaspora community by coordinating with several charity organizations in the UK.

His service is not limited to providing financial assistance. Since 2012, he has been a volunteer teacher for The Voice of Domestic Workers, covering lessons on Basic English, information technology, and computer literacy; a volunteer instructor in a POLO-OWWA photography course

in London for overseas Filipino workers, and at the London Filipino Centre CIC. He is also a volunteer photographer for Lahing Kayumanggi Dance Company since 2012. In addition, he captures and documents charity events and Filipino art exhibitions conducted by the Philippine Embassy in London for free.

In 2012, he held a photo exhibit for childhood cancer awareness at the Philippine Cultural Centre in London, entitled "Kulay," a snapshot of life in the UK through the eyes of an overseas Filipino. This show was dedicated to his sister. A year later, he launched a book entitled "Ang Nababasa ni Pepe" which depicts in both prose and poetry the life experiences of Filipino expatriates in the diaspora—the proceeds of which went to his sister's medical fund for chemotherapy and a bone marrow transplant. He also organized a solo exhibition with the help of The Voice of Domestic Workers dedicated to migrant workers in the UK at the House of Parliament in London, China's Exchange, The Showroom, and London's Mayor's Office. It showcased a collection of domestic workers' testimonies, uplifting the name and morale of the Filipinos and restoring the rights of the Domestic Workers abroad.

Starting as a student leader and later a health care worker and now a business consultant, he is driven to continue working to promote, preserve and develop Filipino culture and arts wherever life takes him; his pride in his cultural heritage always manifests through his generous spirit and unbridled dedication to the country and the Filipino people. He believes that poverty is never a hindrance to success. All we need is the will to work hard, the courage to take risks, and the audacity to go beyond limits.

Today, Mr. Villanueva works as a business consultant at Paul Digital Marketing in supporting local businesses and culture through digital marketing. The owner of Bathala Scents, he pursues personal projects in photography and Arts. He believes he can improve the world, one day, one person, one act of kindness at a time.

In conferring the Banaag Award to Elija Paul G. Villanueva, the President recognizes his exemplary voluntary service to the Filipino community in the United Kingdom, as well as his dedication and outstanding contributions to promoting understanding and appreciation to Dr. Jose Rizal's life and achievement as the country's national hero.



FELIX Y. MANALO
FOUNDATION, INC.

FELIX Y. MANALO FOUNDATION, INC. (FYM FOUNDATION)

Canada

Unity, duty, and obedience to God are the three values that members of the Felix Y. Manalo Foundation, Inc. (FYM Foundation) keep in mind while they do their missions and volunteer work. The FYM Foundation is geared towards furthering the Iglesia Ni Cristo's (INC) religious doctrines and beliefs and has been registered as a non-stock, non-profit, and non-political organization in Canada since December 2013. The organization is active in multiple districts to carry out its mission, establishing numerous local congregations in Canada. Members of the organization are dedicated to their mission to relieve and alleviate poverty by providing basic needs such as food and water, medical supplies, shelter, clothing, and livelihood recovery to those in need. Through its initiatives and projects, the FYM Foundation endeavors to promote education, socio-economic well-being, environmental awareness, and health improvement for its beneficiaries.

The INC is active in having initiatives that provide help and support for the poor and needy. In 1952, initiatives meant to assist began as a Medical and Dental Mission. Over the years, the scope and purpose of their projects have evolved. The FYM Foundation leads INC's humanitarian advocacies and projects, the most extensive of which is the Lingap sa Mamamayan or Aid to Humanity. As an integrated socio-civic service, the INC extends its advocacy beyond medical and dental services to include calamity and disaster relief. In 2018, the INC strengthened their Aid to Humanity efforts in North America, resulting in groundbreaking "Fight Poverty" activities to help low-income families in America and Canada for the benefit of Filipinos, specifically Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs). Aid to Humanity events were also held in Taiwan, Thailand, Malaysia, and Hong Kong in late 2018 and early 2019, attended by almost 8,000 OFWs to receive help from the organization.

Following the organization's objectives, the majority of its projects are charities and fundraisers for multiple causes. The FYM Foundation generously provides check donations to various hospitals, food banks, veteran associations, and indigenous organizations. The FYM Foundation has

also initiated several food drives, resulting in numerous boxes of food donated to various food banks in the country. The organization distributes care packages in multiple locations in Canada and offers financial assistance to food banks, health centers, and numerous community beneficiaries. Due to their reach, they have touched the lives of innumerable people and have even garnered the attention of members of Canada's Legislative Assembly Cindy Lamoureux and Judy Klassen, who came in support of the organization's effort and initiatives.

Two of the most important achievements of the FYM Foundation are the first and second Worldwide Walk to Fight Poverty. On February 15, 2014, they organized the first Worldwide Walk to raise donations for the victims of Super Typhoon Haiyan. The first Worldwide Walk set two new Guinness World Records of having the largest charity walk/run in a single venue. Over 174,509 members of the INC in the Philippines participated in the event and is the largest charity walk/run in multiple venues as it was held simultaneously in 28 other countries totaling 519,221 participants. Proceeds from the INC's first Worldwide Walk financed the INC's resettlement project in Leyte. The project included building 1,000 units of concrete homes and providing a livelihood for the typhoon survivors in Sitio New Era. The INC planned on constructing a garment factory and cultivating sites for farming. Survivors of the typhoon will receive compensation for their work in building their homes and other financial assistance.

Four years after the first Worldwide Walk, the FYM Foundation organized their second Worldwide Walk to Fight Poverty on May 6, 2018, where over 773,136 participants worldwide participated. The event was held simultaneously across 300 sites in 18 time zones. This time, the event set four new Guinness World Records and broke the two Guinness Records held by the first Worldwide Walk. It sets the new record for the largest human sentence and the largest picture mosaic formed by people. The money gathered from the event would be used to purchase 5,000 hectares of land in Ladybrand and Petrusburg in the Free State, assisting over 33,000 people in Nairobi, Kenya, and Malawi.

The FYM Foundation also has initiatives focusing on the health and welfare of its beneficiaries. It is active in supporting and partnering with health-related organizations. By May 2019, the FYM Foundation was already one of the Canadian Blood Services' largest group donation partners. Members of the FYM Foundation actively participate in blood donation activities. In doing so, the FYM Foundation has helped increase the cultural diversity of donors within Canada's national blood system. Moreover, the Canadian Blood Services stated that members of the organization brought 27 groups totaling more than 350 blood donors to support Canadian patients. The Foundation's Aid for Humanity missions includes medical outreaches, such as the one held at Leyte National High School, where they distributed over 100,000 relief bags and provided medical and dental services to the area residents.

Due to the FYM Foundation's extensive list of accomplishments and contributions, it is no surprise that the organization has been recognized for its charitable works. The FYM Foundation has been praised time and again for its incredible selflessness and philanthropic initiatives. It has been identified as "an important part of their communities" by the Premier of Alberta, Hon. Jason Kenney. Mayor Don Iveson of Edmonton also recognized that the organization and its Aid to Humanity program have "made a difference in the lives of many people." The generosity and volunteerism of its members gave it the capability to touch people's lives and make a positive impact. It was also conferred the *Gawad Talino* Awards by the United Filipino Canadian Associations in British Columbia (UFCABC) in 2019.

In conferring the Banaag Award to Felix Y. Manalo Foundation, Inc. (FYM Foundation), the President recognizes the organization's exemplary achievements and humanitarian assistance to empower Filipinos and Canadians alike in their numerous charitable projects in Canada.



FILIPINO AMERICAN
SERVICE GROUP, INC.

FILIPINO AMERICAN SERVICE GROUP, INC. (FASGI)

United States of America

sessions, anger management, telephone check-in, referrals, and other non-medical means of dealing with mental health issues. These programs address and support the mental health needs and concerns of Filipino Americans of all ages, especially human trafficking survivors, active older adults, seniors, and young adults.

power outages, or even a pandemic, FASGI has developed outreach and education activities. These activities address Filipino/Filipino American culture and behavior, increase awareness on effective response, encourage the development of an emergency plan and promote disaster resilience.

The Historic Filipinotown, originally referred to as “Little Manila,” has long been a place where the Filipino American community thrived. Apart from the burgeoning food scene and rich cultural heritage assets, the Filipinos’ vibrant community spirit remains unparalleled in this neighborhood, where several service organizations catering to the needs of the Filipino American community can also be found.

Situated right in the heart of this ethnic enclave, the Filipino American Service Group, Inc. (FASGI), a non-profit organization, was established in 1981 to initially support the socio-economic development of Filipino Americans in Los Angeles. FASGI’s early years focused on helping Filipino American World War II veterans with the Park View House as its main facility to provide services such as housing, medical and other social and humanitarian assistance.

Through the years, FASGI has broadened its scope to serve the Greater Los Angeles Area. In 2016, FASGI recognized and redefined its role in putting more attention to addressing the unmet needs of Filipino Americans in Southern California. FASGI’s headquarters and the main facility were renamed the FASGI Bayanihan Center. From a transitional housing, the center now serves as a community hub that features Filipino cultural and traditional activities, an art gallery and art exhibit venue, meeting rooms for various gatherings, and office space for Filipino American groups and organizations with no home.

FASGI is the only Filipino American legal entity contractor of the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health. In response to the growing need for mental health services in the Filipino American community, FASGI overhauled its mental health program in 2017. Its current mental health program has expanded to include holistic therapies, seminars, information dissemination, discussion

— Becoming a citizen gives a person the right to vote, qualify for federal jobs, and makes it easier to apply for family reunification in the United States. FASGI’s naturalization assistance has helped thousands of individuals in successfully obtaining their United States citizenship. It helps complete application forms and determines the client’s eligibility for a full or partial waiver of the federally mandated application fee. All applications go through a legal review process by an immigration lawyer.

In 2016, FASGI created its Arts Incubation Program to promote and uplift Filipino and Filipino American arts and culture. The program helps Filipino American artists be properly recognized and given economic opportunities for advancement, enables Filipino Americans to connect with their culture, and educates mainstream America on Philippine-American art. It includes a permanent gallery, special semi-annual exhibits, portraiture, and an artist-in-residence program.

On the other hand, Park View House was replaced by the FASGI Housing Assistance Program, which provides accommodation to active seniors and Filipino Americans who cannot pay market rate monthly rents. While this is a non-profit program, any income received through rent is used for the maintenance and improvements of the FASGI Bayanihan Center.

