

*Presidential Awards for Filipino Individuals  
and Organizations Overseas*

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*The cover page design is from the Baybayin alphabet, an ancient Philippine script that 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 2024 PAFIOO Awardees were taken from the materials submitted to the Awards Secretariat as vetted by the Philippine Embassies and Consulates.*

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MALACAÑAN PALACE  
MANILA

**MESSAGE**



I convey my warmest greetings and heartfelt congratulations to the awardees of the **2024 Presidential Awards for Filipino Individuals and Organizations Overseas (PAFIOO)**.

Across the world, Filipino workers and migrants are known for their hard work, diligence, hospitality, and adaptability. Wherever we are, we always foster warmer relations with our hosts, be it by showcasing and sharing our culture, skills, talents, food, music, dance, and art or by telling stories that allow our communities abroad to keep in touch with their heritage. I thus acknowledge the **Commission on Filipinos Overseas** for weaving the ties that reconnect overseas Filipinos to their motherland through events such as this annual PAFIOO awards.

Let me congratulate this year's outstanding individuals and organizations for your exceptional achievements, philanthropic endeavors, and significant contributions to advancing the interest of the Filipino diaspora. May this distinction drive you to create more opportunities for our people as well as inspire the younger generations to follow your trailblazing path.

Together, let us work conscientiously to uplift the lives of our fellow Filipinos and recognize their fruitful efforts to take part in building a more inclusive and progressive future for our nation.

Again, congratulations to all and may you have a meaningful event.

**FERDINAND R. MARCOS JR.**



**MANILA**  
5 December 2024

THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

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**BAGONG PILIPINAS**

**Office of the President of the Philippines  
COMMISSION ON FILIPINOS OVERSEAS**

**MESSAGE**



There is truly no limit to the capacity and spirit of the Filipino. Whether at home or far beyond our shores, Filipinos continue to break boundaries, displaying their relentless drive and unwavering commitment. Even for our *kababayan* overseas, physical distance, cultural barriers, and linguistic differences do little to dampen their passion and determination as they continue to excel across diverse fields.

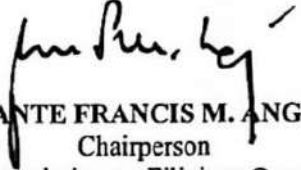
Today, we recognize and celebrate this extraordinary legacy. With immense pride and heartfelt congratulations, I extend my sincerest felicitations to the 13 exceptional individuals and organizations being honored through this year's Presidential Awards for Filipino Individuals and Organizations Overseas (PAFIOO). This prestigious recognition, conferred by His Excellency President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., is among the highest honors our nation can bestow.

This year marks a significant milestone as we confer the fifteenth set of PAFIOO awards. For over three decades, the awards have served as a platform to honor the global Filipino community, acknowledging their exemplary achievements and invaluable contributions to elevating our country's standing on the world stage. Their deep connections with the Philippines serve as vital bridges enriching the cultural, social, and economic ties between the Philippines and the world. Their stories of perseverance and success stand as shining examples of the enduring core Filipino values of hard work, integrity, and service to others.

We also extend our deep appreciation to our foreign partners, who have demonstrated remarkable compassion and solidarity with the Filipino people. Their efforts have generously championed the interests of the Philippines and our people, exemplifying the strength of multiculturalism, cooperation, and mutual respect.

To the distinguished 2024 Presidential Awardees, I once again extend my warmest congratulations. Your excellence, dedication, and contributions have not only earned you this well-deserved recognition but have also inspired countless others.

*Mabuhay ang Bagong Pilipinas!*

  
**DANTE FRANCIS M. ANG II**  
Chairperson  
Commission on Filipinos Overseas

MANILA  
11 December 2024

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# *Presidential Awards for Filipino Individuals and Organizations Overseas*

The Presidential Awards for Filipino Individuals and Organizations Overseas (PAFIOO) stands as a beacon of recognition for the global Filipino community, celebrating those whose contributions transcend borders and uplift the Filipino spirit. Held biennially, this prestigious awards program honors Filipinos abroad and international partners who exemplify the highest ideals of service, professionalism, and dedication. By acknowledging their roles in advancing the interests of overseas Filipino communities or contributing to the development and progress of the Philippines, the PAFIOO underscores the profound impact of the diaspora and the global partnerships that fuel positive change.

## **EVOLUTION**

The awards date back to 1991 when former President Corazon C. Aquino institutionalized the program through Executive Order No. 498. The intent was clear: to formally recognize the invaluable efforts of Filipinos abroad and other individuals who, through their work and commitment, bring honor to the nation.

Recognizing the immense contributions of Filipinos overseas to the Philippines' relief, rehabilitation, and development efforts, former President Aquino declared December as the Month of Overseas Filipinos through Proclamation No. 276, signed on June 21, 1988. In a speech marking this occasion in 1990, former President Aquino tasked the Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO) with establishing an awards system to recognize their contributions to the country.

Following this directive, the CFO, then under the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), formulated the guidelines for the **Awards for Filipinos and Private Organizations Overseas**. The award was envisioned to pay tribute to various Filipino individuals and private associations overseas who rendered personal services, financial and material contributions, or other acts of assistance that contributed immensely to the country's bid for reconstruction and growth, as well as furthering the cause of the Filipino migrant community. While the awards are focused mainly on

Filipinos overseas, the efforts of foreign individuals and associations towards relief and rehabilitation are also given due recognition.

On December 19, 1991, 36 individuals and associations based in 13 countries and territories were conferred with the awards and special citation (2) by former President Aquino as part of the commemoration of the Month of Overseas Filipinos.

Realizing the need to provide a permanent system of recognition for the valuable contributions being made to Philippine developmental concerns by Filipino individuals and organizations abroad who continue to help the country through the years with their tireless efforts, donations, and remittances, former President Aquino issued Executive Order No. 498 that institutionalized the awards system as the **Presidential Awards for Filipino Individuals and Organizations Overseas (PAFIOO)**.

The PAFIOO has evolved through the years, expanding its reach to recognize the excellence and achievements of overseas Filipino individuals in their profession through the *Pamana ng Pilipino* award. Since its institutionalization in 1991, the PAFIOO has been bestowed biennially by the Presidents of the Republic upon 553 individuals and organizations overseas based in 55 countries and territories.

## **THE PRESIDENT'S AWARDS**

Over the years, the PAFIOO has chronicled a remarkable history of distinguished recipients. The first set of awards, conferred by President Fidel V. Ramos in 1993, honored 22 recipients, with an additional 45 honorees in 1996. His Administration's vision of global engagement and a thriving diaspora played a crucial role in setting the foundation for the future of the program. As the awards continued to evolve, President Joseph E. Estrada recognized 30 and 59 individuals and organizations in 1998 and 2000, respectively, further cementing the awards as an enduring institution.

The early 2000s witnessed an expansion of the awards' scope and significance. Under President

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, the biennial recognition reached new heights, with the fifth set of awards honoring 34 recipients in 2002 and subsequent ceremonies recognizing 45 in 2004, 48 in 2006, and 31 in 2008. These years reflected a growing awareness of the vital role that Filipinos abroad played in fostering international relations and contributing to global development efforts. From medical professionals leading innovations in healthcare to civil society groups advocating for migrant rights, the PAFIOO became a symbol of excellence in various sectors.

President Benigno S. Aquino III, carrying the torch from his mother, oversaw the awards in 2010, 2012, and 2014, celebrating 24, 29, and 33 awardees, respectively. During this period, the awards continued to mirror the dynamism of the Filipino diaspora, with recipients emerging from all corners of the world—individuals who were not only breaking barriers in their respective fields but also giving back to the Philippines in meaningful ways.

In more recent years, under President Rodrigo R. Duterte, the twelfth, thirteenth, and fourteenth editions of the PAFIOO were held, celebrating a new generation of Filipinos abroad who made significant contributions to their host countries and their homeland. A total of 23, 25, and 56 recipients (with one special citation) were recognized in 2016, 2018, and 2020-2022, reflecting the ongoing importance of this awards program as a bridge between the Philippines and its ever-expanding global community.

## PAFIOO CATEGORIES

The PAFIOO is structured around four distinct categories that capture the diversity of contributions made by Filipinos and their partners abroad:

- The *Banaag Award* is conferred on overseas Filipino individuals and organizations whose efforts have significantly benefited a sector or championed the cause of Filipino communities overseas. It highlights the importance of collective action and community support, showcasing initiatives that address pressing social, economic, or cultural challenges faced by Filipinos abroad.
- The *Pamana ng Pilipino Award* recognizes Filipinos overseas who have brought honor to the Philippines through excellence and distinction in their professions. Whether excelling in the arts, sciences, business, sports, or in other fields, these awardees exemplify the talent and perseverance that Filipinos are known for worldwide.

- The *Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino (LINKAPIL) Award* honors overseas Filipino individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to the development and progress of the Philippines. This award emphasizes the spirit of giving back, highlighting those who have actively participated in reconstruction efforts, humanitarian work, or nation-building projects in their homeland.
- The *Kaanibng Bayan Award* is presented to foreign nationals or organizations that have significantly contributed to the Philippines' progress or championed the cause of Filipino communities. This award underscores the importance of global partnerships and collaboration, recognizing those who have gone above and beyond in their support for Filipino communities.

## THE 2024 AWARDEES

The most recent edition of the awards, under the Administration of President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr., recognized 13 exemplary individuals and organizations from nine countries. These honorees, selected from an impressive pool of 84 nominations spanning 27 countries through 41 Philippine embassies and consulates, embody the highest ideals of Filipino excellence, humanitarianism, and global citizenship.

The 2024 awardees include 11 individuals and two organizations from Austria, Canada, France, Moldova, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, the United Arab Emirates, and the United States of America. Each of these honorees has demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to service—whether through their professional achievements or through their work in advancing the welfare of Filipino communities worldwide. They are stewards of Filipino values, upholding the time-honored traditions of *pakikipagkapwa* (shared humanity), *pagtutulungan* (mutual assistance), and *pagkakaisa* (unity), which remain at the heart of Filipino identity. Their efforts have not only brought recognition to the Filipino people but have also contributed to the broader global community, embodying the Filipino spirit of *bayanihan* (communal unity).

As the Philippines continues to engage with its global diaspora, the PAFIOO remains a vital platform for acknowledging the incredible contributions of those who, regardless of where they are in the world, carry the Philippines in their hearts. These honorees inspire not only their fellow Filipinos but also the entire global community, demonstrating that the spirit of service and excellence transcends borders and cultures.



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# *The Gawad ng Pangulo Medallions*



*Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino Award*



*Pamana ng Pilipino Award*



*Banaag Award*



*Kaanib ng Bayan Award*

## BACKGROUND

Since 2014, the prestigious *Gawad ng Pangulo* medallions have been proudly conferred by the President of the Republic of the Philippines upon the PAFIOO recipients. This evolution from earlier plaques of citations, given to its past recipients from 1991 to 2012, reflects the nation's commitment to honoring overseas Filipinos and foreign individuals and organizations.

The medallions boast a stunning design and intricate specifications developed by the National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP) in coordination with the Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO) as the PAFIOO Secretariat. The design and specifications received official approval from the Office of the President in 2013.

In 2024, the Office of the President approved CFO's introduction of new heraldic devices—chest medals and lapel badge pins—to be awarded alongside the medallions.

## MANNER OF WEARING

The *Gawad ng Pangulo* medallions may be worn by PAFIOO awardees at formal official events and gatherings, such as the Philippine Independence Day and National Heroes Day celebrations, and during the PAFIOO Awarding Ceremony in the Philippines and abroad.

In lieu of the medallions, the awardees may wear the chest medals or lapel badge pins during these occasions.

**The medallion, chest medal, and lapel badge pin are to be worn solely by the awardees and are not permitted to be worn by others under any circumstances.**

## TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

### OBVERSE

On top are the words *Gawad ng Pangulo*, in ancient *Pilipino* alphabet (*baybayin*) surrounding the **Presidential Seal** elements (without text) at the center.

At the lower portion is the **award category**, *Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino*, *Pamana ng Pilipino*, *Banaag*, and *Kaanib ng Bayan*, also in *baybayin* (all in 3 dimension).

### MEDALLION

Anodized gold finish jeweler's brass, four (4) inches in diameter by 1/8 inch thick.

### RIBBON

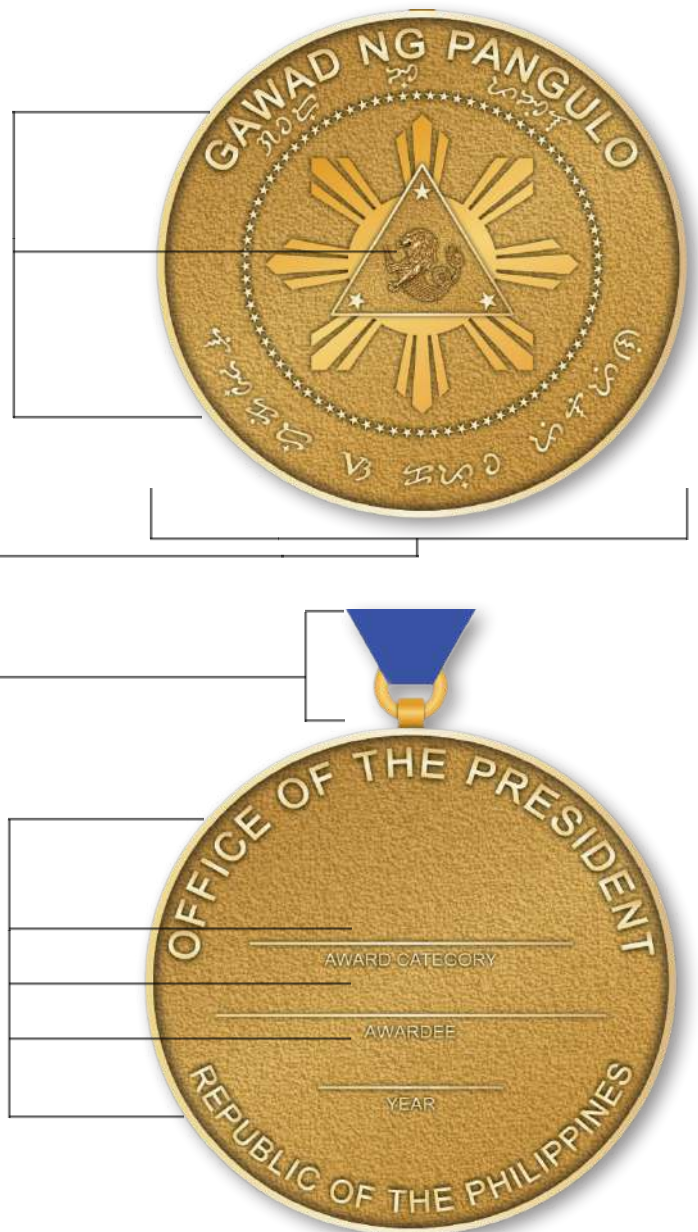
Neck wear ribbon in light blue moire, three (3) feet long by two (2) inches wide.

### REVERSE

On top is the inscription of the **Office of the President**.

At the center are the **award category**, **name of the awardee**, and **year** the award was given.

At the lower portion is the inscription of the **Republic of the Philippines**.



# *The Gawad ng Pangulo Chest Medals and Pins*



*Chest Medal*



*Lapel Badge Pins*

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*This award is conferred on overseas  
Filipino individuals and organizations  
for their significant contributions to the  
development of a particular sector or local  
community in the Philippines.*

# *Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino*

## **A W A R D E E S**

**Leo-Felix M. Jurado**

United States of America  
*Lasam, Cagayan*

**Emilio P. Quines, Jr.**

United States of America  
*Tagudin, Ilocos Sur*

**Philippine Nurses Association  
of New York, Inc. (PNANY)**

United States of America

**The Neurosurgery Outreach  
Foundation, Inc. (NOF)**

United States of America



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*In conferring the PAFIOO Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino Award upon Leo-Felix M. Jurado, the President recognizes his exemplary advocacy for the nursing profession and remarkable achievements and contributions as a nurse, educator, and leader that have promoted inclusivity and paved the way for broader opportunities for Filipino nurses in the United States.*

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## *Leo-Felix M. Jurado*

**United States of America  
Hometown: Lasam, Cagayan**

**W**hen asked for his philosophy on nursing, Dr. Leo-Felix M. Jurado's response is as profound as it is simple: *"In nursing, you will always be making a difference in people's lives. To do that well, you have to be selfless."* This ethos has driven his remarkable career as an advanced practice nurse, educator, administrator, and advocate. Since moving to the United States in 1988, Dr. Jurado has carved out a significant legacy, not only in nursing but also in uplifting Filipino nurses and the profession as a whole.

Dr. Jurado's roots are deeply connected to his Filipino heritage. He earned *magna cum laude* honors for both his bachelor's degree in Nursing and in English from St. Paul University in Tuguegarao City, Cagayan.

In the United States, he pursued a Master of Arts in Delivery of Nursing Services and a Doctor of Philosophy in Urban Health Systems, laying the groundwork for his future accomplishments in both nursing practice and academia. His early academic achievements would

soon be matched by his groundbreaking work in shaping nursing policy and practice in the United States.

### **Leading Change**

One of Dr. Jurado's defining moments came when he was appointed by then-Governor Christine Todd Whitman as a Board Member of the New Jersey Board of Nursing (NJBON). He was then elected by the Board Members as President, making him the youngest nurse to hold this prestigious position.

During his tenure, Dr. Jurado led initiatives to make the nursing licensure process more accessible and equitable for foreign-educated nurses, including Filipinos. He was responsible for approving new nursing programs, regulating the nursing profession, and advocating for reforms in New Jersey's nurse licensure procedure. His work ensured these highly qualified foreign-educated nurses could contribute to healthcare in the United States without facing unnecessary hurdles.

## Breaking Barriers

Dr. Jurado's legacy of advocacy extends far beyond New Jersey. Under his leadership, the NJBON successfully lobbied to remove the Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools (CGFNS) Examination as a prerequisite for foreign-educated nurses taking the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX). His efforts were instrumental in ensuring nurses from the Philippines and other countries could take the NCLEX without facing redundant testing barriers.

