

16th ROTARY CLUB OF MANILA TOURISM AWARDS

Thursday, February 27, 2020

Ballroom, New World Makati Hotel, Makati City

Program Moderator: PP Benny Laguesma

11:30 AM	Registration & Cocktails (Wines courtesy of PE/Dir. Bobby Joseph)	
12:25 PM	Bell to be Rung: Members and Guests are requested to be seated by OIC/Moderator	PP Benny Laguesma
12:30 PM	Call to Order Singing of the Philippine National Anthem Invocation RCM Hymn The Four (4) Way Test Credo	Pres. Jackie Rodriguez RCM WF Music Chorale VPE Thad Liamzon RCM WF Music Chorale All Rotarians led by Rtn. Farid Schoucair
12:35 PM	Introducer of Guests/Visiting Rotarians and Personalities seated at the Presidential Table	STAR Rtn. Marcel Van Mierlo
	Welcome Song	RCM WF Music Chorale
12:40 PM	President's Time	Pres. Jackie Rodriguez
12:42 PM	Memorandum of Agreement Signing between Rotary Club of Manila, JCI Philippines and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources	Pres. Jackie Rodriguez Mark Joseph David 2020 National President JCI Philippines DENR Sec. Roy Cimatu
12:45 PM	Message of Tourism Chairman : Presentation of the 16 th Rotary Club of Manila Tourism Awardees by:	PE/ Dir. Bobby Joseph Pres. Jackie Rodriguez, PE/Dir. Bobby Joseph (Tourism Awards Chairman) PP Francis Juico (Tourism Awards Co-Chairman)
NAME Business Affiliation Category		
Ms. Krizette Chu	Associate Editor Manila Bulletin Lifestyle Section	Print Media
Ms. Lala Ventura	Head, Metro Channel	Cable TV/Channel TV
Mr. Salah Al Balushi	Country Manager, Oman Air	Air Transport
Mr. Radjie Caram, Jr.	Founding Chairman & CEO, Island Living Channel	Philippines' largest lifestyle and travel channel
Mr. Leo Rey Yanson	President, CERES Liner	Land Transport
Mr. Francisco Mauricio	President & COO, AVIS Rent-A-Car International, Guevent Transport Holdings	Land Transport
Mr. Felipe Enrique L. Gozon	Chairman & CEO GMA Network Inc.	Television Media
Mr. Edgar B. Saavedra	Chairman & CEO Megawide Construction Corporation	Logistics
Sec. Eduardo M. Año	Department of the Interior & Local Government	Government
Ms. Marie Venus Q. Tan	Former Chief Operating Officer Tourism Promotion Board Philippines	Government
Hon. Marisol Aragon-Sampelo	Representative, 3 rd District Province of Laguna	Legislative Media
Rtn. Ariel Abriam	Owner/Managing Director, Ariel's Point	Resort
Mr. Hanky Lee, III	President/Innkeeper, The Henry Hotel	Heritage Home
Justice Manuel Lazaro	Chairman, Okada Manila	M.I.C.E.
Rtn. Bernd Schneider	Cluster General Manager, Raffles Hotels & Resorts Fairmont Makati	5-Star Hotel
Sec. Roy A. Cimatu	Department of Environment & Natural Resources	Government
2:00 PM	Response and Adjournment	Pres. Jackie Rodriguez

Official Newsletter of
Rotary Club of Manila

balita

Issue No. 3826

February 27, 2020

16TH ROTARY CLUB OF MANILA TOURISM AWARDS



KABALITA

After being enlightened on the Visiting Forces Agreement and the present state of US-Philippine Bilateral Relations, it's time to recognize the best of the country's Tourism Industry at Asia's First Rotary Club.

www.rcmanila.org


What's Inside

Message from The Philippine President
Tourism Awardees
President's Corner
Club Administration
The Week That Was
Interclub Relations
Basic Education and Literacy
Newspaper Release
Attendance
RCMFI and Sagip Kabataan Directors & Officers
RCM B.O.D. and Editorial Staff
Program

2
3-7
8
9-13
14-18
19-22
23
24
25
26
27
28



MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

MESSAGE

My warmest greetings to the **Rotary Club of Manila, Rotary International District 3810** as it presents the **Tourism Environment Leadership Awards**.

