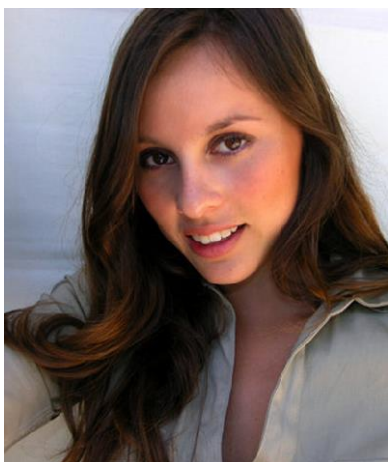




kabalita

No. 3691, April 20, 2017

GUEST SPEAKER



MS. PAULINA GALLARDO
Executive Director
Global Business Worldwide

KABALITA

Beauty, indeed, brings a different twist to high quality business, emerging markets and investments as Global Business Worldwide shows Asia's First Rotary Club new opportunities of making big bucks.

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THE ROTARY CLUB OF MANILA BOARD OF DIRECTORS and Executive Officers 2016-2017

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PROGRAM

RCM's 37th for Rotary Year 2016-17

Thursday, April 20, 2017, 12N, New World Makati Hotel Ballroom

OIC/Moderator: **DE/Dir. "Issam" Eldebs**

Program Timetable

11:30 AM	Registration and Cocktails	
12:25 PM	Bell to be Rung: Members and Guests are requested to be seated:	DE/Dir. "Issam" Eldebs OIC/Moderator
12:30 PM	Call to order Singing of the Republic of the Philippines National Anthem Invocation A moment of silent prayer for the eternal repose of the soul of former member Dr. Mariano Que , Founder, Mercury Drug Store, who passed-away recently in the grace of the Lord RC Manila Hymn The Four (4) Way Test Credo	Pres. "Teddy" Ocampo RCM WF Music Chorale Star Rtn. "Michael" Spence RCM WF Music Chorale All Rotarians led by Star Rtn. Francois Engelbrecht
12:35 PM	Introduction of Guests & Visiting Rotarians and Personalities Seated at the Presidential Table Welcome Song	Star Rtn. "Jodi" Bantug RCM WF Music Chorale
12:40 PM	Maligayang Bati (RCM Birthday Celebrants) Apr. 20.... PD "Rico" Domingo ; Apr. 23.... PD "Jun" Hallare, Rtn. "Pabling" Carpo ; Apr. 24..... Rtn. "Warren" So, Rtn. "Ricky" Trinidad ; Apr. 25..... Rtn. "Ani" Desierto Personalized birthday gift courtesy of Happy Birthday Song	PAT "Muhammad" Aslam RCM WF Music Chorale
12:45 PM	President's Time	Pres. "Teddy" Ocampo
12:50 PM	Introduction of Guest of Honor & Speaker	PDSAA "Ike" Stranathan
12:55 PM	Address: Ms. Paulina Gallardo Executive Director, Global Business Worldwide	
	Public Forum Club Fund Raising Raffle of Cash Prizes	Dir./DE "Bobby" Joseph
2:00PM	Response, Presentation of Token of Appreciation to Ms. Paulina Gallardo and Meeting Adjournment	Pres. "Teddy" Ocampo

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



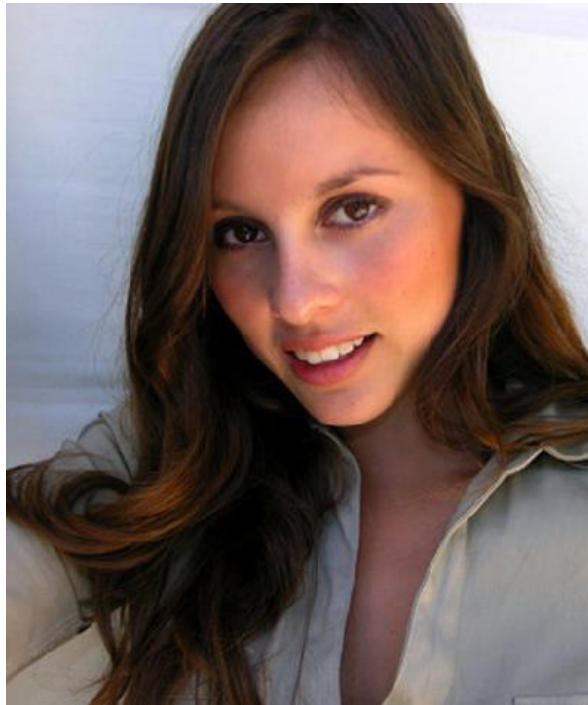
Happy Easter to one and all! After a week of hiatus to reflect on the passion, death and resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ, we are now, definitely, more energized to bring Rotary to higher levels never seen before. A week before we went our separate ways for the Holy Week break, we had a timely weekly luncheon meeting, featuring, a fellow Rotarian, the Hon. Hermilando "Dodo" Mandanas, Governor of the Province of Batangas, who gave us a glimpse of Batangas today and how its heritage helped mold the province into the success story it has now become with an added sidelight on how the province is coping with the recent temblor that has rocked the province.