This significant change was not limited to New Jersey. Dr. Jurado extended his advocacy to other states, working with chapters of the Philippine Nurses Association of America (PNAA) to implement similar reforms in places like Virginia and Indiana. His relentless push for fairness in the licensure process created opportunities for many Filipino nurses seeking to practice in the United States.

As a past president of both the Philippine Nurses Association of New Jersey, Inc. (PNANJ) and the PNAA, Dr. Jurado made lasting contributions that continue to shape the nursing profession. He founded the international, peer-reviewed *Journal of Nursing Practice Applications & Reviews of Research (JNPARR)* to provide a platform to advance scholarship among PNAA members. He served as Editor-in-Chief for three years and is currently serving as its Associate Editor.

He served as the PNAA Parliamentarian for 7 years, and Executive Director for 4 years, where he introduced subchapter formation, fostering the growth of PNAA chapters across the United States. His efforts created a more robust network for Filipino nurses, giving them greater opportunities for professional development and community engagement.

## Giving Back to the Community

Dr. Jurado's humanitarian spirit has led to multiple efforts to give back, both to the Philippines and to Filipino nurses abroad. In 1998, through the PNANJ, he facilitated donations to Books for the Barrios, benefiting more than 800 Filipino children. He also led a donation drive to build a 50-home PNAA *Gawad Kalinga* Village in Bulacan after a natural disaster displaced many residents.

He has been involved in setting up legal defense funds and emergency preparedness initiatives and continuing the *Balik-Turo* educational program, which allows Filipino nurses in the United States to return to the Philippines to share their expertise with local nurses.

As a mentor, Dr. Jurado has inspired many nurses to pursue further education, encouraging them to obtain postgraduate and doctoral degrees. His guidance has helped nurses become educators, leaders, and advocates in their own right, continuing the cycle of positive influence he began.

## Leadership and Inclusivity

In addition to his leadership roles with professional organizations, Dr. Jurado has left a profound mark in the academic field. He is the Inaugural Dean of the College of Healthcare Professions at DeSales University. He served as the Founding Dean and Tenured Professor at the College of Health Professions at the Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania from 2022 to 2024. From 2019 to 2022, he also served as the Chair of the Department of Nursing at William Paterson University of New Jersey.

Dr. Jurado's teaching and leadership experiences have made him a valuable mentor to many nursing professionals. His doctoral dissertation, the *Social Construction of Filipino Nurses in the Philippines and Foreign-Educated Nurses in the United States*, reflects his commitment to understanding and addressing the challenges faced by Filipino and minority nurses. He has presented his research at conferences worldwide, sharing his insights on the experiences of foreign-educated nurses and the role of men in nursing.

Dr. Jurado has worked to tackle the issue of qualified students being turned away from nursing programs due to a shortage of certified instructors. As one of the 15 minority nurse educators selected for the inaugural year of the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) program, Dr. Jurado gained valuable experience in online education and developed new strategies for remote learning.

His work has had a lasting impact on the nursing profession, helping shape policies and programs that support the education and professional advancement of minority nurses. He is particularly passionate about promoting diversity in nursing, believing that role models from minority backgrounds are essential for fostering inclusivity and success within the profession.

## Accolades

Dr. Jurado's contributions to nursing have not gone unnoticed. In 2022, he was honored with the *Gawad Alab ng Lahi* Award, presented by the Philippine Consulate General in New York and the *Hiraya* Foundation for Filipino-American Heritage Preservation. This award recognizes his tireless advocacy for Filipino nurses and his impact on the nursing profession.

Further solidifying his place among the greats in American nursing, Dr. Jurado was inducted as a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing in 2016. Throughout his career, he has also received accolades, such as the Nurse Scientist/Scholarship Award from the National Coalition of Ethnic Minority Nurse Associations and was named in *Who's Who in American Nursing* and *Who's Who Among American Teachers*.



*In conferring the PAFIOO Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino Award upon Emilio P. Quines, Jr., the President recognizes his boundless generosity and compassion as a doctor and philanthropist, as exemplified in his long-standing humanitarian efforts and contributions that have benefited the diverse and marginalized communities in the Philippines.*



## *Emilio P. Quines, Jr.*

**United States of America  
Hometown: Tagudin, Ilocos Sur**

**D**r. Emilio P. Quines, Jr., 84, a native of Tagudin, Ilocos Sur, has quietly built a legacy of compassion and service through his long-standing charitable efforts, both in the Philippines and abroad. Since the aftermath of Mt. Pinatubo's devastating eruption in 1991, Dr. Quines has been at the forefront of humanitarian initiatives aimed at uplifting the lives of his fellow Filipinos. For decades, he has generously extended a helping hand to thousands in need while balancing his successful medical career in the United States.

Dr. Quines earned his bachelor's degree in pre-medicine from the University of the East in Manila, later completing his medical degree at the University of the East Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City. His commitment to medicine led him to a distinguished career in the United States, where he worked at the Good Samaritan Hospital Medical Center from 1982 to 2011. He also taught at the New York College of Osteopathic Medicine from 1999 to 2011. In addition, he served as Medical Director at the Martin Luther King

Jr. Community Health Center in Wyandanch, New York, where he was also an HIV specialist, offering dedicated family medicine services to underserved communities.

Throughout his career, Dr. Quines consistently provided holistic care, focusing on the comprehensive well-being of his patients. His passion for service extended far beyond the walls of hospitals and clinics—he became an unwavering philanthropist, supporting numerous organizations in both the United States and the Philippines. His leadership in medical associations, including the Association of Philippine Physicians in America, the Philippine Medical Association in America, and the Association of Philippine Physicians in New York, reflects his dedication to advancing medical and humanitarian efforts for the underserved.

### **Humanitarian Missions**

Since 1992, Dr. Quines has led countless medical, surgical, dental, and humanitarian missions, providing much-needed services to marginalized communities in

the Philippines, the United States, and other parts of the world. His tireless efforts in these missions were often fueled by donations from American pharmaceutical companies and the Catholic Medical Mission Board. Over the years, he has contributed nearly \$360,000—approximately ₱20 million—to various charitable institutions.

One of his most recent missions took place in February 2024, when he co-sponsored a humanitarian effort in Gingoog City, Misamis Oriental, with Friends Indeed USA, Inc. This mission offered medical, dental, and vision screenings, as well as basic necessities, to more than 2,000 individuals in the community.

Dr. Quines' work does not stop at one-time missions. He is also responsible for building medical and dental clinics at Tagudin Integrated Elementary School and Tagudin National High School, ensuring that students and teachers in his hometown have access to essential healthcare services. These facilities provide treatments for minor illnesses and injuries, medical assessments, free medicines, and medical equipment to the community.

Dr. Quines' compassion also extends to women's health, as evidenced by his sponsorship of a mammogram van for breast screening projects in Tagudin, Ilocos Sur. His concern for the wellbeing of his fellow Filipinos is deeply ingrained in all his endeavors.

### **Long-Lasting Contributions**

A man with a profound sense of duty, Dr. Quines established the University of the East Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Medical Foundation (UERMMM) to ensure the continuity of his charitable projects. The Foundation organizes events in New York, raising awareness about the needs of underprivileged Filipinos and encouraging others to extend their support.

Dr. Quines and his late wife, Dr. Felicisima David-Quines, also contributed to the establishment in Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija, of the Dr. Felicisima David-Quines Learning Center, which provides special education to physically gifted and disabled children. In addition to his educational contributions, Dr. Quines has supported Filipino musicians, artists, and talents in their community projects.

Among his numerous philanthropic endeavors in the Philippines, he funded the acquisition of an emergency transport vehicle for Banaue, Ifugao, constructed five artesian water wells for rural communities in Nueva Ecija, and provided bicycles to underprivileged but deserving students.

Dr. Quines is also mindful of the economic challenges faced by his fellow Filipinos. In Cabanatuan, Nueva

Ecija, he co-founded the EQFQ Credit Corporation, a microlending firm that offers near-interest-free loans with flexible repayment terms, helping indigent individuals start small businesses. His initiative has helped many, including a tricycle driver who was able to improve his livelihood and a student who earned a bachelor's degree in accountancy and became a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) through a scholarship program funded by Dr. Quines. Indigenous communities also benefited from this initiative, which enabled them to purchase livestock animals as their source of livelihood.

Dr. Quines' work is not limited to the Philippines. His support extends to global initiatives, including the Center for Disease Control (CDC) Foundation's malaria eradication program in the U.S. He was also a charter founder of the Statue of Liberty Ellis Island Foundation, and is a dedicated supporter of organizations, such as Doctors Without Borders, the Catholic Medical Mission Board, Physicians Home, Boys Town, St. Labre, and St. Joseph's Indian Schools, and other various scholarship programs.

As a dedicated member of the Knights of Rizal, Dr. Quines played a crucial role in revitalizing the Long Island Chapter in New York. He championed programs aimed at supporting the Filipino community and fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of the Philippine heritage, history, and culture.

### **Recognitions**

In recognition of his outstanding contributions to the community, Dr. Quines has been honored with numerous accolades, including the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) Service Award (1991), the Humanitarian Award for Community Service (1995), and the Physician of the Year Award by the Philippine Medical Association in America (2006).

Additionally, he was a candidate for the AMA Foundation Excellence in Medicine Award (2007) and a recipient of the Special Citation from the New York State Assembly. During the Asian American Heritage Month Celebration in 2015, he was given a citation by both Nassau and Suffolk Counties. He was also honored with the Distinguished Service Cross and the Knight Grand Cross of Rizal (KGCR).

### **A Legacy of Generosity**

Dr. Quines believes that true success lies in sharing the fruits of one's accomplishments with others. His kindness and empathy have touched the lives of thousands, leaving a legacy of hope and opportunity. As he continues his humanitarian work, Dr. Quines exemplifies the profound impact one individual can have when driven by a deep sense of purpose and love for their fellow Filipinos.



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*In conferring the PAFIOO Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino Award upon the Philippine Nurses Association of New York, Inc. (PNANY), the President recognizes its pivotal role in securing the allocation and expediting the release of COVID-19 vaccines to the Philippines and tireless efforts in upholding the highest standards of nursing practice while bolstering the professional development and welfare of the Filipino-American nursing community.*

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## *Philippine Nurses Association of New York, Inc.* **(PNANY)** **United States of America**

Since its founding on June 1, 1929, the Philippine Nurses Association of New York, Inc. (PNANY) has embodied the values of compassion, commitment, and professional excellence, making it a vital force in the lives of Filipino-American nurses and the broader Filipino diaspora. Over the years, PNANY has evolved into a dynamic and supportive network of healthcare professionals, now boasting 331 members. The association has played a critical role in advancing the professional development of its members, advocating for public health, and fostering a sense of cultural unity and pride among Filipino-American nurses.

One of PNANY's most impactful initiatives took place during the COVID-19 pandemic. As the Philippines grappled with a critical shortage of vaccines in 2021, PNANY, alongside other Filipino-American groups and associations, worked closely with U.S. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer to expedite the release of 5 million AstraZeneca vaccines to the Philippines. This life-saving effort, initiated through the group's direct appeal to Senator Schumer and the subsequent push for

vaccine allocation by the United States government, was a monumental achievement that underscored the organization's commitment to its homeland. By helping to secure vaccines for the Philippines, PNANY not only supported the country's pandemic response but also showcased the power of diaspora communities in influencing international health policy and humanitarian aid.

### **Championing Professional Development**

PNANY's commitment to the professional growth of Filipino-American nurses is unwavering. The organization has offered a wide array of educational programs, including webinars, workshops, and conferences designed to keep its members at the forefront of healthcare innovations and best practices.

These initiatives cover a broad spectrum of topics—from advancements in patient care to leadership in healthcare settings—ensuring that Filipino-American nurses remain equipped to meet the evolving challenges of the healthcare

industry. By providing these opportunities for continuous learning, PNANY empowers its members to excel in their careers and make meaningful contributions to healthcare both in the United States and abroad. It collaborates with other nursing organizations and stakeholders to advocate for policies that benefit the nursing profession and the Filipino-American community in general.

### Public Health Advocacy

In addition to fostering professional growth, PNANY has been a staunch advocate for public health, particularly in addressing tuberculosis (TB) within the Filipino-American community. From 2016 to 2024, PNANY partnered with the New York City Department of Health's Bureau of Tuberculosis Control to conduct TB screenings in Queens, New York.

This initiative aimed to raise awareness about TB transmission, improve treatment outcomes, and reduce the stigma associated with the disease. PNANY's culturally sensitive approach and its collaboration with community leaders helped make this effort a success, further cementing the association's reputation as a champion of public health in underserved communities.

Apart from tuberculosis, PNANY is also committed to addressing other critical health issues like diabetes. During health festivals in New York, the organization conducts health screenings and provides diabetes education for the Filipino-American community.

### Community Outreach

PNANY's impact extends beyond healthcare advocacy. The association has been deeply involved in community outreach and charitable work, both in the United States and the Philippines. In December 2023, PNANY organized a food pantry and toy drive for children with HIV in hospitals in Manhattan. Additionally, the organization provided health screenings and essential care services to Ukrainian refugees in New York, offering vital resources, such as food and clothing to those displaced by conflict. PNANY's work with these diverse groups highlights its broader mission to serve those in need, regardless of nationality or background.

In the Philippines, PNANY's *Balik-Turo* and *Salin Kaalaman* initiatives have made a lasting impact. Through these programs, the association has provided essential training to nursing students and faculty members, bolstering the local healthcare system and competencies of the future healthcare workforce. The *Balik-Bigay* medical mission and food pantry program of PNANY also benefited the underserved communities in Negros Occidental.

In January 2024, the Philippine Nurses Association of New York (PNANY), in collaboration with the Philippine

Nurses Association of America (PNAA), conducted a *Balik-Turo* seminar attended by more than 1,200 nursing students and faculty at the University of St. La Salle in Bacolod City. They also conducted a medical mission and the distribution of food packs, which provided much-needed assistance to at least 200 families in Negros Occidental.

Similarly, in January 2023, more than 800 students and faculty participated in the *Salin-Kaalaman* seminar at Central Philippine University. Both initiatives focused on topics, such as mental health, leadership, and infection control. These efforts highlight PNANY's unwavering dedication to advancing education, improving healthcare, and serving the community.

### Humanitarian Relief

PNANY has consistently shown its readiness to respond to crises, both at home and abroad. In December 2022, after a series of devastating typhoons struck the Philippines, PNANY directed resources to provide clean water and sanitation facilities to affected communities in Maguindanao and Cagayan. The organization also launched fundraising initiatives to support Filipinos impacted by wildfires in Maui, Hawaii, highlighting its commitment to aiding those in need, regardless of location. PNANY's disaster relief efforts have provided essential aid and supported the post-disaster recovery of the affected communities.

### Recognitions

PNANY's outstanding contributions to the nursing profession and its humanitarian efforts have garnered widespread recognition. In December 2023, Assemblymember Steven B. Raga of New York State District 30 honored PNANY with an outstanding citation for its dedication to the Filipino community and the advancement of the nursing profession. New York City Mayor Eric L. Adams also officially proclaimed May 23, 2023 as PNANY Day in recognition of the organization's significant cultural and professional contributions to the city. Other community organizations also recognized PNANY with the Outstanding Organization Award and *Bayani ng Mundo* Award in 2023.

### Looking Ahead

As PNANY approaches its centennial anniversary, its legacy of service, advocacy, and professional excellence continues to inspire. Through its tireless efforts to elevate the nursing profession, address public health challenges, and support vulnerable populations, PNANY has made an indelible mark far beyond New York. The association's work has touched lives in the Philippines and across the globe, creating a ripple effect of positive change in healthcare and humanitarian service.

**THE NEUROSURGERY OUTREACH FOUNDATION**



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*In conferring the PAFIOO Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino Award upon The Neurosurgery Outreach Foundation, Inc. (NOF), the President recognizes its unwavering dedication and contribution to delivering specialized care for Filipinos with complex neurosurgical conditions that highlights its collective efforts to elevate the quality and accessibility of neurosurgical treatment for the underprivileged in the Philippines.*

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## *The Neurosurgery Outreach Foundation, Inc.* **(NOF)**

**United States of America**

In a world fraught with challenges, hope is often the flicker that sustains us through even the darkest of times. This notion resonates deeply with the mission of The Neurosurgery Outreach Foundation, Inc. (NOF), a U.S.-based organization dedicated to treating and curing some of the most complex neurosurgical conditions. What makes NOF stand out is its commitment to providing access to these life-saving treatments to those who need them most—individuals in underserved communities who would otherwise be unable to access care because of cost and lack of capacity.

The NOF, founded in 2010 and based in Jacksonville, Florida, has been instrumental in addressing the global demand for neurosurgical care. According to recent studies, approximately 5 billion people around the world lack access to safe and timely surgical care. This staggering figure reveals the depth of the healthcare inequity that the NOF is working to combat, particularly in regions like Asia, where nearly 70% of unmet surgical needs exist, including roughly 14 million new cases that demand essential neurosurgery each year.

Since its inception, the NOF has been driven by a singular vision: to advance neurosurgical care and the treatment

of brain and spine diseases in underserved communities. They achieve this through their Educational Surgical Missions (ESM), which are spearheaded by volunteer neurosurgeons who bring world class care to communities that have limited resources. Through these missions, the NOF fosters a rich exchange of ideas, best practices, and innovative techniques that are adapted to the local context.

The NOF's efforts have been particularly impactful in the Philippines, where they have formed a long-standing partnership with the Philippine General Hospital (PGH). Serving nearly 700,000 patients annually, PGH is the largest government hospital in the country, and a significant portion of its patients are from marginalized communities. The hospital also treats approximately 3,500 individuals each year who suffer from neurosurgical conditions, many of whom are in advanced stages of illness. The complexity of these cases and the extent of resources required are immense, making the partnership with NOF crucial for the hospital's operations.