Over the years, your organization has been a reliable partner of the government in advancing programs and initiatives founded on genuine public service and social responsibility. I am hopeful that the honor bestowed upon this administration today will inspire everyone to work towards environmental conservation and the preservation of our natural resources.

Over the years, your organization has been a reliable partner of the government in advancing programs and initiatives founded on genuine public service and social responsibility. I am hopeful that the honor bestowed upon this administration today will inspire everyone to work towards environmental conservation and the preservation of our natural resources.

Rest assured that the government will further implement measures and initiatives to improve urban living and water sanitation standards in our communities. As we push for meaningful and lasting reform in our society, I trust that you will harness your skills and capabilities in helping build a stronger and more prosperous nation.

I wish you success in all your endeavors.

RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE

MANILA
27 February 2020

THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

THE ROTARY CLUB OF MANILA BOARD OF DIRECTORS RY 2019-2020

JACKIE RODRIGUEZ
President

SUSING PINEDA
Immediate Past President

HERMIE ESGUERRA
Vice President

CALOY REYES
NICKY VILLASEÑOR
ALBERT ALDAY
AMADING VALDEZ
BOBBY JOSEPH
ISSAM ELDEBS
Directors

ALBERT ALDAY
Secretary

JASON ONG
Treasurer

RAYMUND JOSEPH IAN MENDOZA
Board Legal Adviser

ARIEL ABRIAM
Assistant Secretary

KARLO CASTRO
Assistant Treasurer

DAVE REYNOLDS
Sergeant-At-Arms

JASON BOGOVICH
Deputy Sergeant-At-Arms

ANNA KUN TOLEDO
Executive Secretary

balita

Official Newsletter of Rotary Club of Manila

PRES. JACKIE RODRIGUEZ
Publisher

SDG/Club Sec./DE/Dir. ALBERT S. ALDAY
Chairman, BALITA Committee
Editor-in-Chief

DE/IPAS RENE R. POLICARPIO
Co-Chairman, BALITA Committee
Managing Editor

PP FRANK A. EVARISTO
Associate Editor

PSAA ELOY ADAMOS
Contributing Editor

IPP SUSING PINEDA
Rtn. **NOEL TANGLAO**
Rtn. **CELSO ABASTILLAS**
Rtn. **JOHNNY CHOTRANI**
Rtn. **AMADING VALDEZ**
PP **FRANK EVARISTO**
IPS **ALVIN LACAMBACAL**
Rtn. **VIC GARCIA**
PDG **ALEX CUREG**
Rtn. **HANS PALACIOS**
TREAS. **JASON ONG**
VPE **NICKY VILLASEÑOR**
PD **JOHN CENICA**
Rtn. **MANNY BLANCO**
Rtn. **TONY LOPEZ**
BALITA Committee

RCM SECRETARIAT

ANNA KUN TOLEDO
Executive Secretary

EMMANUEL L. SALAZAR
Senior Coordinator

AMIEL M. HERNANDEZ
Committee Coordinator

GRACE AQUINO
Fund Coordinator

RCM OFFICE

543 Arquiza Street corner
Grey Street, Ermita, Manila
Tel. No. 527-1886
Fax No. 527-1885

Email: rcmanila@rcmanila.org

RC Manila Foundation**Board of Trustees, RY 2019-2020**

RCM Past Director Robert M. Sears (chairman)

RCM Past Director Issam Eldebs (President)

RCM Immediate Past Pres. Jesus M. Pineda, Jr.

RCM Past Pres. Jose C. Policarpio, Jr.

RCM President Joaquin C. Rodriguez

RCM Vice Pres. Herminio S. Esguerra

RCM Director Robert L. Joseph, Jr.