As for updates within our club, we are still in the process of gathering Manila Rotarians to attend the 60th Anniversary of our sister club, the Rotary Club of Osaka East this coming May 27, 2017. For more details, please coordinate with our Secretariat. Last April 9, 2017, Manila Rotarians were treated to a spectacular fireworks display on the 75th Anniversary of the Araw ng Kagitingan in Pliar. Bataan, entitled, "Philippine-Japan Friendship Pyromusical and Concert" courtesy of our Japanese Rtn. Kenji Mori and after which, Manila Rotarians got a "merienda" treat from PDG Connie Beltran at her lovely home in Bataan.

As to updates within the district, last April 8, 2017, AT Hermie Esguerra hosted the Rotary Friendship Exchange of Rotary District 3810 at his HERMA Farms. In particular, he hosted cocktails and dinner with a cowboy theme to spice up the late afternoon to early evening event where the Rotarians from Rotary District 5950 in the USA who form part of the exchange had a grand time partying with Rotarians from the district led by no less than All Star District Governor Ernesto "Ernest" Yuyek. The event was also graced by many Manila Rotarians who brought their unique brand of fun to the rest of the Rotarians in the district as well as those visiting from overseas. In behalf of the entire district, I wish to thank AT Hermie Esguerra for hosting the big event and showcasing what the Rotary Club of Manila is capable of doing.

Today, we welcome a beautiful face to perk up our weekly luncheon meeting, Ms. Paulina Gallardo, Executive Director of Global Business Worldwide, who will present a comprehensive profile of her agency which specializes on compiling high quality business and economic country reports on emerging markets, developed countries and dynamic sectors of the global economy as well as identify new, exciting and challenging opportunities for the risk-averse global investor, among other issues currently hugging the limelight. I look forward to your cooperation as we endeavor to make our stars shine in the remaining months of Rotary Year 2016-2017 through meaningful projects and fellowships that will strengthen the bonds of Asia's First Rotary Club.

GUEST SPEAKER'S PROFILE



Ms. Paulina Gallardo

Executive Director, Global Business Worldwide

Ms. Gallardo has in-depth knowledge in managing and coordinating the implementation of market analyses and investment reports worldwide. Over the past 10 years, she has worked on special TV and editorial projects in: Turkey, Colombia, Mexico, Morocco, Brazil, Lebanon, Philippines, Indonesia, Angola, Pakistan and Nigeria.

She has an extensive experience in conducting meetings and interviews with leading political and business figures around the world. Some of the recent exclusive interviews conducted by Ms. Gallardo include:

*President of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdogan • President of Pakistan, Nawaz Sharif • President of Nigeria, Muhammadu Buhari • President of Angola, José Eduardo dos Santos • President of Guinea Bissau, José Mario Vaz • Executive Secretary, Salvador Medialdea • Secretary of Finance, Carlos Dominguez • Secretary of Trade & Industry, Ramon Lopez • American Businessman, Jim Rogers • Global Economist, Nouriel Roubini,

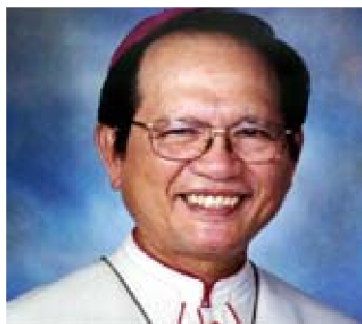
• Cabinet Ministers include those of Philippines, Turkey, Angola, Pakistan, Nigeria, Morocco and Colombia.

• Ambassadors and High Commissioners in D.C. and London including those of Ivory Coast, Indonesia, Pakistan, India and East Timor. Previously, Ms. Gallardo worked as TV anchor and travel show Host on Univision, Telemundo and Wealth TV based in the United States. She also worked as a language instructor at prestigious Tsinghua University in Beijing. She received her Bachelor's degree in Communications & Broadcasting from University of San Diego, USA.

Languages spoken are English, Spanish, Portuguese, French and Italian.