### **A Decade of Partnership**

Since 2012, the NOF has supported PGH in multiple capacities. Beyond providing financial assistance,



they have sent essential medical supplies. These contributions are vital to maintaining the hospital's Pediatric Neurosurgical and Craniofacial Operating Unit (PNCOU), which performs life-saving surgeries for around 400 patients annually. This assistance has also significantly reduced wait times for critical procedures, allowing patients to receive timely interventions.

However, the NOF's impact goes far beyond just material donations. They have actively participated in the academic and professional development of PGH's neurosurgical residents. By providing educational resources, facilitating international observerships, and inviting world-renowned experts to mentor and train local surgeons, the NOF has elevated the level of neurosurgical care in the Philippines to meet international standards.

The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic tested the resilience of healthcare systems across the globe, and PGH was no exception. During this time of crisis, the NOF once again demonstrated its commitment by being one of the first organizations to offer support. Their contributions to personal protective equipment (PPE), medical supplies, and financial aid were crucial in helping the hospital maintain its operations during one of the most challenging periods in modern history.

In the past 12 years, the NOF's partnership with PGH has provided more than ₱8 million worth of assistance, a figure that continues to grow. The depth of this relationship speaks volumes about the foundation's genuine dedication to its mission and to the Filipino people.

### **Expanding Reach**

The NOF's efforts are not limited to the nation's capital. Through their ESM, they have extended their reach to other government hospitals in the Philippines, including the Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center (VSMMC) in Cebu and the Davao Regional Medical Center. At VSMMC, the NOF has made significant contributions through its Department of Neurosurgery Brain and Spine Center, which provides medical and surgical care to more than 900 patients from the Visayas and Mindanao regions annually. Among these assistance include bringing medical specialists to share cutting-edge techniques with local doctors and participating in complex neurosurgical procedures.

Additionally, the NOF has donated critical neurosurgical equipment, including aneurysm clips, endoscopic instruments, and cranial fixation devices. For many patients, these donations have meant the difference between life and death. Take, for instance, the story of a retired school teacher who faced an agonizing decision: deplete her entire life savings to treat a life-threatening brain aneurysm or continue living with the constant risk of it rupturing. Through the NOF's Equipment Donation Program, she received a donated flow diverter stent and underwent surgery free of charge just in time—allowing

her to enjoy her retirement without the looming threat of a medical catastrophe.

### **Transforming Lives**

Another key component of the NOF's work is its commitment to the professional development of Filipino neurosurgeons. The foundation offers annual educational awards to deserving neurosurgery residents and trainees, allowing them to attend international conferences, training courses, and observership programs. This opportunity not only broadens their medical knowledge but also equips them with the skills needed to apply the latest neurosurgical techniques in their home country.

These educational initiatives are creating a ripple effect. Filipino doctors who have benefited from the NOF's training programs return with enhanced expertise, which they use to treat patients with complex conditions. In turn, these patients receive world class care that might otherwise have been out of reach.

The NOF has also established a Neurosurgical Patient Assistance Fund at two charity hospitals in the Philippines. One of which is in collaboration with the Let's Save The Brain Foundation (LSTB). This fund helps remove one of the most significant barriers to treatment: the high cost of neurosurgical care. From 2021 to 2023, the fund has supported 71 indigent pediatric and adult neurosurgery patients, with an impressive 80% survival rate. The NOF donated equipment for hydrocephalus treatment, aneurysm clips, and surgical drills for complex brain operations.

Among the many lives touched by this program is that of a child with hydrocephalus whose family had abandoned him due to the insurmountable medical expenses. Thanks to the NOF, he underwent a successful surgery and was later adopted by a loving family—a true testament to the life-changing power of this organization's work.

### **Service and Compassion**

The NOF's impact on the Filipino community is immeasurable. Their contributions have saved lives, transformed healthcare systems, and empowered future generations of neurosurgeons. From donating equipment to facilitating life-saving surgeries and from training local medical professionals to providing financial assistance, the NOF continues to embody the spirit of compassion and service.

As the foundation marks more than a decade of partnership with the Philippines, its ongoing work highlights a commitment to ensuring that no one is deprived of the neurosurgical care they need. Through their enduring mission, the NOF serves as a beacon of hope for those facing the most challenging neurosurgical conditions, reminding the world that even in the toughest of times, there are still those willing to bring light.

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*This award is conferred on overseas Filipino individuals 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*

## **A W A R D E E S**

**Larry E. Carumba**

Saudi Arabia

*Victorias, Negros Occidental*

**Jane Y. Gerardo-Abaya**

Austria

*Kalibo, Aklan*

**Roberto Eusebio R. Lavidés**

Canada

*Gumaca, Quezon Province*

**Melvin J. Sanicas**

Switzerland

*Bacolod City, Negros Occidental*



*In conferring the PAFIOO Pamana ng Pilipino Award upon Larry E. Carumba, the President recognizes his achievement as a visual artist that earned respect and admiration for Filipino talent from the Saudi Arabian art community and created a positive image for overseas Filipino workers in the Middle East.*



## *Larry E. Carumba*

**Saudi Arabia**

**Hometown: Victorias, Negros Occidental**

**F**or many, a passion discovered in one's spare time remains a hobby. But for Larry E. Carumba, an Overseas Filipino Worker (OFW) based in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, that passion grew into an internationally recognized contribution to the world of visual art. From humble beginnings as an employee in a medical supply company, Larry's artistic journey is a testament to the transformative power of dedication, talent, and a deep connection to one's roots.

### **A Passion Unearthed**

Born and raised in Victorias, Negros Occidental, Larry initially pursued a different path. Armed with a degree in Business Management from La Salle College in Bacolod City, he moved to Saudi Arabia, where he dedicated over 30 years to his job in a medical company. But behind the steady rhythm of a professional life, a self-taught artist was quietly emerging.

In his spare time, Larry turned to art. His pursuit of art was unrelenting. Without any formal training, he

honed his craft by observing and painting the natural world around him. Through trial and error, he refined his technique, eventually giving rise to his distinct visual concept.

His commitment to developing his own style—blending acrylic, canvas, wood, and oil through a contemporary semi-realism approach—resulted in a body of work that enriches the appreciation of wisdom, beauty, innovation, and uniqueness. His canvases were not just a means of expression but a way to explore the intricate beauty of nature, honoring its importance and presence in everyday life.

After 11 years of self-directed growth, he decided it was time to share his work with the world.

### **Breaking Through in the Middle East**

In 2003, Larry's talent gained recognition when he entered an impromptu painting competition at the Philippine Embassy in Riyadh during its Independence

Day celebration. This marked the beginning of numerous competition victories, propelling his exceptional talent into the spotlight, where he garnered well-deserved attention and acclaim. In the following years, he continued pursuing his passion for art and expanded his portfolio.

By 2010, Larry was invited to participate in the prestigious 2nd Real Colors International Art Exhibition, an event led by Her Royal Highness Princess Jawaher Bint Nayef Bin Abdul Aziz Al-Saud. His work, which had been quietly nurtured over the years, was now being showcased on one of the most prominent platforms in Saudi Arabia. He captivated global audiences and garnered widespread respect and recognition in the arts community.

The exhibition marked a milestone—not just for him but for Filipino artists as a whole. He became the first Filipino artist to have a major exhibition in the Kingdom, a powerful testament to his skill and the growing recognition of Filipino talent on the international stage.

Two months later, he hosted his first solo exhibit attended by members of Saudi Arabia’s royalties, society elites, government and military officers, and art collectors. The seven-day show was a resounding success with several pieces purchased by the Saudi Arabia Princess and European art collectors. This success cemented Larry’s place in the Saudi art world, and he became a regular exhibitor at major events, including those organized by the Saudi British Consulate and Saudi Aramco.

In 2012, he became the first OFW to be selected for the International Saudi Artists Exhibit, an event praised by art critics for showcasing a style and concept that had never been seen before in the Kingdom. His work caught the attention of Emirates Airlines, which used one of his paintings for its Skyward Membership Card global marketing campaign.

Larry’s vibrant paintings have captivated Saudi Arabia’s high society and earned admiration from art enthusiasts across diverse communities. His stunning works now adorn the walls of luxurious homes belonging to celebrities, politicians, business people, and diplomats, transforming spaces into showcases of artistic brilliance.

### **Art Meets Advocacy**

In 2023, Larry was honored with the Outstanding International Visual Artist Award from the son of the ruler of the Emirate of Sharjah, as well as the Asia’s Outstanding International Visual Artist Award from Asia’s Pinnacle Awards. His achievements were not

solely about recognition; they reflected his passion for causes close to his heart.

Larry’s success did not stop at personal acclaim. As his star rose, so did his commitment to using his art for good. He used his art to advocate for environmental protection, plant and animal preservation, and animal welfare, infusing his pieces with a message of conservation and balance.

Larry’s influence is felt not only through his art but also through his efforts to pass on his skills and knowledge to the next generation. He offers free art workshops to young artists in Saudi Arabia and actively supports Filipino talents in fashion, music, and entertainment.

### **Philanthropy Through Art**

A true artist at heart, Larry’s contribution extended beyond the canvas as he has also made significant contributions to philanthropic causes. In 2024, he helped raise funds for the newly established Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW) Hospital and Diagnostic Center in San Fernando, Pampanga through an art exhibit organized by the Philippine Professional Organization in Saudi Arabia. At another event, he donated a painting valued at SR 14,000 (₱200,000) for auction, with proceeds benefiting distressed OFWs at *Bahay Kalinga* in Al Khobar.

His philanthropy extends to helping those in need, both in Saudi Arabia and the Philippines. Larry directed proceeds from the auction of some of his other paintings to benefit various charitable causes. From supporting Filipino artists and charities to donating artwork to fund education programs, covering hospital expenses, and aiding rebuilding efforts after Typhoon Odette, he has made giving back a central part of his mission. His sold-out paintings in December 2023 provided critical support to organizations like the League of Filipino Artists Association, Mrs. Asia 2023, and various grassroots efforts in his hometown.

### **An Enduring Inspiration**

Despite the many challenges he has faced, Larry’s story is one of perseverance, creativity, and an unwavering commitment to his craft. His work continues to inspire a generation of artists, while his philanthropic efforts touch the lives of those less fortunate.

From the halls of medical supply companies to the prestigious galleries of Saudi Arabia, Larry’s life is a masterclass in passion, perseverance, and purpose. Through his art, he has shown the world how creativity can transcend boundaries and change lives, one brushstroke at a time.



*In conferring the PAFIOO Pamana ng Pilipino Award upon Jane Y. Gerardo-Abaya, the President recognizes her exemplary achievements and groundbreaking contributions to the advancement of geology and geothermal hydrology and relentless advocacy for the safe, secure, and peaceful use of nuclear technologies.*



## *Jane Y. Gerardo-Abaya*

**Austria**

**Hometown: Kalibo, Aklan**

In the vast landscape of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), women remain significantly underrepresented. Yet, amidst these historically male-dominated fields, there are those who transcend traditional barriers, redefining the narrative and challenging deeply entrenched norms. One such luminary is Dr. Jane Y. Gerardo-Abaya, a woman of unparalleled expertise in applied geology and geothermal hydrology. Her remarkable career stands as a testament to her indomitable spirit and intellectual prowess, breaking new ground not only for herself but for countless women aspiring to make their mark in STEM.

### **Academic Excellence**

A scholar of distinguished merit, Dr. Gerardo-Abaya began her academic journey at the University of the Philippines - Diliman, where she earned her bachelor's degree in Geology in 1981. Her interest in geology was not merely an academic pursuit; it was a passion ignited by her curiosity for the natural wonders of her surroundings, and inspired since childhood in Aklan by her parents. With a thirst for knowledge that could not be quenched, she pursued a Master

of Science in Geology at the same institution, completing all her academic units. But her ambitions reached even higher, leading her to the prestigious *Universität für Bodenkultur Wien* (University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences) in Vienna, Austria, where she obtained a doctorate degree in applied geology and geothermal hydrology in 2004. Graduating with honors, her solid academic achievements provided the foundation for a career that would span over four decades, marked by groundbreaking contributions to both geology and nuclear science.

### **Groundbreaking Contributions**

From 1982 to 2023, Dr. Gerardo-Abaya dedicated her life to advancing nuclear science and geology. Her journey in this field began in the Philippines, where she worked as a Senior Environmental Planning Researcher at the Department of Environmental and Natural Resources (DENR), overseeing environmental projects with international technical support. As the counterpart geologist for the Asian Development Bank (ADB), she contributed to vital groundwater salinity studies, enhancing the understanding of water resources in the region. Her influence reached even further through

foreign-assisted projects with international bodies like the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), where she played a crucial role in implementing sustainable solutions for energy and environmental challenges.

Her exemplary service in public sector science continued as a geologist and geochemist at the Philippine National Oil Company (PNOC)—Energy Development Corporation. Her work extended to geothermal exploration and development, where she contributed to the management of geothermal reservoirs, utilizing her expertise to harness the earth's natural energy sources.

### **Geothermal Hydrology**

During her 30-year tenure at IAEA, Dr. Gerardo-Abaya's knowledge of geothermal hydrology has left an indelible impact on over 70 countries across multiple continents. Her expertise has been sought after in a variety of contexts, from developing nations seeking sustainable energy solutions to advanced economies looking to enhance their geothermal capabilities. One of her most significant contributions is her work in developing projects to address marine pollution and harmful algal blooms, leading to regulatory measures in various nations.

Her published works on geothermal exploration techniques are highly regarded and continue to shape the scientific field, providing guidelines and methodologies that have become essential tools for researchers and practitioners alike. Moreover, her leadership in technical cooperation projects has expanded the peaceful use of nuclear science, focusing on human capacity building and infrastructure enhancement.

Her contributions to the scientific community also include research on geothermal systems in Southern Negros in the Philippines, Miravalles Volcano in Costa Rica, and other countries for groundbreaking applications of isotope techniques in geothermal energy development.

### **Nuclear Science Education**

In her ascent to leadership roles, Dr. Gerardo-Abaya played a pivotal role in shaping nuclear science education and application across Asia and the Pacific. She has organized numerous workshops and training programs, fostering a culture of collaboration and knowledge exchange among scientists, engineers, and educators. Her leadership and commitment reached vast audiences, fostering deeper understanding and engagement with nuclear technologies.

Her academic contributions also extend to the classroom, where she served as a Visiting Lecturer at the Institute of Applied Geology in Vienna, imparting knowledge on isotope hydrology and mentoring postgraduate students. Her teaching style is characterized by her passion for the subject and her dedication to nurturing the next generation of scientists, inspiring her students to push the boundaries of knowledge and innovation.

As the Director of the Division of Technical Cooperation for Asia and the Pacific at the IAEA, Dr. Gerardo-Abaya oversaw the production of 11 significant publications. These works span a range of topics, from the success stories of member states to the integration of nuclear science and technology into secondary education. The publications also include socio-economic assessments of IAEA's technical assistance and educational materials aimed at fostering a deeper understanding of nuclear science and technology among students.

### **Civic Engagement**

Dr. Gerardo-Abaya has remained deeply committed to civic engagement and the advancement of STEM education. As a co-founder of organizations, such as the UP Cwm Zena'na and the Philippine-Austrian Cultural and Education Society (PACES), she has dedicated herself to promoting science as a tool for national development and empowering young women and aspiring scientists.

Through her involvement with these organizations, she has consistently displayed a steadfast commitment to advancing educational opportunities for women and promoting the interests of young adults in the fields of STEM in the Philippines. Her initiatives have included scholarship programs, mentorship opportunities, and workshops designed to equip young women with the skills and confidence they need to thrive in STEM careers. Her efforts have not only transformed lives but have also contributed to a more equitable and inclusive scientific community.

### **With Honors**

Throughout her illustrious career, Dr. Gerardo-Abaya has been honored with numerous awards, including the prestigious Medal for the Cause of Science and Technology (2024) from the Vietnam Ministry of Science and Technology. For her extraordinary performance and contributions to the field of geology and nuclear science and technology, IAEA also conferred upon her the Recognition Award for Exceptional Service (2020), Superior Achievement Award (2017), Distinguished Service Award (2008), and Special Service Award (2007), among others. Each recognition serves as a reminder of her tireless efforts to advance science for the benefit of humanity and her unwavering dedication to the pursuit of knowledge. As a staff member, she is also a co-awardee of the IAEA's Nobel Peace Prize in 2005.

Dr. Gerardo-Abaya's journey is an inspiring narrative of determination and resilience, demonstrating that with passion and perseverance, it is possible to challenge the status quo and inspire change. Her story is a beacon of hope for young women everywhere, proving that they, too, can carve their paths in fields that have long been deemed inaccessible. She has shattered the glass ceiling in STEM, leaving a lasting legacy of inclusivity, excellence, and empowerment for generations to come.



In conferring the PAFIOO Pamana ng Pilipino Award upon Roberto Eusebio R. Lavidés, the President recognizes his exemplary achievements in the arts and literature and staunch efforts in propagating Filipino culture and Dr. Jose P. Rizal's legacy among the Filipino diaspora that fostered cross-cultural understanding between Filipino and Canadian communities.

## Roberto Eusebio R. Lavidés

Canada

Hometown: Gumaca, Quezon Province

In an age of rapid globalization and multiculturalism, maintaining a connection to one's cultural roots is paramount. For immigrants, this connection fosters mutual understanding and respect, weaving rich tapestries of diverse heritage into the fabric of their adoptive country. Roberto Eusebio R. Lavidés, a dedicated advocate for Filipino language and culture, has devoted his life to this noble mission, using the arts as a medium to promote understanding and appreciation of his homeland.

### Creative Start

Roberto's journey began in the Philippines, where he established himself as a talented screenwriter, crafting stories that resonated with young audiences. His work on popular television programs like the much-loved children's shows *Ora Engkantada* and *Batibot* was instrumental in educating children about essential moral values through engaging narratives.