RCM Past President Teodoro J. Ocampo

RCM PVP F. Francisco Zalardriaga

RCM Past Sec. Alvin D. Lacambacal

RCM Treas. Nicanor S. Villaseñor, III

RCM Asst. Treas. Reinerio C. Lonzaga

RCM Past Director Phillip L. Ong

RCM Past Treasurer Hector O. Tagaysay

Officers:

Alvin Lacambacal

Secretary

Nicky Villaseñor

Treasurer

Albert Alday

Assistant Secretary

Ner Lonzaga

Assistant Treasurer

**SAGIP KABATAAN FOUNDATION
Board of Trustees, 2019-2020**PP Teddy Ocampo
ChairmanPD Philip Ong
PresidentIPDG Rudy Bediones
RCM Pres. Jackie Rodriguez
VP Hermie Esguerra
Dir. Albert Alday
PP Ebot Tan
PP Benny Laguesma
PD Nick Locsin
PD Beda Fajardo
PE/Dir. Bobby Joseph
AT Ner Lonzaga
TrusteesSDG/CS/Dir. Albert Alday
SecretaryPT Chito Tagaysay
TreasurerRtn. Marcus Dee
Asst. SecretaryPD Nick Locsin
Asst. Treasurer



Ms. KRIZETTE CHU
Associate Editor, Manila Bulletin Lifestyle Section
Print Media Category




Ms. Lala Ventura-Lazaro
Head, Metro Channel
Cable TV/Channel TV Category




Mr. Salah Al Balushi
Country Manager, Oman Air
Air Transport Category



ATTENDANCE SUMMARY

RCM Members' Attendance Report, RY 2019-2020

Thursday, February 20, 2020

H.E. Jose Manuel Romualdez, Ambassador of the Philippines to the USA

All Members Present	74
Less: Exempt from Attendance	8
Total Active Members	66
ADD: Make-Up *	5
TOTAL	71
Total # of Members	226
Less: Exempt from Attendance	26
On Leave	14
Total Active Members (Total Percentage Base)	186
TOTAL ATTENDANCE %:	38%

No Credit for MAKE-UP	Date	EVENT
1 Pres. Jackie Rodriguez	2.18.2020	TREES Committee
2 DE Johnny Chotrani	2.18.2020	TREES Committee
3 IPDG Rudy Bediones	2.18.2020	TREES Committee
4 DE Rene Policarpio	2.18.2020	TREES Committee
5 PD Oscar del Rosario	2.18.2020	TREES Committee
CREDITED MAKE UP		
1 PE Bobby Joseph	2.20.2020	RC Cebu
2 IPDG Rudy Bediones	2.20.2020	Rotary Concerns Forum
3 PDG Vince Carlos	2.20.2020	Rotary Concerns Forum
4 PD Raffy Alunan	2.18.2020	TREES Committee
5 Rtn Juan Montel	2.18.2020	TREES Committee

	2.6.2020	2.13.2020	2.20.2020
RCM Members (registered)	40	43	70
RCM Members (unregistered)		2	3
Members' Guests	5	5	9
Guests of GOHS		3	3
Press/Media		0	0
Honorary Members	1	0	1
RC Taipei	1	1	
RC Paris		1	
RC Florida		1	1
RC Manila Midtown	1		
RC Fukui Ajsai			15
RC Makati Poblacion			3
RC Makati Premier			2
TOTAL	48	56	107

ON LEAVE

1 Aboy, Val	8 Garcia, Vic
2 Abriam, Ariel	9 Pagdanganan, Obet
3 Benedicto, Dong	10 Montinola, Tony
4 Bolton. Bollie	11 Santos, Jun
5 Gonzales, Peter	12 Wong, David
6 Lopez, Ning	13 Villegas, Raoul
7 Lopez, Tony	14 Zalamea, Rick



Sixteen individuals will receive the prestigious Rotary Club of Manila (RCM) Tourism Awards 2020 on Thursday, 27 February, during their luncheon meeting at the New World Hotel Makati.