The needs of Filipino Americans living overseas are continuing to evolve, specifically during the COVID-19 pandemic. FASGI continues to understand, adapt, and prepare for emerging issues to meet the needs of its diverse populations and communities through an inclusive approach. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, FASGI quickly adapted its service delivery system and initiated the *Balik-Bahay* Program, webinar series, and mental health support programs for the Filipino American community. Moreover, to ensure that community members were prepared to respond to wildfires, earthquakes, floods,

The Los Angeles area has the second largest concentration of Filipinos globally, and FASGI has encouraged thousands of Filipinos to participate in the US Census. FASGI assisted the US Census Bureau by disseminating information about the 2020 Census and encouraging the Filipino American community to participate. It was part of the 2020 Filipino Complete Count Committee of Los Angeles County, including other Filipino American community organizations in Southern California.

For 40 years, FASGI has significantly contributed to advancing the health and well-being of Filipino American individuals, families, and communities in the United States by promoting resiliency, racial and health equity, healthy lifestyles, and overall well-being, and uplifting Filipino arts and culture. With its motto, “Happy to help, honored to serve,” FASGI is dedicated to public service and passionate about its work with the people and communities that it serves and protects. Its programs and services – whether implemented in-house or in collaboration with long-standing partnerships with other community organizations, academic institutions, and public and private sectors – have touched and improved the lives of many Filipino Americans and residents living in Los Angeles County, the State of California, and throughout the nation and overseas.

In conferring the Banaag Award to the Filipino American Service Group, Inc. (FASGI), the President recognizes its 40 years of public service and contribution to advancing the health and well-being of the Filipino American community while promoting Filipino arts and culture and resiliency.



IGOROT UK CHARITY (IGO-UK) United Kingdom

The Igorot people have notably contributed to the Philippines whose hardwork is one of the world's most magnificent man-made achievements, the Ifugao Rice Terraces – a UNESCO World Heritage site. Their knowledge handed down from one generation to the next and the expression of sacred traditions are considered to be among the richest sources of Philippine cultural history.

The integrity of Igorot culture is premised on its enduring connections to the past and its rootedness to the land of the ancestral village. As more and more Igorot become part of the diaspora community, the culture has contended with the reality of an expanded global village in which it must continue to renew and strengthen itself.

The influx of Filipino migrants, including the Igorots in the UK in the early part of this century, helped form the Igorot UK Charity (IGO-UK). The IGO-UK is among the most active and dedicated organizations in the Filipino community overseas, its leadership and involvement in community projects have raised public awareness of the uniqueness of Filipino culture, particularly the Igorot culture and heritage.

Founded on September 17, 1995 by 22 pioneer members, the IGO-UK structure has evolved over the years and now has 800 members. At present, the IGO-UK is the mother organization of four sub-groups representing the different provinces of the Cordillera region: 1) Mountain Province Federation UK (MPFED), which is further divided into 10 municipalities; 2) Ifugao Organization UK, a haven for the Ifugaos and their rich heritage in the UK; 3) Benguet Organization UK (BOUK), on its 10th year and counting; 4) United Kalinga Apayao Network (UKAN), an organization representing those coming from the two beautiful provinces of Kalinga and Apayao. In addition, the IGO-UK has sister organizations, namely Timpuyog ti Tirad Pass and Sagunto UK.

Each sub-group, although sharing similar Igorot culture, has different identities and specific characteristics. Together, all six groups

contribute actively to the success of the IGO-UK activities of preserving and promoting the indigenous culture of the Northern Philippines while fostering the spirit of cooperation, unity, and understanding among members. For 25 years, the IGO-UK has endeavored to bring the Igorot dances, songs, chants, arts, and culture to a wider audience in the UK and helped instill a sense of pride in being an Igorot in the diaspora.

In the face of globalization and modernity, the present challenge for the Igorot people is how best to integrate into their host countries while sustaining and promoting links to their Igorot culture, homeland, and heritage and win respect for their culture and ethnic identity. Despite facing acculturation challenges to the British way of life, IGO-UK members never turned their backs on their Igorot identity. Instead, they preserved and promoted through cultural and social affairs, knowledge sharing, adherence, revitalization of values and beliefs, and community participation. For more than two decades, IGO-UK has taken the lead in preserving and promoting the Igorot culture and heritage in the United Kingdom through its Grand Canao and Founding Anniversary Celebration and various community cultural events and collaborations. These activities bring together the Igorot community in a meaningful celebration of music, ethnic dances, fashion shows, and discussions to promote and raise awareness of the Igorot culture and heritage

IGO-UK also organized annual sports day, summer day tours and outings in the UK's tourism destinations, cultural night, Christmas and New Year Parties to foster friendship, camaraderie, and unity. It regularly interacted with Filipino organizations in the UK and the British community, which has bridged understanding, respect, and appreciation of the Igorot culture and causes.

IGO-UK has been active in the affairs of the international Igorot community by influencing fellow Igorots in other countries to form their groups and supporting meetings/workshops organized by various International Igorot organizations in other parts of the globe. Particularly, the IGO-UK organized and hosted two international conferences: the 4th International Igorot Consultation (2002), and 6th Igorot Cordillera BIMAAK Europe Consultation (2011). Both events brought Igorots from around the globe to London to discuss crucial issues and causes relevant to Igorots within the

diaspora.

IGO-UK likewise helps nurture the 2nd and 3rd generation of Igorots living in the UK through learnings of their rich culture and tradition. Through various events and workshops, IGO-UK imparts indigenous music and dance to the younger Igorot generation. As youth members of the IGO-UK Youth Chapter became adults, they remained active members of the IGO-UK. Eventually, the chapter merged into the main organization. The young leaders from IGO-UK continue to pursue social justice and advocacies for Filipinos in the UK.

Apart from making sure that Igorot culture will thrive, IGO-UK has also advanced mutual welfare among its members. As Igorot, members of the IGO-UK live up to the value of "*Binnadang*" (mutual help), a term synonymous with *bayanihan*, the spirit of unity, helping, and cooperation. The organization raises funds for its members, regardless of social and immigration status, who are in distress due to death and sickness. IGO-UK sub-groups also raised funds for members affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The IGO-UK continues to expand its charity works to aid its fellow Igorot in need in the Cordillera Region. Notably, members have pooled resources and raised funds to help the reproduction of educational modules for 14 districts with 288 schools in Mt. Province; financed the education of disadvantaged students in the Cordillera; organized the shipment of wheelchairs to the Philippines, which benefitted the underprivileged community in Ifugao. The organization has also supported livelihoods in the home region by creating demand and market in the UK for local products such as woodworks and textiles produced in the Cordillera. IGO-UK also raised funds for their Igorot brethren, who were severely affected by natural calamities and the Coronavirus pandemic.

In conferring the Banaag Award to Igorot UK Charity (IGO-UK), the President recognizes its commendable efforts in sustaining and promoting the Philippine Igorot culture in the United Kingdom and its philanthropy that benefitted the Igorot community in the Philippines and abroad.



KAPATIRAN AT UGNAYAN NG NATATANGING SINING AT TALENTO FILIPINO (KUNST FILIPINO)

Germany

Filipinism, according to Jose P. Laurel, is “the assertion of one’s national birthright with patriotism defined as love of country as a primary element.” In the art scene, *Filipinism* is a movement—the aesthetic and conceptualization of the artist’s ideas and the infusion of heart and soul in every piece one creates, conveying Filipino identity through the artworks.

This philosophy is the foundation upon which the Kapatiran at Ugnayan ng Natatanging Sining at Talento Filipino (KUNST Filipino) lies. KUNST Filipino is an organization that helps promote performing and visual artists by organizing local and international art exhibits which foster deeper understanding and appreciation of Filipino culture among foreign nationals and the Filipino diaspora. The organization was founded by Virgilio Cuizon, a recipient of the 2004 Presidential Banaag Award, with the support of Filipino award-winning artists Bill Perez and Aris Bagtas.

Since its establishment in 2004, KUNST Filipino has been inspiring numerous Filipino artists to infuse their heart and soul into every art piece they create, collectively showcasing a uniquely Filipino identity. In total, it has organized 12 international exhibitions in cooperation with Philippine diplomatic posts in various European countries such as Germany, The Netherlands, Belgium, United Kingdom, Italy, France, Luxembourg, Austria, as well as in Canada, and seven local exhibitions with institutional partners in Batangas City, Davao, Tagaytay, Quezon City, and Taguig. One of its most notable art exhibits was “*Quo Vadis, Migrants?*” held at the Press Club Brussels in Belgium in 2015, which paid tribute to the efforts and sacrifices of Filipino migrant workers worldwide by chronicling their stories in visual form.

KUNST Filipino has also partnered with Philippine government entities to remain true to this commitment. It has crafted the trophy sculpture for the 2019 Migration Advocacy and Media (MAM) Awards organized by the Commission of Filipino Overseas (CFO). It is a limited edition plaque inspired by a migratory bird, which symbolizes journey, peace, and prosperity. In 2017, the organization designed and acted as the special curator at the Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP) Art Gallery. The gallery was established to showcase DAP’s collection of valuable artworks of national and contemporary artists and socio-cultural artifacts. It also aims to enrich appreciation of the Filipino culture and traditions and develop a stronger connection to and pride in their heritage among Filipinos.

Over the last seven years, KUNST Filipino has consistently initiated activities and various pursuits to cultivate Filipino artistic talents. These include the purchase of an old house on Cuizon Rd., Santa Rita, Batangas City in 2009, now called “*Kunsthaus*,” a German word that loosely translates to “art house.” After the old house was renovated, it was transformed into a gallery museum that offers a maximum of 15-day artistry residence with free board and lodging and a venue for free art training for Filipino students and artists. KUNST Filipino has also spearheaded a total of 11 art competitions, most of which were conducted locally, and 17 free art workshops for the benefit of prison inmates, street children, elementary pupils, university students, and aspiring Filipino artists. These include “Arts for the Soul,” a series of trauma art therapy sessions for the victims of the Taal Volcano eruption in Batangas Province in 2020, and a free art lecture and workshop in 2016 for the victims of the 2009 Maguindanao Massacre, among others.

While actively supporting Filipino artists in all aspects of their artistry in the Philippines and elsewhere in the

world, KUNST Filipino also extends an unwavering helping hand to the less fortunate in times of catastrophe and calamities. The organization has partnered with World Vision Philippines, a global humanitarian organization devoted to improving the lives of children, their families, and communities to overcome poverty. It has collaborated with SOS Children’s Village, a private, non-political, non-denominational organization that provides long-term, family-based care to children in need. In its fund-raising campaigns through art exhibitions and auctions, it has also worked with the Divine Word Seminary (SVD) Tagaytay, a Roman Catholic mission seminary wherein all proceeds go to their beneficiaries. In 2017, KUNST Filipino also donated Php 165,000.00 to the “*Kusina ng Kalinga*,” a project of the Gawad Kalinga that fed 50 children for an entire school year and extended assistance in the relief efforts for the Siege of Marawi victims.