His script for *Ka Elias*, part of the acclaimed series *Balintataw*, garnered him recognition at the 12th Catholic

Mass Media Awards in 1989. Drawing inspiration from the works of Dr. Jose P. Rizal, particularly *Noli Me Tangere* and *El Filibusterismo*, Roberto's storytelling tackled profound themes of violence and social change, earning accolades for its emotional depth and intellectual rigor.

### A New Chapter

In 1992, Roberto took a monumental step, emigrating to southern Ontario, Canada, to widen his artistic horizon while immersing in the Canadian spectrum. As he integrated into the Canadian mosaic, he carved his artistic presence in the Western world and channeled his creative energies into advocating for Filipino history, heritage, and values through various artistic mediums—painting, poetry, and writing. His work became a powerful tribute to Rizalism, seamlessly weaving Rizal's teachings into the contemporary narrative.

As a full-time narrative artist and creative director of his own studio galleries in Ontario, Roberto produces exhibits



and themed paintings and conducts art workshops, forums, and classes centered on Rizalism, Philippine history, heritage, and culture.

One of his most notable contributions is the International Rizaliana Art Tour, which he founded in 1996 to commemorate the centenary of Rizal's martyrdom. Over 28 years, this project has produced multiple series of exhibitions, collaborating with Filipino organizations, embassies, and consulates in successfully bringing Rizal's legacy to audiences across the globe.

The impact of this art tour series is particularly profound within Canadian communities. For Filipino-Canadians, especially the younger generation, Roberto's work instills a sense of pride in their heritage and strengthens their cultural identity. For older Filipino immigrants, his Rizal-themed paintings gave a nostalgic connection to their homeland, encapsulating shared experiences of migration and the ongoing struggle to preserve cultural values. Furthermore, his artwork introduces Rizal's ideals to a broader international audience, enhancing cross-cultural understanding and respect.

### **Rizalian Advocacy**

The passage of a century has not diminished the legacy of the Philippine national hero. In fact, time has further highlighted Rizal's life and teachings, thanks to individuals like Roberto, who has consistently infused Rizal's essence and principles into his visual arts, writings, and advocacy efforts.

In 2011, Roberto furthered his mission during Rizal's sesquicentennial birth anniversary by initiating *chRizalis*, an event that featured studio gallery tours and lectures on Rizalism during Ontario Culture Days. This educational platform catered to both Filipino and non-Filipino students, enriching their understanding of Rizal's writings and their relevance in contemporary society. His monthly column, *Doctoring Rizal*, in *Balita*, a prominent Filipino newspaper in Toronto, provided a voice for his reflections on Rizal's vision, reinforcing its significance in today's world.

His commitment to propagating Rizal's teachings through his artworks and projects earned him prestigious acclaim, including the Distinguished Service Medal of Rizal from the Order of the Knights of Rizal in Canada in 2003. He was also named a third-degree Knight Commander in 2001.

Staying true to Rizal's principles, Roberto also champions non-violent resistance against social injustices. His 2003 poetry collection, *Remember Why*, delves into the depths of inhumanity in the context of global conflicts, genocide, and terrorism. This book of poems was highly praised for its emotional intensity and

philosophical depth and was archived at the National Library of Canada, serving as a poignant reminder of the costs of violence.

In his dedication to peace, Roberto founded the Heroes Hall project, an exhibit honoring global figures who advocated for peaceful change. This initiative elevates Rizal as an international symbol of peace and encourages viewers to recognize the sacrifices made by heroes for the dignity of sovereignty, democracy, progress, and peace.

As a result of his editorial undertaking and literary writings featured in the monthly publication of *Kultura*, a Canadian multicultural magazine of the arts, he was recognized with a Media Race Relations Award by the Human Rights and Race Relations in Toronto in 2001.

### **Empowering Through Education**

Roberto's influence extends beyond art; he has played a pivotal role in introducing Filipino language courses and programs in Ontario. His Creating Art, Making Peace (CAMP) initiative, running from 2008 to 2011, blended visual arts, theater, and poetry in an interactive workshop for elementary and high school students. This innovative approach equipped students from diverse backgrounds with artistic and life skills, fostering a deeper appreciation for diversity, non-violent resistance, and social justice.

As a Filipino language instructor, Roberto has also been instrumental in establishing Filipino classes in Ontario schools. His impact reached the airwaves as well; from 2008 to 2010, he co-hosted *The TagLish Radio Show* on CFMU 93.3 FM, providing a platform for discussing relevant issues within the Filipino community and facilitating dialogue and connection.

### **Cultural Dignity**

Throughout his illustrious career, Roberto has remained unwavering in his commitment to using his talents to enrich understanding, compassion, and elevate cultural dignity. His artistic contributions have become vital cultural touchstones for Filipino communities in Canada and beyond, offering profound reflections on the Filipino experience.

Today, Roberto's work stands as a testament to the enduring power of art in bridging cultures, preserving history, and fostering respect for diversity. His lifelong dedication not only enriches the cultural landscape of his new home but also serves as an inspiring reminder of the importance of staying connected to one's roots, ensuring that the stories and legacies of those who came before us continue to resonate in the hearts of future generations.



*In conferring the PAFIOO Pamana ng Pilipino Award upon Melvin J. Sanicas, the President recognizes his exemplary achievements as a renowned expert in global health, immunology, and preventive medicine that supported the world's response to COVID-19 and other infectious diseases.*



## *Melvin J. Sanicas*

Switzerland

Hometown: Bacolod City, Negros Occidental

In the world of global health, few names resonate as strongly as Dr. Melvin J. Sanicas. Born in 1981 in Iloilo City, his journey from a curious young student to an internationally recognized expert in vaccinology is nothing short of inspiring. With a dazzling array of academic achievements and professional milestones, Dr. Sanicas is not just shaping the future of medicine; he is redefining it.

Dr. Sanicas's academic odyssey began at the University of the Philippines - Manila, where he earned his bachelor's degree in Biology in 2001. His thirst for knowledge propelled him to pursue a Doctor of Medicine degree at the same institution, graduating in 2006 and passing the medical board exams with flying colors the following year. But for Dr. Sanicas, this was just the beginning.

His relentless pursuit of excellence led him to the University of Leeds in the United Kingdom, where he secured a Postgraduate Certificate in Patient Safety and Clinical Risk Management in 2008. Balancing work at a multinational drug company with further studies, he earned his Master of Science in Vaccinology and

Pharmaceutical Clinical Development in 2012, graduating *cum laude* and as valedictorian—an impressive feat that showcased his dedication and passion.

In a whirlwind of academic pursuits, he obtained a Master of Science in Infectious Diseases from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in 2015, followed by an Executive Certificate in Public Policy from Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government in 2020.

He continued to conquer new heights with a Diploma in Advanced Vaccinology from the University of Geneva in 2021 and a Diploma in Infectious Diseases from the *Institut Pasteur Paris* in 2023. He achieved his Master of Business Administration from the University of Leicester, United Kingdom, in 2023, demonstrating that his quest for knowledge knows no bounds.

### **Cancer Diagnostics and Vaccinology**

At present, Dr. Sanicas serves as the International Medical Director for Screening at Exact Sciences, an international biotech company specializing in cancer diagnostics. His

work involves harnessing cutting-edge technologies for early cancer detection, where he expertly manages research, clinical studies, and medical activities. His role leverages cancer genomics and machine learning, paving the way for breakthroughs that can change lives.

Before joining Exact Sciences, Dr. Sanicas made significant contributions in leadership roles at prominent pharmaceutical and biotech companies. As the Senior Director of Medical Affairs and Clinical Development at Clover Biopharmaceuticals in Switzerland, he played a crucial role in the clinical development of a COVID-19 vaccine and a cell-culture influenza vaccine. His efforts in these projects are pivotal in combating the public health challenges posed by these diseases.

During his tenure at Takeda Pharmaceuticals International, he served as the Global Medical Director. There, he spearheaded the clinical development of a dengue vaccine while providing critical medical education on the virus and its preventative measures.

Further solidifying his status as a leading expert in infectious diseases and public health, he became the first Global Health Fellow from Asia at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the largest nonprofit foundation in the world committed to global health and development. At the Foundation, he launched the Collaboration for Tuberculosis Vaccine Discovery (CTVD), an international network of experts dedicated to tuberculosis vaccine research and development. The CTVD has been instrumental in accelerating the development of new tuberculosis vaccines, targeting one of the world's most formidable infectious disease killers long before the pandemic struck.

Dr. Sanicas brings a wealth of experience to his field, having held significant roles at prominent pharmaceutical and biotech companies, such as Sanofi Aventis, GlaxoSmithKline, Novartis Vaccines and Diagnostics, and Vifor Pharma Asia Pacific, where he was involved in clinical development, medical affairs, regulatory science, and capacity building. His diverse expertise positions him as a leader in the pharmaceutical industry.

### Recognitions and Awards

Dr. Sanicas's impressive résumé is peppered with accolades. In 2021, he was conferred with The Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) Award for Science and Medicine—the only recipient for this category in its 65-year history. His contributions to global health have earned him recognition from the Senate of the Philippines, which celebrated him as an internationally respected COVID-19 expert.

His commitment to public health and extensive work during the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly

the early research on the virus' transmissibility and vaccine development, has seen him participate in over 100 interviews and lectures worldwide, effectively combating misinformation and educating the public on critical health issues.

His pandemic-related animated TED-Ed videos have collectively garnered over 10 million views, making a significant impact in disseminating accurate information to a global audience. His book, *Frontiers of COVID-19*, has sold over 15,000 copies and is a valuable resource for medical professionals and researchers alike.

Dr. Sanicas has received numerous other awards, including the Top 100 COVID Medical Influencers (2020), British Council Alumni Awards in the Professional Achievement Category (2018), Study UK Alumni Awards as a Science and Sustainability Global Finalist (2023), and The Blue and Gold Alumni Association The Outstanding Alumnus Award (2023). As a fellow of the Royal Society for Public Health, the Royal Society for Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, and the Royal Society of Arts, his contributions to public health have garnered the highest recognition and acclaim.

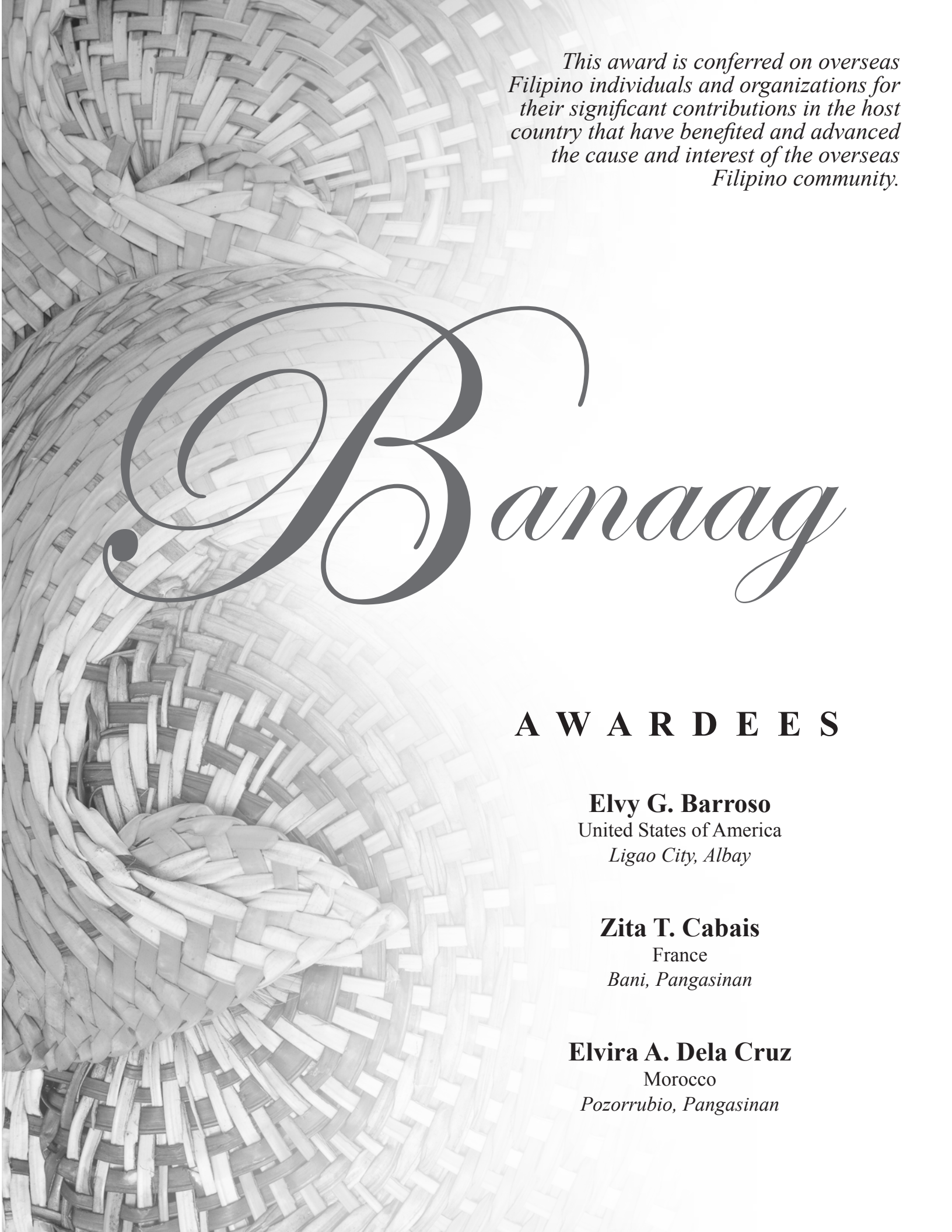
### Education and Mentorship

Beyond his remarkable professional accomplishments, Dr. Sanicas is a passionate advocate for education and mentorship. He believes that the world needs more physicians and scientists who can effectively communicate their expertise on global health issues. He dedicates time to inspiring young students and professionals, mentoring at institutions, such as the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, the University of Leeds, and the University of the Philippines - Manila.

As a dynamic science speaker and advocate, Dr. Sanicas shares his knowledge of infectious diseases and vaccines with a broad audience through social media. He has amassed over 37,000 followers on X (formerly Twitter), more than 16,000 on Facebook (Meta), and over 10,000 on LinkedIn. As co-host of the Global Health Cast, he reaches thousands of viewers per episode, making complex health issues accessible to everyone. He also supports science education as a patron of *SciShow*, a popular science video series boasting 6.7 million subscribers.

Dr. Sanicas's dedication extends beyond medicine and science; he is committed to social responsibility and the arts. Since 2012, he has been a long-time supporter and child sponsor of Save the Children and World Vision International, reflecting his deep commitment to making the world a better place.

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*This award is conferred on overseas  
Filipino individuals and organizations for  
their significant contributions in the host  
country that have benefited and advanced  
the cause and interest of the overseas  
Filipino community.*

# *Banaga*

## **A W A R D E E S**

**Elvy G. Barroso**

United States of America

*Ligao City, Albay*

**Zita T. Cabais**

France

*Bani, Pangasinan*

**Elvira A. Dela Cruz**

Morocco

*Pozorrubio, Pangasinan*



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*In conferring the PAFIOO Banaag Award to Elvy G. Barroso, the President recognizes her remarkable work in public health education on tuberculosis that significantly enhanced infection control practices and expanded access to treatment for Filipinos and other ethnic communities in New York City.*

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## *Elvy G. Barroso*

**United States of America  
Hometown: Ligao City, Albay**

**W**hen someone is dedicated to advocating for an issue, especially concerning health, it reflects their strong character and commitment to raising awareness about a critical public health challenge. This encapsulates Dr. Elvy G. Barroso's journey as a physician from the Philippines to the United States of America. Her unwavering advocacy is focused on addressing one of the most infectious diseases, tuberculosis (TB).

Dr. Barroso's life and career represent a remarkable journey of dedication, perseverance, and passion for public health. From her humble beginnings in Ligao City, Albay, to becoming a leader in tuberculosis control and prevention in New York City, her work has improved infection control practices and access to treatment for tuberculosis in Filipino and other ethnic communities.

### **Roots of Advocacy**

For Dr. Barroso, advocacy is not just a calling—it is woven into the very fabric of her being. Her journey into healthcare began in the Philippines, where she earned her Bachelor of Science in Pre-Medicine at the University of the East and her Doctor of Medicine at De La Salle University. She

worked as a medical specialist in the Department of Health in the Philippines, and her interest in infectious diseases, particularly tuberculosis, took root—a focus that would later define her career.

A thirst for knowledge and a deep-seated desire to make a difference propelled her to pursue advanced studies abroad. She obtained a Master of Science in Occupational Medicine from the National University of Singapore and a Diploma in Tuberculosis Control and Epidemiology from the Research Institute of Tuberculosis in Tokyo, Japan.

Her transition to the United States marked a new chapter in her personal and professional life. Dr. Barroso was well-equipped to take on the challenges ahead. What started as a move for better opportunities quickly evolved into a lifelong mission to combat one of the world's most persistent and deadly infectious diseases.

### **Champion for Tuberculosis Control**

In a city that boasts one of the most diverse populations in the world, the fight against tuberculosis in New York City (NYC) is a multifaceted challenge. This infectious disease

disproportionately affects immigrant communities, and it was within this space that Dr. Barroso found her calling. She continued her work as the Tuberculosis Program Coordinator at the International Ladies Garment Workers Union and later at the NYC Department of Health and Mental Health (DOHMH).

Since 1995, she has worked with the NYC DOHMH, advocating for healthcare training in the communities it serves. Her leadership has been instrumental in developing health education programs, training curricula, and infection control measures that have benefited thousands of residents across the city.

Her expertise in tuberculosis control has led her to roles with increasing responsibility in the DOHMH. She served as the Professional Development Coordinator and Outreach Team Lead. Dr. Barroso spearheaded the planning, design, and implementation of health educational initiatives aimed at curbing the spread of infectious diseases in at-risk populations. She worked closely with community organizations to conduct screenings and educational campaigns across New York City's boroughs. Her work has dramatically improved infection control practices and enhanced access to tuberculosis treatment for underserved ethnic communities in the area.