RCM president-elect Bobby Joseph and concurrently chairman, Tourism Awards Committee, said, "This prestigious award is given to persons who gave their utmost services to promote and develop the tourism industry here and abroad."

Awardees are: Rotarian (Rtn) Ariel Abriam, owner and managing director, Ariel's Point (Resort); Rtn Bernd Schneider, cluster representative, Raffles Hotels & Resorts, Fairmont Makati (Hotel); Hanky Lee III, Henry Hotel (Heritage Home); Salah Al Balushi, EVP, Supply Chain Management at Oman Aviation Group (Air Transport); Radjie Caram Jr., founding chairman and CEO, Island Living Channel (Philippines' Largest Lifestyle & Travel Channel); Krizette Chu, associate editor, Lifestyle, Manila Bulletin (Print Media); Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu (Environment); Interior and Local Government Secretary Eduardo Año (Government); Venus Tan, former COO, Tourism Promotions Board (Government); Felipe Enrique Gozon, chairman and CEO GMA Network Inc. (TV Media); Lala Ventura-Lazaro, head, Metro Channel (Blogger Media); Hon. Marisol Aragon-Sampelo, Representative, 3rd District of Laguna Province (Legislative Media); Edgar Saavedra, chairman, Megawide Construction (Hotel, Airport & Resort Construction); Francisco Mauricio, president and COO, Avis Rent A Car International-Guevent Transport Holdings (Land Transportation); Justice Manuel Lazaro, chairman, Tiger Resort Leisure Entertainment Inc. (MICE) and Leo Rey Yanson, president, Ceres Liner (Land Transportation).

Aside from Joseph, members of the Tourism Awards Committee are co-chair Rotary past president (PP) Francis Juico; past district governor Vince Carlos; past vice president Chito Zaldivia; PP Frank Evaristo; director Amading Valdez and club president Jackie Rodriguez.



R.E.A.P. LETTERS

January 27, 2020



Good day!

I'm Mary Ann Estevez, 4th year Marketing student from PLM Business School. I've lost my mom last July 2019 so I decided to apply for a scholarship because I wanted to help my widowed father for our daily expenses. The monthly allowance I receive from Rotary Club Manila has a great help for me because I take some of my projects and daily expenses on the RCM Scholarship allowance. I want to say thank you for Rotary Club Manila because they are continuously helping people without asking anything in exchange.

Sincerely,

Mary Ann A. Estevez

January 26, 2020

Dear Rotary Club,

I am so grateful to be part of your program as your scholar. The reason Why I applied to your program is because I need it, I need a financial support to continue my schooling and for my miscellaneous fee because the only worker of the family is my mom and my dad had a stroke that's why I need a financial support of other. Now, I'm so grateful to have your financial support and it has a big impact for my schooling, now I can buy important things, for my thesis and practice teaching. Thank you so much for the financial support Rotary Club. I hope you continue your good will by helping other in their needs.

Sincerely,

Edmar Reyes
4th year, BSE-English



SDG/Club Secretary/DE/Dir. **Albert Alday** attended the **DISCON 2020** Meeting last February 24, 2020 at the Mayfair Room of the Midas Hotel and Casino in Pasay City.



IPDG Rudy and Lady Sharon Bediones attended the **District 3810 Past Presidents Council Post Valentine's Fellowship** entitled, "**First Class Never Dies...**", hosted by his batch, the First Class Presidents last February 24, 2020 at the Le Parc Event Hall, Pasay City.





Mr. Hanky Lee, III
President/ Innkeeper – The Henry Hotel
Heritage Home Category





Justice Manuel Lazaro
Chairman, Okada Manila
M.I.C.E Category





Rtn Bernd Schneider
Cluster General Manager, Raffles & Fairmont Makati
Blogger Media Category






Sec. Roy A. Cimat
Department of Environment & Natural Resources
Government Category



Dear Fellow Rotarians,

Congratulations to all the heroes of our tourism successes. This is one sector of our economy that deserves the plaudits of the country as well as the Rotary Club. Tourism's revenue stream has risen every year since 1987.