PREVIEW OF NEXT WEEK GUEST SPEAKERS

May 4, 2017, New World Makati Hotel



**His Excellency
Most Reverend Teodoro C.
Bacani, Jr., D.D.**
Auxiliary Bishop of Manila

May 11, 2017, New World Makati Hotel



**His Excellency Jan Christian Gordon
Kricke**

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
of the Federal Republic of Germany to the
Republic of the Philippines

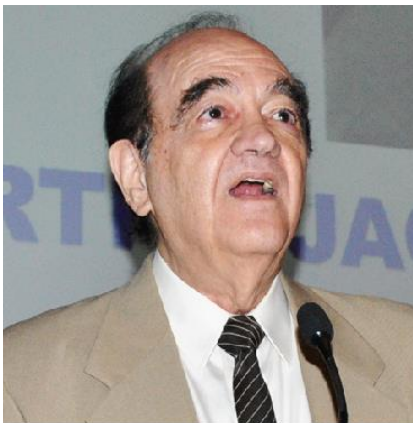
THE WEEK THAT WAS



Pres. "Teddy" Ocampo calls the **36th** meeting of **Rotary Club of Manila** to order.



PP "Francis" Juico as **OIC/ Moderator** directs the program of activities.



Rtn. "Jackie" Rodriguez delivers an ecumenical invocation.



STAR Rtn. "Rene" Policarpio leads fellow Rotarians in renewing its commitment to the Rotary Credo by reciting the four (4) Way Test.



Rtn. "Willie" Peliño introduces the guests, visiting Rotarians and personalities seated at the presidential table.



Dir. "Albert" Alday does the honour and pleasure of introducing **Hon. Hermilando I. Mandanas, Governor, Province of Batangas** as guest of honor and speaker.



Hon. Hermilando "Dodo" Mandanas, Governor of the Province of Batangas and a Rotarian from the Rotary Club of Bauan, enlightened Manila Rotarians, Visiting Rotarians and guests on the developments and in the progressive province of Batangas.



The following members participated in the pro-active open forum immediately right after the speech of **Governor Hermilando I. Mandanas**.. **PP Archibartolome**, **SAALance Masters**, **PD Jess Santos**, **Rtn. Andy de Rossi** and **Rtn. Hermie Esguerra**.

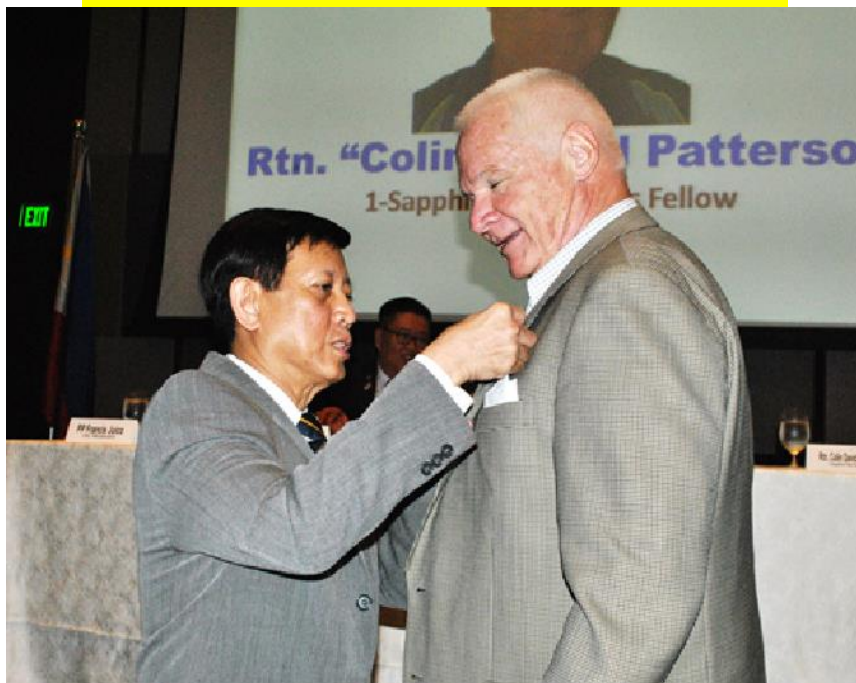


Pres. "Teddy" Ocampo presents to Governor Hermilando I. Mandanas a religious icon of Mother and Child as the Club's token of appreciation for being the guest speaker.



Post meeting posterity photo with Governor Hermilando I. Mandanas with Lady "Ana" Cureg, PDG "Vince" Carlos, PP Martine Kappel of RC Nairobi North. (standing) PSAA "Guenter" Matschuck, SDG Frank Evaristo, PDG "Alex" Cureg, Governor Mandanas, Rtn. "Jackie" Rodriguez, Rtn. "Andy" de Rossi and PP "Archit" Bartolome.

THE ROTARY FOUNDATION



Pres. "Teddy" Ocampo presents to **Rtn. Colin David Patterson** a 1-Sapphire Paul Harris Fellow Pin (equivalent to 2 Paul Harris Fellows) as latest member to the 1-Sapphire Paul Harris Fellows.