KUNST Filipino hones the skills of Filipino artists and students through the conduct of free art demonstrations, seminars, and workshops. It promotes their talents in the Philippines and overseas, ultimately giving birth to internationally-acclaimed artists and professionalizing the art industry by setting and maintaining high-quality standards for the performing and visual arts—while providing help to those in need.

In conferring the Banaag Award to the Kapatiran at Ugnayan ng Natatanging Sining at Talento Filipino (KUNST Filipino), the President recognizes its steadfast commitment to preserving the Filipino culture and tradition through art while strongly supporting Filipinos in pursuing a career in the field of arts.



LONDON FILIPINO CENTRE CIC (LFC-CIC) United Kingdom

Language matters spiritually, culturally and emotionally. Written and spoken words are an art form, a way for values and traditions to be passed down for generations. When a language is lost, part of that culture is lost. By the same measure, when language is preserved, the traditions and customs continue living in the hearts and minds of those who understand it. Language is more than the sum of its parts: it is not just about sentence structure and grammar. Language is history, discourse, customs, and heritage.

This is exactly what Mr. Ricardo Patriarca, a long-time Filipino-British resident in the United Kingdom (together with the Board of Directors Junart Kim Nieva, Araial Ilustre, Elizabeth Villafior, Jessiebel Legaspi, Evelyn Llaban, Marivic Castroverde, Precila Morada, and John NL Leyson) sought to achieve when he launched his advocacy for the continued use by Filipinos in the UK of the Filipino language, especially those who were born there. He noticed that when Filipinos are naturalized in their host country, their use of the Filipino language often got lost in the process. He acknowledged the British accent's appeal to the Filipino in the UK due to its perceived prestige and sexiness. But with it, comes the natural demise of Filipino language users.

He contends that the two languages can co-exist and advocates that one's native language is still important because it is not only a communication tool – but a part of one's heritage and culture. Thus, on June 14, 2016, he established the London Filipino Centre CIC (LFC CIC) - a social enterprise organization dedicated to the promotion of the Filipino language, arts, culture, sports, and recreation.

But the organization started on a rather curious note. Oddly enough, it took first a detour before becoming the organization that it is today. In the year 2012, a survey was

conducted among the Filipino community to determine if there was a need for a Filipino language school. Buoyed by the survey result, an organizational meeting was held, but only two families showed up. With the disappointing turn-out, the idea was shelved. Mr. Patriarca took a different route two years later by establishing the Kensal Fitness and Dance Club, which offers fitness and dance classes every Sunday.

By 2015 and using the fitness club as a conduit, he resurrected the idea of setting up a Filipino language school. Subsequent meetings were held, and after several months, the Fitness Club transformed into the Filipino Language, Arts, and Events Centre CIC. The application for registration as a Community Interest Centre (CIC) was submitted to the Companies House in May 2016. After several weeks, the Certificate of Incorporation was given to them in 2016. However, several members of the organization felt the name was too long and difficult to remember. A board resolution was passed, renaming it as London Filipino Centre (LFC) CIC.

On September 10, 2016, the first Filipino language class for children started with 16 enrollees. Initially, the class was held at the St. Pius Parish Centre Hall, the Triangle, Norbington, but it moved to a bigger location with the increasing number of students. By October 1, 2016, it relocated to Kingston University, Penrhyn Road Campus, Kingston upon Thames.

On October 14, 2017, the organization opened the first adult Filipino beginners' class at St. John's Church, Notting Hill Gate, London, with ten students. Due to increased demand, two additional classes were created for 26 children and 24 adult learners.

By mid-2018, the LFC CIC opened its first Filipino language class for children in Gloucestershire, collaborating with the Filipino Association of Gloucestershire. Due to the rise in demand for Filipino language classes in the UK, the LFC in partnership with the said organization launched a series of

Filipino language classes in Gloucestershire.

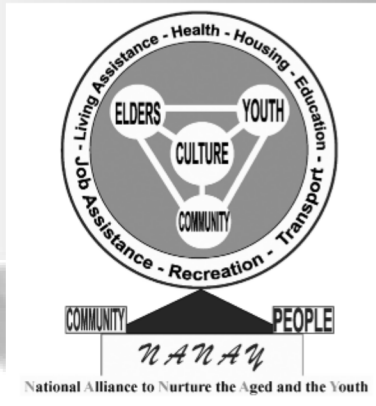
Close to 30 students from Gloucester, Tewkesbury, and Cheltenham aged eight to 15 made up the first batch. The majority of the students are second and third-generation Filipinos who were born in the UK. According to Mr. Raymond Padilla, the President of the Filipino Association Gloucestershire, the availability of Filipino language classes in Gloucestershire is a dream come true. The Filipino language classes held in Gloucester are the first of their kind to be established outside London.

The Center operates on two semesters, and all Filipino courses run for 12 weeks per term on a 2-hour per session basis. Filipino beginner, elementary and intermediate courses are two parts and follow the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.

It also offers a 5-week course on the indigenous Philippine writing system – the Baybayin Design and Culture. The Baybayin was introduced to promote awareness and acceptance of the Filipino writing system. All language classes are held every Saturday and Sunday.

As Philippine Ambassador to the UK, Antonio M. Lagdameo succinctly puts it, "Learning a language is a vital aspect in deepening one's understanding about a particular culture. By making our language more accessible to everyone in the UK, we are inviting them to learn more about our culture, our heritage, and our way of perceiving the world."

In conferring the Banaag Award to the London Filipino Centre CIC (LFC CIC), the President recognizes its utmost dedication to preserving and showcasing the Filipino language and Philippine culture among the overseas Filipino communities in the United Kingdom.



NATIONAL ALLIANCE TO NURTURE THE AGED AND THE YOUTH, INC. (NANAY)

United States of America

conversational English lessons, caregiver program; and has developed and implemented case management and early intervention program.

development component and 3 outreach missions for the community action and volunteerism component of the Y4Y Program.

To care for those who once cared for us is one of life's highest honors. Recognizing the plight of the elderly, US-based Dr. Jocelyn "Joy" H. Bruce started a mission to bring smiles to the elders by catering to and supporting their social, psychological, emotional, and other needs. She founded the National Alliance to Nurture the Aged and the Youth, Inc. (NANAY) in November 1994 in honor of her late mother Jacinta who had been known as a *good samaritan*, and as her way of reaching out to other older mothers and fathers in need of love, companionship, and recognition.

In its first five years, NANAY would provide recreational and medical support to Filipino seniors whether in a backyard, picnic area, or an empty beauty salon. With its contagious passion to serve the elderly, NANAY received its first major funding in 1999, it was followed by one-year transitional funding in 2000. With the funding and support, they were encouraged to serve the community better by putting up a permanent center and acquiring a transport van service for the elders. The NANAY Community Center in North Miami has then opened its door to the elders and youths of different races - Asian, Non-Hispanic White, Hispanic, Haitian, and African American.

Since then, NANAY has provided services and promoted the involvement of elders of different races in community activities. It has also enhanced the elders' ability to handle stress, increased their self-confidence, and improved their social interaction among themselves and with the youth through various weekend programs and supportive services. These include arts and crafts, board games, bingo, sharing meals, karaoke bonding, ballroom dancing, folk dancing, traditional monthly birthday celebration, special field trips, and participation in outside community events

NANAY has also conducted regular physical fitness activities, health screening, educational seminars, and activities on health, financial literacy, and citizenship. It has also provided transport services for the elders, individual and group counseling sessions, basic computer education workshops to elders and youth,

In July 2000, NANAY began a youth mentorship and senior companionship service model which encouraged intergenerational activities and discussions about family, goal-setting, life's values, stress management, and conflict resolution.

The NANAY Youth Council has also organized activities designed for the NANAY's youth members that include retreat, leadership training, intergenerational activities, and fundraising activities. One of its programs was the NANAY Youth Skills Training and Employment Project for the Youth (YSTEP) for low-income 16-21 years old toward meaningful employment. Through NANAY's Student Internship Youth Program, students learned social services, organizational skills, customer service, research, and awareness of various social issues.

In response to the August 2005 *CNN News* on children imprisoned with adult criminals, and the November 2005 *ABS-CBN* documentary on imprisoned elders under sub-human conditions in the Philippines, NANAY seniors pooled voluntary financial contributions that were used to provide a prosthesis for an older inmate who lost her leg due to complications of diabetes. In January 2006, NANAY went on a mission trip to the Philippines to look into the plight of Philippine Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL) and lobbied for the amendments to the Comprehensive Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act.

In January 2006, the Advocates for Children and Elders International-Philippines (ACEIPI) was born as an organizational arm and affiliate of NANAY to support CICL, low-income families, children, and elders in the Philippines. During the first years, ACEIPI catered to CICL in a detention facility in Bicutan and an outreach project in Cagayan de Oro. Realizing that much can be done to prevent poor and out-of-school children and youth from entering prison, a Youth-for-Youth Program (Y4Y) was launched in 2007. With this Y4Y Program, 137 youth members (junior high school to college) from 6 mission areas were continuously given educational assistance; and an average of 39 youth and parent members participated in the 11-monthly sessions of the values reintegration program in 2019. It also conducted 6 activities under the competency

NANAY has also extended its helping hand to the less fortunate and victims of calamities. In March 2021, NANAY donated \$1,000.00 to pay for the internet service of elementary school children in the Philippines. Through its School Supplies 4 Filipino Children Project, NANAY was able to raise \$5,228 that benefited 740 underprivileged school children in South Cotabato and Zamboanga City. Through the assistance of ACEIPI, NANAY has distributed relief packs to 600 individuals during the 2020 Taal Volcano Eruption. It also distributed rice and other essential needs to the hundreds of families displaced by Typhoon Sendong in 2012.

With its joy and passion to serve the elders and the youth, NANAY has been recognized and awarded by different organizations. It received the ABS-CBN's Gawad Geny Lopez Jr. *Bayaning Pilipino* Awards (2009), Local Hero Award - Neighborhood Excellence Initiative Awards by the Bank of America (2009), Miami Award in the Senior Citizens' Center Category by the U.S. Commerce Association (2009), Best of North Miami Award in the Community Center Category by the North Miami Award Program (2019), Community Organization Award by The Association for Asian American Studies (2016), and the Outstanding Community Organization Award by the Anglican Girl's Grammar School Awkunanaw Alumni Association - USA (2016).