No other than our very own President-Elect/ Dir. Bobby Joseph knows the history of tourism in our country well. He knows it well because he has been part of its growth. And every year he continues to sacrifice in the effort to congratulate and recognize these heroes who have done so much to benefit our country such as increasing foreigners in our country, increasing our foreign exchange, creating jobs in hotels, restaurants and resorts all the countries. We are all in awe and proud of you.

Ambassador Babe, thank you for your time. Thank you for making us aware. Thank you for remembering your friends and your club. We are proud of you. You are a great example of what a true Rotarian should be. We're grateful for the time you spent with us. We know how busy you are. This is your club.

On another note, we are having a very difficult time with our venues. Manila Polo Club has just advised us that they will be charging Php 300,000.00 per meeting for the venue rental. This is aside from the food cost of Php 1,100.00. These ridiculous and exorbitant rates are out of this world and are unconscionable. Other hotels are fully booked and charge higher rates. We may be looking at a higher cost for our weekly meetings. We are still working for the best interests of our club. The solution could very well be a bitter pill to swallow. Alternatives could be The Peninsula Hotel Manila or Dusit Thani Hotel, both located in Makati City unless anyone has any bright ideas which are very much welcome.

Best,

Jackie

ROTARY CONCERNS FORUM FELLOWSHIP NIGHT



IPDG Rudy Bediones, PDG Vince Carlos and PDG Obet Pagdanganan attended the Fellowship Night last February 21, 2020 at the ICON (Iloilo Convention Center), Iloilo City.

ROTARY CONCERNS FORUM DAY 2



IPDG Rudy Bediones spoke on "*Flexibility: Too Much or Too Little*" during Panel Discussion Three last February 22, 2020 at the ICON (Iloilo Convention Center), Iloilo City.



IPDG Rudy and Lady Sharon Bediones with the rest of the District Governors during the Iloilo City Tour last February 21, 2020.

ROTARY CONCERNS FORUM OPENING PLENARY SESSION



PDG Obet Pagdanganan spoke on “*Rotaract: The Future of Rotary*” during Panel Discussion One last February 21, 2020 at the ICON (Iloilo Convention Center), Iloilo City



Speech of
His Excellency JOSE MANUEL “Babe” G. ROMUALDEZ
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the
Republic of the Philippines to the United States of America
on the
Visiting Forces Agreement and US-Philippines Bilateral Relations
Rotary Club of Manila
20 February 2020
New World Makati Hotel Ballroom

I would like to thank Rotary Club of Manila President Jackie Rodriguez, a personal friend, for inviting me to speak here today. My thanks also to Past President Jimmie Policarpio, Chairman, Program Committee, the rest of the RCM Board, and of course all of you whom I have missed for the past year and a half.

I'm now on my third year as Ambassador to the United State, and this is probably one of the most challenging times in our country's relationship with the United States.

As you all know, the order of President Duterte to terminate the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA) – and the reaction of President Trump about this development – points to the changing dynamic in an evolving world.

The VFA which was ratified in 1991, provided guidelines and procedures regarding the entry of American soldiers in the Philippines, and allowed the conduct of joint military exercises between American and Filipino soldiers such as the Balikatan.

Two schools of thought are debating the decision to terminate the VFA. There are those who believe terminating it is the right thing to do because of unclear provisions such as jurisdiction with regard to American soldiers accused of committing a crime.

Some on the other hand paint a very grim picture almost to the point of hysteria, making it appear as if an invasion of the Philippines will occur once the termination of the agreement becomes final after 180 days.

As the chief architect of our foreign policy, President Duterte has determined from the beginning that we will exercise an independent foreign policy that would assert our sovereignty as a nation – a subject that he is most passionate about and rightly so.

