

RCM's 3rd for Rotary Year 2019-2020

Thursday, July 18, 2019, 12N, New World Makati Hotel Ballroom
Officer-In-Charge/ Program Moderator : PP Archit Bartolome III

PROGRAM TIMETABLE

- 11:15 AM Registration & Cocktails (WINES courtesy of Centennial Dir. "Bobby" Joseph)
12:10 PM Bell to be Rung: Members and Guests are requested to be seated
12:15 PM Program Proper
Call to Order **OIC/Moderator: PP Archit Bartolome III**
RCManila Pres. Jackie Rodriguez and
RC Pasay Pres. Joey Ignacio
- Singing of the Philippine National Anthem **RCM WF Music Chorale**
Invocation **RC Pasay Pres. Joey Ignacio**
Acknowledgement with thanks and appreciation to PVP Manny Dy for providing Chinese delicacies for Rotarians and Guests
RCM Hymn **RCM WF Music Chorale**
The Four (4) Way Test Credo **All Rotarians**
- 12:20 PM Introduction of Guests/Visiting Rotarians/
Personalities Seated at the **Rtn Hans Palacios**
Presidential Table
Welcome Song **RCM WF Music Chorale**
- 12:25 AM Maligayang Bati (RCM Birthday Celebrants)
July 17.....Rtn Jack Branellec
July 19.....PDG Obet Pagdanganan
July 20.....PVP Lance Masters
July 23.....Rtn Teying Arcilla
July 24.....Rtn Philip Recto
Happy Birthday Song **RCM WF Music Chorale**
- 12:30 PM A. Presentation of Rotary Club of Manila
(RCM) Ambassadorial Certificates/ Pins Pres. Jackie Rodriguez
1. Rtn Joe de Venecia, RCM Ambassador Chairman Emeritus and to China
2. Dir. Bobby Joseph, Jr., RCM Ambassador to Rotary Clubs in Cebu
3. AT Jason Ong, RCM Ambassador to all Rotary Clubs in Rotary Dist. 3800
4. SAA Dave Reynolds, RCM Ambassador to Rotary Clubs in Great Britain
5. PP Boy Guevara, RCM Ambassador to Rotary Clubs in Las Vegas/ London
6. PP Jimmie Policarpio, RCM Ambassador to Rotary Clubs in Thailand
7. PD Issam Eldebs, RCM Ambassador to Rotary Clubs in Syria and Lebanon
8. PD Ed Lee, RCM Ambassador to Rotary Clubs in Guam
9. PD Ner Lonzaga, RCM Ambassador to Rotary Clubs in Kowloon, HK
10. PD Oscar del Rosario, RCM Ambassador to Rotary Clubs in Bulacan
11. Rtn Ariel Abriam, RCM Ambassador to Rotary Clubs in Panay
12. Rtn Karlo Castro, RCM Ambassador to Rotary Clubs in Palawan
13. Rtn Vic Garcia, RCM Ambassador to Rotary Clubs in Russia
14. STAR Rtn Neil Paras, RCM Ambassador to Rotary Clubs in San Pablo, Laguna Province
15. Rtn Ludek Vrana, RCM Ambassador to Rotary Clubs in Czech Republic
B. Exchange of Club bannerettes for first-time
Rotary Clubs in attendance **Pres. Jackie Rodriguez**
- 12:35 PM President's Time **Pres. Jackie Rodriguez**
12:40 PM Introduction of the Guest of Honor and Speaker **PSAA Fred Lim**
- 12:45 PM Address : **Hon. Francisco "Isko" Moreno Domagoso**
Mayor, Manila City
Public Forum
- 2:00 PM Response, presentation of bell and gavel set as a token of appreciation to Manila Mayor Francisco "Isko" Moreno Domagoso
& meeting adjournment **Pres. Jackie Rodriguez**

balita

Official Newsletter of
Rotary Club of Manila

Issue No. 3799

July 18, 2019

MAKATI MAYOR WOWS RCM



GUEST OF HONOR AND SPEAKER



Hon. FRANCISCO "ISKO" M. DOMAGOSO

Mayor
City of Manila

KABALITA

After connecting to the country's financial district, it's time to bring back Manila's Old Glory with the New Blood at the Helm of Manila's fabled City Hall as he brings his thrusts to Asia's First Rotary Club.