The organization was also given commendations and appreciation for its valuable contribution to the activities and partnership with various organizations such as the US Census Bureau, City of North Miami Florida, Philippine Nurses Association of South Florida, Inc., and the City of North Miami Police Department.

In conferring the Banaag Award to the National Alliance to Nurture the Aged and the Youth, Inc. (NANAY), the President recognizes its dedication to the promotion of the health, welfare, and well-being of the elders and the youth, while preserving their cultural heritage; and for its commendable initiatives and philanthropic activities to the underserved communities in the United States and the Philippines.



PHILIPPINE AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP COMMUNITY, INC. (PAFCOM) United States of America

Three decades after its establishment through a weekend basketball game among Filipino-American families, the Philippine American Friendship Community, Inc. (PAFCOM) is now one of the largest community organizations in New Jersey. Founded primarily to engage in organizing an annual parade and festival in June in Jersey City, PAFCOM has expanded its services through the years and is now deeply involved in public education, health care, immigration, and other relevant issues affecting Filipinos in the United States. Integration of Filipino-Americans into mainstream America is fundamental to PAFCOM's vision.

Jersey City has the highest concentration of Filipinos in the entire US Northeast Region. As the Filipino-American community grew in population, the officers of PAFCOM realized the need to focus on socio-cultural, charitable, and educational undertakings that would benefit the community. Since 1990, PAFCOM has been supporting and engaging the Filipino diaspora, establishing supportive services to address its needs and concerns.

As the global community grapples with the tremendous effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, PAFCOM quickly organized fundraising activities for frontline workers and Filipino residents of Jersey City.

PAFCOM recognized the plight of many health care providers who were risking their lives to care for the sick. Their working hours extended beyond their normal schedule, thereby limiting their ability to care for themselves. Because of this, PAFCOM collaborated with Jersey City Filipino-American local restaurants and other business enterprises. The collaboration resulted in free meals and care packages for health care workers, including Filipino senior residents of Jersey City. PAFCOM also spearheaded free COVID testing.

The spirit of Filipino *bayanihan* is innate in PAFCOM's values, especially when the Philippines and fellow Filipinos are hit by calamities. PAFCOM is one of the overseas Filipino organizations that swiftly responded to the eruption of the Taal Volcano in 2020. It spearheaded a fundraising drive that generated more than \$ 9,000 through the Taal Bayanihan of Jersey City and Bergenfield Phonebanking. The fundraiser was done in coordination with the

Filipino-American City officials from Jersey City and Bergenfield.

As a vehicle for developing closeness, PAFCOM provides intergenerational services to nurture traditional family and cultural values, such as the community theater production, "Looking for Williams." Other programs include weekly Zumba and yoga classes, senior dances, walkathons, safe home, family bowling day, volleyball tournament, golf outing, health fairs, basketball clinics, teen theater, and painting workshops. It also sent qualified Filipino youth to leadership training camps to prepare them for leadership and management.

PAFCOM is prominently known for organizing an annual Filipino parade and festival for the past 30 years, celebrating the uniqueness and strong friendship between the Philippines and the United States. Held every fourth Sunday of June, the Parade and Festival of PAFCOM is its primary tool in uniting the Filipino community in New Jersey. It serves as an opportunity to share and showcase Philippine culture to America, such as decorated floats, folk dances, art and exhibits, an assortment of native dishes, a repertoire of Filipino music, community organizations, businesses, and local talents. This occasion pays tribute to the contributions of the Filipino-American community to mainstream US society.

As the Philippines is notable for its diversity and artistry, PAFCOM leaders are driven to showcase the best in Philippine fashion, music, dance, and film. It invites prominent Filipino designers, singers, TV and movie personalities to the annual festivities and parades.

Looking after the health conditions of the Filipino community also tops the list of PAFCOM's priorities as it regularly conducts health fairs in Hudson County. Participants are provided with comprehensive health screening that includes monitoring their blood pressure, determination of basal metabolic index (BMI), and mammography for eligible women. It also includes laboratory tests. Licensed nutritionists also provide free professional advice.

PAFCOM has also provided free breakfast and lunch to the elderly, homeless, and needy residents of Jersey City since 2016 in time for President's Day. In partnership with another non-profit organization, it started this feeding program that serves Filipino dishes to some 250 individuals.

PAFCOM saw food and drinks as catalysts in sharing the richness of Filipino culture when

it organized its food event, "TIPANAN," where everyone had their moment of savoring the Filipino cuisine fashioned by popular Filipino-Americans chefs. Not only did PAFCOM slavered the taste buds of those who joined and participated in its food events and feeding programs, but it also ushered development for aspiring and Filipino youth chefs.

PAFCOM collaborates with different entities and professionals to educate the Filipino community on issues of mutual concern. It held seminars about immigration concerns, the Philippine chairmanship of ASEAN 2017, and election matters.

It also promotes and sponsors drug-free activities through support from grants from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Jersey City's Municipal Alliance. In 2009, it was honored by the Division of Community Development of Jersey City with an Outstanding Service Award for its Intergenerational Program. The program aimed to reduce the risk factors that lead to substance abuse, school dropouts, and teenage pregnancy.

In 2015, the government of Jersey City collaborated with PAFCOM and conducted an outreach services fair that informed the residents about the City's programs and services for them.

In 2014, PAFCOM organized a fundraising drive, along with different organizations, for the family of a Filipino couple who lost their lives after a tornado struck a camping site in Cape Charles, Virginia.

PAFCOM was also recognized by Dr. Jose P. Rizal Centennial, Inc. in September 2017 for its exemplary service to the Filipino-American community. In 2009, it was also honored by the City of Jersey with the 2009 Outstanding Service Award because of its commitment to help Jersey City residents and influence their lives.

In conferring the Banaag Award to Philippine American Friendship Community, Inc. (PAFCOM), the President recognizes its continuous dedication through its various activities in public education, health care, immigration, and other relevant issues affecting Filipino Americans to promote their development and well-being in the United States.



PHILIPPINE BAYANIHAN ASSOCIATION IN ALBERTA (PBAA)

Canada

It is not always easy moving to a foreign country, away from one's family and loved ones. Usually, both migrants and their families in the Philippines lament the separation's loneliness, anxieties, and emotional aches and longings. This was primarily the reason that paved the way for the establishment of the Philippine Bayanihan Association of Alberta (PBAA), formerly known as The Filipino Association of Alberta, in 1965.

The PBAA was created by a small group of Filipinos in Alberta, Canada. Initially, the group's main purpose was to hold social gatherings to lessen the loneliness of Filipinos caused by the separation from their families and friends in the Philippines.

The following year, several Filipinos discussed the possibility of having a Filipino organization with a legal personality. A committee was formed to draft the Constitution and By-Laws of the Association. It was officially approved and registered with the Alberta Consumer and Corporate Affairs on 15 February 1968.

In 1969, the booming years of Alberta began, and more Filipinos immigrated to Canada. The members of the PBAA grew and the activities of the association were no longer limited to social gatherings.

With more than a thousand members at the moment, the PBAA undertook fundraising activities such as Van Raffles, Chocolate Fund Drive, Casinos, and Bingos, among others, to generate funds. PBAA called it a "legacy fund", utilized for the various causes and initiatives of the organization. The PBAA has also supported and spearheaded numerous social and cultural activities for the Filipino community in Alberta.

The PBAA organized the hoisting of the Philippine flag for the first time in 1977 at the City Hall during the observance of Philippine Independence Day and the proclamation of the Philippine Week during the time of

Edmonton Mayor Terry Cavanaugh. It also owned and managed the Filipino Canadian Community Center, a ¾ acre of prime land purchased in 1984. The PBAA Hall served as a venue for Filipino dancing groups and choirs to practice their performances and held many social events and community functions.

Unfortunately, increasing costs made it difficult to maintain the building, and the PBAA sold the building in 1995. Proceeds were invested and profits made were subsequently donated to the CK Hui Heart Center at Royal Alexandra Hospital in 2012.

The PBAA also published the *Bayanihan* News, organized different sports activities and tournaments, children's Christmas parties, annual family camping trips, and picnics and arts and craft exhibits. It held Annual Lenten *Pabasa* and celebrated Annual Independence Day. It likewise sponsored the Survivors Toastmaster Club, which held regular meetings and public speaking tournaments for Filipinos at the PBAA Filipino Community Center; cultural and theater art productions; and participated in the Klondike Parade showcasing an award-winning Philippine float "Pearl of the Orient."

Similarly, the PBAA has funded health-related projects and gives substantial donations to various hospitals and foundations through its legacy fund. The donations are beacons of hope to many people of Edmonton, Alberta, Saskatchewan, British Columbia, and international patients. The PBAA has provided an estimated of USD 800,000 financial donations to numerous health facilities and charitable institutions such as the Covenant Foundation, Misericordia Community Hospital, Covenant Foundation, Grey Nuns Community Hospital, Mazankowski Heart Center, the Kidney Foundation of Canada Northern Alberta, Children Autism Services of Edmonton, Royal Alexandra Hospital Foundation, Kids with Cancer Society, Stollery Children's Hospital Foundation and Royal Alexandra Hospital Foundation, C.K. Hui Heart Center, among others. In recognition of PBAA's donations, a room or area in some health facilities was named in honor of the organization.

In November 2013, the association also donated USD 10,000 to the Red Cross to support the victims of Typhoon Yolanda in the Philippines. The donation was matched by the Province of Alberta and the Government of Canada with a total of USD 30,000.

Furthermore, during the countrywide Covid-19 lockdown in Canada in 2020, the PBAA distributed food packages and supplies to members, vulnerable seniors, caregivers, and low-income individuals and families of the Filipino community.

Due to the generous contributions of the PBAA to the Filipino community in the Province of Alberta and the City of Edmonton, the association was conferred by the Government of Alberta during the Alberta Northern Lights Volunteer Recognition Program. It was also conferred with the Philanthropists 2017 Health Award by the Royal Alexandra Hospital Foundation and won Second Prize Award Philippine Pavilion during Heritage Festival in August 1990.

The PBAA would not thrive, and members would not enjoy the camaraderie without the deep and enduring commitments of so many loyal volunteers, supporters, and contributors of time, talent, and money.

At present, several Filipino Associations in Alberta are sprouting. However, the PBAA has endured and has become one of the most respected Filipino organizations in the community. It has matured, remained vibrant, and has continued to become part of the multicultural mosaic in the city of Edmonton through its philanthropic contributions and community service.