While the decision of the President to cancel the VFA may seem drastic to some people, the underlying issue is sovereignty and national interest which are, in the words of DFA Secretary Teddyboy Locsin, the paramount consideration in our foreign relations.

Just as we are expected to respect the laws of other countries, we also expect other countries to respect ours – more so from a longtime ally like the United States.

We want to be treated like an equal partner, with domestic issues that we should resolve on our own without undue demands or interference from other governments.

We are referring of course to the case of Senator Leila de Lima, with some US Senators already making conclusions and declaring it to be “wrongful.”

The demand of these Senators to release Senator De Lima despite the fact that the Supreme Court has ruled on the validity of the drug charges filed against her, was deemed by a large number of Filipinos as unwarranted foreign interference because it unfairly assumes that the Philippines does not have a justice system in place.

This is rather ironic considering that our justice system is modelled after the American system, which is why I have always been emphatic during my engagements with US Senators that we should focus on capacity-building measures to help the Philippines improve its justice system in the same manner that many other nations also need to improve their.

The situation was compounded by the introduction of an amendment to the US Appropriations Bills that would ban Philippine government officials involved in the De Lima case from entering the US. Then the cancellation of Senator Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa’s US visa came, precipitating the decision of the President to abrogate the Visiting Forces Agreement.

Just to let you know, I have continually engaged with US Senators and Congressmen particularly the Democrats to explain the situation in the Philippines.

I provided a summary of the cases involving Senator De Lima and gave them status updates. Early last year, 12 Senators wrote to the President urging the government to release Senator De Lima and drop the charges against Rappler CEO Maria Ressa.

ROTARY CONCERNS FORUM ILOILO 2020



WELCOME DINNER/FELLOWSHIP



IPDG Rudy Bediones, PDG Vince Carlos and PDG Obet Pagdanganan attended the **Welcome Dinner/Fellowship** hosted by District 3850 last February 20, 2020 at the Richmond Hotel in Iloilo City.

ILOILO CITY TOUR



IPDG Rudy Bediones getting ready for the Iloilo City Tour last February 21, 2020.



Pres. Jackie Rodriguez administers the oath of membership pledge to **Mr. Roberto R. Locsin** as the newest “**STAR Rotarian**” in the **Rotary Club of Manila**. **Pres. Jackie Rodriguez** and **SDG/Club Sec./DE/Dir. Albert Alday** place the Rotary pins on **Mr. Roberto R. Locsin**.

RCM WEEKLY BIRTHDAY CELEBRANT/S



Pres. Jackie Rodriguez presents the week's celebrants, **VPE/Dir. Nicky Villaseñor**, **PVP Fausto Preysler** and **PSAA Gunter Matschuck**, for the traditional blowing of candle on the birthday cake amidst the singing by the **RCM World Famous Music Chorale** of the happy birthday song.

We provided a comprehensive reply which we sent to the 12 Senators hoping the information would give a more nuanced and thorough understanding of the issues they raised.

Following that, only four of the original 12 Senators subsequently filed a resolution which sounded more like a demand to drop the cases against Senator De Lima and Maria Ressa.

Be that as it may, the recent developments do not mean the end of our alliance or friendship with the United States. The ties that bind our two nations are deep and extensive, rooted in our shared history and the deep people-to-people relations that have only grown stronger over the years.

Proof of this is the presence of close to five million Filipino-Americans in the US, plus the results of the Social Weather Stations survey covering the 3rd quarter of 2019 that showed the US as the country that Filipinos trust the most and the Pew Research Center survey released last month where of all respondents, Filipinos showed the highest confidence in President Trump at 77 percent.

As I pointed out in my recent column, the VFA is not the be-all and end-all, especially if we look back to the time when the Philippine Senate voted against the retention of the US military bases in 1991 – triggering apprehensions about the fate of the Philippines and Filipinos especially the 20,000 or so working at the Subic Naval Base, and the commercial establishments that were generating a lot of business the presence of the American bases in Clark and Subic.