### **Empowering Communities**

A key component of Dr. Barroso's success has been her deep connection to the Filipino community in NYC, particularly in Queens, where large numbers of Filipino immigrants reside. Dr. Barroso has led efforts to educate Filipino nurses and the community about tuberculosis, its prevention, and treatment protocols.

Since 2016, in collaboration with the Philippine Nurses Association of New York, Inc. (PNANY) and the *Kalusugan* Coalition, she has conducted numerous health educational programs and tuberculosis screening aimed at tuberculosis surveillance. Arrangements for free evaluation and treatment were made for those who tested positive for tuberculosis. Her work has resulted in a decrease in tuberculosis cases among Filipinos in New York City from being ranked 4th in the city to now 8th in terms of cases.

Her outreach has also extended beyond the Filipino community. In 2023, she led tuberculosis screenings for Ukrainian refugees, partnering with the Ukrainian organization *Razom* to provide much-needed healthcare services.

Her response to health crises has not been limited to tuberculosis. During the pandemic, she played a role in evaluating COVID-19 vaccine effectiveness. In 2022, Dr. Barroso played a critical role as a medical epidemiologist during the monkeypox outbreak in NYC. Her ability to pivot quickly, assess the needs of the community, and implement targeted interventions underscores her versatility and her dedication to public health.

### **A Lifelong Learner and Educator**

Dr. Barroso's academic achievements are as impressive as her fieldwork. Her journey of continuous learning saw her earning a Ph.D. in Nursing from The Graduate Center, City University of New York, alongside a Master of Science in Nursing and a Master of Science in Public Health and Community Health Education from Hunter-Bellevue School of Nursing, City University of New York.

For Dr. Barroso, education is a two-way street. While she values her own learning, she is equally passionate about teaching others. As a professor of Nursing, she has taught at prestigious institutions, such as New York University, Hunter-Bellevue School of Nursing and Borough of Manhattan Community College, City University of New York. Her courses range from the fundamentals of nursing to leadership, ethics, health policy, community health nursing, psychiatry, and research. Through her mentorship, she has helped shape the next generation of healthcare professionals, many of whom are Filipino nursing students looking to carve out their own paths in the nursing field.

### **Recognitions and the Road Ahead**

Dr. Barroso's work has not gone unnoticed. In 2024, she was named one of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) TB Elimination Champions, a recognition that highlights her pivotal role in reducing tuberculosis cases and improving healthcare access in immigrant communities. Her accolades also include the Public Heroes Award from the Bureau of Tuberculosis Control, the 2020 Excellence in Community Service Award from the PNANY, and an Excellence Award in Research/Scientist from the Philippine Nurses Association of America (PNAA).

As a prolific researcher, Dr. Barroso has contributed to numerous publications in peer-reviewed journals. Her research in 2023, *Factors Associated with Household Contact, Tuberculosis Testing, and Evaluation*, was published in the Journal of Public Health Nursing. Her most recent research in 2024 on *Patient Navigator's Role in Latent Tuberculosis Infection at a New York City Health Department Chest Clinic* was published in the Journal of Clinical Tuberculosis and Other Mycobacterial Diseases. Her research continues to inform public health strategies not only in New York but also across the globe.

Despite her busy schedule, Dr. Barroso finds time to serve the Community Board Six as Chair of Health & Human Services Committee for 10 years. She also serves the Epiphany Church as a Lector and a Eucharistic Minister. She is also a member of the Seido World Karate Organization. She currently holds a Fourth Degree Black Belt.

Dr. Barroso's story is a testament to what one person can achieve with passion, persistence, and a deep-rooted commitment to community service. Her legacy will undoubtedly inspire future generations of healthcare professionals and advocates, not only in the fight against tuberculosis but in the broader mission of improving public health for all.



*In conferring the PAFIOO Banaag Award upon Zita T. Cabais, the President recognizes her resilience and significant contributions in championing the rights of Filipino domestic workers and in fighting labor exploitation and human trafficking that have driven awareness for stronger policies towards decent work in France and across Europe.*



## *Zita T. Cabais*

**France**

**Hometown: Bani, Pangasinan**

**I**n the face of human trafficking, labor exploitation, and modern-day slavery, some voices rise to fight back. One such voice belongs to Zita T. Cabais, a former Filipino domestic worker turned union leader, whose life has become a powerful testament to resilience, advocacy, and the relentless pursuit of justice. From her humble beginnings in the Philippines to her emergence as a respected defender of workers' rights in France, her journey is nothing short of extraordinary.

### **From Hardship to Hope**

Zita's early life was marked by hardship. Growing up in the rural town of Bani, Pangasinan, she faced the pressing responsibility of helping her family survive. After completing her elementary education, she had no choice but to start working, forgoing the chance to pursue higher education.

Her life's trajectory changed dramatically in 1994 when she migrated to France, hoping to find better opportunities. However, what awaited her was not the prosperity she envisioned. Instead, she encountered exploitation and

abuse as a domestic worker. For years, she endured harsh working conditions that left her feeling powerless. But her strength of spirit remained intact. In 2003, she won a legal battle against her abusive employer, an achievement that marked the beginning of her transformation into a fierce advocate for workers' rights.

### **Rising as an Advocate**

The legal victory over her employer ignited a passion within Zita to help others. She joined the trade union and began raising awareness about the exploitation faced by domestic workers in France, many of whom are Filipino migrants. Her advocacy work quickly gained momentum, and she became a key figure in the fight for labor rights, with her focus on protecting the most vulnerable. She has held various influential roles in organizations where she has advocated for workers' rights and organized activities aimed at intensifying campaigns against human trafficking and labor exploitation and providing support to its victims.

Through annual campaigns and public events, Zita helped amplify the voices of those often silenced. Her



efforts brought international attention to the issues of unfair working conditions, long hours, and the lack of social protections for domestic workers, particularly migrants. She continuously advocates for the ratification by the French Government of the International Labor Organization's (ILO) Convention No. 189, which provides vital protections for domestic workers.

### **A Lifeline for the Undocumented**

Beyond policy change, Zita helped over 180 undocumented Filipino workers in France secure legal work permits. As the General Secretary of the *Syndicat des Assistants Maternels & Salariés des Services à la Personne d'Ile de France* (Union of Childcare Assistants and Personal Services Employees in France) and part of the *Confédération Française Démocratique du Travail* (French Democratic Confederation of Labor), she has played a crucial role in legalizing the status of Filipino workers living in fear of deportation and exploitation. Through her tireless work, these workers now have the chance to live and work in France with dignity, and their rights as legal employees are recognized and protected.

### **Championing Victims of Trafficking and Exploitation**

Zita has been at the forefront of assisting victims of labor exploitation and human trafficking. Collaborating with organizations like the *Comité Contre L'esclavage Moderne* (Committee Against Modern Slavery), she has provided crucial support to 86 Filipino victims of labor exploitation, helping them file legal complaints against their abusive employers and guiding them through the complex process of seeking justice. She has been able to provide a comprehensive support system for victims, offering emotional and psychological support and helping them rebuild their lives after escaping exploitation.

Zita's advocacy has not been limited to courtrooms and legal proceedings. In 2023, she organized an exhibition at the Museum of the History of Immigration in France that featured the story of 4 out of 14 Filipino domestic workers and their displayed belongings, which symbolized their experiences of exploitation and human trafficking. The exhibit served as a powerful call to action, urging society to recognize the often invisible struggles of migrant workers and to push for stronger protections of their rights.

Zita is a voice not just for Filipino workers but for all migrant workers worldwide. She has shared her expertise and personal story on numerous platforms, including conferences organized by the United Nations, the ILO, and the French government. Her ability to articulate the struggles of migrant workers and her unwavering commitment to advocating for their rights have made her a respected speaker at these high-level events.

Through her advocacy, she has brought attention to the issues of human trafficking and labor exploitation on an international stage, where her voice has resonated with

policymakers, human rights activists, and labor leaders alike.

### **Empowering Filipino Migrants**

As the Founder and President of the *Asosasyong Sanggunian Filipino*, Zita has organized a wide range of programs designed to uplift and support Filipino workers in France. From free weekly workshops that teach migrants the French language to sessions on labor laws and social protection regulations, her efforts have created safe spaces where Filipinos can share their experiences and seek the help they need.

As a member of the International Survivors of Trafficking Advisory Council, Zita contributed to the creation of anti-trafficking guidelines for publications across Europe. In collaboration with the Philippine Embassy in Paris, she also produced labor rights leaflets in Filipino, providing Filipino migrants with essential information about their rights as workers.

Zita's work on the ground has been equally impactful. She played a key role in developing the guide for Filipino migrants in France, with funding support from the ILO and the European Commission. These guides, written in both English and Filipino, serve as invaluable resources for Filipino migrants, offering crucial information on labor rights, social protection, and access to assistance. Through her initiative, Zita ensured that these guides were informative, culturally relevant, and accessible to the Filipino community.

### **A Legacy of Advocacy and Hope**

Zita's story of resilience and her fight for workers' rights have been featured across various media platforms, including interviews, French newspaper publications, and international documentaries. Her work has not only raised awareness about the exploitation of domestic workers but has also helped bring the broader issues of human trafficking and labor exploitation into the public consciousness.

From a small town in Pangasinan to the forefront of labor rights advocacy in France, Zita's journey is a story of courage, strength, and transformation. Her life's work has been dedicated to fighting systemic injustices, and her advocacy has made a tangible difference in the lives of Filipino migrants and workers around the world.

From a young girl forced into labor to a formidable advocate for migrant workers' rights, Zita has turned her personal struggles into a powerful tool for change. Her work continues to inspire hope and drive the global movement for workers' rights, ensuring that the voices of the marginalized are heard and that their rights are upheld. Through her tireless efforts, Zita remains a beacon of hope, standing tall as a champion for justice and dignity in the fight against human trafficking and labor exploitation.



*In conferring the PAFIOO Banaag Award upon Elvira A. Dela Cruz, the President recognizes her relentless efforts and selfless dedication in helping overseas Filipino workers in distress and fervently advocating the rights and welfare of the Filipino community in Morocco.*



## *Elvira A. Dela Cruz*

**Morocco**  
**Hometown: Pozorrubio, Pangasinan**

**I**n a distant land, far from her hometown of Pozorrubio, Pangasinan, Elvira A. Dela Cruz, known to many as Elvie, has become an indispensable figure for many overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) in Morocco. Although she is not affluent in material wealth, her service to the overseas Filipino community is priceless. For over a decade, Elvie has been a lifeline for those in need, particularly maltreated and undocumented Filipinos, helping them transition into legal workers and providing them with a path to reintegrate into society.

Elvie's journey to Morocco began in 2009 when she arrived as a household service worker (HSW). Over the years, she has served various employers, but her heart has always been driven by a higher purpose—advocating for the rights and welfare of fellow OFWs. Known for her unwavering support and guidance, Elvie has glimmered hope for those who have fallen through the cracks, dedicating herself to changing lives one by one. Despite her modest income, she has become a strong voice for the voiceless, helping them find justice and a chance at a better life.

### **Heroism in Action**

One of Elvie's most significant contributions has been her advocacy for Filipinos who have faced abuse at the hands of their employers. A group of more than 40 OFWs can attest to her kindness and tenacity, having endured severe mistreatment, including unpaid wages, lack of days off, and even confiscated passports. Elvie didn't hesitate to step in, offering not just guidance and emotional support but also financial assistance—an extraordinary act considering her own limited means.

Among those she helped was a HSW who suffered contract violations, was denied her full salary, and even ended up hospitalized without adequate support. Elvie's intervention was nothing short of heroic; she not only helped the worker recover but also assisted her in finding new employment, proving that true compassion knows no bounds.

Another case involved an OFW who had been mistreated by her employer and left without the equivalent of four

months' pay. The OFW, along with four co-workers, sought Elvie's help. Through her determination, they were able to withstand their employer and finally received their due compensation. Her persistence and bravery gave these workers the justice they deserved.

Throughout the years, Elvie has taken on numerous cases of abuse and injustice. One of the most heart-wrenching cases was that of an OFW who had not been paid for two years and was subjected to severe maltreatment. She fought tirelessly to ensure the case was addressed, and she monitored the welfare of another Filipino who had been imprisoned in a detention center for two years.

Elvie's work extends beyond individual acts of kindness—she is a true advocate for systemic change. Since there was no Philippine Foreign Service Post in Morocco prior to 2021, Elvie filled the void by becoming a bridge between the Filipino community and Moroccan authorities. For instance, she helped a butler and a distressed worker navigate Morocco's complex labor laws to obtain legal residency permits. Her knowledge of the system and her willingness to fight for their rights ensured that these workers were no longer invisible in the eyes of the law.

Her role became even more vital during the COVID-19 pandemic when she risked her own health to help fellow OFWs. She assisted a Filipina OFW who had severe COVID-19 symptoms by bringing her to the hospital—an act of courage that demonstrated Elvie's unwavering commitment to the wellbeing of others, even in the face of personal danger.

### **Leading a Community**

In 2021, Elvie formalized her advocacy by founding the Filipino Society of Morocco (FSM), an organization that has since played a pivotal role in supporting the Filipino community. The FSM's efforts have ranged from organizing cultural diplomacy events like the *Pistang Pinoy* and *Paskong Pinoy* celebrations to humanitarian outreach programs. In one instance, the FSM donated medicines to the Rabat Children's Hospital and provided financial support to an OFW battling cervical cancer.

The Philippine Embassy in Rabat recognized Elvie's leadership and awarded the FSM a Certificate of Appreciation for its invaluable contributions to promoting Filipino culture and supporting the community. This recognition underscored Elvie's impact not only as an advocate but also as a unifying force for Filipinos living far from home.

Her commitment to the community is further highlighted by her efforts to promote cultural and

educational initiatives. In 2014, she organized a basic *Darija* (Moroccan Arabic) language class for Filipino workers, helping them integrate into Moroccan society more smoothly. The following year, she led the Filipino community in celebrating International Women's Day, underscoring her dedication to gender equality and the empowerment of women.

### **A Voice for Workers' Rights**

Elvie's advocacy is not limited to the Filipino community. In 2017, she attended a five-day training program in Italy organized by the International Labor Organization (ILO). There, she represented overseas Filipino workers in Morocco and advocated for the resolution of social injustices experienced by migrant workers. Her participation in international forums has amplified her voice, making her a key figure in the fight for decent work and fair treatment of migrant workers worldwide.

One of the most notable aspects of Elvie's activism is her commitment to ensuring that migrant workers are treated with dignity. Every Labor Day, she organizes a parade of Filipino workers to voice their concerns to the Moroccan government. Among the pressing issues she raises are the fight against domestic violence and human trafficking, the illegal confiscation of passports, and the urgent need for legal documentation for OFWs without the necessary resident permits.

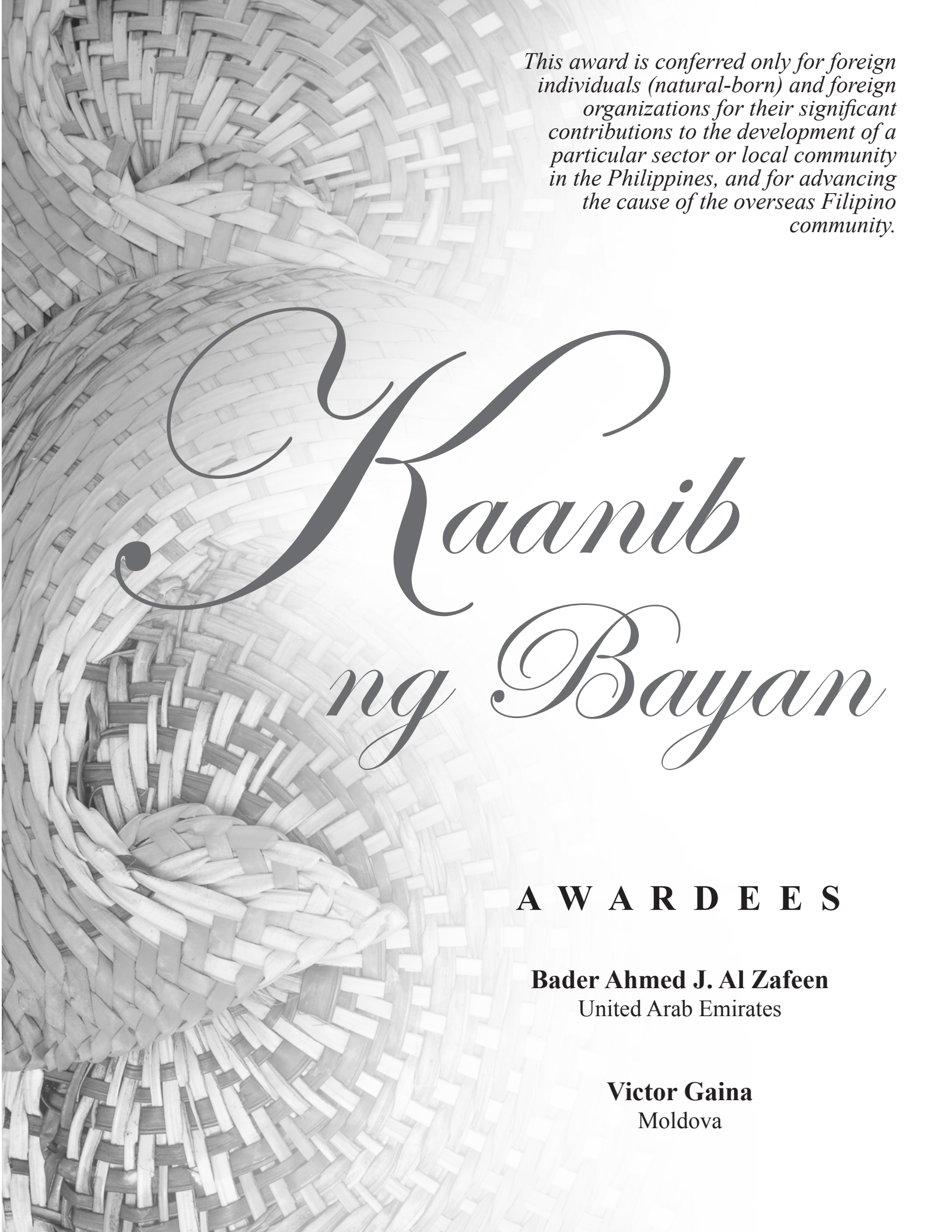
### **An Honorary Diploma**

In recognition of her tireless work for migrant and asylum seekers' rights and support to the implementation of the Global Compact for Migration, Elvie was awarded an Honorary Diploma in 2022 by the Democratic Labor Organization and the Democratic Organization of Immigrant Workers in Morocco. This prestigious award highlighted her contributions to the protection of human rights and her role as a leader in the migrant community.