In conferring the Banaag Award to the Philippine Bayanihan Association in Alberta (PBAA), the President recognizes the importance of their programs and services that have fostered unity among overseas Filipinos in Alberta while providing health-related assistance.



SPECIAL CITATION

**Coalition of the Filipino American Chambers of Commerce
(COFACC) – United States of America**





COALITION OF THE FILIPINO AMERICAN CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE (COFACC)

United States of America

Incorporated in May 2018, the Coalition of the Filipino American Chambers of Commerce (COFACC) is a coalition composed of various Filipino American Chambers of Commerce with more than 7,000 members. To date, the organization has grown from a start-up of five organizations to 26 partner organizations. The active partner organizations include eight in Southern California, four in Texas, and four corporate members. In its almost three years of existence, the organization was able to unite the various Filipino American business organizations to work cohesively for the progress of Filipino entrepreneurs in the US.

COFACC's mission is to provide support resources and share best practices with the individual member chambers and serve as their collective voice. The organization offers its valued members access to a wide resource base, including sharing of membership directories and events calendar, sharing of best practices among chambers, member discount program, leadership training and mentoring, fast start program for new chambers, and business-to-business matching services. Its mission benefited mostly the small business owners by gaining access to financial assistance, mentorship, and connections with other potential partners.

As part of its mentoring program, COFACC conducts the John E. Swing Leadership Training Series, which aims to ensure that the chamber officials are confident and effective in leading their respective organizations. The leadership training series consists of eight modules on the responsibilities of a chamber member, marketing and branding, events management, recruitment of members, running a board meeting, standing and ad hoc committees, sponsorship, and selfless leadership in community volunteerism. These topics are very critical to the operations of a chamber organization. COFACC has conducted five leadership training workshops for 480 chamber officers and board directors.

COFACC organized and hosted its first flagship event, the 2019 COFACC Franchising and Retail Trade Conference (FRTC), held in Cerritos, California. The conference aimed to promote retail and franchise opportunities to small and medium-sized business owners who

seek to invest in domestic and international markets. The event included discussions on the trends, opportunities, and challenges in the retail and franchise industries with workshops on acquiring and funding a franchise business, supplier diversity, and how to franchise a business in the US. The resource speakers were prominent business experts in the US and the Philippines. The 5-day event was attended by more than 470 business delegates, and 80 exhibitors from the US and the Philippines. The franchise exhibition was held side by side with the event, which allowed participants to interact with their potential franchisors.

During the FRTC, COFACC agreed with various Philippines and US-based companies and organizations to formalize its partnerships and collaborations. Aside from business and networking-related collaborations, COFACC signed an agreement with organizations that hoped to protect the interest and welfare of the Filipino community. An agreement was signed between COFACC and National Asian American Coalition (NAAC) to further champion Filipino Americans' interest in national issues involving Asian Americans and with the National Diversity Coalition (NDC) for the promotion and protection of the rights of the minority, which includes the Filipino American diaspora.

COFACC is a staunch supporter of the US and Philippine trade relations. Being an investment and promotion partner of the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA), COFACC conducted fora that provided information on potential investments in the Philippines' economic zones. It also organized business-related visits to the Philippines' Ecozone Investment Tourism for interested investors.

To engage the Filipino American business community in areas like diaspora investment, entrepreneurship, diaspora philanthropy, and other advocacies, COFACC also partnered with the Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO). The partnership aims to provide mechanisms for overseas Filipinos, particularly Filipino American entrepreneurs, to connect with local communities in the Philippines for possible collaboration and diaspora engagements.

With the challenges brought by the global pandemic and its economic impact on businesses, COFACC has provided logistical, sales, and moral support to its members, especially the

small businesses that are experiencing a crisis to stay afloat.

COFACC has been very supportive of the efforts of the Filipino Workers Center (PWC), a non-government organization based in California, in helping Filipino-Americans who were affected by COVID 19. They organized a relief fund drive where the Filipino community and their members can donate cash or care boxes consisting of essential food and supplies at USD 50 each. The fund drive gathered USD 5,000 cash, food, clothing, and protective masks. In support of the US Department of Health and Human Services' COVID-19 vaccines education campaign, We Can Do This, COFACC launched its video material encouraging the Filipino Americans, especially the business community, to get vaccinated since most of them are breadwinners and are at risk of contracting the virus.

To give back to its home country, COFACC organized a donation drive, Save Lives, Donate Vaccines for the Philippines, which commenced in August to December 2021. The donation drive was a crowdfunding project with the target amount of USD 250,000 (Php 12.5 million), translating to 10,000 units of vaccines that would benefit the marginalized workers and their families. Under the Memorandum of Agreement signed by COFACC, Filipino American Chamber of Commerce (FACC) Foundation, Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI), Philippine Exporters Confederation (PhilExport), and Employers Confederation of the Philippines (ECOP), the generated amount from the fundraising project would finance the purchase of the vaccines and acquisition of free testing facilities for the targeted beneficiaries in the Philippines.

A Special Citation is conferred by the President to the Coalition of the Filipino American Chambers of Commerce (COFACC) for its achievement in bringing together various Filipino American chambers of commerce for the advancement of the Filipino American business community and in engaging its members in various philanthropic efforts that benefited Filipinos who were affected by the global health crisis both in the US and the Philippines.

2021 PAFIOO Screening Committees

Technical Committee

CHAIRPERSON

ATTY. WENDELL V. DIMACULANGAN
Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO)

VICE-CHAIR

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR KRISTINE
LEILANI R. SALLE**
Office of the Undersecretary for Migrant
Workers Affairs
Department of Foreign Affairs

MEMBERS

ASSISTANT SECRETARY ALICE Q. VISPERAS
Department of Labor and Employment

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LUNINGNING E.
SAMARITA-DOMINGO**
Department of Science and Technology

**DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
MARICHU G. TELLANO**
National Commission for Culture and the Arts

MR. EDWIN L. AÑOSO
Department of Health

DR. MA. DIVINA GRACIA Z. ROLDAN
De La Salle University

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ELLENE A. SANA
Center for Migrant Advocacy

Executive Committee

CHAIRPERSON

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

MEMBERS

UNDERSECRETARY ROBERT ERIC A. BORJE
Chief of Presidential Protocol and Presidential Assistant
on Foreign Affairs
Office of the President of the Philippines

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR KRISTINE
LEILANI R. SALLE**
Office of the Undersecretary for Migrant
Workers Affairs
Department of Foreign Affairs

MR. EDGARDO H. CAYTON
President
Dynamic Outsource Solutions I

MR. JOSEPH JEROME T. FRANCIA
First Vice President and Head of International Operations
GMA Network, Inc.

FR. RESTITUTO C. OGSIMER, JR.
*Episcopal Commission for Pastoral Care for Migrants
and Itinerant People*

Gallery of
PAFIOO Awardees



1991 AWARDS FOR FILIPINOS AND PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS OVERSEAS

LINGKOD SA KAPWA PILIPINO AWARD

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

KAAKABAY NG BAYAN AWARD

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

KAANIB NG BAYAN AWARD

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

BANAAG AWARD

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

SPECIAL AWARD

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

1992-1993 PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS FOR FILIPINOS AND PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS OVERSEAS

LINGKOD SA KAPWA PILIPINO AWARD

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

KAAKABAY NG BAYAN AWARD

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

KAANIB NG BAYAN AWARD

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

BANAAG AWARD

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

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

PAMANA NG PILIPINO AWARD

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

1996-2018 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) Vijungco, Jose G., M.D. (USA)	Filipino Women's Association United Kingdom (United Kingdom) Stichting Kapatiran (The Netherlands)
1998	Feed the Hungry, Inc. (USA) H.O.P.E. Foundation International (USA)	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)
2000	Montero, Juan II M., M.D. (USA) Navarra, Victoria C., M.D. (USA) Tan, Elton See (Taiwan)	2012 Aguman Kapampangan UK (United Kingdom) Caddac, Manuel A., M.D. (USA) Guerrero, Christopher M., M.D. (USA)
2002	Cagas, Cosme R., M.D. (USA)	2014 Serenata (Saudi Arabia)
2004	Ablaza, Saniel G.G., M.D. (USA) De Venecia, Guillermo B., M.D. (USA) Filipino Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii, Inc. (USA) Ileto, Benjamin A., M.D. (USA) International Network of Filipinos Overseas (USA) Martin, Arsenio R., M.D. (USA) Nihei, Marie Bernabe – (Japan) Tosalona, Alfredo T. (USA) University of the Philippines Medical Alumni Society in America (USA) Visayas-Mindanao Cultural Association e.V. (Germany)	2016 Aragones, Edgar E. (Israel) Pagyamanin Likas Musika (USA) Reunion e.V. Cloppenburg (Germany) Sulse, Marina R. (USA)
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)	2018 Association of Fil-Am Teachers of America, Inc. (USA) Cimanez, Salvacion G. (The Netherlands) Filipino American Law Enforcement Officer Association (USA) Friends Indeed USA (USA) Gigioli, Hilda L. (USA)
2008	Association of Philippine Physicians in America (USA) Enverga, Tobias, Jr. C. (Canada)	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)
 Löhlein, 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)
- 2018
 Foreign Domestic Worker Association for Social
 Support and Training (Singapore)
 Stichting LOOP (The Netherlands)