Despite that hump in our relationship, the alliance between the US and the Philippines remained intact – and I am sure this will remain so because, as DFA Secretary Locsin said, the friendship between the Philippines and the United States is “bigger than our mutual defense requirements, and its roots are buried far deeper in the earth of shared democratic beliefs, attitudes in life, values and vices in practice, with the intergenerational bond and goodwill between our peoples remaining ingrained in the social psyche.”

One could even describe the relationship as a tapestry, with single threads woven together over the past 70 years to create an intricate, multifaceted pattern that makes it unique and special.

When I first took the post as Ambassador to Washington, I asked the President what his marching orders are, and he told me, “just do your job.”

The challenge for me at the time was to reboot the relationship between the Philippines and the United States because of the strain that developed between President Duterte and Barack Obama.

And so I did my job, engaging with US Legislators, the Pentagon, White House officials, and various stakeholders to enhance the relationship between the US and the Philippines in many aspects that include security, the economy and people-to-people ties.

But as they say, the only thing that is permanent in this world is change. The recent developments clearly show that the world is evolving and changing – hopefully for the better, even as the challenge at this time is to pursue other areas of cooperation particularly on the economic front.

The US happens to be our third biggest trading partner, our biggest export market and our fourth largest import source. In fact, the Philippines currently enjoys a trade surplus with the United States, which is also our fifth largest source of investments and the third biggest source of tourists with over one million US visitors in 2018.

With recent indications pointing to the possibility of President Trump having another 4-year term at the White House, it has become even more vital for us to have a good relationship with the Executive Branch of the US government.

Fortunately, both leaders like and respect each other, with President Trump saying he has a very good relationship with President Duterte, who in turn said Trump is a good President who deserves to be re-elected.

As the President's representative in Washington, I am aware that a lot of challenges will be forthcoming, but we are ready to move forward and meet these challenges head on.

I will continue to engage with US legislators, the White House and Pentagon officials and all other stakeholders to forge a good – even better – relationship with our longstanding and only military ally.

We will continue to look for ways to cooperate on the many aspects of the relationship between America and the Philippines.

Let me end by quoting President Manuel Quezon's words during his State of the Nation Address on January 22, 1940:

"We hope for the best. We shall promote friendly relations with other nations and be mindful of their rights. We shall endeavour to protect and defend our national integrity and independence to the limit of our means... We cannot falter in the attainment of our long-cherished Ideal. We must secure a place, however modest, in the concert of free nations."####



Pres. Jackie Rodriguez during his response, presentation to **Ambassador Jose Manuel "Babe" G. Romualdez**, of the club's commemorative bell and gavel set as a token of appreciation and meeting adjournment.

THE ROTARY FOUNDATION – PAUL HARRIS FELLOW



Pres. Jackie Rodriguez presents **AT Karlo Castro** as a new Paul Harris Fellow where he awarded the certificate, pin and medallion to him.

RCM MEMBERSHIP/CLASSIFICATIONS COMMITTEE



SDG/Club Sec./DE/Dir. Albert Alday, as proposer, delivers a brief introduction on the inductee, **Mr. Roberto R. Locsin** (Filipino), Chief Executive Officer, Philippine Growth Terminals, International Container Terminal Services, Inc., who carries the classification, Shipping Services-Maritime Container Terminal Operations.



PD Art Lopez does the honor, pleasure and privilege of introducing **His Excellency Jose Manuel “Babe” G. Romualdez**, Ambassador Extraordinary & Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Philippines to the United States of America, Past Vice President, Rotary Club of Manila, as Guest of Honor and Speaker.



Ambassador Jose Manuel “Babe” G. Romualdez presents to fellow Manila Rotarians, visiting Rotarians and their guests the termination of the **Visiting Forces Agreement** and the present state of **US-Philippines Bilateral Relations** which was followed by an open forum.