For the Filipinos living in Morocco, Elvira Dela Cruz is more than just an advocate; she is a beacon of hope. Her selflessness, bravery, and unwavering dedication have transformed the lives of countless individuals, offering them a chance to reclaim their dignity and build a better future.

Through her leadership, compassion, and relentless advocacy, she has created a legacy that will endure long after her work is done—a legacy built on the belief that no one, regardless of their circumstances, should be left behind.

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*This award is conferred only for foreign individuals (natural-born) and foreign organizations for their significant contributions to the development of a particular sector or local community in the Philippines, and for advancing the cause of the overseas Filipino community.*

# *Kaanib ng Bayan*

## **A W A R D E E S**

**Bader Ahmed J. Al Zafeen**  
United Arab Emirates

**Victor Gaina**  
Moldova



*In conferring the PAFIOO Kaanib ng Bayan Award upon Bader Ahmed J. Al Zafeen, the President recognizes his compassion and dedication to safeguarding the welfare of Filipinos in the United Arab Emirates, as demonstrated in his DNA project that ensured legal documentation and facilitated the repatriation of undocumented Filipino children and their mothers.*



## *Bader Ahmed J. Al Zafeen*

**United Arab Emirates**

In the intricate web of global migration, few communities stand as resilient and determined as the Filipino diaspora. Spread across continents, millions of Filipinos sacrifice proximity to their homeland in pursuit of better opportunities. For many, this journey is fraught with hardship as they grapple with the emotional and logistical challenges of living far from home. The situation becomes even more precarious for the disadvantaged and undocumented, whose daily lives are marked by fear and a desperate search for stability as they navigate the uncertainties of foreign land.

Amidst these challenges, allies emerge as crucial pillars of support. And in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), a beacon of hope has emerged for these vulnerable individuals: UAE Police Major Bader Ahmed J. Al Zafeen. His steadfast advocacy and support for undocumented Filipino children and their families have proven that one individual's efforts can change the trajectory of countless lives.

### **Service-Oriented Career**

Born in 1980 in Dubai, UAE, Major Al Zafeen's life has been defined by a deep commitment to public service and humanitarianism. After obtaining his bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from Washington State University in 2008, he pursued a career in law enforcement, joining the Dubai Police Academy where he earned a diploma in Police Law and Order. He continued his academic journey with a Master's degree in Engineering Management from Griffith University in Australia, refining his skills to serve the community more effectively.

Major Al Zafeen started his distinguished career with the Dubai Police in 2009, demonstrating his expertise and commitment to public safety. His early years in law enforcement were marked by his work as a Traffic Accident Investigator, where he handled cases involving fatalities and casualties and played a critical role in traffic accident reconstruction that honed his

attention to detail and problem-solving abilities. Later, his expertise was brought to the Traffic Forecasting Division and Traffic Engineering Coordination, where he focused on road safety during major events in Dubai, analyzing accident data and promoting traffic safety education. Today, he serves as the Deputy Director of Criminal Investigation for Specialized Sections, continuing to lead efforts that enhance public safety and law enforcement practices in Dubai.

### **The DNA Project**

While Major Al Zafeen's professional achievements are impressive, his humanitarian initiatives truly set him apart. While serving in the Diplomatic Affairs Section of the Dubai Police's General Department of Criminal Investigation, he showed determination and proactive involvement in addressing the challenges encountered by the Filipino community in Dubai. Since 2021, he has been at the forefront of efforts to assist undocumented Filipino children born outside of marriage—a group that had long been denied basic services like education and healthcare because of their lack of legal documentation. The UAE's legal reforms around undocumented children provided a window of opportunity, and Major Al Zafeen seized it.

He launched the DNA Project, a groundbreaking initiative that provided free genetic testing to parents and their children, enabling undocumented children to gain legal recognition and aiding in their repatriation. This project, conducted in collaboration with the Dubai Police's Forensics Department and the Philippine Consulate General in Dubai, removed a significant financial burden from families who could not afford the typical costs associated with DNA testing and legal proceedings at the UAE's Personal Status Court.

Without the DNA Project, these families would have faced steep expenses as DNA tests in Dubai can range from AED 2,100 to AED 3,000 (₱33,000 to ₱47,000) for every person, sums that are often beyond the reach of undocumented individuals. Thanks to Major Al Zafeen's initiative, about 295 Filipino mothers and children have been able to secure legal documentation.

### **Impact Beyond Borders**

By 2023, Major Al Zafeen's efforts had led to savings of AED 775,987 (₱12.4 million) for the Philippine government, which would have otherwise shouldered the costs of DNA tests, immigration fines, and court fees. But beyond the numbers lies the real impact of his work: the restoration of dignity and hope for families who had lived in the shadows, their children denied access to fundamental rights.

Major Al Zafeen's initiative streamlined repatriation procedures by collaborating with immigration

authorities to expedite exit clearances, a process that typically costs AED 200 to AED 800 (₱3,150 to ₱12,500) per child. Through his efforts, exit clearances were obtained without delays and complications, further easing the financial and emotional burden on families. His direct intervention also prevented mothers from facing detention—a fate that had often befallen women who had given birth outside of marriage in the UAE. By ensuring these vulnerable individuals were protected from legal entanglements, he enabled them to return to the Philippines with dignity and the possibility of rebuilding their lives.

Through his relentless efforts, Major Al Zafeen has overseen the successful repatriation of over 118 children and their families. These children, once undocumented and without access to education or healthcare, are now back in the Philippines, where they have the opportunity to pursue a brighter future.

The DNA Project stands as a testament to Major Al Zafeen's deep compassion and unwavering belief in justice for all. It not only provided a solution to an immediate legal issue but also opened the door to long-term stability for families who had once lived in fear and uncertainty. His work underscores the importance of international cooperation and compassion in addressing the complex issues faced by migrant communities.

### **A True Humanitarian**

Major Al Zafeen's humanitarian efforts have not gone unnoticed. Over the years, he has received numerous accolades for his exceptional contributions to public service and safety. In 2019, he was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation by the General Department of Criminal Investigation for his work in solving traffic accidents.

In 2018, he earned a Badge of Appreciation for his academic achievements, and in 2013 and 2012, he was honored with the prestigious First Class Sincere Service Award and the Order of Excellent Service Award, respectively, by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, UAE Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai. These awards reflect his embodiment of the highest values of public service, integrity, and excellence.

Major Al Zafeen's career is a shining example of what one person's dedication can achieve. His tireless advocacy for undocumented children and their families has not only alleviated the financial and bureaucratic burdens faced by the Philippine government but has also restored hope and dignity to countless individuals. Through his work, Major Al Zafeen has built a legacy of compassion and service that transcends borders, inspiring others to take up the mantle of justice and inclusivity.



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*In conferring the PAFIOO Kaanibng Bayan Award upon Victor Gaina, the President recognizes his extraordinary valor, profound sense of compassion, and unwavering commitment to providing crucial assistance in the successful rescue and safe repatriation of hundreds of Filipinos from Ukraine amidst the ongoing Russian invasion.*

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## *Victor Gaina*

**Moldova**

**D**iplomatic relations between the Philippines and Moldova span over three decades, a relationship built on mutual respect and collaboration. But it was not until November 2020, with the establishment of the Philippine Consulate in Chişinău and the appointment of Victor Gaina as the Honorary Consul of the Philippines to Moldova, that this partnership took on a distinctly human face. Consul Gaina, a successful businessman and a compassionate public servant, would soon find himself thrust into the role of safeguarding and saving the lives of Filipinos during the ongoing Russo-Ukrainian war.

In February 2022, the world watched in shock as Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine, plunging the region into war. The invasion, considered the largest conflict in Europe since World War II, has caused hundreds of thousands of casualties and millions of refugees.

As missiles struck Ukrainian cities and civilians fled for their lives, Filipinos who were trapped by the sudden

conflict found an unlikely hero in Consul Gaina. Despite the danger, he did not hesitate to step forward, risking his own wellbeing to bring them to safety.

His appointment as Honorary Consul under the jurisdiction of the Philippine Embassy in Budapest had initially been a ceremonial role focused on promoting Filipino interests in Moldova. However, his duties took on a life-or-death dimension when the war began. Moldovan borders became a critical point of refuge for many fleeing the violence, and among them were hundreds of Filipinos—students, seafarers, and families—who had been living and working in Ukraine. Their lives now hung in the balance.

### **Heroism in the Midst of War**

As news of the invasion spread, Consul Gaina quickly mobilized to assist Filipino nationals who found themselves stranded. Coordinating with the Philippine Embassy in Budapest, he became an essential part of the rescue and repatriation efforts, helping over 380



Filipinos and ensuring their safe passage through Moldova. But his role would go far beyond the administrative and logistical support of his office. His actions on the ground were nothing short of heroic.

One of his most heroic moments came just days into the conflict. The MV S-Breeze, a bulk carrier that had been dry docked for repair with 21 Filipino crew members, was stranded at the Port of Odesa as Russian forces advanced. Despite the growing danger, Consul Gaina brought a bus into Ukraine, directly into the conflict zone, to evacuate the seafarers.

Through tense negotiations, he convinced 8 of the crew to seize the opportunity to evacuate with him, bringing them back to the safety of Moldova. The remaining 13 crew members, fearful of potential liability and legal repercussions from their employer for abandoning the ship, initially chose to stay.

However, as conditions deteriorated, those left behind reached out to Consul Gaina, desperate for a second chance at evacuation. At this juncture, the land borders had already closed, and traveling would be dangerous and impossible. Notwithstanding the challenges, he returned to the war zone, braving attacks and bombings to rescue the remaining Filipino crew. His courage and tenacity paid off, as he successfully brought all seafarers to safety—an act that would later be described by officials as something out of a “Mission Impossible” movie.

### **A Relentless Commitment to Filipino Nationals**

This was only the beginning of Consul Gaina’s efforts. Over the next several weeks, as fighting intensified, he continued to lead daring rescue missions. Through his relentless efforts, he successfully facilitated the rescue missions of the Filipino seafarers from 16 vessels stranded at ports in southern Ukraine, including the MV S-Breeze, MV Global Aglaia, MV Star Helena, MV Key Knight, MV Star Pavlina, MV Riva Wind, MV Star Laura, MV Puma, MV Polar Star, MV Ithaca Prospect, MV Bonita, MV Chariana L, MV Marika, MV Filia Glory, MV Joy, and MV Nord Virgo.

Navigating treacherous circumstances as ships remained anchored in conflict zones, the rescue missions were challenging as the seafarers had to disembark using small boats, maneuvering through the chaos to reach safety. Consul Gaina’s persistence ensured that every Filipino seafarer made it out alive.

Among those rescued was a diverse group of individuals—Filipino students, tourists, senior citizens, seafarers, and those married to Ukrainians—each with their own harrowing stories. For some, his

arrival was their only chance at survival. His efforts extended beyond immediate evacuation, as he worked tirelessly to obtain e-visas and coordinate with the Philippine Embassy in Budapest to arrange safe transit from Moldova to Romania, where the evacuees could board flights back to the Philippines.

By the end of the operations, the Repatriation Efforts Report of the Philippine Embassy in Budapest provided a detailed account of Consul Gaina’s heroic actions. While it was a collaboration effort between the Philippine Embassy in Budapest and the Philippine Consulate in Chişinău, much of the groundwork in the zones of conflict was done by Consul Gaina.

He was instrumental in the evacuation of 297 Filipinos, of whom 258 were personally extracted by Consul Gaina, often risking his own safety as he navigated the dangerous and volatile conditions of Ukraine multiple times.

Consul Gaina’s unwavering commitment to the welfare of Filipinos in Ukraine went beyond mere duty; it was a profound expression of his sense of responsibility and compassion. Time and again, he crossed war-torn borders, driven by the urgent need to ensure that every Filipino was brought out of harm’s way and back home safe to their loved ones in the Philippines. His relentless dedication and courage stand as a powerful testament to the lengths he would go to protect and support the overseas Filipino community during this crisis.

### **An Unlikely Hero**

Consul Gaina’s actions have not only earned him the admiration of the Filipino community but have also highlighted the critical role of Honorary Consuls in times of crisis. A man who wears many hats—businessman, diplomat, and humanitarian—he has gone above and beyond the expectations of his post. His quiet determination and bravery, coupled with his ability to navigate complex, dangerous situations, turned him into an unlikely hero during one of Europe’s most devastating modern conflicts.

His story is a powerful reminder of the impact one individual can have in times of crisis. In a world often darkened by violence and uncertainty, his courage and compassion are beacons of hope for those in desperate need. His actions not only saved lives but also reaffirmed the enduring bond between the Philippines and Moldova, a bond forged through bravery, diplomacy, and an unwavering commitment to humanity.

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*Awarding Ceremony of the  
Year 2024 Presidential Awards for Filipino  
Individuals and Organizations Overseas*

11 December 2024 | 09:00 AM | Malacañan Palace

## **PROGRAM**

**Invocation**

**Welcome Remarks**

**CHAIRPERSON DANTE FRANCIS M. ANG II**

*Commission on Filipinos Overseas*

*Office of the President*

**Presentation of the Awards by His Excellency**

**PRESIDENT FERDINAND R. MARCOS, JR.**

*Republic of the Philippines*

**Response on Behalf of the Awardees**

**MS. ZITA T. CABAIS**

*2024 PAFIOO Banaag Awardee*

**Introduction of the Keynote Speaker**

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY LUCAS P. BERSAMIN**

*Office of the President*

**Keynote Speech of His Excellency**

**PRESIDENT FERDINAND R. MARCOS, JR.**

**Photo Opportunity**

# 2024 Awards Screening Committees

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### CHAIR

**Former Chairperson Romulo V. Arugay**  
*Commission on Filipinos Overseas*

### MEMBERS

**Usec. Eduardo Jose A. De Vega**  
*Department of Foreign Affairs*

**Usec. Reichel P. Quiñones**  
*Office of Presidential Protocol*

**Mr. Edgardo H. Cayton**  
*Dynamic Outsource Solutions 1, Inc.*

**Fr. Roger C. Manalo, CS**  
*CBCP - Episcopal Commission for the Pastoral  
Care of Migrants and Itinerant People*

**Mr. Marc Logan**  
*DWAN 1206 AM*

## TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

### CHAIR

**Former HEA Alma C. Royandoyan-Alli**  
*Commission on Filipinos Overseas*

### MEMBERS

**Dep. Asec. Bryan Dexter B. Lao**  
*Department of Foreign Affairs*

**Asec. Maria Regina Angela G. Galias**  
*Department of Migrant Workers*

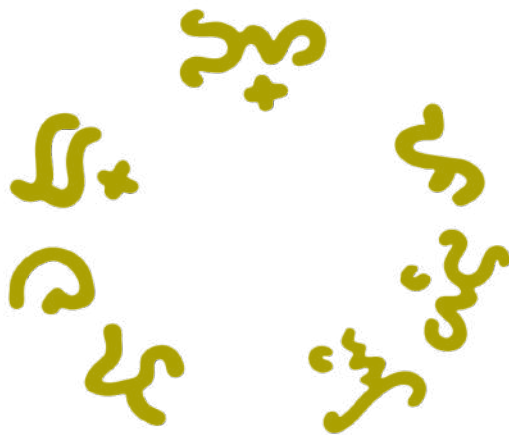
**Dep. Exec. Dir. Niñaliza H. Escorial**  
*Department of Science and Technology*

**Dep. Exec. Dir. Marichu S. Tellano**  
*National Commission for Culture and the Arts*

**Dir. Joel H. Buenaventura, M.D.**  
*Department of Health*

**Prof. Jean S. Encinas-Franco, Ph.D.**  
*University of the Philippines - Diliman*

**Exec. Dir. Jeremaiah M. Opiñiano, Ph.D.**  
*Institute for Migration and Development Issues*



**GAWAD NG PANGULO**

# *2024 Awards Secretariat*

**DANTE FRANCIS M. ANG II**  
*Chairperson*  
Commission on Filipinos Overseas

**ATTY. MA. ARLENE S. BORJA**  
*Executive Director*  
Commission on Filipinos Overseas

**RODRIGO V. GARCIA, JR.**  
*Director*  
Policy, Planning, and Research Division

## **CORE SECRETARIAT MEMBERS**

Michael A. Apattad  
Rozelle P. Carrera  
Joanna Erika A. Laguna  
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Joanna Lyn S. Rodriguez  
Jhunella Joy C. Rulloda  
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Project Management Division

**ENGR. ROMEO M. ROSAS II**  
*Director*  
Management Information Systems Division

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**MS. JANET B. RAMOS**  
*Officer-In-Charge*  
Migrant Integration and Education Division