www.rcmanila.org


What's Inside

Guest of Honor and Speaker's Profile	2-3
President's Corner	4
Club Administration	5
The Week that Was	6-8
Interclub Relations	9-11
Preview of Next Week's Guest Speaker	11
International Relations	12-14
New Generations Service	15
Fellowship/ Maternal and Child Health	16
Disease Prevention and Treatment	17
Newspaper Releases	18
Calendar of Activities	19
Public Health Nutrition and Child Care	20
Attendance	21
RCMFI and Sagip Kabataan Directors & Officers	22
RCM B.O.D. and Editorial Staff	23
Program	24



FRANCISCO "ISKO MORENO" DOMAGOSO
Mayor, City of Manila

EMPLOYMENT/GOVERNMENT SERVICE

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT

Quezon City
May-October 2018
Undersecretary for Luzon Affairs and Special Concerns

NATIONAL RAILWAYS CORPORATION (NLRC)

Quezon City
2017
Chairman/ President

SANGGUNIANG PANGLUNSOD

City of Manila
Office of Manila City Vice-Mayor and City Council
July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2016
Elected City Vice-Mayor and Presiding Officer

VICE-MAYORS LEAGUE OF THE PHILIPPINES (VMLP)

Quezon City, Metro Manila
2008-2016
Elected National President

UNION LOCAL AUTHORITIES OF THE PHILIPPINES (ULAP)

Quezon City, Metro Manila
2014-2016
Elected 1ST Vice-President

SANGGUNIANG PANGLUNSOD

City of Manila
Office of City Council
July 1, 1998 to June 30, 2007
Elected City Councilor (Ranked Number One (1) in the
2001 Local Elections)

EDUCATION

DOCTOR OF HUMANITIES 2014
ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEGREE
(Honoris Causa)
Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila
Intramuros, Manila

BACHELOR OF LAWS 2006
Arellano University School of Law
Taft Avenue corner Menlo St., Pasay City
(Sophomore Level)

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION 2003
International Academy of Management and Economics
Makati City

SECONDARY LEVEL
Tondo High School 1992
Tondo, Manila

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Official Newsletter of Rotary Club of Manila

PRES. JACKIE RODRIGUEZ

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Tondo, Manila

1988

AWARDS/RECOGNITIONMOST OUTSTANDING FILIPINO IN THE FIELD OF
PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

2012

Awarded by Gawad Amerika Foundation
Hollywood, California, USA

TOP 10 MEN WHO MATTER

2011

Awarded by People Asia Magazine
Resorts World Manila, Pasay City**SELECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS**INVITED AS OBSERVER 2016-Present Peace Talks
Between the Philippine Government and the
National Democratic Front
Amsterdam, NetherlandsCITY TRAFFIC CZAR
Local Government of Manila
City of Manila

2013-2016

AFFILIATIONAsenso Manileno Political Party
City of Manila
Honorary ChairmanKaagapay ng Manileno Foundation
City of Manila
Chairman EmeritusManila Red Cross
Intramuros, Manila
Honorary Vice-Chairman

2007-2016

SELECTED SEMINARS / TRAININGS ATTENDEDEmerging Leaders Executive Program
John F. Kennedy School (JFK) of Government
Harvard University
Boston, Massachusetts

2013

Oxford Strategic Leadership Program
SAID Business School
University of Oxford
England

2013

Executive Education Program
John F. Kennedy School (JFK) of Government
Harvard University
Boston, Massachusetts

2012

International Visitors Leadership Program
on U.S. Mayors and Local Government
U.S. State Department
Washington D.C., USA

2011

**SAGIP KABATAAN FOUNDATION
Board of Trustees, 2019-2020**PP Teddy Ocampo
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AT Ner Lonzaga
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TreasurerPD Beda Fajardo
Asst. SecretaryPD Nick Locsin
Asst. Treasurer