The Manila Rotarians who participated in the open forum were PVP Chito Zaldarriaga, PD Beda Fajardo, PVP Lance Masters, Rtn. Celso Abastillas, PP Jimmie Policarpio, Dir. Amading Valdez, Rtn. Tong Payumo, Rtn. Henning Karcher and Rtn. Hans Palacios.



PE/Dir. Bobby Joseph hosted the **Star Rotarians Fellowship** last February 26, 2020 at the Ralph's Wine and Spirits along Pasay Road in Makati City. Present were **Star Rtn. Brian Skinner**, **Star Rtn. Neil Paras**, **Rtn. Mike Ozaeta**, **PE/Dir. Bobby Joseph**, **Rtn. Hans Palacios**, **Pres. Jackie Rodriguez**, **Rtn. Cris Acosta** and **Star Rtn. Hansel Tillmann**.

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

MARCH	GUEST SPEAKERS
5 – Manila Polo Club/Main Lounge	DILG Usec. Bernardo C. Florece, Jr. CONFIRMED
12 – Manila Polo Club, McKinley Room	Mr. Joaquin “Quinito” M. Henson Sports Analyst/Host RCM Sports Award CONFIRMED
19 – Manila Polo Club, McKinley Room	DND Secretary Delfin N. Lorenzana CONFIRMED
26 – New World Makati Hotel	His Excellency KOJI HANEDA Japanese Ambassador & RCM Honorary Member Theme : “Japan –Philippines Friendship Day” CONFIRMED
APRIL 2020	GUEST SPEAKERS
2 – Manila Polo Club	Mr. Ramon “RJ” P. Jacinto “Mr Rock & Roll” C/O Pres. “Jackie” Rodriguez CONFIRMED
9 – MAUNDY THURSDAY	NO LUNCHEON MEETING
16 – Manila Polo Club	OPEN
23 – Manila Polo Club	OPEN
30 – Manila Polo Club	OPEN
APRIL 2020	GUEST SPEAKERS
2 – Manila Polo Club	Mr. Ramon “RJ” P. Jacinto “Mr Rock & Roll” C/O Pres. “Jackie” Rodriguez CONFIRMED
9 – MAUNDY THURSDAY	NO LUNCHEON MEETING
16 – Manila Polo Club	OPEN
23 – Manila Polo Club	OPEN
30 – Manila Polo Club	OPEN
MAY	GUEST SPEAKERS
7 – Manila Polo Club	PE/Dir. “Bobby” Joseph’s Plans & Programs RY 2020-2021 CONFIRMED
14 – Manila Polo Club	TOWER Awards Presentation (Pencilled)
21 – Manila Polo Club	OPEN
28 – Manila Polo Club	Journalism Awards Presentation (Pencilled)



Pres. Jackie Rodriguez calls the joint 28th meeting to order.



DE/IPAS Rene Policarpio, as Officer-In-Charge/ Program Moderator, calls the sequence of activities.



CP/IPP Susing Pineda delivers an ecumenical prayer.



PVP Fausto Preysler leads in the recitation of the Four (4) Way Test to renew with fellow Rotarians their commitment to the Rotary movement.



Rtn. Lutz Kunack introduces the personalities seated at the presidential table, visiting Rotarians and guests.



Pres. Yoshinori Tanaka of RC Fukui Ajsai, Japan delivers his message which was followed by an exchange of club bannerettes with **Pres. Jackie Rodriguez**.



Pres. Jackie Rodriguez, during his President's Time, reported on the Rotary Centennial Circle headed by the Rotary Club of Manila Ambassador of Goodwill Circle Vice Chair. **PD Nick Locsin** who started, founded and is, presently, spearheading the International Relations Program. Their recent trip was at the **Rotary Club of Calcutta's Centennial Celebration** which was highlighted by a Memorandum of Agreement Signing with **Rotary Club of Calcutta Pres. Pumenda Roychowdhury** last February 14, 2020 at the Biswa-Bangla Convention Center in India. R.I. Pres. Mark Daniel Maloney and other Rotarian dignitaries were present during the milestone occasion.