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)
 Lädeli, Theresa (Switzerland)
 Lammawin, Francis L. (Taiwan)
 Lubang-Looc International (USA)
 March, Marina Roma, M.D. (Canada)
 Natividad, Cornelio Ruiz (USA)
 Paragas, Rodolfo DL (Oman)
 Philippine School Bahrain (Bahrain)
 Racinez, Sr. Olivia, WCW (Switzerland)
 Sirmata (Vision) 2004 (USA)
 Tenorio, Pedro P. (CNMI)
 Tordjman, Paul Semo (France)
 Vargas, Orlando R. (Australia)
 Victorian Community in Belgium (Belgium)
- 2002
- Babaylan – Switzerland (Switzerland)
 Beatty, Estrella C. (Cyprus)
 Benzou, 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 I. (CNMI)
 National Organization of Professional
 Teachers – Hong Kong (Hong Kong)
 Philippine Association of
 Metropolitan Washington Engineers (USA)
 Ravindranathan, N., M.D. (Brunei Darussalam)
 Talangbayan, Francis V., M.D. (USA)
 Tomelden, Benjamin Jr. S. (United Kingdom)
- 2004
- Berdos, Imelda Vollenweider (Switzerland)
 Buhain, Wilfrido J., M.D. (USA)
 Casamina, Roland C. (USA)
 Centre for Filipinos (United Kingdom)
 Cuizon, Virgilio G. (Germany)
 Fiesta Filipina Dance Troupe of Canada (Canada)
 Filipino Cultural Club – (Kuwait)
 Gödicke, Charlotte (Germany)
 Home-Reach Foundation, Inc. (Canada)
 Hyechwadong Filipino Catholic
 Community (South Korea)
 Kinderhilfe Philippinen (Germany)
 McGuinness, Amor Ilao (USA)
 Natividad, Alicia Ll. B. (Canada)
 Natividad, Evelyn D.A., Ph.D. (USA)
 Nemivant, Emma Balquiedra (USA)
- Panday Tinig Choral Ensemble (Canada)
 Philippine Australian Sports
 and Culture, Inc. (Australia)
 Philippine Cultural Foundation of Hawaii (USA)
 Pilapil, Virgilio D.R., M.D. (USA)
 Salazar, Lourdes A. (Hong Kong)
 Search to Involve Pilipino Americans (USA)
 Verstraeten, Jean Paul (Belgium)
- 2006
- Bagong Kulturang Pinoy, Inc. (USA)
 Buchholdt, Thelma Garcia (USA)
 Farmer, Lolita L., Ll. B, OAM (Australia)
 Filipino American Medical, Inc. (USA)
 Filipino Association of Singapore (Singapore)
 Go, Engr. Roman Ting (China)
 Iskwelahang Pilipino, Inc. (USA)
 Lahing Kayumanggi (United Kingdom)
 Manuel, Vladimir James M. (USA)
 Markham Federation of Filipino Canadians (Canada)
 Navarra, Eduardo J. (USA)
 Philippine American Group of Educators
 and Surgeons (USA)
 Philippine Cultural Foundation, Inc. (USA)
 Quinto, Edgardo R. (Switzerland)
 Reed, Loline Lualhati (United Kingdom)
 Sales, Justina L. (Israel)
 Tigno, Rosario B., M.D. (UAE)
 Tuluyang Pinoy
 (Philippine Centre Zurich) (Switzerland)
 Veterans Equity Center (USA)
- 2008
- Asuncion, Alexander E. (Saudi Arabia)
 Berberabe, Patricia A. (USA)
 Carandang, Angeles R. (USA)
 Casambre, Sr. Mary Aida C. (Hong Kong)
 Derpo, Esperanza R. (Nigeria)
 Filipino Korean Spouses Association (South Korea)
 Garcia, Lamberto S. (USA)
 Ho, Eleanor B. (Taiwan)
 Magdalena, Joseph I. (Saudi Arabia)
 Muzones, Santiago Jr., L. (USA)
 Noblejas, Dr. Antonio N. (USA)
 Overs, Lilian Y. (Canada)
 Philippine Community Council of
 New South Wales (Australia)
 Philippine Nurses Association of America (USA)
 Philipsen, Adelina R. (The Netherlands)
 United Filipino Council of Hawaii (USA)
- 2010
- Abagat, Dr. Emely D. (South Korea)
 Computer Society of Filipinos
 International (Saudi Arabia)
 Congress of Visayan Organizations (USA)
 Federation of Filipino Communities in Israel (Israel)
 Gange, George G. (USA)
 Kasimieh, Marilyn Wafa R. (UAE)
 Kinding Sindaw (USA)
 Olalia, Sr. Lucia C. (South Korea)
 Ybo, Evangelina V. (Jordan)

- 2012
 Alpay, Carlito E. (Saudi Arabia)
 Argel, Atty. Maria Imelda L. (Australia)
 Avendaño, Tomas P. (Canada)
 Castaños, Rafael S. (USA)
 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)
- 2018
 Francisco, Corazon A. (Australia)
 Kreimer, Agnes Katbeth O. (Chile)
 Malanyaon, Dindo B. (Italy)
 Montano, Juliet (Taiwan)
 Pilipino Workers Center of Southern California
 (United States of America)
 Sulaik, Maria Christina F. (Sudan)
 Wimler-Foundation Hong Kong, Ltd.
 (Hong Kong SAR)
- 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, L.L.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, Constancia 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)
- 2018
- Balan. Paul C. (USA)
 Brotonel, Edward M. (USA)
 Caraquel, Nicolas M. (USA)
 Engle, Elizabeth M. (USA)
 Eviota, Maria Theresa A. (Switzerland)
 Jose, Pedro A. (USA)
 Marques, Teresita G. (Portugal)
 Sayas, C. Joe, Jr. (USA)
- Special Citation**
- 2002
- Filipinas Magazine (USA)
- end----

Directory of 2021 PAFIOO Awardees

KAANIB NG BAYAN AWARDEES

ISSA MOHAMMAD AHMED

Amman, Jordan
Email: essa_almomani@hotmail.com

YASONNA H. LAOLY

Jakarta, Indonesia
Address: C-1, Jalan Pancoran Timur I, Perdatam,
Jakarta Seletan, Jakarta, Indonesia
Email: laoly.yhl@gmail.com or adc.menkumham@gmail.com
Mobile: (+62) 819888718 or (+62) 811917380
Instagram: yasonna.laoly
<https://www.instagram.com/yasonna.laoly/?hl=en>

MONTERO MEDICAL MISSIONS

Juan M. Montero II, President
Virginia, United States of America
Address: 316 South Battlefield Blvd., Suite A,
Chesapeake, Virginia 23322, USA
Email: acedocjmm@aol.com
Telephone: 757-598-2666
Facebook: Montero Medical Missions
<https://www.facebook.com/MonteroMedicalMissions>

PHILIPPINE BAYANIHAN SOCIETY – SINGAPORE (PBSS)

Ranvir Kumar Singh, President
Singapore, Singapore
Address: 43, Pasir Panjang Road, Singapore,
Singapore
Email: bayanihancentre@singnet.com.sg
Telephone: (+65) 64743700 or (+65) 91167490
Website: www.bayanihancentre.org.sg
Facebook: Philippine Bayanihan Society Singapore
www.facebook.com/bayanihansocietysg
Instagram: bayanihansocietysg
www.instagram.com/bayanihansocietysg

TEMASEK FOUNDATION LTD

Ng Boon Heong, Chief Executive Officer
Singapore, Singapore
Email: boonheong@temasekfoundation.org.sg

LINGKOD SA KAPWA PILIPINO AWARDEES

ROXANNE RACQUELA CAJIGAS

New York, United States of America
Address: 8711 Apt. 1, 57th Road, Elmhurst, NY
11373, United States of America
Email: roxycajigas@gmail.com
Mobile Number: 1-347-932-6631
Facebook: Racquel Roxanne Cajigas
<https://www.facebook.com/roxanne.cajigas>

VIVIAN KIEFER-VARGAS

Bebendorf, Switzerland
Email: Vivian_kiefer@hotmail.com
Mobile: +41 76 38 76776
Telephone: +41 61 931 2091

BATANGAS ASSOCIATION UK (BAUK)

Antonio Sevilla, President, Teresita Leus-McCarthy,
Chairperson of the Board of Trustee
Essex, United Kingdom
E-mail: tl21mccarthy@gmail.com
Telephone: +447958732406

KAYUMANGGI CHORALE, INC. (KCI)

Lourdes Payumo Corrales, President
New Jersey, United States of America
Address: 32 Frohlin Drive, Basking Ridge, New Jersey
07920, USA
Email: lpcfinnet@gmail.com
Telephone: 1-908 693-4277
Facebook: Kayumanggi Chorale, Inc.
<https://www.facebook.com/kayumanggichorale>

PHILIPPINE INSTITUTE OF CIVIL ENGINEERS – QATAR CHAPTER (PICE-QATAR)

Engr. Rolan E. Nevado, President
Doha, Qatar
Email: info@piceqatar.com; hotrock28peak@gmail.com; hotrock28_peak@yahoo.com

THE FILIPINO ASSOCIATION IN THE ISLE OF MAN (FAIM)

Maria Leonora R.D. Loudon-Brown, President and Chairman
Isle of Man, British Isles
Address: Flat 4, Cronk Wyllan, The Promenade, Port St. Mary, Isle of Man IM9 5DE British Isles, U.K.
Email: loudonandleonora@gmail.com; moradicay@manx.net; dicayl@yahoo.com

THE FILIPINO CATHOLIC SOCIETY OF THE DIOCESE OF CALGARY (FCSDC)

Elena Sarmiento, President
Alberta, Canada
Address: PO Box 384, 204, 1440-52 Street NE, Calgary, Alberta, Canada
Email: fcsdcalgary@gmail.com
Facebook: Filipino Catholic Society of the Diocese of Calgary <https://www.facebook.com/fcsdcalgary>

PAMANA NG PILIPINO AWARDEES

RUSS PATRICK P. ALCEDO

Ontario, Canada
Address: 58 Millenium Drive, North York, Ontario, Canada
Email: alcedo@yorku.ca
Mobile: 1 416 576-2687
Facebook: Patrick Alcedo
<https://www.facebook.com/patrick.alcedo.5>
Instagram: patrickalcedo
<https://www.instagram.com/patrickalcedo/>
Other info you may wish to add:
Chair and Professor, Department of Dance, York Univeristy, Toronto, Canada

GLENDALYNNA ANNE T. BONIFACIO

Alberta, Canada
Email: glenda.bonifacio@uleth.ca
Website: www.glendabonifacio.com

JOSEFINO C. COMISO

Maryland, United States of America
Address: 11013 Elon Drive, Bowie, Maryland, U.S.A. 20720
Email: josefino_comiso@yahoo.com; jccomiso@gmail.com
Mobile: 301 262 1148 / 240 893 3298
Instagram: jccomiso
<https://www.instagram.com/jccomiso/>
Website: <https://www.jccomiso.com>

SHEILA MARIA A. CONEJOS

Singapore University of Social Sciences, 463 Clementi Road, Singapore 599494
Email Address: sheilaconejos@suss.edu.sg
Facebook: Sheila Maria Arcuino Conejos
<https://www.facebook.com/sheila.conejos.75>
Other info you may wish to add:
Architect, Urbanist, Building Conservator, Sustainability Consultant, Built Environment Educator and Researcher.