PDG "Obet" Pagdanganan, Overall Chairman, RCM Centennial Project Committee updates fellow members and guests on plans, programs and activities of the milestone celebration of Rotary Club of Manila 100 Years of Service to Humanity.

RCM Centennial Celebration

Meeting held March 30,2017

Attendees:

Pres. Teddy Ocampo
 IPDG Obet Pagdanganan (RCCMC Chair)
 DGN Rudy Bediones (RCCMC CoChair)
 PDG Vince Carlos; PDG Alex Cureg
 PP Archit Bartolome, Dir. Susing Pineda, Dir. Bobby Joseph
 AT Hermie Esguerra, (RCMCC Treasurer), PD Nick Locsin
 STAR Rtn Romy Nones (Past President RC Panday Pira)
 ES Anna Kun Toledo

Update on Action Points agreed in earlier meetings

- RCM Centennial Coffee Table Book : PDG Chit Lijauco (Managing Editor of Tattler Magazine), commissioned as principal writer and editor in chief, contract being finalized
- Audio Visual presentation showing the history, highlighting the accomplishments of Rotary Club of Manila, and a separate one Rotary in the Philippines and Asia (Chairman – Dir Susing Pineda)

Update on Action Points agreed in earlier meetings

- Rotary Centennial Congress in June 2019:
Letter sent to RIPN Sam Owori to be guest of honor and speaker
- National Scouting Jamboree with Rotary Centennial in Focus – Discussed and agreed in principle with Atty. Wendel Avisado, Charter President of Rotary Club of Natividad Almeda Lopez (Scouting Rotarians), also National President of Boy Scouts of the Philippines

Update on Action Points agreed in earlier meetings

- RCM Centennial Stamp: Letter sent to Postmaster General through PP Banit Caasi
- Asia Pacific Rotaract Regional Conference 2018 to be hosted by the Philippine Rotaractors: Being coordinated by DGN Rudy Bediones with PDRR Alexiz Tan
- Nationwide/Asiawide Planting of Rotary Centennial Friendship Trees during the Rotary year
Rotary Centennial Garden Wheel: at SM MOA?

Update on Action Points agreed in earlier meetings

- Rotary Club of Manila Building
- Other Proposed Various Activities focused on the RCM Centennial Theme
Centennial Logo Design Contest; Essay Writing Contest; Selection of Miss Rotary International Asia Centennial 2019; Oratorical Contest; Choral Singing Contest; On the Spot Painting Contest; Centennial Golf Tournament

Promoting the RCM Centennial Celebration as proposed by PD Nick Locsin:

Bring the invitation to sister clubs visited during the one year as a pre-celebration activity; and
 Prepare a video invitation of the RCM Centennial Celebration Committee as one of the promotional material.

Financial Status Update

Funds already on hand :

- Php 50,000 seed money from Chair IPDG Obet Pagdanganan
- Php 200,000 from Dir. Bobby Joseph (originally intended for the Remedios Circle Marker Project)
- Php 50,000 from PDG Alex Cureg, originally intended for the Remedios Circle Project
- Php 50,000 from PD Ed Lee
- Php 20,000 from DGN Rudy Bediones

Financial Status Update

Pledges:

Php 500,000 by PP Boy Guevara, Chairman – RCM Centennial Ways and Means Committee

Php 50,000 from Dir Susing Pineda

Php 25,000 from PD Ner Ionzaga

Fund allocated for the coffetable book project: Php 230,000

Financial Status Update**Proposal:**

Net proceeds raised from the Centennial Celebration to be used to qualify RCManila Foundation, Inc., to accept donations, which will be tax deductible and allocated for the putting up of a lot and building for the Rotary Club of Manila (preferably through some kind of donation/partnership with some leading Filipino businessmen

Assignment of Committee Chairs, Volunteers invited

Agree to hire a Secretary to the RCMCC. Star Rtn Romy Nones volunteered the assistance of his staff meanwhile.

UPDATE:

In my telephone conversation this morning with PP Boy Guevara- Chairman of Ways & Means Committee of RCMCC, he told me that he had finalized a letter appeal for financial support to the RCM centennial projects. He also confirmed that he will issue the check for Php 500,000.

He also advised me with the hiring of a project administrative staff as soon as possible.

RCM WEEKLY BIRTHDAY CELEBRANT/S



Pres. “Teddy” Ocampo presents the birthday celebrants : **Governor Hemilando I. Mandanas**, Dir. “Albert” Alday, Rtn. “Noy” Benedicto, Rtn. “Willie” Peliño for the traditional blowing of candles on the birthday cake, amidst the singing by the “RCM World-Famous Chorale” of the happy birthday song. Special personalized pillows as birthday gifts were given courtesy of PAT “Muhammad” Aslam.