Dear Rotarians,

This week is a week full of excitement. We have the new rockstar of Philippine politics. Thanks to our dear Vice President Hermie Esguerra, who got him as our guest. We are the very first Rotary Club the Honorable Mayor has agreed to speak to since he won the election. I also want to announce that this coming August, the Rotary National Tree Parks Project will start in Gen. Tonio, Nueva Ecija. This concept is one of the components of the National Rotary Tree Planting Project. The idea is to create national tree parks for citizens and tourists to enjoy picnics, jogging areas, Sunday outings and tourist activities. They will also serve as the lungs and producers of oxygen in the area. The idea is to, eventually, have three parks in many places all over the country. Under the guidance and encouragement of all the Rotary clubs all over the country, the parks can be funded by individuals who wish to have naming rights to the parks or just to give back to their community some love, concern and affection. They can also be funded by the Department of Tourism, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, or the Department of Interior and Local Government or the citizens of the town, village or city. Our job, and we are there to define and create the concept, is to educate, to help find resources for what is needed, or, generally, just to be the spirit necessary to create the park. I am stepping down as a National Chairman of TREES, also known as The Rotary Ecological and Environmental Strategem. Nominated for the position of National Chairman is none other than our very own, Dir. Rafael Alunan. Congratulations Raffy!!! May you be the guiding light of the Rotary Movement that will save many lives, give many jobs, create oxygen, food, water, tourist and a better way of life for our countrymen.

Best wishes,

Jackie

RCM Members' Attendance Report RY 2019-2020

Hon. Mar-Len Abigail S. Binay , Mayor, Makati City

July 11, 2019

All members present	64
Less: Exempt from attendance	8
Total active members	56
ADD: Make-Up *	1
TOTAL	57
Total # of Members	227
Less: Exempt from attendance	30
On Leave	27

MAKE UP: Rtn Beniting Legarda, RC Manila South

1 Acosta, Cris	12 Garcia, Vic	22 Lee, Ed
2 Arnaiz, Mon	13 Gonzales, Leo Peter	23 Liamzon, Thad
3 Assad, Joe	14 Go, Mike	24 Lonzaga, Ner
4 Bolton, Bollie	15 Goerlich, Bodo	25 Masters, Lance
5 Camus, Nando	16 Guevara, Boy	26 Matschuck, Gunter
6 Co, Ferdie	17 Hallare, jun	27 Patterson, Colin
7 Cutter, John	18 Harle, Wolf	28 Pascual, Abe
8 Davis, Ray	19 Hedeager, Knud	29 Robertz, Cons
9 Doval-Santos, Rosel	20 Jankovsky, Zdenek	30 Sibayan, Lito
10 Ega, Bren	21 Laurel, Ricky	31 Villegas, Raul
11 Engelbrecht, Francoi		32 Vrana, Ludek

Total Active Members (Total Percentage Base)		170	
TOTAL ATTENDANCE %:		34%	
ATTENDANCE REPORT			
List of members and guests in attendance:		7.4.2019	7.11.2019
RCM Members		72	64
Members' guest		29	7
honorary Members		0	1
Club Guests		4	0
Visiting Rotarians		74	30
Total		179	102



CARE ABOUT YOUR SMILE (Crooked and misaligned teeth)

Elias D. Adamos, M.D.

"When you're smiling, when you're smiling the whole world smiles with you. When you're laughing, oh when you're laughing, the sun comes shining through." Larry Shay (1897-1988) and Mark Fisher (1895- 1948), American songwriters "When You're Smiling" (1928)

Crooked and misaligned teeth are conditions referred to as malocclusions. These conditions can result to misaligned bites. Misaligned bites, as a consequence, interfere with proper chewing of food; increased risks for tooth decay, cavities, and gum problems (gingivitis); increased strain on muscles of the jaws and teeth that can result to risk of breaking a tooth; speech difficulties (including a lisp); and decreased in self-confidence and self-esteem.

What produces malocclusions?

There are several reasons why some people's teeth are crooked, overlapping, or twisted. Some people have small mouths that are too small for their teeth, resulting to crowding of teeth inside the mouth. In some people, their upper and lower jaws are not the same size or are malformed. These can produce either of these two conditions: Overbite (retrognathia or retrognathism) when the upper teeth and jaw overlap the lower jaw and teeth. Underbite (prognathism) when the lower jaw protrudes forward (in Pilipino colloquial – "babalu"), causing the lower teeth to overlap the upper teeth and jaw. Most cases of overbite and underbite are inherited traits.