DANILO M. FAVOR

West Sussex, United Kingdom
Address: 7, Barn Field Place, East Grinstead, West Sussex, United Kingdom
Email: dannyfavor@googlemail.com
Mobile: +44786746495
Facebook: Maribel Pascua Favor
<https://www.facebook.com/maribelfavor>
Twitter: @favor_danny
https://twitter.com/favor_danny
Twitter: @dannyfavor2
<https://twitter.com/dannyfavor2>
WhatsApp: Danny Favor +44786746495
Viber: Danny Favor +44786746495

GLENN F. FERNANDEZ

Sichuan, China
Email: gf_fernandez@outlook.com

LAURA D. GARCIA

New York, United States of America
Email: laugarcia10@yahoo.com
Mobile: 1-908-627-1954
Telephone: 1-908-627-1954

PAMELA D. GOTANGCO

Arni, Switzerland
Email: pgotangco@hotmail.com
Telephone: 41-445559555
Mobile: +41-78-3206122
Facebook: Pamela Gotangco-Hupp
<https://www.facebook.com/pamela.gotangcohupp>
<https://www.facebook.com/pampinay>
Instagram: pamelagotangco
<https://www.instagram.com/pamelagotangco/>
<https://www.instagram.com/pampinay>
Website: www.gotangcoart.com

AURTENCIANO R. MIRANDA, JR.

Rome, Italy
Facebook: www.facebook.com/kali.itsukadamiranda

RONALDO B. NILO

Doha, Qatar
Address: Flat 4, Building 61, Street 810, Zone 37, Doha, Qatar
Email: ronaldonilo@yahoo.com
Mobile: +974-55082117
Facebook: Ronaldo Nilo
www.facebook.com/engr.ronaldnilo

CAROLINE B. ONG

Shanghai, China
Email: hello.bebebalm@gmail.com
LinkedIn: linkedin.com/carolong
Wechat ID: Bebebalm

GLENN D. PASCUAL

California, United States of America
Address: 14060 Marquesas Way Apt. 2517 Marina Del Rey California, USA
Email: Gdpascual1@hotmail.com
Mobile: 818-634-6035
Facebook: Glenn Pascual
https://www.facebook.com/glennlomar
Twitter: @GlennPascual111
https://twitter.com/GlennPascual111

LORD LEOMER B. POMPERADA

New York, United States of America
Address: 228 East 71st Street New York NY 10021 United States of America
Email: lordleomerpomperada@gmail.com
Facebook: Lord Pomperada
www.facebook.com/LORDPOMPERADA/
LinkedIn: Lord Leomer Pomperada
https://www.linkedin.com/in/lord-leomer-pomperada-44b03060/

KAREN GRACILES L. REMO

Duba, United Arab Emirates
Email: karen@newperspectivemedia.com
Facebook: Dr Karen Remo
www.facebook.com/drkarenremo
Instagram: drkarenremo
www.instagram.com/drkarenremo
LinkedIn: Dr Karen Remo
www.linkedin.com/in/dr-karen-remo-1bab3919

ALBERT REMUS R. ROSANA

Alberta, Canada
Email: rosana@ualberta.ca ; arrosana@pchr.dost.gov.ph
Mobile: 09165526432 / 17802711921
Facebook: Albert Rosana
https://www.facebook.com/albert.rosana/
Instagram: albertremusrosana
https://www.instagram.com/albertremusrosana/

Twitter: @RemusRosana
https://twitter.com/RemusRosana

LEOREY N. SALIGAN

Maryland, United States of America
Address: 20116, Sweet Meadow Lane, Gaithersburg, Maryland, USA
Facebook: Leo Saligan
https://www.facebook.com/leo.saligan

WALTER S. VILLAGONZALO

Melbourne, Australia
Email: wv@tpg.com.au
Mobile: +61422452019
LinkedIn: Walter Villagonzalo
https://www.linkedin.com/in/waltervillagonzalo

BANAAG AWARDEES**MARIO A. BALBOA**

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
Email: mabalboa@gmail.com
Facebook: Mario A. Balboa
https://www.facebook.com/mario.a.balboa
Hometown: San Nicolas, Ilocos Norte

BELLA AURORA P. BELMONTE

Nevada, United States of America
Address: 272 Daisy Gold Ct. Henderson, Nevada, 89074
Email: amiebelmonte@yahoo.com
Mobile: (702) 664-549

ARIEL C. BERNARDO

Seoul, South Korea
Address: 39-13 B-1 Seokwandong, Seongbok-gu, Seoul, South Korea
Email: ariacruzbernardo@gmail.com
Mobile: (82) 10 9953-7783/ 5493-7783
Facebook: Ariel Bernardo
https://www.facebook.com/ariel.bernardo.125
Facebook: Pabaon for OFWs
https://www.facebook.com/GabaySaTagumpay

ROY G. BETINOL

Metropolitana, Chile
Address: 2788 Gino Girardi, Santiago, Region Metropolitana, Chile
Mobile: +569 9359 8148

VANDA MARIE M. BRADY

Ballinagh, Co. Cavan, Ireland
Address: Killadream, Loughduff, Ballinagh, Co. Cavan
Email: vandabradly@yahoo.co.uk

ALEX CHIU (✚)
Ontario, Canada
Address: 18 Highgate Markham Ontario, Canada
Email: alexchui2018@gmail.com

AURORA B. DACANAY
Alberta, Canada
Email: abdacanay@shaw.ca

NANCY S. DE JESUS
Paris, France
Facebook: Public Health Clinician in France
<https://www.facebook.com/cliniciannancy/>
Website: <https://clinician-nancy.com>
Instagram: Clinician Nancy

ROSE CHERYL P. ECLARINAL-MURDOCK
England, United Kingdom
Email: rose.eclarinal@gmail.com
Facebook: Rose Eclarinal
<https://www.facebook.com/rose.eclarinal>
Twitter: @rose_eclarinal
https://twitter.com/rose_eclarinal

FELIX Y. MANALO FOUNDATION, INC. (FYM FOUNDATION)
Address: 3321 Mcnicoll Avenue, Scarborough, Ontario, Canada

FILIPINO AMERICAN SERVICE GROUP, INC. (FASGI)
Yey Coronel, Executive Director
135 North Park View Street
Los Angeles, California, United States of America
Telephone: (213) 908-5050
Website: www.fasgi.org
Motto: Happy to help, honored to serve.

FERNANDICO JR. Q. GONONG
California, United States of America
Address: 830 S. Bronson Avenue, Los Angeles, California, United States
Email: fqgonong@gmail.com
Mobile: 310-570-0795
Facebook: Fernandico Q. Gonong Jr.
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100000135787914>

IGOROT UK CHARITY (IGO-UK)
Theodora Bacquian, President
London, United Kingdom

KAPATIRAN AT UGNAYAN NG NATATANGING SINING AT TALENTO FILIPINO (KUNST FILIPINO)

Virgilio G. Cuizon, Managing Director
Essen, Germany
Website: www.kunst-art-filipino.eu
Email: info@kunst-art-filipino.eu

VENECIO V. LEGASPI
Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi
Email: vlegaspi21@gmail.com
Facebook: Venecio Vano Legaspi
<https://www.facebook.com/vano.legaspi>

LONDON FILIPINO CENTRE CIC (LFC CIC)
Ricardo L. Patriarca,
London, United Kingdom
Email: info@lonfilcenter.co.uk info.uk@LRNfilipino.com
Websites: <https://www.lonfilcenter.co.uk>; <https://www.LRNfilipino.com/UK>
Facebook: London Filipino Center CIC
<https://www.facebook.com/LONFILCENTER>
Instagram: LondonFilipino

BENNETTE E. MISALUCHA
Hawaii, United States of America
Work Address: Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street Room 215
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Work Email: Senmisalucha@capitol.hawaii.gov
Personal email: Bennette.misalucha808@gmail.com
Google phone: (707)883-0011
Work Telephone: (808) 586-6230

NATIONAL ALLIANCE TO NURTURE THE AGED AND THE YOUTH, INC. (NANAY)
Jocelyn H. Bruce, President
Florida, United States of America
Address: 659 NE 125 Street, North Miami, FL, United States of America
Email: joy.bruce@nanay.com
Telephone: (305)-951-5552
Facebook: NANAY
https://www.facebook.com/nanaycedc/?ref=page_internal
Website: <http://www.nanay.com>

ROLANDO M. NICOLAS
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
Address: 2841 Abdul Latif Al Mashuk, Al Ud, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
Email: chrismacole3477@gmail.com
Mobile: +966502326174
Facebook: Rolando Nicolas
<https://www.facebook.com/rolando.nicolas.90>

LINDA NIETES-LITTLE

Los Angeles, United States of America
 Email: lindanieteslittle@yahoo.com
 Mobile: 310-548-8148
 Telephone: 310-514-9139
 Website: www.philippinebookshop.com
 Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/linda.nieteslittle.96
 Email: info@philippinebookshop.com
 YouTube: https://youtu.be/OvOV08NKh0k

PHILIPPINE BAYANIHAN ASSOCIATION IN ALBERTA (PBAA)

Annie A. Chua-Frith, President
 Alberta, Canada
 Email: anniefrith@gmail.com & pbaa1968@gmail.com
 Telephone: 780-729-5311
 Facebook: Philippine Bayanihan Association in Alberta
 https://www.facebook.com/pbaa1968

PHILIPPINE-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP COMMUNITY, INC. (PAFCOM)

Helen Castillo, President
 New Jersey, United States of America
 Email: pafcomnj@gmail.com
 Facebook: Jersey City Filipino Community Archives
 https://www.facebook.com/pafcomnj
 Instagram: pafcom_nj
 https://www.instagram.com/pafcom_nj/
 Twitter: @pafcom_nj
 https://twitter.com/pafcom_nj

DENNIS N. RATA

Al Fintas, Kuwait
 Email: teranodennis29@gmail.com
 Facebook: Densan Emmanuel Aart
 https://www.facebook.com/aart.ty.33

JANNELLE SO-PERKINS

California, United States of America
 Email: JSP@jannellesoproductions.com
 Facebook: So Jannelle TV
 www.facebook.com/sojannelletv
 YouTube: So Jannelle TV
 www.youtube.com/sojannelletv
 Instagram: sojannelletv
 www.instagram.com/sojannelletv
 Instagram: sojannelle
 www.instagram.com/sojannelle

CRISTY M. VICENTINA

Singapore, Singapore
 Address: Unit 03-02/07, 304 Orchard Road, Lucky Plaza Shopping Center (PNB), Singapore, Singapore

ELIJA PAUL G. VILLANUEVA

Manitoba, Canada
 Address: 597 Transcona Blvd, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada
 Email: elijahpaulvillanueva@gmail.com
 Mobile: +1 4318667000
 Facebook: Elija Paul Villanueva
 https://www.facebook.com/elijapaulvillanueva
 Facebook: Yapak
 https://www.facebook.com/yapaklondon
 Instagram: Yapak
 https://www.instagram.com/yapaklondon
 Website: https://www.yapaklondon.org