INTERCLUB RELATION



DGN “Rudy” Bediones updates on humanitarian projects extended by Rtn. “Kenji” Mori, RC Japan, donation of books for indigent students from Bataan School of Fisheries; and subsequent project Pyrotechnics in honor of veteran soldiers in commemoration of the 75th Araw ng Kagitingan, in Pilar, Bataan.

ROTARY BRIEFING



Mr Jason Bogovich attended Rotary Briefing conducted by Rotary Information Committee Chair PDG Alex Cureg, co chair IS Alvin Lacambacal, SAA Lance Masters and proposer Classification Chair Brendan Egan held last Thursday April 6, 2017 at the New World Hotel Makati.

RCMANILA FOUNDATION INC. (RCMFI) ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING



PE Jimmie Policarpio hosted the organizational meeting of the incoming Board of Trustees of RCManila Foundation Inc. last Thursday April 6, 2017 3pm at the Library Room of the German Club. Present : RCM Pres Teddy Ocampo, RCM VPE/Dir Chito Zaldarriaga, RCM Incoming Sec Alvin Lacambacal, RCM PD Rob Sears, RCM PD Beda Fajardo, RCM PE Jimmie Policarpio, RCM DE/ Dir Issam Eldebs and RCM DE Caloy Reyes.

PHIL-JAPAN FRIENDSHIP / ARAW NG KAGITINGAN



Manila Rotarians at Japanese – Philippines Friendship Day on 75th Anniversary of Day of Valor Commemorated with Pyrotechnical Spectacular in Bataan, Hosted by RC Kuzuha (Osaka) Rotarian Kenji Mori

By SAA/DE/PVP Lance Masters

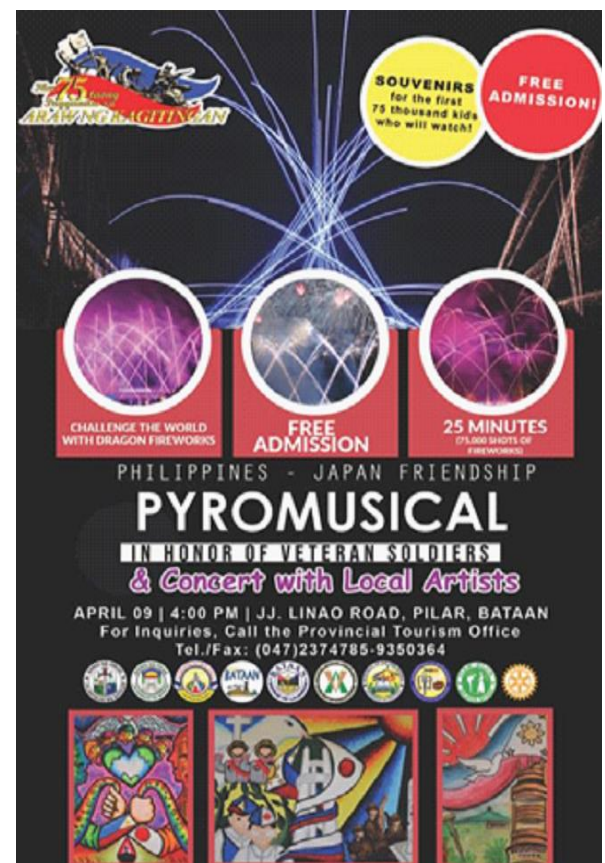
On April 9, 1942, the commanders of the Luzon Forces in Bataan raised the white flag and surrendered about 76,000 Filipino and American troops. Bataan was the last province to surrender to the Japanese occupation of the Philippines, and thus marked one of the lowest points in World War II. The surrender was followed by the infamous death march from Marivales, Bataan to Capas, Tarlac. Approximately 22,000 Filipino and American troops perished during a torturous week. Officially named “The Araw ng Kagitingan” to commemorate both Bataan and Corregidor, what was before called the “Day of Valor” is celebrated in the Philippines every 9th of April as a national memorial holiday, paying respect and tribute to all those who served the cause of freedom in the war. The day usually begins with moments of silence and prayer to recognize the courage and heroism of those who served. Sometimes it ends in celebrations of the freedom and friendships that have evolved after the war. That is exactly what happened last April 9 in Maribal, Bataan, in a great field across from the government center.

The ever humble and generous Rotarian Kenji Mori from Rotary Club of Kuzaha, Osaka, District 2660, promised and delivered the Grandest Pyromusical Exhibition ever, in a grand day and evening of contests and entertainment. Because it was also Palm Sunday and the beginning of Holy Week, not many of our members were able to join the invitations that were distributed by our Viber feeds.