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میں نے

# *Gallery of Presidential Awardees*

## **1991 AWARDS FOR FILIPINOS AND PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS OVERSEAS**

### **LINGKOD SA KAPWA PILIPINO AWARD**

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

### **KAAKABAY NG BAYAN AWARD**

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

### **KAANIB NG BAYAN AWARD**

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

### **BANAAG AWARD**

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

### **SPECIAL CITATION**

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

### **PAMANA NG PILIPINO AWARD**

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

# Gallery of Presidential Awardees

## 1996-2022 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)  
Torio, Isabelo S., M.D. (USA)  
Vijungco, Jose G., M.D. (USA)  
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)
- 1998  
Feed the Hungry, Inc. (USA)  
H.O.P.E. Foundation International (USA)
- 2000  
Montero, Juan II M., M.D. (USA)  
Navarra, Victoria C., M.D. (USA)  
Tan, Elton See (Taiwan)
- 2002  
Cagas, Cosme R., M.D. (USA)
- 2004  
Ablaza, Sariel G.G., M.D. (USA)  
De Venecia, Guillermo B., M.D. (USA)  
Ileto, Benjamin A., M.D. (USA)  
Martin, Arsenio R., M.D. (USA)  
Nihei, Marie Bernabe (Japan)  
Tesalona, Alfredo T. (USA)  
Filipino Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii, Inc. (USA)  
International Network of Filipinos Overseas (USA)  
University of the Philippines Medical Alumni Society in America (USA)  
Visayas-Mindanao Cultural Association e.V. (Germany)
- 2006  
Adams, Gloria Ysmael (USA)  
Evangelista, Stella S., M.D. (USA)  
Tria, Honesto R. (USA)  
Association Lending Assistance in Exigencies at Home, gem e.V. (Germany)  
FEU - Dr. Nicanor Reyes School of Medicine Alumni Foundation (USA)  
Society of Philippine Surgeons in America (USA)
- 2008  
Enverga, Tobias Jr. C. (Canada)  
Association of Philippine Physicians in America (USA)  
Filipino Women's Association United Kingdom (United Kingdom)  
Stichting Kapatiran (The Netherlands)
- 2010  
Alarcon, Teresita Calderon (USA)  
Martinez, Ruth C. (Australia)  
North Central Virginia Association of Philippine Physicians (USA)  
Philippine American Association of Connecticut (USA)  
Philippine German Community Oberberg e.V. (Germany)
- 2012  
Cacdac, Manuel A., M.D. (USA)  
Guerrero, Christopher M., M.D. (USA)  
Aguman Kapampangan UK (United Kingdom)
- 2014  
Serenata (Saudi Arabia)
- 2016  
Aragones, Edgar E. (Israel)  
Sulse, Marina R. (USA)  
Pagyamanin Likas Musika (USA)  
Reunion e.V. Cloppenburg (Germany)
- 2018  
Cimanez, Salvacion G. (The Netherlands)  
Giglioli, Hilda L. (USA)  
Association of Fil-Am Teachers of America, Inc. (USA)  
Filipino American Law Enforcement Officer Association (USA)  
Friends Indeed USA (USA)
- 2020-2022  
Cajigas, Roxanne Racquel A. (USA)  
Cimanez, Salvacion G. (The Netherlands)  
Kiefer-Vargas, Vivian (Switzerland)  
Batangas Association UK (BAUK) (United Kingdom)  
Kayumanggi Chorale, Inc. (KCI) (USA)  
Philippine Institute of Civil Engineers – Qatar Chapter (PICE Qatar) (Qatar)  
The Filipino Association in the Isle of Man (Isle of Man – British Isles)  
The Filipino Catholic Society of the Diocese of Calgary (FCSDC) (Canada)

### KAAKABAY NG BAYAN AWARD

- 1996  
Volunteer Business Counselors 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-Emile Léger Foundation (Canada)  
Operation Smile International (USA)
- 2002  
International Medical Help  
for Children (A.M.I.E.) (Belgium)
- 2004  
-- No awardee
- 2006  
Hanazaki, Misao (Japan)  
Martens, Robert Sommer, Ph.D. (Germany)  
California Technological Care, Inc. (USA)  
CORA - Filipino American Task Force /  
Advisory Board (USA)  
Ma'Ma Children's Center of Norway (Norway)  
Operation Rainbow Australia Limited (Australia)  
Social Welfare Corporation Raphael  
Clinic (South Korea)
- 2008  
Ligier, Laurence C. (France)  
Catholic Medical Mission Board (USA)  
Children's Chance CT (USA)  
Heetens Helpgood Center Philippines (The Netherlands)
- 2010  
Lam, Phoebe Bik Che (Hong Kong)  
Lam, Sunny Kai Chor (Hong Kong)  
Salpeter, Simha (Israel)  
Caritas Lebanon Migrants Center (Lebanon)
- 2012  
Haba, Gonen, M.D. (Israel)  
Löehlein, Christian, M.D. (Germany)
- 2014  
Segaert, Dominiek (Belgium)  
American Jewish Joint Distribution  
Committee (AJJDC) (Israel)  
Humana Child Aid Society (Malaysia)
- 2016  
Johannesen, Erlend E. (Norway)  
Korth, Sabine (Germany)  
Sheikh, Fahdel (Pakistan)  
Weiss, Sabine Katharina (Germany)  
Tzu Chi Foundation (Taiwan)
- 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)  
Astillero, Mohamed Ali Carlito, M.D. (Oman)  
Juele, Lilia R. (USA)  
Ramos, Angel T. (Hong Kong)  
Steiner, Mona Lisa L. (Austria)  
Uy, Emelio Y. (USA)  
Zamora, Prospero C. (USA)  
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)
- 1998  
Acosta, Rodrigo C. (Bahrain)  
Aranilla, Leticia R. (United Kingdom)  
Bautista, Antonio C. (Saudi Arabia)  
Cheng, Dr. Sian Chun (Hong Kong)  
Dasodas, Catherine D. (Spain)  
Docoy, Fr. Eugene Jr. (South Korea)  
Mataac, Celso Jr. T. (USA)  
Miyake, Chiyo (Japan)  
Quiblado, Conrada P. (Hong Kong)  
Sabio, Fr. Raymond T. (South Korea)  
Tendencia, Benita B. (Italy)  
Hongkong Bayanihan Trust (Hong Kong)  
Kawayan Philippine Language and  
Cultural School (Australia)  
Philippine Heritage Band (Canada)
- 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)  
Florentino, Sr. Magdalena S., FMM  
(Posthumous) (Libya)  
Ginete, Alex Jose R. (Bahrain)  
Go, Mildred Aires (China)  
Halasz, Fr. Luis, SVD (Hungary)  
Ick, Claire R. (USA)  
Lädeli, Theresa (Switzerland)  
Lammawin, Francis L. (Taiwan)  
March, Marina Roma, M.D. (Canada)  
Natividad, Cornelio Ruiz (USA)  
Paragas, Rodolfo DL (Oman)  
Racinez, Sr. Olivia, WCW (Switzerland)  
Tenorio, Pedro P. (CNMI)  
Tordjman, Paul Semo (France)  
Vargas, Orlando R. (Australia)  
Cunina Organization (Belgium)  
Filipino Coalition for Solidarity, Inc. (USA)  
Kanagawa Women's Space Ms. La (Japan)  
Kinderhilfe Philippines, E.V. (Germany)  
Lubang-Looc International (USA)  
Philippine School Bahrain (Bahrain)  
Sirmata Vision 2004 (USA)  
Victorian Community in Belgium (Belgium)
- 2002  
Beatty, Estrella C. (Cyprus)  
Benzon, Norma R. (USA)  
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)  
 Fojas, Marcos R., M.D. (Greece)  
 Lew, Bridget (Singapore)  
 Manglona, Benjamin T. (CNMI)  
 Ravindranathan, N., M.D. (Brunei Darussalam)  
 Talangbayan, Francis V., M.D. (USA)  
 Tomelden, Benjamin Jr. S. (United Kingdom)  
 Babaylan – Switzerland (Switzerland)  
 Centre for Philippine Concerns-Australia (Australia)  
 Filipino Association in Brunei (Brunei Darussalam)  
 Filipino Communities Council of Australia, Inc. (Australia)  
 Filipino Community Center, Inc. (USA)  
 Kalayaan (United Kingdom)  
 Maharlika – Switzerland (Switzerland)  
 National Organization of Professional Teachers – Hong Kong (Hong Kong)  
 Philippine Association of Metropolitan Washington Engineers (USA)
- 2004
- Berdos, Imelda Vollenweider (Switzerland)  
 Buhain, Wilfrido J., M.D. (USA)  
 Casamina, Roland C. (USA)  
 Cuizon, Virgilio G. (Germany)  
 Gödicke, Charlotte (Germany)  
 McGuinness, Amor Ilao (USA)  
 Natividad, Alicia Ll. B. (Canada)  
 Natividad, Evelyn D.A., Ph.D. (USA)  
 Nemivant, Emma Balquiedra (USA)  
 Pilapil, Virgilio D.R., M.D. (USA)  
 Salazar, Lourdes A. (Hong Kong)  
 Verstraeten, Jean Paul (Belgium)  
 Centre for Filipinos (United Kingdom)  
 Fiesta Filipina Dance Troupe of Canada (Canada)  
 Filipino Cultural Club (Kuwait)  
 Home-Reach Foundation, Inc. (Canada)  
 Hyechwadong Filipino Catholic Community (South Korea)  
 Kinderhilfe Philippinen (Germany)  
 Panday Tinig Choral Ensemble (Canada)  
 Philippine Australian Sports and Culture, Inc. (Australia)  
 Philippine Cultural Foundation of Hawaii (USA)  
 Search to Involve Pilipino Americans (USA)
- 2006
- Buchholdt, Thelma Garcia (USA)  
 Farmer, Lolita L., Ll. B. OAM (Australia)  
 Go, Engr. Roman Ting (China)  
 Manuel, Vladimir James M. (USA)  
 Navarra, Eduardo J. (USA)  
 Quinto, Edgardo R. (Switzerland)  
 Reed, Loline Lualhati (United Kingdom)  
 Sales, Justina L. (Israel)  
 Tigno, Rosario B., M.D. (UAE)  
 Bagong Kulturang Pinoy, Inc. (USA)  
 Filipino American Medical, Inc. (USA)  
 Filipino Association of Singapore (Singapore)  
 Iskwelahang Pilipino, Inc. (USA)  
 Lahing Kayumanggi (United Kingdom)  
 Markham Federation of Filipino Canadians (Canada)  
 Philippine American Group of Educators and Surgeons (USA)  
 Philippine Cultural Foundation, Inc. (USA)  
 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)  
 Garcia, Lamberto S. (USA)
- Ho, Eleanor B. (Taiwan)  
 Magdalena, Joseph I. (Saudi Arabia)  
 Muzones, Santiago Jr. L. (USA)  
 Noblejas, Antonio N., M.D. (USA)  
 Overs, Lilian Y. (Canada)  
 Filipino Korean Spouses Association (South Korea)  
 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, Emely D., M.D. (South Korea)  
 Gange, George G. (USA)  
 Kasimieh, Marilyn Wafa R. (UAE)  
 Olalia, Sr. Lucia C. (South Korea)  
 Ybo, Evangelina V. (Jordan)  
 Computer Society of Filipinos International (Saudi Arabia)  
 Congress of Visayan Organizations (USA)  
 Federation of Filipino Communities in Israel (Israel)  
 Kinding Sindaw (USA)
- 2012
- Alpay, Carlito E. (Saudi Arabia)  
 Argel, Atty. Maria Imelda L. (Australia)  
 Avendaño, Tomas P. (Canada)  
 Castaños, Rafael S. (USA)  
 Micabalo, Luzviminda S. (USA)  
 Perez, Alfonso Jr. S. (USA)  
 Quema, Eric Michael B. (USA)  
 Santos, Robert N. (USA)  
 Tsai, Ma. Luzviminda C. (Taiwan)  
 Filipino Community of Seattle, Incorporated (USA)  
 Filipino Digerati Association (UAE)  
 Filipiñiana Europa V.Z.W. (Belgium)  
 Stichting Bayanihan (The Netherlands)
- 2014
- Favor, Danilo M. (United Kingdom)  
 Libron, Rosa Angelica C. (South Korea)  
 Mercado, Gus (USA)  
 Navarro, Victoria (USA)  
 Sasaki, Anita (Japan)  
 Daegu Filipino Community Council (South Korea)  
 Institute of Integrated Electrical Engineers (Saudi Arabia)  
 Migrant Heritage Commission (USA)
- 2016
- Chin, Marilou S. (Sabah)  
 Escurel, Fidel M. (Qatar)  
 Maristela, Rodrigo B. (Germany)  
 Kapit-Bahayan Cooperative Ltd. (Australia)  
 Philippine Nurses Association of Metropolitan D.C., Inc. (USA)  
 Philippine Society of Mechanical Engineers – Central Region, Saudi Arabia (Saudi Arabia)
- 2018
- Francisco, Corazon A. (Australia)  
 Kreimer, Agnes Katbeth O. (Chile)  
 Malanyaon, Dindo B. (Italy)  
 Montano, Juliet (Taiwan)  
 Sulaik, Maria Christina F. (Sudan)  
 Pilipino Workers Center of Southern California (USA)  
 Wimler-Foundation Hong Kong, Ltd. (Hong Kong)
- 2020-2022
- Balboa, Engr. Mario A. (Saudi Arabia)  
 Belmonte, Bella Aurora P. (USA)  
 Bernardo, Dr. Ariel C. (South Korea)  
 Betinol, Roy G. (Chile)  
 Brady, Vanda Marie M. (Ireland)

Chiu, Alex (Posthumous) (Canada)  
 Dacanay, Aurora B. (Canada)  
 De Jesus, Nancy S. (France)  
 Eclarinal-Murdock, Rose Cheryl P. (United Kingdom)  
 Gonong, Ar. Fernandico Jr. Q. (USA)  
 Legaspi, Venecio V. (Saudi Arabia)  
 Misalucha, Sen. Bennette E. (USA)  
 Nicolas, Engr. Rolando M. (Saudi Arabia)  
 Nietes-Little, Linda (USA)  
 Rata, Dennis N. (Kuwait)  
 So-Perkins, Jannelle (USA)  
 Vicentina, Cristy M. (Singapore)  
 Villanueva, Elija Paul G. (United Kingdom)  
 Felix Y. Manalo Foundation, Inc. (FYM Foundation) (Canada)  
 Filipino American Service Group, Inc. (FASGI)  
 Igorot UK Charity (IGO-UK) (USA)  
 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) (USA)  
 Philippine American Friendship Community, Inc. (PAFCOM) (USA)  
 Philippine Bayanihan Association in Alberta (PBAA) (Canada)

#### 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)  
 Igarra, 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, Merlinda, M.D. (Australia)  
 Castrence, Pura Santillan (Australia)  
 Castro, Salvador P. (Brunei Darussalam)  
 Chen, Anita B. (Canada)  
 Garcia, Manuel M., M.D. (Canada)  
 Hagedorn, Jessica (USA)  
 Lewis, Loida Nicolas, LI.B. (USA)  
 Maulana, Nasser B. (Saudi Arabia)  
 Sagun, Teresita B. (USA)

2000

Abad, Pacita (Indonesia)  
 Aguirre, Bayani S. (Sudan)  
 Antonio, Camilo C. (Austria)  
 Armit, Amelita Aranas (Canada)  
 Camara, Jorge G., M.D. (USA)  
 Cielo, Angel B., M.D. (USA)  
 Del Rosario, Remedios K. (USA)

Diaz, Jose Duddley (Italy)  
 Fitzsimmons, Edith Dizon (Australia)  
 Flores, Eddie Jr. (USA)  
 Haley, Ma. Luisa Mabilangan (USA)  
 Ho, Anita Magsaysay (USA)  
 Llamas, Antonio Garcia (Posthumous) (Spain)  
 Moguel, Milagros K. (USA)  
 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., M.B.E. (United Kingdom)  
 Guingona, Michael Patrick L. (USA)  
 Natori, Josie C. (USA)

2004

Abinsay, Felipe Jr. P. (USA)  
 Bernardo, Rodolfo S., Ed.S. (USA)  
 Buhay, Wilfredo R. (USA)  
 Cadawas, Eliodoro Jr. C. (USA)  
 Esclamado, Alejandro A. (USA)  
 Fernandez, Jovelle Laoag, M.D., Ph.D. (Japan)  
 Fuentes, Dante C. (Indonesia)  
 Lim, Lenore R.S. (USA)  
 Quiambao, Rodolfo C. (USA)  
 Taguba, Maj. Gen. Antonio M. (USA)  
 Uy, Constanca S., M.D. (USA)  
 Velasco, Gundelina A., Ph.D. (United Kingdom)  
 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 M. (UAE)  
Collo, Kristoffer L. (USA)  
Comerford, Cristeta (USA)  
Coronel, Sheila (USA)  
Dar, William D., Ph.D. (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, Ph.D. (USA)  
Roces, Alfredo R. (Australia)  
Salonga, Lea (USA)  
Silva, Paolo Antonio S., M.D. (USA)  
Valderrama-Savage, Lolita (USA)

2016

Araral, Eduardo Jr., K. (Singapore)  
Asuncion, Manuel G. (Australia)  
Buan, Danilo P. (USA)  
Capati, Guillermo B. (Australia)  
Liban, Emmanuel Crisanto B. (USA)  
Lim, Paulino Jr. 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, Joe Jr. C. (USA)

2020-2022

Alcedo, Dr. Russ Patrick P. (Canada)  
Tibe-Bonifacio, Dr. Glenda Lynn Anne B. (Canada)  
Comiso, Dr. Josefino C. (USA)  
Conejos, Dr. Ar. Sheila Maria A. (Singapore)  
Favor, Cllr. Danilo M. (United Kingdom)  
Fernandez, Dr. Glenn F. (China)  
Garcia, Dr. Laura D. (USA)  
Gotangco, Pamela D. (Switzerland)  
Miranda, Aurtenciano Jr. R. (Italy)  
Nilo, Engr. Ronaldo B. (Qatar)  
Ong, Caroline B. (China)  
Pascual, Dr. Glenn (USA)  
Pomperada, Lord Leomer B. (USA)  
Remo, Dr. Karen Graciles L. (UAE)  
Rosana, Dr. Albert Remus R. (Canada)  
Saligan, Dr. Leorey N. (USA)  
Villagonzalo, Walter S. (Australia)

## SPECIAL CITATION

2002

Filipinas Magazine (USA)

2020-2022

Coalition of the Filipino American Chambers of  
Commerce (COFACC) (USA)

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# Directory of 2024 Presidential Awardees

## LINGKOD SA KAPWA PILIPINO CATEGORY

### **LEO-FELIX M. JURADO**

New Jersey, United States of America  
Email: pnaapresleojurado@yahoo.com  
Work Title: Inaugural Dean & Professor  
Work Location: College of Healthcare Professions,  
DeSales University, Pennsylvania

### **EMILIO P. QUINES, JR.**

New York, United States of America  
Facebook: Emilio Quines  
Facebook URL: <https://www.facebook.com/emilio.quinesjr>  
Affiliation: Knights of Rizal  
Organization: Ilocano American Association, Inc.