Other causes include: Undue pressure on teeth and gums; misalignment after an injury or trauma; tumors of the mouth and jaw; early loss of baby or adult teeth; improper dental restorations; habits in children, such as thumb-sucking, tongue-thrusting, use of pacifier beyond the age of three, and prolonged use of feeding bottle.

What should you do if you have malocclusion?

See your dentist. A dentist who specializes in orthodontics or an orthodontist is preferred. Your orthodontist will take x-rays; pictures of your face, mouth, and your teeth (to determine relationship of head, teeth, and jaw); and a dental impression to determine the specific treatment for your condition. Panoramic x-rays will show the relationship of the teeth and jaws. X-rays will also provide the position and the roots of your teeth. Your orthodontist will also know if a tooth has still to erupt or come out of your gums (wisdom tooth).

Your orthodontist will decide on what is best for you. Most people with malocclusion would need braces. Others would need a removable retainer that can stabilize the new position of the teeth. In rare cases, dental extraction and/or operation may be necessary.

MAKATI MAYOR WOWS RCM

By AT Jason Ong



NEW WORLD MAKATI HOTEL, MAKATI CITY – An exchange of pleasantries between two old friends made an otherwise ordinary luncheon meeting, extraordinary to say the least. Unknown to everyone, our Director and Club Secretary Albert Alday and incumbent Makati Mayor Abby Binay were not only classmates back in the Ateneo Law School, they were actually "kabarkads" back in the day. You could have easily noticed this when Dir./Sec. Alday delivered the introduction and you can see how our guest of honor and speaker Mayor Abby was all smiles, holding her breath and praying that Dir./Sec. Albert won't give too much information about their Ateneo days in front of the proud father sitting in front, former Makati Mayor and Past Philippine Vice President Jojo Binay. The score ended in a draw as Mayor Abby did a counter punch when she had her turn at the podium. It was all in the spirit of fun and nostalgia.

Aside from hearing the grand plans of Mayor Abby for her beloved Makati, Champion President Jackie was able to appoint the first batch of ambassadors to kick-off the Ambassador of Goodwill program. Nine Manila Rotarians were given appointments to various parts of the country as well as abroad starting with Dir. Bobby Joseph, who was assigned to all the clubs in Cebu and capped off by Mayor Abby, who requested her friend, Dir./Sec. Albert Alday to be assigned to the City of Makati.

A record of over a hundred Rotarians and guests graced the event. The room was full and a good number of Rotarians from Makati were able to join the meeting, particularly, the Rotary Club of Forbes Park led by Champion President Balraj S. Bhattee. Former Manila Mayor/PSAA Alfredo Lim led the recital of the 4-Way Test. Former DILG Secretary/Dir. Raffy Alunan and Former House Speaker Rtn. Joe de Venecia were also there in attendance, being the new National Chairman of TREES and Ambassador of Goodwill Program Chairman Emeritus, respectively. All's well that ends well as the "real" luncheon meeting of RCM was off to a great start.