SPECIAL CITATION**COALITION OF THE FILIPINO AMERICAN CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE**

Gerry Francisco Palon, President
 California, United States of America
 Address: 22102 Normandie Ave. Torrance, California, USA
 Email: gerrypalon@cofacc.org
 Telephone: +1(310)9995742
 Facebook: Coalition of Filipino American Chambers of Commerce
 https://www.facebook.com/cofacc/
 LinkedIn: Coalition of Filipino American Chambers of Commerce
 https://www.linkedin.com/company/cofacc
 Website: www.cofacc.org

NOTE: *Written consent was given by the PAFIOO Awardees to the CFO- PAFIOO Secretariat in the publication of their personal data in this Souvenir Book.*



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.*





CFO-MANILA

Email: info@cfo.gov.ph
Tel. No.: (02) 8552-4700
Fax No.: (02) 8561-8332
Address: Citigold Center, 1345 Pres. Quirino Avenue
corner Osmeña Highway, Manila, Philippines 1007



CFO-CEBU

Email: cfocebu@cfo.gov.ph
Telefax: (632) 255-5253
Address: 4th floor, K&J Building, #4 Don Julio Llorente St.,
Capitol Site, Cebu City 6000



CFO-DAVAO

Email: info@cfo.gov.ph
Tel. No.: (+6382) 228-3033
Address: 5th floor, AMQ Building, Lakandula St. corner
Dacudao Ave., Agdao, Davao City

2021 PAFIOO Secretariat

JUSTICE FRANCISCO P. ACOSTA (Ret.)

Secretary and Chairperson
Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO)

UNDERSECRETARY ABDULGANI M. MACATOMAN

Executive Director V
Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO)

MR. RODRIGO V. GARCIA JR.

Officer-in-Charge
Policy, Planning and Research Division

MEMBERS

Andrea Luisa Anolin
Michael Apattad
Kara Alyssa Braga
Elfred Ulysses del Rosario
Joanna Erika Laguna
Graciela Antonett Paguinto
Joanna Lyn Rodriguez
Patricia Marie Salvador
Frenel Louie Tingga
Gerdene Wyllen Tiu

Jarina Billones
Daryl Cabafranca
Rozelle Carrera
Christian Castillo
Erwin Paul Cristobal
Enrique Custado
Warner Dawal
Mark Joseph Dumale
Marou Eduarte
Kristine Joy Gacer
Alyssa Jeanne Gozo
Jayson Gregorio
Michael Gregorio
Joshua Russel Iringan
Anne Marie Laqui
Lindsay Mercado
Harice Morales

Evangeline Nepomuceno
Pauleen Pamatmat
Princess Mayumi Peralta
Khay Patrisha Orit
Benilda Pereyra
Janet Ramos
Lilibeth Rellama
John Nichols Ruelos
Kathleen Faye Ruga
Jose Saligumba
Darlene May San Juan
January Danielle Sanchez
Marie Linda Santos
Ma. Cristina Silvestre
Arnel Sual
Manolo Tibe
Eumarlo Tolosa

SUPPORT TEAM

Richard Kem Abarquez
Keeshia Mae Acedera
Michelle Dawn Bande
Joanna Bautista

ATTY. WENDELL V. DIMACULANGAN
Head Executive Assistant, Office of the Secretary

MS. MARITA DEL ROSARIO-APATTAD
Director, Project Management Division

MR. MARIO O. GARCIA
Director, Administrative and Finance Division

ENGR. ROMEO M. ROSAS II
Director, Management Information System Division

MS. IVY D. MIRAVALLES
Director, Migrant Integration and Education Division

DESIGN AND LAYOUT
Mr. Troy D. Agcanas
Computer Graphics Artist

AWARDS AND INCENTIVES FOR Overseas Filipino Centenarians



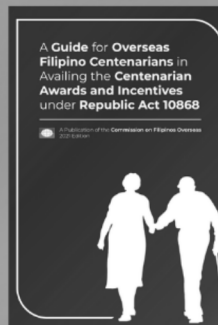
The Centenarians Act of 2016 or Republic Act 10868 grants benefits and privileges to Filipino centenarians, whether they are residing in the Philippines or overseas. They are honored with Php100,000 centenarian gift and a Letter of Felicitation from the Philippine President.

Overseas Filipino centenarians are Filipino citizens living outside the Philippines who have reached one hundred years old and above, including those who have obtained another citizenship and later reacquired Philippine citizenship.

As of 2020, a total of 35 overseas Filipino centenarians received the centenarian gift.

As one of the primary implementing agencies that strongly lobbied for the passage of the law, the CFO has published a comprehensive guidebook to assist the families of overseas Filipino centenarians in availing of the benefits.

The guidebook also serves as a reference for stakeholders in assisting eligible overseas Filipino centenarians. It likewise intends to motivate the younger generation to advocate for the rights and welfare of our Filipino elderly.



Scan to get an e-copy of the guidebook

For more information, contact the CFO's Policy, Planning, and Research Division at telephone numbers (+632) 8552-4760 to 767 and email address pprd@cfo.gov.ph.



Office of the President of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON FILIPINOS OVERSEAS

BaLinkBayan
Overseas Filipinos' One-Stop Online Portal for Diaspora Engagement

www.balinkbayan.gov.ph

BaLinkBayan Project

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 at the national and local levels.



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 for 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."





Office of the President of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON FILIPINOS OVERSEAS



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

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.

Visit our website at
www.balinkbayan.gov.ph



LINK UP WITH US IN MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF EVERY FILIPINO BACK HOME



Be part of nation building through the following:



EDUCATION



SMALL SCALE INFRASTRUCTURE



LIVELIHOOD



HEALTH & WELFARE



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

Youth Leaders in the Diaspora (YouLead) is a program intended for Filipino youth who were born abroad or migrated at an early age, such that they are not very familiar with the Philippines.

The program seeks to help participants answer long standing questions about themselves and their identities as half- or part-Filipinos that they may have had growing up. 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.



Commission on Filipinos Overseas
1345 Citigold Center Manila 1007 Philippines
email address: pmd@cfo.gov.ph
website: youlead.cfo.gov.ph
Facebook: [/youleadph](https://www.facebook.com/youleadph)



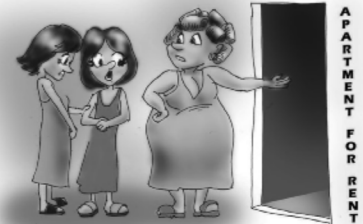
Ano ang Human Trafficking?



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...

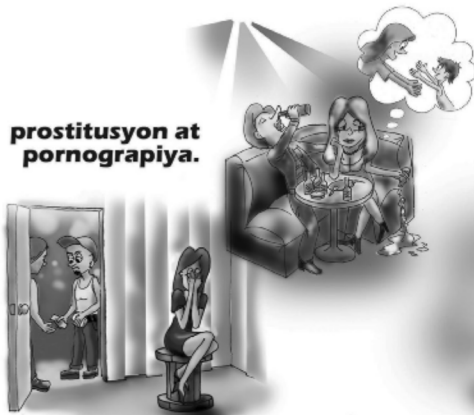
Ang pagkukpok o pag-ampon ng mga bata...



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 1343
Outside Metro Manila (02)1343

 [fb.com/1343Actionline](https://www.facebook.com/1343Actionline) Website: 1343actionline.ph

 1343actionline@cfo.gov.ph



LABAN kontra Human Trafficking, **Laban** nating lahat!

MIGRATION ADVOCACY AND MEDIA (MAM) AWARDS



Office of the President of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON FILIPINOS OVERSEAS



The Migration Advocacy and Media (MAM) Awards was conceived by the CFO in 2011 in recognition of the significant role of the media in information dissemination and advocacy of migration and development, to be awarded during the Celebration of the Month of Overseas Filipinos and International Migrants Day in December.

It aims to recognize the positive and significant contributions of media outlets, institutions and practitioners in raising public awareness on issues on Filipino migration, advocating the cause of Filipinos overseas, or promoting a positive image of Filipinos overseas.

The MAM Awards categories are the following:

PRINT JOURNALISM AWARD

- Best Book
- Best Newspaper
- Best Newsletter
- Best Magazine

RADIO JOURNALISM AWARD

- Best Regular Radio Program
- Best Episodic Radio Program

TV JOURNALISM AWARD

- Best Regular TV Program
- Best Episodic TV Program
- Best TV Series
- Best TV Special
- Best Interstitial

FILM MEDIA AWARD

- Best Full-Length Film
- Best Documentary

INTERACTIVE MEDIA AWARD

- Best Website
- Best Blog
- Best Vlog

BEST ADVERTISEMENT AWARD

MEDIA ADVOCATE AWARD



For more information, visit the MAM Awards website at mamawards.cfo.gov.ph.

HIMIGRASYON SONGWITING CONTEST 2023

The Commission on Filipinos Overseas' Songwriting Contest

Hi  **igrasyon**
2023

The songwriting contest aims to make music as an advocacy tool to raise public awareness on the life of our overseas Filipinos, and the issues and challenges they are facing abroad.

The contest is open to all Filipino composers and songwriters, and music enthusiasts, including those based overseas. Naturalized Filipinos and Filipino descendants are also qualified to join. A contestant may be an individual or a group of musicians in collaboration.

Each entry must be an original work of the contestant and may be written in any song genre. The song's lyrics should be in Filipino or English (or combination of both) and must embody the inspiring and challenging life of an overseas Filipino and their migration journey. The song could express the inspiration, joy or hardship faced by a migrant in a foreign country. It could convey longing for their loved ones and the Motherland, overcoming challenges, or finding better opportunities and experiencing new culture or way of life in their host countries.

Three (3) winners get a chance to take home the following prizes:

First Prize - PhP 100,000
Second Prize - PhP 75,000
Third Prize - PhP 50,000



Office of the President of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON FILIPINOS OVERSEAS

HIMIGRASYON 2023
HIMIGRASYON 2023
HIMIGRASYON 2023
HIMIGRASYON 2023

پہلے
پہلے
پہلے
پہلے
پہلے
پہلے
پہلے
پہلے



Office of the President of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON FILIPINOS OVERSEAS

Citigold Center, 1345 President Quirino Avenue corner Osmeña Highway (South Superhighway), Manila, Philippines 1007
Tel. No.: (632) 552-4700 • Fax No.: (632) 561-8332 • Email: info@cfo.gov.ph

www.cfo.gov.ph