### **PHILIPPINE NURSES ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK, INC. (PNANY)**

Janet R. Cuaycong, President  
New York, United States of America  
Address: P.O. Box 721 Madison Square, New York,  
New York 10010, United States of America  
Email: pnanypresident20222024@gmail.com  
Contact Number: +12016378744  
Facebook: PNA New York  
Facebook URL: <https://www.facebook.com/PNANewYork/>  
Website: <http://www.pnanewyork.org>

### **THE NEUROSURGERY OUTREACH FOUNDATION, INC. (NOF)**

Florida, United States of America  
Email: [info@neurosurgeryoutreach.org](mailto:info@neurosurgeryoutreach.org)  
Contact Number: +19049002147 / +19047735199  
Facebook: Neurosurgery Outreach Foundation  
Facebook URL: <https://www.facebook.com/NOF2010>  
Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/nofjax/>  
Website: <http://www.neurosurgeryoutreach.org/>

## PAMANA NG PILIPINO CATEGORY

### **LARRY E. CARUMBA**

Dhahran, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia  
Address: Bldg. A, 3rd floor, Talal Al Doha, Al Qusoor  
District, Dhahran, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia  
Email: [larrycarumba@yahoo.com](mailto:larrycarumba@yahoo.com)  
Contact Number: +966544618688  
Facebook: Larry Carumba  
Facebook URL: <https://www.facebook.com/larrycarumba>

### **JANE Y. GERARDO-ABAYA**

Vienna, Austria  
Email: [jgabaya@gmail.com](mailto:jgabaya@gmail.com)

### **ROBERTO EUSEBIO R. LAVIDES**

Ontario, Canada  
Email: [eusebro@outlook.com](mailto:eusebro@outlook.com)  
Facebook: Eusebro  
Facebook URL: <https://www.facebook.com/people/Eusebro/61561943216795/>  
Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/eusebro.art/>  
Website: [www.robertolavidez.homestead.com](http://www.robertolavidez.homestead.com)

### **MELVIN J. SANICAS**

Zurich, Switzerland  
Address: 9 Pfirsichstrasse, Zurich, Zurich 8006,  
Switzerland  
Email: [melvin.sanicas@gmail.com](mailto:melvin.sanicas@gmail.com)  
Contact Number: +41791095732  
Facebook: Melvin J. Sanicas  
Facebook URL: <https://www.facebook.com/melvin.sanicas/>  
Twitter URL: <https://twitter.com/Vaccinologist>  
LinkedIn URL: <https://ch.linkedin.com/in/drmelvinsanicas>

# *Directory of 2024 Presidential Awardees*

## **BANAAG CATEGORY**

### **ELVY G. BARROSO**

New York, United States of America  
Address: 12 Stuyvesant Oval Apt. 10-C New York,  
New York 10009, United States of America  
Email: eb133@nyu.edu  
Contact Number: +19173015922 / +12124758151  
Facebook: Elvy Barroso  
Facebook URL: <https://www.facebook.com/elvy.barroso>

### **ZITA T. CABAIS**

Email: zcabais@yahoo.fr  
Facebook: Zita T. Cabais  
Facebook URL: <https://www.facebook.com/zita.cabais>

### **ELVIRA A. DELA CRUZ**

Rabat, Morocco  
Address: 28 Takkaddoum, Rabat, Rabat, Morocco  
Email: gensecdelacruz@gmail.com  
Contact Number: +212639822665  
Facebook: Elvie de la Cruz  
Facebook URL: <https://www.facebook.com/elvie.delacruz2>

## **KAANIB NG BAYAN CATEGORY**

### **BADER AHMED J. AL ZAFEEN**

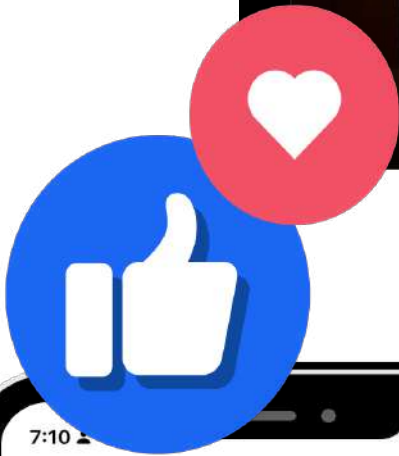
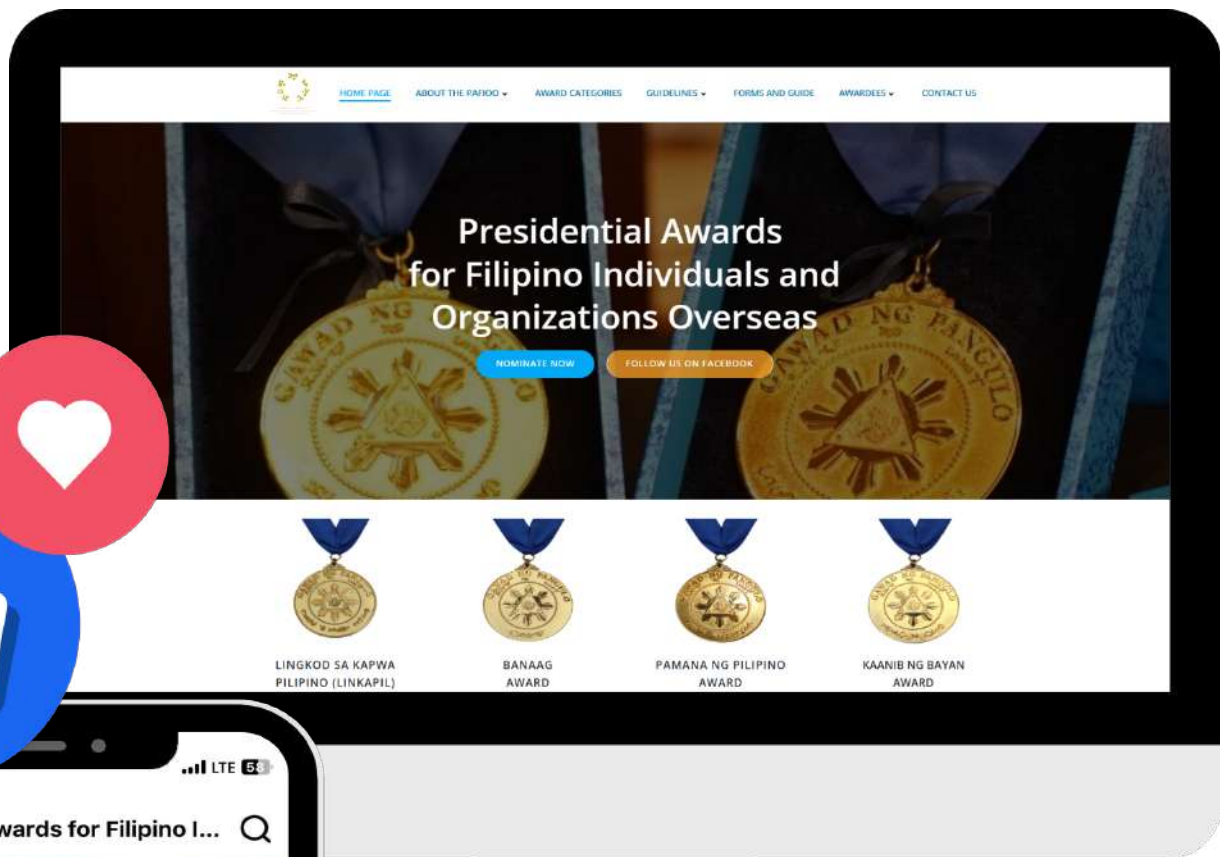
Dubai, United Arab Emirates  
Address: Nad Al Shiba, Dubai, United Arab Emirates  
Email: balzafeen@gmail.com  
Contact Number: +97503221399 / +9710508841885

### **VICTOR GAINA**

Chişinău, Moldova  
Address: 5/4 Dimitrie Cantemir Blvd. Chişinău,  
Moldova  
Email: victor.gaina@gmail.com / victor.gaina@  
phconsulate.md  
Contact Number: +37361288888 / +37368009600  
Facebook: Victor Gaina  
Facebook URL: <https://www.facebook.com/victor.gaina>  
Websites: <https://victorgaina.discovery.md> / <https://phconsulate.md/>

### ***DATA PRIVACY NOTICE***

*Written consent was given by the awardees to the CFO-PAFIO Secretariat in the publication of their personal data in this Souvenir Program.*



## *Presidential Awards Official Website and Facebook Page*

 [presidentialawards.cfo.gov.ph](http://presidentialawards.cfo.gov.ph)

 [facebook.com/GawadPangulo](https://facebook.com/GawadPangulo)



# CFO

Established on June 16, 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 Philippines.

## 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 wellbeing of Filipinos overseas;
- Serve as a 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 businesses and similar ventures in the Philippines.



**BAGONG PILIPINAS**



# COMMISSION ON FILIPINOS OVERSEAS



## **Main Office**

20th and 21st Floors, The Upper Class Tower,  
Quezon Avenue corner Scout Reyes Street,  
Brgy. Paligsahan, Quezon City, Metro Manila 1103  
(02) 8552-4700  
info@cfo.gov.ph



## **Cebu Extension Office**

Ground Floor, K&J Building,  
#4 Don Julio Llorente Street,  
Capitol Site, Cebu City, Cebu 6000  
(32) 255-5253; 0917-308-1378  
cfocebu@cfo.gov.ph



## **Davao Extension Office**

Doors 307-309, 3rd Floor, Pink Walters Building,  
Ecoland-Sandawa Crossing, Quimpo Boulevard,  
Brgy. Bucana, Davao City, Davao del Sur 8000  
0982-228-3033; 0945-814-4333  
cfodavao@cfo.gov.ph



## **Baguio Extension Office**

103B 1st Basement, Gestdan Centrum Building,  
No. 80 Bokawkan Road corner Padre Burgos Street,  
Baguio City, Benguet 2600  
(74) 665-9103; 0945-564-2979; 0961-107-2969  
cfobaguio@cfo.gov.ph



## **NAIA Desks**

Terminals 1 and 3, Ninoy Aquino International  
Airport (NAIA), Pasay, Metro Manila 1300  
(02) 8879-5685



# COMMISSION ON FILIPINOS OVERSEAS

## CLIENTELE

- 1 Filipino permanent residents abroad / immigrants
- 2 Former Filipinos or Filipinos who hold dual citizenship
- 3 Filipino spouses or partners of foreign nationals
- 4 Descendants of Filipinos overseas
- 5 Filipino youth overseas
- 6 Exchange Visitor Program (EVP) participants
- 7 Filipino Au Pair Program participants bound for Europe

## PROGRAMS & SERVICES

- 1 REGISTRATION**  
Mandatory registration for Filipino emigrants, spouses, and other partners of foreign nationals, au pair program and exchange visitor program participants
- 2 PRE-DEPARTURE ORIENTATION SEMINAR (PDOS)**  
For Filipino immigrant visa holders who are 20 to 59 years old
- 3 PEER COUNSELING PROGRAM**  
For Filipino youth emigrants who are 13 to 19 years old
- 4 GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING PROGRAM (GCP)**  
For Filipino spouses, fiances, and other partners of foreign nationals, former Filipino citizens, or Filipino dual citizens who are holders of immigrant visas
- 5 COUNTRY FAMILIARIZATION SEMINAR (CFS)**  
For Filipino Au Pair program participants bound for Europe
- 6 PDOS FOR J1-VISA HOLDERS BOUND FOR THE USA**  
For J1-visa holders participating in the Exchange Visitor Program (EVP) of the United States of America



Be part of nation building through the following:



**NOT  
SURE  
WHAT  
CAUSE  
TO GIVE  
YOUR  
SUPPORT  
TO?**

*Let us help you find where your donation is needed most!*

[cfo-linkapil.org.ph](http://cfo-linkapil.org.ph)



[pmd@cfo.gov.ph](mailto:pmd@cfo.gov.ph)



[fb.com/linkapil](https://fb.com/linkapil)



[cfo.gov.ph](http://cfo.gov.ph)



# Ano ang Human Trafficking?



Ang paghihikayat ng mga tao...



Ang pagbibiyahе o paglilipat ng mga tao...

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



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



Ang pagtanggap o pagkanlong ng mga tao...



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

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...



sapilitang paggawa.



prostitusyon.



sekswal na pang-aabuso at pananamantala sa bata gamit ang internet at teknolohiya.



pagbebenta o pagtanggap ng anumang bahagi ng katawan ng tao.



pornograpiya.



armadong pakikibaka sa Pilipinas o sa ibayong dagat.

**1343**  
**ACTIONLINE**  
**AGAINST HUMAN**  
**TRAFFICKING**

**Report Human Trafficking!**

Call 1343 or (02)1343 outside Metro Manila

f 1343Actionline

1343actionline@cfo.gov.ph

Website: 1343actionline.ph

**ISANG NASYON, ISANG AKSYON**  
**TAPUSIN ANG HUMAN TRAFFICKING NGAYON**



#HumanHindiLaruan

# BaLinkBayan Project

The BaLinkBayan project is the initiative of the Commission on Filipinos Overseas to assist overseas Filipinos in conducting various activities in the Philippines, such as investments, donations, skills transfer, and easier access to government services that cater to them. Likewise, it aims to link overseas Filipinos with the Philippines and encourages them to become development partners in building communities in the Philippines.

The project, which can be accessed through [www.balinkbayan.gov.ph](http://www.balinkbayan.gov.ph), also brings together more than ten million Filipinos overseas through an integrated and comprehensive online platform that taps into their knowledge, expertise, skills, networks, material, and financial resources to contribute to the development of the Philippines.



## 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.

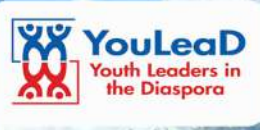
# PESO SENSE

## THE PHILIPPINE FINANCIAL FREEDOM CAMPAIGN

*Popularly known as PESO Sense, the National Financial Freedom Campaign is one of the projects of the Commission on Filipinos Overseas that aim to improve financial literacy by promoting productive expenditure, greater saving, and entrepreneurship among Filipino beneficiaries of international or domestic remittances.*

*Presently, the PESO Sense Facebook page is among the top Financial Literacy Facebook pages in the Philippines with more than 3.8 million followers. The page continues to educate Filipinos on the importance of financial literacy in their lives through helpful financial tips, inspirational saving stories, informational videos, and funny memes.*





# ADVENTURE AWAITS



# JOIN THE YOUTH LEADERS IN THE DIASPORA EXPERIENCE!



[youlead@cfo.gov.ph](mailto:youlead@cfo.gov.ph)



[youlead.cfo.gov.ph](http://youlead.cfo.gov.ph)

## COMMISSION ON FILIPINOS OVERSEAS

Help us honor our 100-year-old Lolos and Lolas Overseas:

# NOMINATE AN OVERSEAS FILIPINO CENTENARIAN TODAY!

DO YOU KNOW  
A 100-YEAR-OLD  
LOLO OR LOLA LIVING ABROAD?

Let them know that they stand to receive  
Php100,000.00 and a Letter of Felicitation from  
the Philippine President once they qualify for  
the Centenarian Awards and Incentives!

HOW TO  
APPLY?



- 01 Visit [bit.ly/OFcentenarian](https://bit.ly/OFcentenarian) for the guidelines and downloadable forms
- 02 Fill out the application form and compile all requirements
- 03 Submit application documents to the nearest Philippine Service Post or directly to the CFO

Let's come together to celebrate the remarkable lives of our Filipino centenarians!





# FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (FOI)

**CFO-FOI**



**2024 FOI Champion**  
Agencies/Bureaus/Commissions/  
Councils Category



**2024 Best FOI Receiving Officer**  
Joanna Erika Laguna



**2023 FOI 1st Runner Up**  
Agencies/Bureaus/Commissions/  
Councils Category



**2023 Best FOI Receiving Officer**  
Joanna Erika Laguna

In implementing the FOI, the Commission on Filipino Overseas commits itself to transparency and accountability and promotes the right of the public to access information. Through the FOI, clients can request data, such as: emigrant statistics, publications, and information on CFO-related services.

The FOI program is a testament to the CFO's advocacy of promoting good governance. Through it, the CFO continues with its pursuit of providing the public with data for safe, orderly, and regular migration.

**Clients may make a request through the CFO's electronic FOI (eFOI) portal by scanning this QR code:**



[cfo.gov.ph/freedom-of-information-foi](https://cfo.gov.ph/freedom-of-information-foi)





# GAD CFO *in* ♀



The CFO was awarded the GADtimpala Silver and Bronze for Outstanding Gender-Responsive Agency, as well as the GADtimpala Silver for Exemplary GAD Focal Point System (GADtimpala AlaGAD), in recognition of its exceptional performance in gender mainstreaming and the successful implementation of gender-responsive programs in 2019 and 2023.

کے چہرے پر  
میں نے  
کے ہاتھ  
میں نے



**BAGONG PILIPINAS**

Office of the President of the Philippines  
**COMMISSION ON FILIPINOS OVERSEAS**

20th and 21st Floors, The Upper Class Tower, Quezon Avenue corner Scout Reyes Street,  
Brgy. Paligsahan, Quezon City, 1103 Metro Manila, Philippines  
Tel. No.: (02) 8552-4700 | Email: [info@cfo.gov.ph](mailto:info@cfo.gov.ph) | Website: [www.cfo.gov.ph](http://www.cfo.gov.ph)