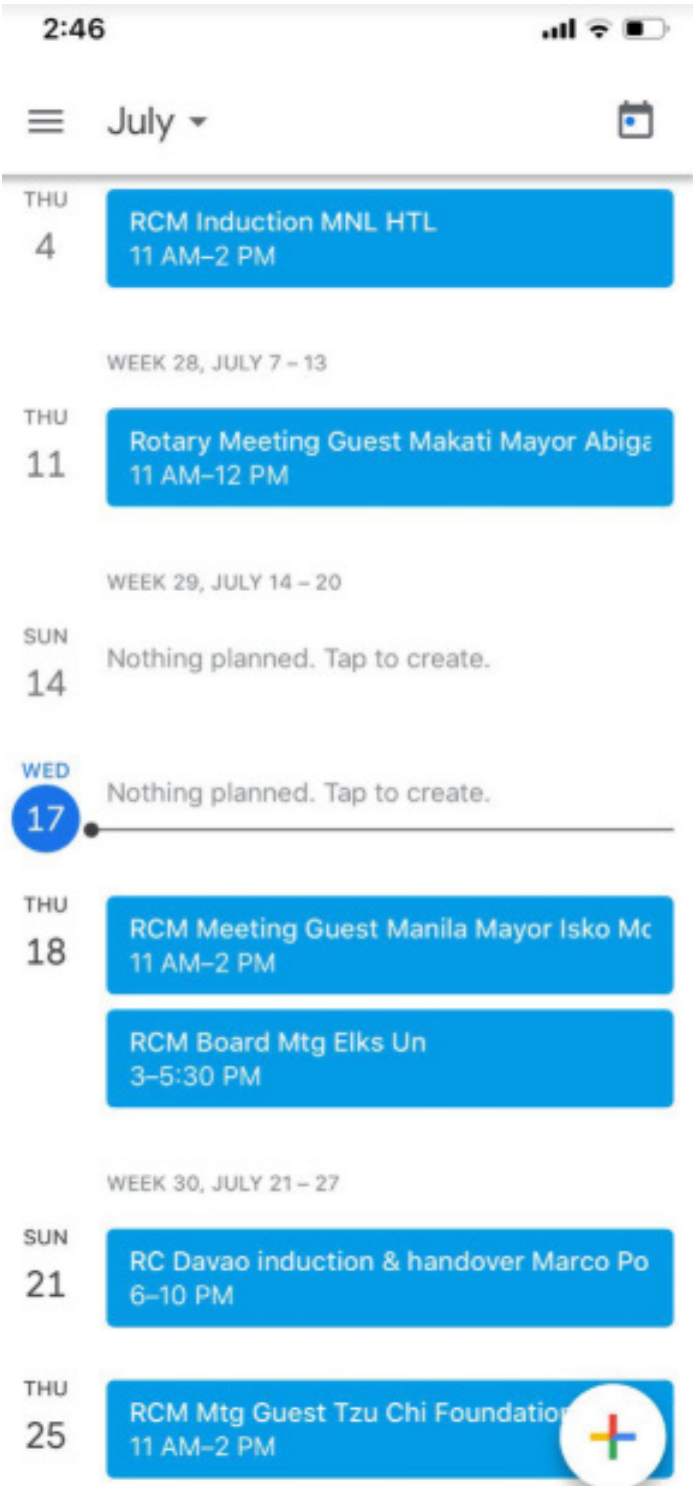
The arrival of **Hon. Jejomar C. Binay**, former Vice President, Republic of the Philippines; former Mayor, Makati City, warmly welcome by **Vice Pres. Hermie Esguerra** with **IPDG Rudy Bediones** and **PP Teddy Ocampo**, at the New World Makati Hotel lobby.



The large crowd of Rotarians and Guests at the ballroom to listen to **Hon. Marlen-Abigail S. Binay**, Mayor, City of Makati, as guest of honor and speaker.



The **RCM World Famous Music Chorale** led in the singing of the Philippine National Anthem, with **PD Oscar del Rosario**, **Dir. Raffy Alunan III**, **PDSAA Muhammad Aslam**, **IPDG Rudy Bediones**, **PP Teddy Ocampo**, **PP Frank Evaristo**, **Rtn. Tong Payumo**, **PD Beda Fajardo**, **Rtn. Marcus Dee**, **Rtn Hans Palacios**.





RCM AMBASSADOR OF GOODWILL



Makati Mayor Mar-len Abigail Binay places the RCM Ambassador of Goodwill pin on Chairman of Ambassador of Goodwill Committee, **PDG Vince Carlos**. Former Philippine Vice President **Jejomar "Jojo" Binay**, Honorary RCM Member, stood as witness to the pinning of the ambassador's pin. The following also received the pin as Ambassadors of Goodwill to the different Rotary Clubs: **PD Nick Locsin** (Vice Chairman) for Osaka, Japan; **PP Jimmie Policarpio** (for Thailand); **Rtn. Juan Montel** (for Spain); **PAT Muhammad Aslam** (for Pakistan); **Rtn. Johnny Chotrani** (for India), **AS Rene Policarpio** (for Ba-tangas); **Rtn. Celso Abastillas** (for Zamboanga); **SDG/Club Secretary/Dir. Albert Alday** (for City of Makati and Rotary Club of Pasay Southeast); **IPDG Rudy Bediones** (for RID 3810) and **Rtn. Hans Palacios** (for RID 3780)



Champion Pres. Jackie Rodriguez presents to Makati Mayor Mar-len Abigail S. Binay, a replica of the club's bell and gavel set, as a token of appreciation.