Starting at about 11 am, PAT Muhammad Aslam hosted a scrumptious buffet at his acclaimed Pakistani restaurant along Jupiter Street, “Kebab & Curry.” Joining Aslam were DGN Rudy Bediones, Lady Sharon, PD Oscar Del Rosario, Star Rtn. Ric Ramos, and myself. You might recognize another one or two of his happy customers in this photo!

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After lunch, we caravanned to Bataan, where we enjoyed meriendas in the impressive home of PDG Connie Beltran. We then checked into our hotel rooms at the Plaza, generously provided by Rtn Kenji, and headed off to the performance venue. By then, we had missed the Drum & Lyre competitions, but are still able to view video on Kenji's Facebook page.



We were surprised to be welcomed as special guests and ushered to front row seats, beside the American Vice Consul and other dignitaries, and most of us were later recognized to stand and be acknowledged by the crowd of more than 130,000 people, with video projected on the huge screens!

As the program began, one of the highlights was to be an inspirational message by the host of the grand affair, Mr. Fuji Mori. Since our own RCM "World Famous Chorale" had not been able to muster enough participants to sing the national anthem, much to the crowd's surprise and delight, Kenji Mori himself led the assembly in belting out the "Lupang Hinirang."

The show continued with concerts by local school groups, demonstrating that famous Filipino passion for song and dance that results in talented performance, even starting in elementary school, and continuing through high school. Videos of all are on Kenji's Facebook page. Next was presentation of the winners of the poster contest by elementary students. Again, we witnessed astounding capacity by very young minds expressed through their hands. The winning posters are on the bottom of the event poster pictured earlier and also among the photos and posts on Kenji's FB pages. Mori-san also generously awarded so many prizes in so many categories that we concluded it must have filled an entire semi-tractor trailer to bring them to the site. Of course, the winners and their schools are all delighted with the sound systems and other educationally oriented prizes and gifts.

Naturally, the highlight of the evening was what most of us found to be the most spectacular fireworks display ever witnessed, choreographed to ten musical numbers. It featured more than 75,000 fireworks, dazzling us for more than twenty-seven minutes, all performed by the Philippines' pride, Dragon Fireworks. Take time to watch the videos that Dragon produced, also on Kenji's FB pages.





After the event, we were again welcomed to PDG Connie Beltran's home for a late supper. Ever the gracious host, Connie outdid her famous hospitality with excellent food and drink to cap a perfect celebration.



Of course, we thought the event was over, but we were surprised the next morning on check out to be given passalubong's by both Mori-san, who gave us Matcha Cream Puffs, and PDG Connie, who gave us boxes of those famous, ultra-crisp, Maribal Otap.

It was a true pleasure to be part of such a wonderful commemoration and celebration. We extend our heartfelt thanks first to Rtn. Kenji Mori, who truly demonstrated a heart full of love for Filipinos and especially for children, and for all others who worked so hard and gave so much to remember those who 75 years before, gave so much, too.

ROTARY FRIENDSHIP EXCHANGE



Rotary Friendship Exchange at Herma Farms

By SAA/DE Lance Masters

Most of our readers will remember meeting the ten Rotarians from Rotary District 5950 in Minnesota, visiting our District 3810 under “The Rotary Friendship Exchange Program” (RFE). Many of us met them when they attended our regular meeting, or at the District Conference. However, you might not know very much about the exchange program itself. RFE was designed to provide a means through which Rotarians from one part of the world can experience life in another country or culture. Its goal is to advance international understanding and goodwill through person-to-person connections across national boundaries. The Philippines benefits greatly from these Exchanges, because the visitors have experiences here that often later develop into collaborating in Rotary Global Grants here.



There are two types of Rotary Friendship Exchanges. The first is the “Visitor Program” in which individual Rotarians, often accompanied by family members, spend a few days in a Rotarian home in another country. The second is the “Team Program” in which Rotarians, often couples, typically ten to twelve in number, visit several communities in the host district for up to four weeks. The number of persons on the team and the length of stay are flexible; the districts involved agreeing on those details before the exchange occurs. Districts are also encouraged to arrange univocational Visitor and Team exchanges, those in which host and guest Rotarians share the same occupation. We sometimes do that on medical/dental missions. All RFE programs are coordinated by district Friendship Exchange committees and carried out at no expense to Rotary International; in other words, the cooperating districts, the hosts and participants bear all of the expenses. The Team Program operates on a district level, so participants usually stay with host families or in other housing as arranged by and agreed to by the Districts and participants. Participating districts appoint a Friendship Exchange District Chairperson who coordinates the program. In our district, this year that person is FCP Lolit Anahaw from RC of Carmona, Cavite. Lolit coordinated a month long itinerary for the visitors.