A posterity photo with the Hon. Mar-len-Abigail S. Binay, Mayor, City of Makati, as guest of honor and speaker, together with PP Francis Juico, RC Forbes Park Champion Pres. Balraj Singh Bhatee, PVP Fausto Preysler, Rtn. Johnny Chotrani, Dir./Sec. Albert Alday, Champion Pres. Jackie Rodriguez and Vice Pres. Hermie Esguerra.

INTERCLUB RELATIONS



President Jackie Rodriguez attended the Ballroom For A Cause of the Rotary Club of Dewey Boulevard Pasay last July 13, 2019 at the Rothman Hotel in Manila.



The Truth About Glutathione and Its Effects

By Dr. John T. Cenica

Not a lot of people know that glutathione is a substance that is naturally and regularly produced by the liver. Glutathione is substance that is composed of protein, glycine and glutamine. It is the key to preventing aging and various illnesses as it is one of the most active antioxidant systems in the human body. However, poor lifestyle may lead to the depletion of Glutathione.

Glutathione has been widely used by healthcare providers for cancer patients to prevent the side effects of chemotherapy. This is due to the fact that glutathione helps in increasing energy levels, it strengthens the immune system and detoxifies the body. Not only does it improve a person's overall health but it also has antimelanogenic properties which promotes skin whitening and treatment of hyperpigmentation.

The use of Glutathione has become the latest trend for skin whitening in the Philippines. It is usually taken orally, by inhalation or through injection. Glutathione IV is a good alternative for whitening products such as bleaching creams. Certain dosages of Glutathione are safe and also beneficial for the health. There has been a huge increase in the number of clinics, salons, as well as on social media that are offering such services. It is still best to seek medical professionals and only registered clinics when availing this service.



MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH



IPDG Rudy Bediones celebrated his birthday with the children of **Kanalungan sa Er-Ma Ministry, Inc.** last July 13, 2019 in Manila.



President Jackie Rodriguez attended the First (1st) Area Meeting of District 3810 for RY 2019-2020 last July 15, 2019 at the Golden Ballroom 3 of OKADA MANILA in Parañaque City. He is shown with **DG Liza Elorde** and **FG Johnny Elorde**.



SDG Melanio "Batas" Mauricio presiding over the **Area Breakout Session/Red Team Meeting** of the First (1st) Area Meeting of District 3810 for RY 2019-2020 with



ROTARY CLUB OF DAVAO
Club No. 17110, District 3860 Chartered: October 24, 1938
"The First Rotary Club in Mindanao"



05 July 2019

Mr. Joaquin "Jackie" C. Rodriguez

President, RY 2019-20
Rotary Club of Manila
543 Arquiza cor. Grey Street
Ermita, Manila

Dear Pres Jackie,

First of all, let me join everyone in welcoming you to RY 2019-20.

Truly blessed to see you at the PICC last June 21 and at the Manila Hotel yesterday, I look forward to an exciting Rotary year ahead for our two great clubs, RCDavao's Mother Club RCManila guaranteed of fulfilling its vision and mission for this year God willing because, at the sound of being self-serving, RCManila's got a Mindanawan at its helm.

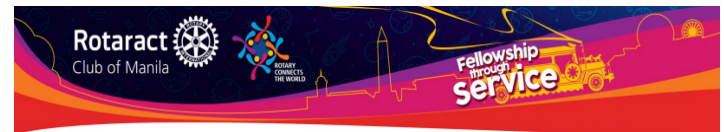
Referring to our conversations, although brief, during the said two occasions, I am fully committed, on behalf of your Daughter Club the Rotary Club of Davao, the First in Mindanao, and on a personal basis, to work with you closely on both your TREES and Ambassador of Goodwill Programs. I look forward to our discussion on the finer points when we meet, either when I am in Manila or you in Davao, soon.

In the meantime, may I have the privilege of inviting you personally, to supplement the official invitation sent out earlier, to our forthcoming 81st Induction of Officers and Turn-over Ceremony, at the Marco Polo Hotel Davao, on July 21, 2019, 6 p.m. Our confirmed Guest of Honor and Speaker is Secretary Delfin Lorenzana (as Official Proxy to Main Invitee President Duterte).

We shall be in touch with your office in connection with this invitation.