One of the most interesting and fun parts of their entire exchange trip was an invitation by our own Rtn. Hermie Esguerra for an Appreciation Dinner and visit to his fantastic “Herma Farm and Horse Ranch” in Lipa, Batangas. Hermie very generously hosted the group and invited some of the district officers plus a few of our own members to share in a horse ranch experience on last April 8. It was without compare, including a tour of his approximately 160-hectare farm and its specialized facilities. In addition to his other business interests, Hermie has developed what has become the largest herd of quarter horses (about 200!) in the country, with horses racing around the world. The environment that he has created there reminds me of the finest that I have only seen before in Kentucky! The highlight of the tour was an (x-rated?) live stallion breeding demonstration, much to the shrieking delight of his guests.

Hermie hosted a phenomenal buffet prepared by his own chef, featuring no fewer than four kinds of lechon, the biggest paella imaginable, the best pesto pasta I have had in ten years, and too many additional delicious dishes to enumerate. He also had an open bar, including soft drinks and fresh buko for the many of us who do not drink alcoholic beverages.



After eating ourselves silly, Hermie’s live band belted out everyone’s favorites from the Fifties through the Nineties, with singing and dancing until ten. Hermie even had hired our favorite Dance Instructor to help the guests enjoy line-dancing, Filipino style. All of that was held in his personally designed party pavilion, which was filled just about to the max. The RFE delegation from Minnesota were then treated to a night in Hermie’s ranch bunkhouse before heading out in the morning to their next destination.



Jackie Rodriguez arrived quite late, as it had been his intention to bring the Governor of Batangas Province, but of course once it was clear that there was an earthquake situation in Batangas, the Governor had to go there instead. Pictured beside Jack is his lovely granddaughter, who is a semi-finalist in the Binibining Pilipinas this year.



We all should thank Hermie "big-time" for his exemplary generosity and for giving a great example of that world-famous Filipino hospitality to our international visitors.



Pictured here are SDG Nito Siasat, SAA/DE Lance Masters, PD Oca Del Rosario, SDG Osang Blanco, SDG Violy Flores, ASP Teddy Ocampo, Carmelita Siasat, SDG Lhet Fiores Collarin, DGN Rudy Bediones, Gov Ernest Yuyek,



AT "Hermie" Esguerra graciously hosted an "Appreciation Dinner Fellowship for RI D-3810 Executive Directors, Officers and All-STAR Presidents, and Members," at his Herma Farms & Stud, in Lipa, Batangas recently. Photo shows SAA "Lance" Masters, Host AT "Hermie" Esguerra, Rtn. "Jackie" Rodriguez, PD "Oscar" del Rosario, Pres. "Teddy" Ocampo, DGN "Rudy" (at far right) and Lady "Sharon" Bediones.

NEWS RELEASE



TUESDAY, APRIL 11, 2017



VALDEZ

SSS Plans to expand in Bangsamoro region

By MARY GRACE PADIN

State-run Social Security System (SSS) is seeking to expand its coverage and services in the Bangsamoro region by establishing more linkages and opening new offices in the area.

Social Security Commission (SSC) chairman Amado Valdez stressed the need to create more SSS branches and to utilize electronic payment facilities in the region due to lack of banking facilities which the SSS greatly relies on.

“Members in far-flung areas often need to travel for hours to a city center where banking facilities are available. For example in Basilan, there are several banks in Isabela City, but only one in Lamitan City,” he said.

The SSS, citing Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas data, said only 19 bank branches are located in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

With this, Valdez said the SSS would focus on establishing more offices and strengthening more linkages, which would improve the accessibility of its services to its members in the region.

“There is a need to open a service office in Lamitan City, Basilan, while we are also looking into upgrading the Tawi-Tawi service office into a full-service branch,” he said.

The chairman said SSS will also promote the use of Globe Telecom’s GCash service for contribution and loan payments as mobile phone usage is “more reliable and easier” than bank transactions.

He said the state-run agency would also continue to cooperate with local government units and government agencies to provide coverage to their job order and contractual personnel who are not members of the Government Service Insurance System.

To date, the SSS Mindanao Operations Group has four divisions with a total of 46 offices. A total of P11.53 billion in contributions has been collected from the region in 2016, only eight percent of the total collection nationwide.

SSS-registered employers in Mindanao stood at around 109,000, 12 percent of total covered employers, while individual SSS members was recorded at 4.9 million or 14 percent of total individual members in the country.



TUESDAY, APRIL 11, 2017



LETTRAN OUTSTANDING ALUMNUS:

Frank Evaristo (center) was conferred Knights of Letran award in recognition of his civic work in the community as president of Alay Lakad Foundation benefitting the out-of-school youth. He was PAST PRESIDENT of Rotary Club of Manila, First in Asia, and past president of Philippine Jaycees International, during the Letran 400 awarding ceremony held last March 23, at the New World Makati Hotel. Photo shows Evaristo with Rev. Fr. Clarence Victor Marquez, OP SThD, rector and president of Colegio de San Juan de Letran and Rev. Fr. Boyd Sulpicio, OP, executive vice president.



Pakistan's 77th National Day

THIS WEEK ON PEOPLE ASIA By Babe Romualdez (The Philippine Star) | Updated April 16, 2017 - 12:00am



Foreign Affairs Assistant Secretary Celia Feria, Pakistani Ambassador Safdar Hayat and Archbishop Giuseppe Pinto cut the ceremonial cake



At the recent celebration of Pakistan's 77th National Day at the Pakistani ambassador's house in Dasmariñas Village, Makati City, Ambassador **Safdar Hayat** recalled his nation's journey to independence — a dream that had its beginnings in the passage of the Lahore resolution in 1940 by the Muslim League led by the dynamic Muhammad Ali Jinnah, known as the founder of Pakistan.

Formal diplomatic relations between the Philippines and Pakistan was established in 1949 via an air-service agreement, but cooperation between both countries started much earlier. In 1951, the friendship between the two nations was solidified even further through a treaty of friendship that was signed in

Washington in January 1951.

The establishment of the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO) in 1954, with both countries as signatories along with the US, UK, Australia, France, New Zealand and Thailand, enhanced relations even more as signatory countries pledged to provide mutual assistance in times of armed attacks or subversion.

Through the years, bilateral cooperation, specifically in terms of trade and commerce, grew especially in the last three years that saw a visit by Pakistan's Chamber of Commerce in August 2014, followed by a delegation coming from the Rice Export Association of Pakistan in 2015 to explore potential investments with Philippine business chambers.

Over 20 agreements and memorandum of understanding regarding trade, cultural exchanges, promotion and protection of investment and many more have been set by both countries, with a few more currently in the pipeline aimed at establishing more progressive cooperation and expanding bilateral trade between the two countries, which is estimated at \$100 million.

As Ambassador Hayat noted, Pakistan considers the Philippines an important component of its "Vision East Asia Policy" aimed at enhancing relations across diverse areas with countries in the region. - **Photos by Ramon Joseph J. Ruiz**



Ambassadors Roberto Bosch of Argentina and Martin Slabber of South Africa.



With Pepe Rodriguez and Chinese Ambassador Zhao Jianhua.



Honorary Consuls Joe Assad of Lebanon and Jose Campos of Nepal



Vietnamese Ambassador Ly Quoc Tuan and Foreign Affairs Assistant Secretary Jocelyn Batoon-Garcia.



Greek Ambassador Nikolaos Kaimenakis and Portugal Honorary Consul Tony Rufino.



Rudy Bediones and New World Hotel GM Farid Schoucair.



Obet Pagdanganan and Kit Tatad.



Papua New Guinea Ambassador Christian Anthony Virhuri and Issam El-Debs.

PUBLIC HEALTH NUTRITION AND CHILD CARE



PREPARING FOR “THE BIG ONE”

Elias D. Adamos, M.D.

The earthquakes and aftershocks that recently rocked Batangas, have expectedly brought panic to both residents and holiday-goers in the province. Even the brave and adventurous youths were stalled in their dives and climbs when diving sites in Anilao and the mountaineers' favorite Mount Makulot were closed for public safety reasons. The experience made experts to go back to the drawing board to determine the efficiency of information campaign and earthquake drills that were carried out to prepare for “The Big One.”

Prepare your own earthquake survival kit

1. **First Aid Kit.** It should contain the following: bandages, alcohol, absorbent cotton, gauze, masks, adhesive plasters, tweezers, and basic medicines (painkillers, anti-diarrhea, anti-cough, antibiotics, etc.)
2. **Food.** Include ready-to-eat foods and those that are not easily perishable.
3. **Boiled water.** Having some small bottled water in your survival kit will come handy and practical in any eventuality.
4. **Flashlights and extra batteries.**
5. **Radio** (battery-operated in order to listen to some news during possible blackout).
6. **Mobile phone** (make sure that it is adequately-charged).
7. **Whistle.**
8. **Knife.**
9. **Blankets and spare clothes.**
10. **Matches.**
11. **Rope** (at least 7 meters long or even longer).
12. **Toiletries.**
13. **Pen and paper.**
14. **List of emergency contact numbers.**
15. **Cash.**

Identify safe zones

The following are considered safe zones: wide corridors, swing out door, wide open space (for possible evacuation), fire exits, places with public alarm system.

Avoid unsafe zones

Unsafe zones may be the following: windows and glass panes, bookshelves, machinery, cabinets and furniture that may topple or slide; and narrow alleys,

Protect yourself during an earthquake

DUCK, COVER, and HOLD. Watch out for falling debris. Keep calm and don't panic.

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