Very sincerely,

Edgar L. Bullecer
In-Charge for VIP Invitations
(Outgoing) President, RY 2018-19



**OFFICERS & DIRECTORS
R.Y. 2019-2020**

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Champion President

Bryan Joseph Hernandez
Immediate Past President

Maria Casimir Acuin
President-Elect

Audie Laudencia
Secretary

Joseph Benjamin Gonzales
Treasurer

Abigail Sarmiento
Club Service Director

Kristine Kare Reyes-Cuales
Professional Development Director

Lalain Jam Mauhay
International Service Director

CP Abby Abastillas-Dioniso
PDRR Oliver Alvarez
PP Noel Gonzales
PP Fritzie Arnola
PP Ari Rivera

PDRR Charlemagne Chua
PDRR Izel Marie Guatno
PP Marie Goldilyn Uy-Lui

PP Tiffany Go-Conde
PP Oriadel Tomampoc
PP Florante Quimzon

PP Irl Marie Garmones Balleza
PDRR Cassandra Camille Martino
PP Jan Michael Raleigh Cuares
PP Ralen Marie Jimenez
PP Kristine Karen Reyes-Cuales
PP Michael Edgar Recabar

Sponsored by
The Rotary Club of Manila &
The Rotary Club of Manila Magic
R.I. District 3810

15 JULY 2019

JACKIE RODRIGUEZ
President
Rotary Club of Manila

Dear President Jackie,

Greetings!

On behalf of the officers and members of the **Rotaract Club of Manila**, I would like to formally invite you to be one of our honored guests during our club's **20th Induction and 19th Handover Ceremonies** entitled "**LEADING A LEGACY**." Our celebration will take place at **Top Shelf, 5th Floor Fully Booked**, B6 Bonifacio High Street, Taguig City on **July 27, 2019, Saturday**. Our program will start at 8:00 pm.

The officers and members of our organization has a long legacy of excellence and service for the last 20 years. We would like to commemorate this legacy of service by inviting you, **President Jackie**, to deliver a special message during the ceremonies. Your wisdom and wealth of experience as our sponsoring Rotarian will further inspire our members to continuously create an impact in the communities which we serve and find the inspiration, excitement, and power to truly change lives.

Kindly RSVP no later than July 25, 2019 by emailing us at rotaractclubofmanila@gmail.com or by contacting me through my mobile number at +639989709924. We look forward to celebrating this great milestone with you. Your response will be greatly appreciated. Thank you very much.

Yours in Service,

KARLA PATRICIA RAVIDA
President
Rotary Year 2019-2020

Rotaract Club of Manila

LEADING A LEGACY

THE 20TH INDUCTION & 19TH HANDOVER CEREMONIES

JULY 27, 2019 | SATURDAY
7:00 PM at TOP SHELF
5th Floor, Fully Booked, High Street, BGC

General Information:

- Laos is officially Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR), it is a landlocked country that located in the South East Asia and shared border with five countries namely, Cambodia, China, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam.
- Total area is 236,800 Km² (land area is 230,800 Km²).
- Current population is approximately 7.061 million (2018) by the World Bank.
- Most of Lao People are Theravada Buddhist and other religions as Christian and Muslims.
- Around 70% of population works in agriculture field.
- Main River is Mekong River that flows through Laos from the north to the south around 1,865 Km.

Politics and Government :

- One Political Party: Lao People's Revolutionary Party (LPRP)
- Current President of Laos is His Excellency Bounnhang VORACHITH, He is also the Secretary General of LPRP.
- Current Prime Minister is His Excellency Thongloun SISOUITH, appointed in 2016.
- The Government consists of 18 Ministries and leads by Prime Minister.

Economy:

- Gross Domestic Product (GDP): US\$18.313 Billion (2018) with the average GDP growth is 6.5 – 7% each year.
- Gross National Income (GNI) per capital: US\$2,460 (2018).
- Export: In 2018, Laos has exported the products and goods to 133 countries with a total value of US\$5.087 million; the top three countries are Thailand, China and Vietnam; and the products and goods were exported are electricity, copper, electronic machines, and other agricultural products.
- Imported from 129 countries with a total value of US\$5.846 million; the top three countries are Thailand, China and Vietnam; the products and goods were imported are gasoline, beverages, machines, electronic cable, and other more than 100 types of goods.
- Foreign Direct Investment: From 1989-2015, there were more than 53 countries have invested and operates their business in Laos with a total value of US\$24 billion, which cover 4,518 projects. It consists of mainly 15 sectors, electricity generation, mining, agriculture, service, industry & handicraft, hotel & restaurant, construction, telecommunication, wood industry, banking, trading, garment, consultant, public health, and education, while China was ranked number one, followed by Thailand, Vietnam, Republic of Korea and France.
- Lao Tourism is famous in historic and cultural sites in term of temple. Currently, Laos has three world heritage sites: the former Royal Capital Luang Prabang, Wat Phou in Champasak Province and the Plain of Jars in Xiengkhuang Province. Moreover, Laos is well-known as one of destination for tourists in term of natural tourist sites such as natural forest, waterfall and caves.
- Special and Specific Economic Zones is one of economic policies of Laos that designed for attracting more domestic and foreign investors to operates their business in the country and currently, there are 12 zones and more than 294 foreign firms are based in.

External Relations:

- Foreign Policy: Peace, Independence, Friendship and Cooperation - Mutual Benefit.
- Diplomatic Relations with 141 Countries.
- Member of International Organizations: Association of South East Asia Nations (ASEAN), United Nations, World Trade Organizations, the framework of Mekong Cooperation in order to promote and enhance sub-regional and international cooperation.



PD Oscar del Rosario facilitated the meeting of representatives from the Rotary Club of Valenzuela, Rotary Club of Mabini Manila and Rotary Club of Calumpit for sisterhood purposes as well as projects that would involve the joint efforts of the Rotary Club of Valenzuela, Rotary Club of Mabini Manila, Rotary Club of Manila South and Rotary Club of Intramuros with respect to donations. This was held last July 13, 2019 at the Quezon City Sports Club in Quezon City.

PREVIEW OF NEXT WEEK'S GUEST SPEAKER

Ms. Peggy Jiang &
Ms. Olga Vendivel
Tzu Chi Foundation
July 25, 2019, 12N
New World Makati Hotel

Established in 1993, Buddhist Compassion Relief Tzu Chi Foundation (Singapore) is an accredited Institution of Public Character (IPC). For the past over two decades, the Foundation has been actively contributing to society in the areas of charity, medical aid, education, humanistic culture, and environmental protection.

PP Jose C. Policarpio, Jr.
Chairman, Program Committee
Rotary Year 2019-2020

VP Herminio S. Esguerra
Rotarian-in-Charge in inviting Guest Speakers
for the month of July

MY ROTARY MOMENT



"THE FRENCH CONNECTION"



MANUEL "MANNY" M. BLANCO
Rotary Club of Manila
RI District 3810

Barely two weeks after being inducted to Rotary in August 1977, I had the opportunity to travel to Europe with my wife. Knowing that a Rotarian had to make-up for missed meetings, I had the chance to accomplish this in a small city in France called Tarbes, which is located a few kilometers from the famous city of Lourdes.

We checked-in to one of the local hotels and I immediately inquired with the desk clerk the schedule and the venue of the local Rotary Club's regular meetings. The concierge immediately referred me to the hotel's General Manager who was a Rotarian, but who, unfortunately could not express himself too well in English. Thus, in between his broken words and my sign language I learned that the Rotary Club would be meeting the following day. I tried to ask him further how to go to the place but instead told me that we just meet me at the lobby at a specified time

and he would take me to the venue.

True to his promise, the General Manager actually did take me to the meeting and back to the hotel. All the French Rotarians were quite hospitable especially since I was the very first Rotarian from the Philippines who visited their club. However, due to my insufficient comprehension of their language it was quite an experience, actually my first, to attend a discussion without fully understanding the deliberations and get the drift of what was going on. Nevertheless, the warmth of friendship extended by the members to me was sufficient enough for us to connect, bound by the universal language of service to humanity the Rotary promotes.

This brief experience proves that Rotary opens doors of friendship and brotherhood that transcends spoken language. To my French connection and fellow Rotarian Monsieur Castell, "Maraming salamat po!"



HONORARY RCM MEMBER LAO AMBASSADOR INTRODUCES HIS COUNTRY

Honorary RCM Member His Excellency Songkane Luangmuninthone, Ambassador of Lao People's Democratic Republic to the Republic of the Philippines, introduces his country as follows: