



RC MANILA FOUNDATION, INC.

THE FOUNDATION OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF MANILA'S DREAMS



PVP HERMINIO "HERMIE" S. ESGUERRA
Chairman, RCManila Foundation, Inc.
RY 2021-2022



**STAR Rtn. TEODORO ALEJANDRO
"TEDDY" Y. KALAW IV**
Legal Counsel, RCManila Foundation, Inc.
RY 2021-2022



PP JESUS "SUSING" M. PINEDA JR.
President, RCManila Foundation, Inc.
RY 2021-2022

KABALITA

The Foundation of the Rotary Club of Manila's Dreams unfolds as we take Service Above Self to the next level. Engagement is forthcoming and projects find a new high because being a member of this foundation brings out the Rotarian in each one of us as our very own STAR Rotarian Technocrat, our Foundation Legal Counsel, gives the importance of sustainability and good governance in the foundation lifeline.



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Zoom Weekly Membership Meeting
Rotary Year 2021-2022
 Thursday, July 8, 2021, 12:30 PM

PROGRAM TIMETABLE

11:30 AM	Registration and Zoom In Program Moderator/Facilitator/ChikaTalk	IPAT Marcus Dee
12:25 PM	Presentation of Meeting Protocol/Zoom Meeting House Rules	
12:30 PM	Call to Order Invocation and Special Prayers Philippine National Anthem RCM Hymn Philippine Rotary Hymn The Rotarian Pledge The Four (4) Way Test President's Time	Pres. Chito Zaldarriaga Rtn. Nando Camus AVP of RCM Members AVP of RCM WF Music Chorale AVP STAR Rtn. Martin Romualdez STAR Rtn. Tony Meloto Pres. Chito Zaldarriaga
1:00 PM	RCManila Foundation, Inc. Introduction Relationship of RCManila Foundation, Inc. and the Rotary Club of Manila Introduction of RCManila Foundation, Inc. Board of Trustees and Executive Officers for RY 2021-2022 Presentation of Certificates of Membership signed by RCManila Foundation, Inc. Chairman Hermie Esguerra, RCManila Foundation, Inc. President Susing Pineda and Secretary/Trustee Albert Alday as well as Tokens from RCManila Foundation, Inc. Chairman Hermie Esguerra	AVP PVP Hermie Esguerra Chairman, RCManila Foundation, Inc. RY 2021-2022 Dir. Albert Alday Secretary/Trustee RCManila Foundation, Inc. RY 2021-2022 Sec. Reggie Yu Assistant Treasurer RCManila Foundation, Inc. RY 2021-2022



Zoom Weekly Membership Meeting
Rotary Year 2021-2022
Thursday, July 8, 2021, 12:30 PM

PROGRAM TIMETABLE

Charging of RCManila Foundation, Inc. Members	PP Susing Pineda President, RCManila Foundation, Inc. RY 2021-2022
Induction/Oath of Membership of Members of the RCManila Foundation, Inc.	PVP Hermie Esguerra Chairman, RCManila Foundation, Inc. RY 2021-2022
Primer on "A Foundation for Our Rotary Club: The Governance Perspective"	STAR Rtn. Teddy Kalaw IV Legal Counsel, RCManila Foundation, Inc. RY 2021-2022
Open Forum and Panel Discussion	Board of Trustees & Executive Officers RCManila Foundation, Inc. RY 2021-2022 Panelists
Presentation of Certificate of Appreciation	Pres. Chito Zaldarriaga PVP Hermie Esguerra Programs Committee Chairman
	Attested by: Sec. Reggie Yu
2:30 PM Meeting Adjournment	Pres. Chito Zaldarriaga

HISTORICAL MILESTONES OF THE RCMANILA FOUNDATION, INC.

1975	Conceptualization of the RCManila Foundation, Inc.
1979	The RCManila Foundation, Inc. was born with its registration with the SEC.
October 17, 1991	During the term of RCManila Foundation, Inc. President PDG Romy del Rosario, then Manila Mayor Gemiliano “Mel” Lopez” granted the request of the foundation to sublease the entire Ground Floor of the multi-storey building proposed to be put up by the foundation as the RCManila Foundation Community Service Center on a city property under lease to the foundation, located at Vito Cruz St. corner Maytubig St. in Manila.
1998	First Attempt at applying for PCNC Accreditation
RY 2010–2011	Considered re-applying for PCNC Accreditation
RY 2015–2016	Obtained Certificate of Registration from DSWD
RY 2018–2019	Renewed Certificate of Registration and Obtained Certificate of License to Operate from DSWD Obtained PCNC Accreditation
RY 2019–2020	Amendments to the Articles of Incorporation (February 20, 2020) to change the address of the RCManila Foundation, Inc. and to conform to the PCNC requirement that the administrative expenses of the organization, on an annual basis, shall not exceed 30% of total donations and of total expenditures for the taxable year.
RY 2020–2021	Obtained Renewal of PCNC Accreditation Obtained Certificate of Registration from BIR for Donors Tax Exemption Status

PROFILE OF STAR RTN. TEDDY KALAW IV



TEODORO KALAW IV

Esq. [Phil., NY, & USSC], CBC [APEC], PREC, PREA, PREB, C. Arb., Accred. Med., PMP, CCEP-I, CSP, CSRA; FCI Arb (Intl. Arb. & Med.), FSI Arb, FHKL Arb, FICD, FPL Arb, FAIADR, FRAS, GAICD, IPA, CSEE; B.S. (AdMU), DipMed (CLArb), DipICArb (CLArb), M.P.A. (Univ. Phil.), M.B.A. (Kellogg & HKUST) M.St. (Cambridge), J.D. (AdMU), LL.M. (Harvard)

teodoro.kalaw@philippinelaw.ph

Corporate Governance & Commercial Law

As one of the first and youngest Fellows of the Philippine Institute of Corporate Directors (ICD), Atty. Kalaw has chaired ICD's Family-Owned or Controlled Corporations Circle since 2007, where he was primarily responsible for creating and developing ICD's Governance Framework for Family-Owned or Controlled Corporations as well as the Institute's model for addressing sustainability at the board-level, now known as the Sustainability Strategy Spectrum. He has counseled and taught on corporate governance both locally and internationally, with the latter aspect particularly as a consultant to the World Bank's International Finance Corporation for Indonesia in 2012. A Trustee of the Institute from May 2012 to June 2020, he also serves on its core faculty as Chair of Thought Leadership Committee and is its current Corporate Secretary. He also serves as Corporate Secretary of ICD's sister learned society for public governance, the Institute for Solidarity in Asia, as well as the Center for Excellence in Governance. He is also a Graduate Member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, from which he obtained his Company Directors Course Diploma in 2010.

He presently serves as an independent board director of the shipping and logistics firm Gothong Southern, and is one of the few Filipinos who are fully certified in the Balanced Scorecard Strategic Performance Management approach by the co-founders of the process, Professors Norton and Kaplan of Harvard Business School. Accredited by the Global Reporting Initiative as the first and currently only Filipino Certified Sustainability Professional, he is also both a Certified Sustainability Practitioner and Certified Sustainability Reporting Assurer of the Institute of Certified Sustainability Practitioners.

He was admitted to the Philippine Bar in 1998, New York State Bar in 2002, and the Bar of the United States Supreme Court in 2011. Prior to co-founding and practicing in the law firm of Kalaw Sy Selva & Campos from 2005 to 2019 where he focused on the corporate governance and legal aspects of intellectual property, realty, and securities transactions, commercial litigation and dispute resolution, and public policy representation, Atty. Kalaw was a senior associate at the intellectual property and information technology practice of the Quisumbing Torres Law Firm, the Manila associate firm of Baker & McKenzie International. He was seconded to the information technology practice of the Tokyo associate firm of Baker & McKenzie International and was stationed in Tokyo, Japan from June to September 2002. Since July 2015, he is a Certified Compliance and Ethics Professional – International (CCEP–I) of the Society for Corporate Compliance and Ethics of the United States.

He served a judicial clerkship under Justice Vicente V. Mendoza of the Philippine Supreme Court from 1997 to 1998. Partly in recognition of his performance during his clerkship, the Philippine Civil Service Commission granted him Civil Service Executive Eligibility, the highest grade level in the Philippine Civil Service, at the end of his appointment.

PROFILE OF STAR RTN. TEDDY KALAW IV

Intellectual, Real, & Financial Capital

He served until 2014 as General Counsel of the IP Coalition, the leading policy caucus of intellectual property rights stakeholder associations in the Philippines, with member associations across several industries such as entertainment, software, consumer goods, publishing, and licensee retailers. He was previously Secretary-General of the IP Coalition from 2003 to 2008 and a registered patent attorney of the Philippine IP Office from 1999 to 2001.

In addition to his professional roles as a licensed real estate consultant, appraiser, and broker, he served as the General Counsel of the Philippine Association of Real Estate Boards (PAREB) in 2008 and has been the General Counsel of the Institute of Philippine Real Estate Appraisers (IPREA) since that same year. He was also a national board member of PAREB in 2008 and, from 2008 to 2010, was also a national board member of IPREA. He was also the 2007 Past President of the PAREB Rizal Board of Realtors (the 2007 Luzon Best Board of PAREB). He edited the 2007 edition of the Philippine Real Estate Industry Handbook & Directory. He was the board topnotcher (first placer) of the 2014 Real Estate Consultant Licensing Exam, the highest class of professional real estate service professionals.

He is currently the Treasurer and Director of Kalfam Enterprises, Inc., his clan's real estate holding company as well as Corporate Secretary and Director of the market management firm VKD Holdings Inc., developer of the BF Ruins, the first micro-retail hub in southern Metro Manila. In the field of securities, Atty. Kalaw is the Vice-President for Compliance and Regulatory Affairs of First Orient Securities, Inc., his family's stock brokerage, and is a registered associated person (compliance officer) with the Phil. Securities and Exchange Commission.

Certified as a Project Management Professional (PMP) by the Project Management Institute of the United States since July 2011, he is one of only two Filipinos to be accredited as a Certified Business Counselor (with a practice focus on strategy coaching and business planning) for the APEC region by the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Secretariat in Singapore. He was also the Vice-President for Advocacies & Community Empowerment and subsequently Exec. Vice-President of the Philippine Internet Commerce Society, the industry association of e-commerce service and product providers in the Philippines, from 2005 to 2008.

Dispute Resolution

Atty. Kalaw is the first and only Filipino to be installed as a Chartered Arbitrator as well as certified as an Accredited Mediator by the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CIArb) of the United Kingdom. He is also the first and only Filipino diplomate in both international commercial arbitration and mediation of CIArb and is the only Filipino CIArb Fellow in both the international arbitration and mediation disciplines. As a commercial arbitrator, he has or is presently serving as chair, member, or sole arbitrator in domestic and international tribunals that to date cumulatively involve nearly 46.4 Billion Pesos in claims. As a mediator within his role as a family business governance counselor for the Institute of Corporate Directors of the Philippines, he has assisted in resolving governance and succession concerns involving as many as four family generations and over fifty separate clan members.

He was the President of the Philippine Institute of Arbitrators (PIArb) in 2014 and 2015 and then the Chair of its Board of Trustees from 2016 to 2017, after previously serving for half a decade as the founding Executive Vice-President of that Institute. In such capacity, he has lectured or presented on various aspects of alternative dispute resolution not only in the Philippines but also throughout the ASEAN region

PROFILE OF STAR RTN. TEDDY KALAW IV

and East Asia. He is presently a President Emeritus of PIArb as well as the Senior Warden of the Philippine Chapter of the CIArb East Asia Branch headquartered in Hong Kong. He is among the youngest to be elected a Fellow of CIArb, PIArb, the Singapore Institute of Arbitrators (SIArb), the Hong Kong Institute of Arbitrators (HKIArb), and the Asian Institute of Alternative Dispute Resolution (AIADR). He was a co-editor & contributor to PIArb's official Commercial Arbitration Handbook published in 2015.

He is an accredited arbitrator of CIArb, the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines, the Construction Industry Arbitration Commission of the Philippines, Philippine Dispute Resolution Center, Inc. (PDRCI), the Philippine International Center for Conflict Resolution (PICCR), and the Wholesale Electricity Spot Market (WESM) regulated by the Philippine Energy Regulatory Commission. He chaired the arbitral tribunal that resolved the first two arbitrations of WESM in 2019. Since October 2015, he is the first and currently only professional neutral accredited in all recognized dispute resolution disciplines (arbitration, mediation, conciliation, early neutral evaluation, mediation-arbitration, and mini-trial) by the Office of Alternative Dispute Resolution (OADR) of the Philippine Government. He has been a member of the Board of Trustees of PDRCI since 2017.

As the founding Director since 2017 of the LPU-PIArb Center for the Amicable Resolution of Disputes, the academic arm of PIArb in partnership with the Lyceum of the Philippines University, he is supervising the establishment of the first graduate degree in professional dispute resolution in the Southeast Asian region. In 2019, he began service as the Deputy Secretary-General for Education, Accreditation, and Development of the PICCR, the dispute resolution service provider of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines, to oversee the provision of its training, accreditation, and community-peacemaking programs.

Interdisciplinary Academic Qualifications and Experience

Atty. Kalaw received his Master of Laws (concentrations in corporate finance and electronic commerce) from Harvard Law School in 2001. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in Management from the Ateneo de Manila University in 1993 and his Juris Doctor degree, with 2nd Honors, from the same university in 1997. He obtained his Master in Public Administration degree with the Dean's Medal for a near-perfect grade average from the National College of Public Administration and Governance of the University of the Philippines in 2010 and his Master of Business Administration degree with the joint Executive Master of Business Administration Program of the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University of the United States and the Hong Kong University of Science & Technology Business School in the People's Republic of China in 2012. In 2015, He obtained a Master of Studies in Sustainability Leadership at Wolfson College of the University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom, with his dissertation as supervised by the Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership on "Integrating Sustainability Into Corporate Strategy and Governance in the Philippine Setting: A Comparative Study of Best Practices of Publicly-Listed Corporations Recognized for their Sustainability Leadership".

He currently serves on the faculty of the Ateneo Law School, where he teaches Corporate Governance for the J.D. Program and Intellectual Property Management and Enforcement for the school's pioneering LL.M. Program in intellectual property jointly sponsored by the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines. He was the Philippine delegate to the 2011 Colloquium for Teachers of Intellectual Property jointly organized by the World Intellectual Property Organization and World Trade Organization in Geneva, Switzerland.

Atty. Kalaw served on the faculty of the De La Salle University Graduate School of Business from 1999 to 2003, designing and delivering that graduate school's popular elective on Corporate Legal Management,

PROFILE OF STAR RTN. TEDDY KALAW IV

and was the country correspondent for the Philippines of the Asia Business Law Review from 2002 to 2003. He has also taught at the faculty of the National College of Public Administration and Governance of the University of the Philippines from 2010 to 2012, where he designed and introduced that institution's new graduate courses on the Philippine Judicial System and Negotiation & Dispute Resolution in the Public Sector.

Atty. Kalaw was submissions editor of the Harvard International Law Journal during Academic Year 2000-2001 and his own articles have been published in both local and international academic journals such as the Philippine Journal of Public Administration and the Asia Business Law Review. He was a teaching fellow of the Program on Internet & Society of the Harvard Law School Berkman Center in Boston, U.S.A. [2001] and Singapore [2002]. He is a life member of both Phi Kappa Phi, the international interdisciplinary honor society, as well as Pi Gamma Mu, the international honor society for the social sciences.

Philippine Heritage & Public History

Atty. Kalaw was one of ten recipients of the 2010 Philippine Star Lifestyle Journalism Awards; his piece on his grandmother – former senator Eva Estrada Kalaw – being selected from over four thousand entries submitted to that newspaper. A former heritage columnist of the Philippine Star, his specialty column *Cornerstone* celebrated Filipino heritage in popular culture. He was the executive editor of the official centennial history of the Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of the Philippines, "One Hundred Years of Craftsmanship", as well as its official coffee table directory of constituent lodges, "Philippine Blue Lodges: Heritage, Heraldry, & Heart". As a public historian, he represents the sector in the Board of Trustees of the Philippine Historical Association, the country's union of professional historians. He is also a Fellow of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland.

A prolific public speaker, Atty. Kalaw delivers between 30 to 40 keynotes and professional presentations a year. In Toastmasters International, the world's largest civic organization dedicated to developing communications skills, he is the first and only Filipino to attain that organization's highest achievement norm – Distinguished Toastmaster (DTM) – in both the Traditional and Pathways Programs of Toastmasters International during the same leadership term (July 2019 to June 2020).

As an endurance racer, he has finished both the TBR Dream Marathon in 2014 and the Singapore Sundown Marathon in 2015. He is married to the former Mariliza C. Villarosa, a published author and former Assistant Secretary successively at the Department of Budget & Management and Presidential Management Staff of the Philippine Government. They are blessed with a daughter, Raphaella.

- Current as of 30 November 2020 -

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Dear Fellow RCM Members,

Greetings! Today marks our Second (2nd) Meeting for the Rotary Year 2021-2022 and already we are off to a running start. (Talk about hitting the ground running.)

My personal thanks to the participants of the turnover ceremonies meeting last week!

It was a very touching experience to have been charged by no less than our very own PDG Obet Pagdanganan, and to have been sworn in by our District Governor Robert Koa.

There were an overwhelming 250 plus attendees I am told. The talk that Former Defense Secretary Gibo Teodoro gave was, indeed, a very refreshing and mind-stimulating experience. A true Statesman, indeed.

We have etched out the preliminary plans and programs for today's orientation/roll out of the RCManila Foundation, Inc. (RCMFI) and how it will be relating to our main club.

The practical value of the RCMFI is the existing accreditation of PCNC which allows us tax incentives for the duration of our accreditation. This, however, is an ongoing revalida process which happens annually. As such, we need to institutionalize the RCM projects for sustainability, a pre-requisite of PCNC, if we are to extend our accreditation.

In the coming days, we will be sharing with the body the details of the upcoming projects we will be launching and – get this...for starters – a project that is already fully funded.

This project is chaired by PP Susing Pineda and co-chaired by PP Teddy Ocampo. I will personally be the Director-in-Charge for this project.

Have a great week ahead my dear RCM brothers!

May God bless us all!

Humbly yours in Rotary,

FSZ

Felix Francisco S. Zaldarriaga
President
RY 2021-2022

THE WEEK THAT WAS



IPAT Marcus Dee, as Program Moderator/ Facilitator, calls the day's sequential order of activities.



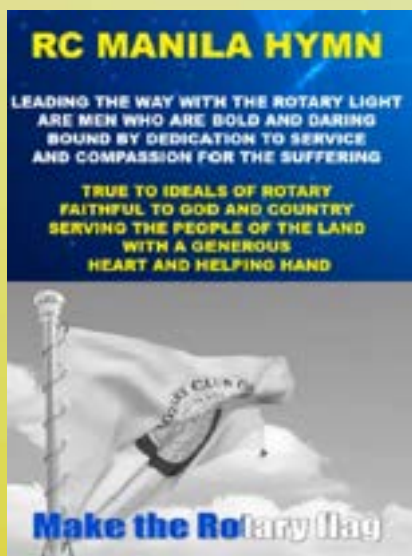
Transformational President Bobby Joseph calls the Induction and Handover Ceremonies to order.



PP Boy Guevara Jr. delivers an Invocation and Special Prayer.



The **Rotary Club of Manila Audiovisual Presentation** of the **Philippine National Anthem**



The **World Famous Music Chorale Audiovisual Presentation** of the **RCM Hymn** and the singing of the **Philippine Rotary Hymn**.



STAR Rtn. Michael Tejumal recites the Rotarian Pledge as a perfect prelude in fostering and strengthening ties amongst fellow Rotarians by way of reinforcing their resolve in furtherance of Service Above Self.

THE WEEK THAT WAS



STAR Rtn. Raf Dionisio leads the recitation of the Four (4) Way Test for Manila Rotarians to renew their commitment to the Rotary movement.



IPAT Marcus Dee acknowledges the Visiting Rotarians and guests.



The World Famous Music Chorale singing the Welcome Song.

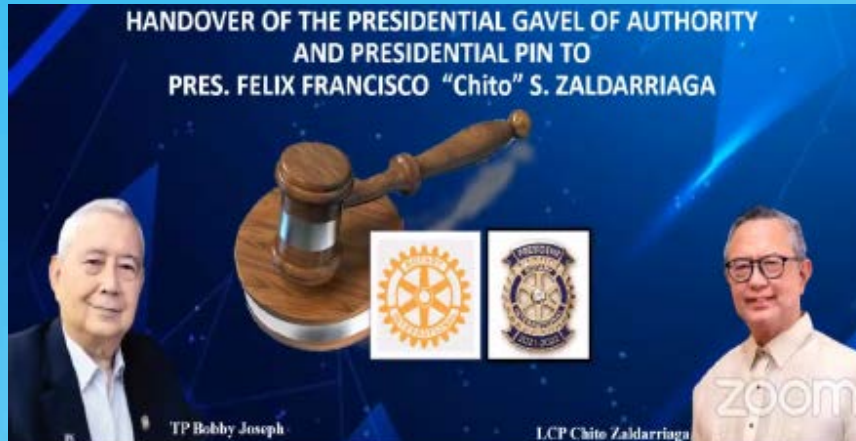


Transformational President Bobby Joseph delivers his Valedictory Message.



Life Changing President Chito Zaldarriaga presents the Plaque of Outstanding Leadership to **Transformational President Bobby Joseph**.

THE WEEK THAT WAS



Transformational President Bobby Joseph hands over the Presidential Gavel of Authority and President's Pin to **Life Changing President Chito Zaldarriaga**.



IPAT Marcus Dee introduces the Board of Directors and Executive Officers of the Rotary Club of Manila for RY 2021-2022.

THE WEEK THAT WAS



PDG Obet Pagdangan conducts the charging of the Board of Directors and Executive Officers of the Rotary Club of Manila for RY 2021-2022.



DG Robert Koa administers the oath of office to the Board of Directors and Executive Officers of the Rotary Club of Manila for RY 2021-2022.



PP Teddy Ocampo introduces **Life Changing President Chito Zaldarriaga**.



Life Changing President Chito Zaldarriaga delivers his Inaugural Address.



DG Robert Koa delivers his Governor's Message.



Ms. Carla Guevara-Laforteza, a multi-awarded international performing theatre actress and concert artist, beautifully renders classic songs to the delight of Manila Rotarians, Visiting Rotarians and guests.

THE WEEK THAT WAS



Programs Committee Chairman PVP Hermie Esguerra introduces Keynote Speaker Atty. Gilberto Eduardo "Gibo" C. Teodoro Jr., Former Secretary of the Department of National Defense.



Keynote Speaker Former Defense Secretary Atty. Gilberto Eduardo "Gibo" C. Teodoro Jr. delivers his talk on "Re-Engineering Public Governance in a Rapidly Changing Global Environment".



An open forum immediately followed right after the talk of **Keynote Speaker Atty. Gilberto Eduardo "Gibo" C. Teodoro, Jr., Former Secretary of the Department of National Defense.**

Among those who participated in the open forum were **President Chito Zaldarriaga, PP Frank Evaristo, IPD Hans Palacios, VP Henning Karcher, PD Beda Fajardo, IPBLA/PD Amading Valdez and Rotary Club of Manila Quiapo Central Life Changing President Janoden "Jano" Gubat.**

THE WEEK THAT WAS



President Chito Zaldarriaga and Programs Committee Chairman PVP Hermie Esguerra present the Certificate of Appreciation, attested by Secretary Reggie Yu, to Atty. Gilberto Eduardo “Gibo” C. Teodoro Jr., Former Secretary of the Department of National Defense.



President Chito Zaldarriaga delivers his closing remarks and thereafter, adjourns the meeting.

CLUB ADMINISTRATION

From the Programs Committee



Dear Fellow Manila Rotarians,

With all the regulatory requirements in order, the time has come to relaunch the Foundation of the Rotary Club of Manila's dreams, the RCManila Foundation, Inc. Get to know its humble beginnings, the road it travelled and how it will work wonders for the Rotary Club of Manila.

I urge the esteemed RCMers to appreciate its value and support its endeavors. Our newly appointed Foundation Legal Counsel STAR Rtn. TEODORO ALEJANDRO "TEDDY" KALAW IV enlightens us with his talk on "A Foundation for Our Rotary Club: The Governance Perspective" as its Board of Trustees are ready to answer your queries in an interactive open forum.

It's a date! 12:30 PM, today, July 8!

Very truly yours,

PVP HERMINIO "HERMIE" S. ESGUERRA
Programs Committee Chairman
Chairman, RCManila Foundation, Inc.
RY 2021-2022

ATTENDANCE

RCM Members' Attendance Report RY 2020-2021

JULY 2021	July 1, 2021 Induction & Handover Ceremonies with DG Robert Koa & Keynote Speaker Former Defense Secretary Atty. Gilberto Eduardo "Gibo" C. Teodoro Jr.
All Members Present	90
Make Up	4
Less: Exempt from Attendance	7
On Leave	0
Total Active Members	87
Total # of Members	224
TOTAL ATTENDANCE %:	39%
<i>Visiting Rotarians</i>	120
<i>Rotaract Club of Manila/Rotaract Club of DLSU Manila</i>	1
<i>Media</i>	0
<i>Guest Speaker/Guest of Honor and Speaker</i>	2
<i>Guests/Guests of RCM MEMBERS</i>	5
<i>Total Attendees</i>	218

CLUB ADMINISTRATION

List of Members Who Have Paid Their Annual Dues for RY 2021-2022

(As of July 7, 2021, 10:00 AM)

	ANNUAL DUES 19-20
17	FULLY PAID
207	UNPAID
0	PARTIALLY PAID
224	TOTAL NUMBER OF MEMBERS

NO.	NAME	OR NUMBER	ANNUAL DUES 20-21	REMARKS
1	Alday, Albert S.	50518	25,000.00	FULLY PAID
2	Castro, Karlo Eugene Josef "Karlo"	50526	25,000.00	FULLY PAID
3	Cureg, Alexander "Alex" P.	50527	25,000.00	FULLY PAID
4	Dayang, Jr., Juan "Jed" E.	50523	25,000.00	FULLY PAID
5	Dy, Manuel "Manny" C.	50520	25,000.00	FULLY PAID
6	Eldebs, Issam "Sam"	50439	25,000.00	FULLY PAID
7	Enriquez, III, Eduardo "Jujut" V.	50519	25,000.00	FULLY PAID
8	Garcia, Paul Joseph "PJ"	50509	25,000.00	FULLY PAID
9	Garcia, Victor	50525	25,000.00	FULLY PAID
10	Gierran, Dante "Dan"	50521	25,000.00	FULLY PAID
11	Joseph, Ralph L.	50514	12,800.00	FULLY PAID
12	Joseph, Jr., Robert Lim "Bobby"	50512	25,000.00	FULLY PAID
13	Joseph, Robert Ian "Robi"	50510	25,000.00	FULLY PAID
14	Liamzon, Romeo Thaddeus "Thad" R.	50515	25,000.00	FULLY PAID
15	Lonzaga, Reinerio "Ner" C.	50524	25,000.00	FULLY PAID
16	Meloto, Antonio	50511	15,800.00	FULLY PAID
17	Zaladarriaga, Felix Francisco "Chito" S.	50528	25,000.00	FULLY PAID

TOTAL **403,600.00**

Reminder: Please secure OR within 3 days upon payment. Kindly email the copy of deposit at rmanila@rmanila.org or send proof of payment in viber. You may also send via fax at #527-1885.

RCMANILA FOUNDATION, INC.

Board of Trustees of the RCManila Foundation, Inc. for RY 2021-2022 Holds Special Meeting



The Board of Trustees of the RCManila Foundation, Inc. for RY 2021-2022 held a Special Meeting last July 5, 2021 via Zoom virtual platform. Present were RCManila Foundation, Inc. Chairman and Programs Committee Chairman PVP Hermie Esguerra, RCManila Foundation, Inc. President PP Susing Pineda, RCManila Foundation, Inc. Secretary/Trustee Dir. Albert Alday, RCManila Foundation, Inc. Treasurer/Trustee PD Pepo Nuñez, RCManila Foundation, Inc. Trustee PD Beda Fajardo, RCManila Foundation, Inc. Trustee PT Lito Sibayan, RCManila Foundation, Inc. Trustee IPP Bobby Joseph, RCManila Foundation, Inc. Trustee PP Jackie Rodriguez, RCManila Foundation, Inc. Trustee President Chito Zaldarriaga, RCManila Foundation, Inc. Trustee PP Teddy Ocampo, RCManila Foundation, Inc. Assistant Treasurer Club Secretary Reggie Yu, RCManila Foundation, Inc. Legal Counsel STAR Rtn. Teddy Kalaw IV, RCManila Foundation, Inc. EA Sol Troniado-Encarnacion and Rotary Club of Manila ES Anna Kun Toledo.

RCManila Foundation, Inc. Holds Technical Team Meeting



The RCManila Foundation, Inc. held a technical team meeting last July 6, 2021 via Zoom virtual platform. Present were RCManila Foundation, Inc. Chairman and Programs Committee Chairman PVP Hermie Esguerra, RCManila Foundation, Inc. Secretary/Trustee Dir. Albert Alday, RCManila Foundation, Inc. Assistant Treasurer Club Secretary Reggie Yu, Rotary Club of Intramuros President Aries Balanay (Creative Director), Rotary Club of Manila ES Anna Kun Toledo, Rotary Club of Manila EA Maricon Bigcas and two members of the technical team.

RCManila Foundation, Inc. Technical Team Holds Technical Run



The RCManila Foundation, Inc. Technical Team held a technical run last July 7, 2021 via Zoom virtual platform. Present were RCManila Foundation, Inc. Chairman and Programs Committee Chairman PVP Hermie Esguerra, RCManila Foundation, Inc. Trustee President Chito Zaldarriaga, RCManila Foundation, Inc. Secretary/Trustee Dir. Albert Alday, RCManila Foundation, Inc. Assistant Secretary IPAT Marcus Dee, RCManila Foundation, Inc. Assistant Treasurer Club Secretary Reggie Yu, Rotary Club of Intramuros President Aries Balanay (Creative Director), RCManila Foundation, Inc. EA Sol Troniado-Encarnacion, Rotary Club of Manila ES Anna Kun Toledo, Rotary Club of Manila EA Maricon Bigcas and three members of the technical staff.

THE ROTARY FOUNDATION

Appeal for Paul Harris Fellows



July 1, 2021

Dear Fellow Rotarians,

An Opportunity has now opened doors for our club to be a 100% Paul Harris Club. With only US\$ 500.00 as a beginning contribution, you can now become a Paul Harris Fellow.

We have members who have risen to donor levels that have earned them significant point values. Our fellow members led by IPP Jackie Rodriguez, PDG Alex Cureg, PVP Hermie Esguerra, PDG Rudy Bediones and PDG Obet Pagdanganan have indicated their willingness to share the points they have earned to allow Rotarians to be enrolled in the Roster of Paul Harris Fellows for only an initial contribution of US\$ 500.00 instead of the regular US\$ 1,000.00.

Contributions can easily be made by enrolling in www.rotary.org using your R.I. Identification Number. Once enrolled, you are allowed to learn Rotary, increase your circle of friendship and contribute conveniently using the website.

We, Rotarians, belong to a global family of service-oriented people who believe that our congregation is a means to share our blessings to the less fortunate communities globally. The Rotary Foundation is the funding arm of global humanitarian undertakings of Rotary International. It was formally named in 1917 and the first trustees were appointed after Rotary International President Arch Klumph proposed for the establishment of an endowment for the purpose of doing good in the world. The first grant of US\$ 500 benefitted the International Society for Crippled Children (Easter Seals). History marks the milestone projects of The Rotary Foundation such a scholarship for international graduate study, the elimination of

Polio worldwide, the initiation of a World Peace Forum, among others. Under the Rotary's 7 Areas of Service Focus, namely, Peace and Conflict Prevention/Resolution, Disease Prevention and Treatment, Water and Sanitation, Maternal and Child Health, Basic Education and Literacy, Economic and Community Development and lastly, Supporting the Environment, Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation have made themselves relevant to developing communities globally.

All these services would not have been made possible if not for the generosity of Rotarians, who voluntarily enlisted themselves to become members of The Rotary Foundation through a minimal contribution of US\$ 1,000.00.

We are currently working on Global Grants and District Grants. Your contribution will significantly improve the community living of our target beneficiaries.

For any assistance, please feel free to contact me.

Yours in the service of Rotary,

ROMEO THADDEUS R. LIAMZON
Chairman, The Rotary Foundation
Director
RY 2021-2022

Noted by:

FELIX FRANCISCO S. ZALDARRIAGA
President
RY 2021-2022

THE ROTARY FOUNDATION

Calling for Proposals for Global Grants for RY 2021-2022



Dear Fellow Manila Rotarians,

This is to announce a call for Global Grant Proposals for Rotary Year 2021-2022. See the fruition of your donations to The Rotary Foundation as you witness sustainable service projects unfold that would define the existence of Asia's First Rotary Club.

For queries, please get in touch with the Secretariat and/or the undersigned.

Yours in Rotary service,

ROMEO THADDEUS "THAD" R. LIAMZON
Chairman, The Rotary Foundation Committee
Director
RY 2021-2022

DISEASE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT

Rotary Club of Manila Distributes Uniforms of Health Workers from the Rotary Club of Singapore to Various Beneficiaries



The Rotary Club of Manila distributed part of the uniforms of health workers donated by the Rotary Club of Singapore to the VRP Medical Center in Mandaluyong City last July 6, 2021. These uniforms contained in boxes were received by Dr. Edgardo Penserga, Medical Director of VRP Medical Center and Former Manila Rotarian Dr. Mariano Lopez, Deputy Medical Director of VRP Medical Center.



The Rotary Club of Manila distributed part of the uniforms of health workers donated by the Rotary Club of Singapore to the Philippine Orthopedic Center in Quezon City. The donations were received by Rtn. Brix Pujalte, Medical Center Chief of the Philippine Orthopedic Center together with Chief Administrative Officer Mrs Joyce de la Llarte.



The Rotary Club of Manila distributed part of the uniforms of health workers donated by the Rotary Club of Singapore to the Philippine Heart Center in Quezon City. The donations were received by Rtn. Jun Aventura.

SUPPORTING THE ENVIRONMENT

Rotary Tree D-3810

Rotary   SERVE TO
CHANGE LIVES

"Save the Philippine Endemic and Native Trees.
It all starts in our hands by planting a tree today."



**ROTARY
TREE**
D - 3 8 1 0

A Kick-off Service Project of RI D3810
lead by RC Sampaloc

4 JULY 2021 | 2:00 PM
TERRA VERDE ECOPARK AND RESORT
MARAGONDON, CAVITE



Robert G. Koa
District Governor
RY 2021-2022

Gabriel De Guzman
Life-Changing President
RY 2021-2022

PROJECT KIT

Front **Back**



**ROTARY
TREE**
A Kick-off Service Project of RI
D3810 lead by RC Sampaloc

Gab De Guzman
Life-Changing President
RC Sampaloc

4 JULY 2021 | 2:00 PM
TERRA VERDE ECOPARK AND RESORT
MARAGONDON, CAVITE

TREE MARKER

NEW GENERATIONS SERVICE

All for the Youth



INTERCLUB RELATIONS

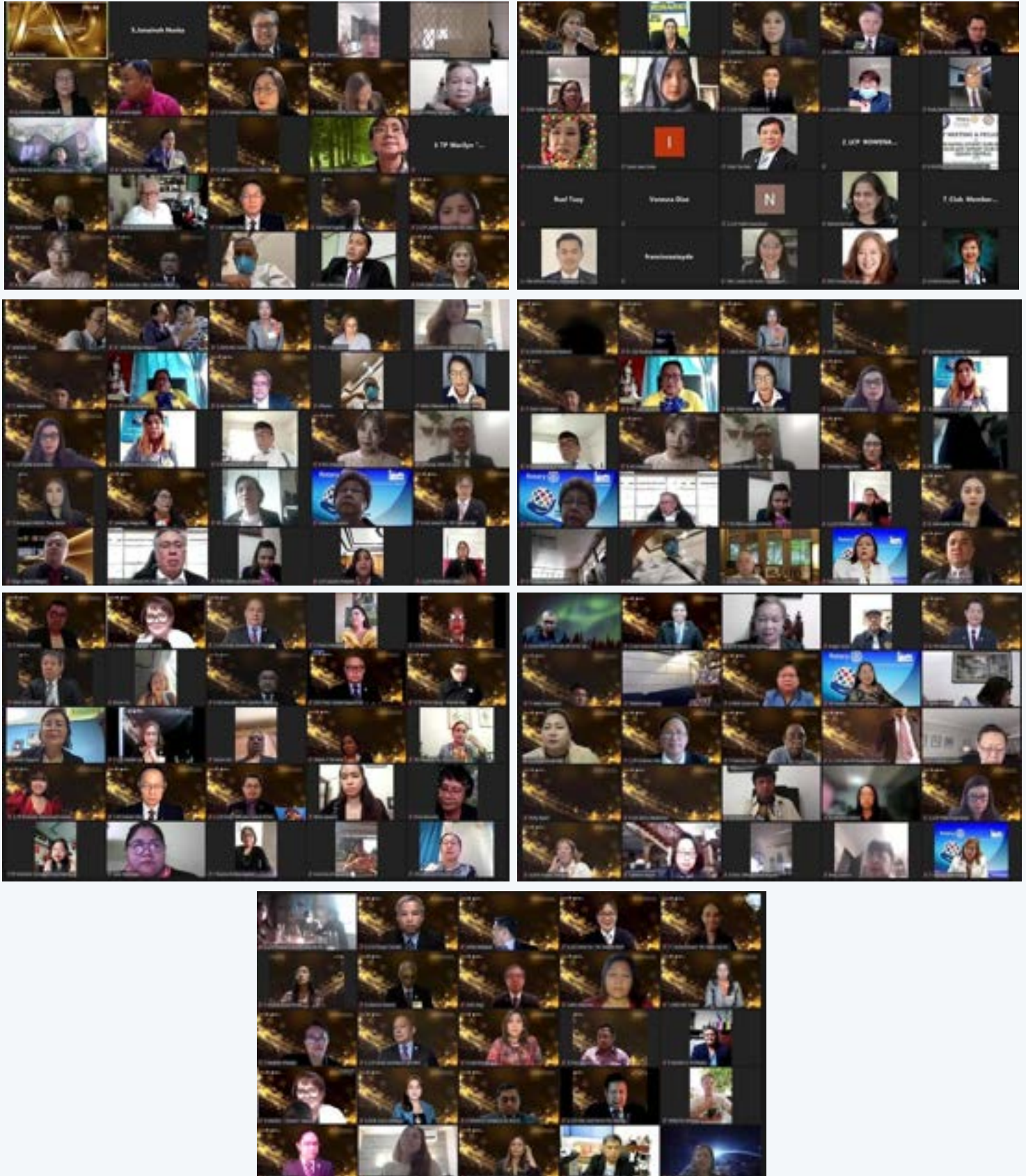
Manila Rotarians Attend District 3810 Handover and Induction Ceremonies



Manila Rotarians attended the District 3810 Handover and Induction Ceremonies hosted by the Rotary Club of Pasay Southeast last July 3, 2021 via Zoom virtual platform. Present were President Chito Zaldarriaga, IPP Bobby Joseph, PDG Rudy Bediones and Lady Sharon Hughes Bediones, PDG Vicente J. Carlos, PDG Obet Pagdanganan, who conducted the Charging of District Executive Committee, Dir. Thad Liamzon, PVP Lance Masters and RCManila Foundation, Inc. Chairman and Programs Committee Chairman PVP Herminio Hermie Esguerra. Dir. Albert Alday and PVP Lance Masters were raffle winners in the said event.

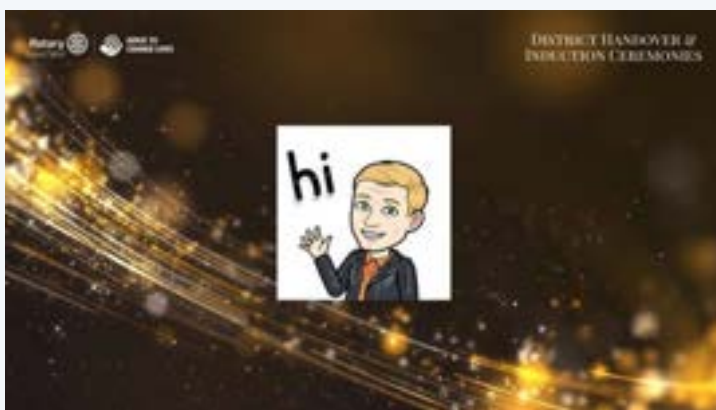
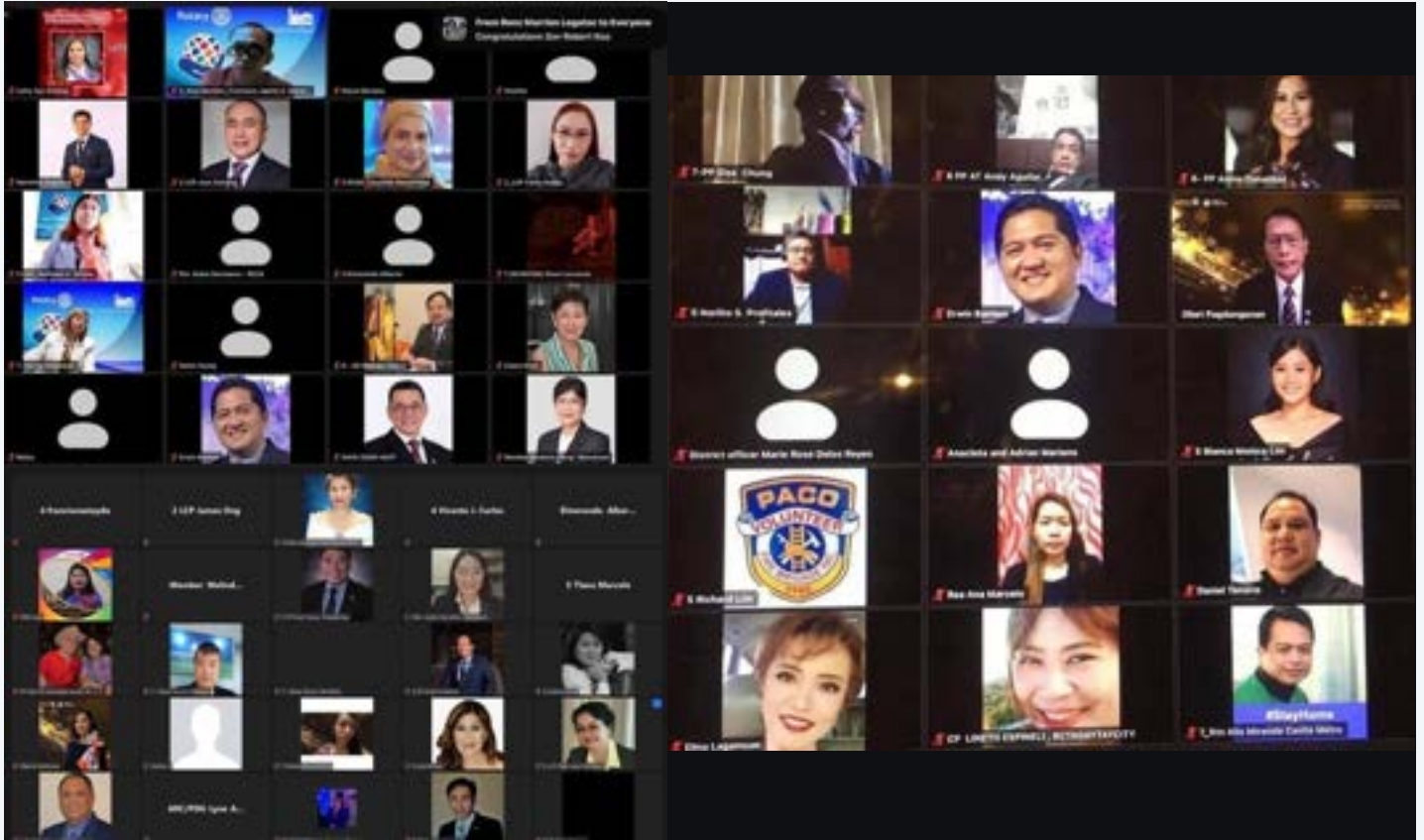
INTERCLUB RELATIONS

Manila Rotarians Attend District 3810 Handover and Induction Ceremonies



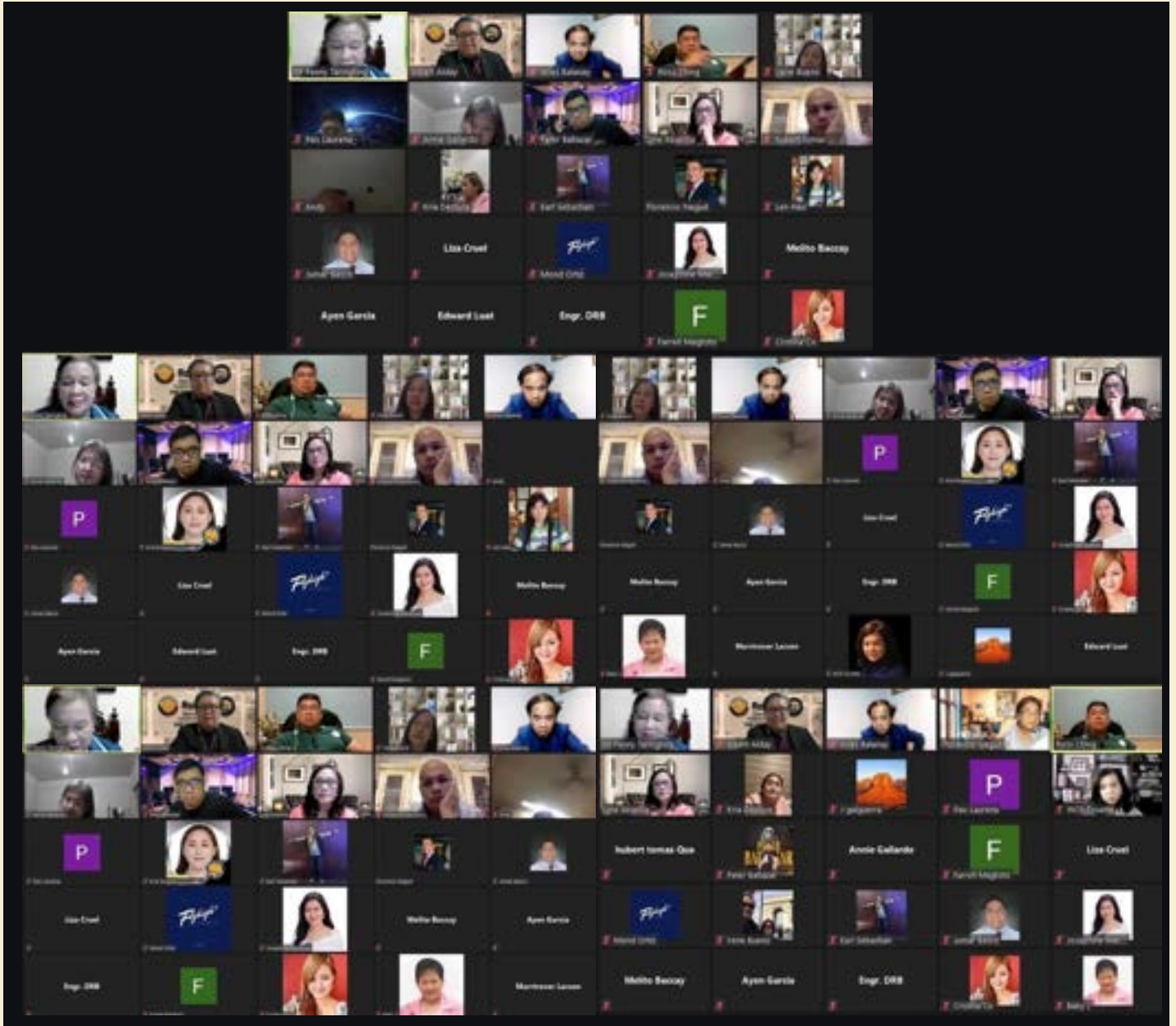
INTERCLUB RELATIONS

Manila Rotarians Attend District 3810 Handover and Induction Ceremonies



INTERCLUB RELATIONS

Dir. Albert Alday Attended the Meeting of the Rotary Club of Intramuros Manila



Dir. Albert Alday attended the first meeting of the Rotary Club of Intramuros Manila under Life Changing President Aries Balanay last July 1, 2021 via Zoom virtual platform. The Rotary Club of Intramuros Manila is a daughter club of the Rotary Club of Manila.

INTERNATIONAL SERVICE

Installation of the 93rd President of the Rotary Club of Colombo



The Rotary Club of Colombo held its Installation of the 93rd President of the Rotary Club of Colombo last July 2, 2021 via Zoom virtual platform. Present were President Chito Zaldarriaga, IPP Bobby Joseph, Dir. Albert Alday, Dir. Johnny Chotrani, ES Anna Kun Toledo and EA Maricon Bigcas.

INTERNATIONAL SERVICE

Installation of the 93rd President of the Rotary Club of Colombo



The Rotary Club of Colombo held its Installation of the 93rd President of the Rotary Club of Colombo last July 2, 2021 via Zoom virtual platform. Present were President Chito Zaldarriaga, IPP Bobby Joseph, Dir. Albert Alday, Dir. Johnny Chotrani, ES Anna Kun Toledo and EA Maricon Bigcas.

STAR Rtn. Alvin R. Ampil: Destined to Follow His Father's Footsteps

by Rhea Vitto Tabora

He is destined for greater things, including following the path his father had taken and making his own mark along the way. After exploring other opportunities, he finally decided to join the business his father set up in 1975. Recently, he entered the Rotary Club of Manila where his father, the late Renato "Boy" Ampil, was Past President.



While he dreamt of becoming a pilot when he was younger and then a lawyer when he grew up, he also toyed with the idea of becoming a priest! Get to know more about STAR Rtn. Alvin as he shares his fascinating journey until he reached where he is today.

STAR Rtn. Alvin R. Ampil now lives a life he fully enjoys, and he couldn't be more proud and grateful.

In this interview, he also shares his source of inspiration as well as his interests and hobbies.



STAR Rtn. Alvin R. Ampil: *Destined to Follow His Father's Footsteps*

Rhea Vitto Tabora (RVT): What was the path you took to get to where you are today?

Alvin R. Ampil (ARA): My first job was as Account Executive in Eagle Express Lines, a freight forwarder. That was my first experience in the import/export industry. After about two years, I left the company for greener pastures (literally) in the pesticide and agricultural chemicals industry. I was in Planters Products where I stayed for the next eleven years. It was around this time that I was again subjected to the pull of the cargo and transport industry.

The entrepreneurial bug bit hard, and I tried my hand in trucking/hauling. It was a very, shall we say, exciting time for me, but it made me exhausted most of the time. I closed it down after a while and explored other opportunities.

My father had been asking me for years to join him in his company, but I kept on refusing. A part of me kept wanting to be independent and have something I could call as really my own. When my latest food business in San Fernando, Pampanga wasn't going anywhere, I reluctantly started to seriously consider joining the family business. It was as if someone up there kept steering me away from other avenues of income so I can join my brother and father. In RAMP, I was third in line, after my father and brother who had been there long before me. It didn't matter because I found the job interesting, even if sometimes it's maddeningly frustrating.

I was surprised one day when my brother informed my dad that he would be leaving the family business to start his own. That was when I became second in command. After my dad passed away due to complications after an accident, I finally was voted in by the family Board of Directors to continue the customs brokerage business.

RVT: What types of services does RAMP Brokerage Corporation provide?

ARA: The company provides Import/Export Customs Brokerage Processing, Customs Consultation Services, International/Domestic Freight Forwarding, Trucking and other allied services.



Another happy day at work

STAR Rtn. Alvin R. Ampil: Destined to Follow His Father's Footsteps

RVT: What are you most proud of regarding the company?

ARA: I take pride in the fact that this is practically the same company started by my father in 1975. We still provide the same personalized, but speedy, service. We still give the homey kind of relationship between us and our clients; many of whom become very good friends. Before, I kept nagging my father to expand the business further, but he kept refusing. Now, I understand why.

RVT: Who or what inspires you?

ARA: Years ago, I realized that if my motivation is to help others, things run more smoothly. If my goal is to earn money, things don't turn out right. So, I make helping others in their businesses and helping others in their life issues as my motivation, and the income follows.

Another reason (THE reason) why I do this is to give thanks to the Big Man upstairs. He has been so good to me all these years, and it's my way of showing my gratitude.

RVT: If you were not an entrepreneur, what career would you like to explore?

ARA: When I was young, I wanted to be a pilot, but my bad eyes prevented me from pursuing that. I also wanted to be a lawyer, and I actually started to take pre-law as an undergraduate. I shifted when I found out that I would have to read so much materials most of the time. And more importantly, understand them. For a short while, I even toyed with the idea of becoming a priest, but quickly shot it down. I had to come to terms that I couldn't be celibate for long.

“

I take pride in the fact that this is practically the same company started by my father in 1975. We still provide the same personalized, but speedy, service. We still give the homey kind of relationship between us and our clients; many of whom become very good friends.

RVT: What are your interests and hobbies? What do you do when you are not at work?

ARA: I am into watches, both expensive and cheap—Swiss, Japanese, Chinese, and others. In fact, I already bought tools and a tool kit for taking them apart.

I also do freediving, where you dive by simply holding your breath. I enjoy cooking, which I took from my paternal grandmother. No week passes when I do not cook for my family. I love hiking and camping; and just before the lockdowns began, I also started taking up barebow archery.



Some of his watch collection

MANILA ROTARIAN IN FOCUS

STAR Rtn. Alvin R. Ampil: *Destined to Follow His Father's Footsteps*



When he is not working, STAR Rtn. Alvin loves to spend time outdoors - freediving, hiking and camping, among other interests.

I also do counseling in my spare time, having taken up Cognitive Behavioral Therapy courses. Several of my friends' children have taken their lives, and I wanted to do something. I first enrolled in a chat group of students who were all depressed, both diagnosed and in fact, and I tried to see what I can do. It soon dawned on me that it was not as simple as offering fatherly or brotherly advice. Their issues were beyond rebelling and common things I experienced as a teenager before; and I found myself quietly retreating before I could do more harm than good.

During one of my dives, I was invited to attend a coaching/counseling course to address depression. My eyes were opened, and I understood more about those who are constantly depressed, or angry, or hopeless. It also made me understand so much of myself, and how to address my own feelings and frustrations. Helping them is how I show gratitude for all the blessings I have received in life.

STAR Rtn. Alvin R. Ampil: *Destined to Follow His Father's Footsteps*

RVT: How does it feel to be a second-generation Rotarian – your father, Mr. Renato “Boy” Ampil, being an RCM Past President?

ARA: It’s an odd feeling, really. On one hand, I have the—for lack of a better term—pressure to live up to my father's many achievements in RCM. It's not easy as I'm a total opposite to him in many ways. On the other hand, many Rotarians—when they find out who I am—are suddenly warm and friendly. It's like attending a family reunion, where you feel at home even if it's your first time being there.

RVT: As a STAR Rotarian, how would you describe your experience with the Club so far?

ARA: Oh, definitely positive and very good! Had I known that Rotary was like this, I would've joined much sooner!



Left photo: Receiving the Star Rotarian Presidential Citation during the recent Club Awards

Right photo: Receiving the Posthumous Award for Past President Renato “Boy” Ampil

RVT: Please share something about yourself that your fellow Rotarians might not readily know.

ARA: I've been driving regularly since 1987. I've had a total of about 15 cars. Since that time, I've never owned any car in my life; at least on paper. They have all been under the name of my father, my mother, my sister, or the company I'm working for at the time. Maybe I'll have one named to myself before I die.

Rotary Tropies



Church Award



Here's How Hotels can Serve Guests Better - Keep Your Employees Healthy



Here's how hotels can serve guests better—keep your employees healthy

BY MA. STELLA F. ARNALDO · JULY 1, 2021
1 SHARE · 4 MINUTE READ

**SOMETHING
LIKE LIFE**
MA. STELLA F. ARNALDO

@akosistellaBM



SEAL OF GOOD HOUSEKEEPING



PHOA president Art Lopez

I ASKED PHOA President Arthur Lopez if he thought the hoteliers would follow Leachon's suggestion of allocating an annual budget for Covid booster shots for their employees. "I think they will if it is for the survival of the business," he said.

Veteran hotelier Jose Mari del Rosario, president of Phinma Microtel, told me many will likely do it. "Yes, it's a good program. This will further assure guests that our hotels are a safe haven [and] hotels are pro-active. We already do it for flu vaccines shots anyway."

He added, "For me, it's like a Seal of Good Housekeeping. It's very much aligned to the health/safety mindset that our industry has taken, and which has gained traction without much prodding. Even before the DOT [Department of Tourism] made it mandatory, responsible owners were already doing it."

As for funding booster shots of employees who received Sinovac, del Rosario is taking a more prudent approach. "We'll probably wait for further conclusive studies."

Here's How Hotels can Serve Guests Better - Keep Your Employees Healthy

Leachon warned that the onset of the rainy season will be particularly difficult for the country as people will not be able to practice physical distancing as they squeeze in together under sheds, which could set off the more virulent Delta variant of the virus. The Department of Health has already recorded 17 cases of the Delta variant.

NO OUTBREAKS DUE TO TOURISM

HE praised the hotel industry for partnering with the government and doing its share in strictly implementing health and sanitation protocols in their properties to prevent any Covid-19 infections. Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo Puyat herself recently asserted that there has been no recorded case of Covid outbreaks because of tourism.

The good secretary has been pushing for the opening of more travel destinations, and so far Baguio, Panglao Island in Bohol, El Nido in Palawan, and Boracay Island in Aklan are among the major destinations that are accepting tourists from Metro

Manila, even if it is still under general community quarantine. She also moved to subsidize 50 percent of the cost of RT-PCR tests for domestic travelers.

According to an internal survey of PHOA, there is a very high "vaccination confidence" rate among the employees of its member-hotels, ranging from 91.3 percent to 97 percent as of June this year. As of June 25, many of its member-hotels have already reached at least 51 percent vaccination of its employees.

Noting the vaccine confidence of the tourism industry in general, Leachon said, "That's very good. Because if you're protected by the vaccine, then you can work. That's the secret of the US and Israel, that's why they have been able to ditch the face mask already."

However, unless government gets it act together and sync with the vision of the business sector, I think we will continue to remain in this Covid rut. True enough, even Leachon sees the country achieving the so-called herd immunity only by December 2022, unless vaccination speeds up. *Tiis-tiis na lang, people.*

IPP Bobby Joseph Receives Plaque of Outstanding Leadership



IPP Bobby Joseph received the Plaque of Outstanding Leadership from President Chito Zaldarriaga during the Induction and Handover Ceremonies held last July 1, 2021 via Zoom virtual platform.

IPP Bobby Joseph is Guest at Hall of Famer Radyo Balintataw



PRESENT

RADYO BALINTATAW

SUNDAY , JULY 3 | 6 PM
DZRH-666 AM

THE DECADE OF OCEAN SCIENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



Featuring...

Immediate past commodore
of Manila Yacht Club, and
Past Rotary president Bobby
Joseph Manila Bay and Pasig
River

Hosted by:

Cecile Guidote-Alvarez



IPP Bobby Joseph was guest at Hall of Famer Radyo Balintataw, hosted by Cecile Guidote-Alvarez and co-hosted by IPBLA/PD Amading Valdez last July 4, 2021 on DZRH 666khz on the AM Radio.

STAR Rtn. Martin Romualdez Receives Plaque of Recognition from Archbishop of Palo Most Rev. John F. Du



Archbishop of Palo Most Rev. John F. Du (left) hands over a Plaque of Recognition to House Majority Leader and Leyte Rep. Martin Romualdez (right) for his 'utmost generosity, commitment and unconditional dedication for the growth of the church' during the Pontifical Mass and 132nd Fiesta Celebration of Senor Sto. Nino De Tacloban. Receiving the same award for Tingog Party-List Rep. Yedda Marie K. Romualdez is Tingog Party List 2nd Nominee and Chief of Staff Jude Acidre.

COGS IN THE WHEEL

STAR Rtn. Anton Mauricio Organizes Community Development and Outreach Program with JCFAP on Mental Health



STAR Rtn. Anton Mauricio Organizes Community Development and Outreach Program with JCFAP on Mental Health



Last June 29, 2021, STAR Rotarian Anton Mauricio, in response to the student community's clamor to address their mental wellness, organized a Community Development and Outreach Program with the Junior Confederation of Finance Associations - Philippines (JCFAP), the largest finance student coalition in the country covering over 200 schools nationwide.

In association with the Philippine Mental Health Association, Inc., Mauricio's Financial Literacy Partners (FLP) via JCFAP organized "Solutions for Stronger Aspirations", with Guest Speaker Dr. Gia Sison (of the CNN Philippines medical wellness talk show, G-Talks) fielding questions about mental health during the pandemic and how to deal with it.

50 student beneficiaries were given free pocket WiFi during the virtual Zoom event, to ease their stress regarding connectivity problems.

The Finance Education Center (FEdeCenter) will set up a PEER COUNSELING HOTLINE ANONYMOUS for students.

#itsoknottobeok



For reference:

Financial Literacy Partners:
JCFAP (established 2006)
Chamber of Finance Associations and Professionals (CFAP)
FEdeCenter
Finance Educators Association (Fin.Ed)
FEdeTalks
JCFAP Alumni Association
Wealth Educators

Be the Difference. Experience JCFAP.

#JCFAPOUTREACH2021

***STAR Rtn. Teddy Kalaw IV
Appointed RCManila Foundation, Inc.
Legal Counsel by Board of Trustees***



STAR Rtn. Teddy Kalaw IV was appointed as Legal Counsel of the RCManila Foundation, Inc. in the Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees last July 5, 2021 via Zoom virtual platform.

FELLOWSHIP

Star Rotarians Hold Fellowship at the C Lounge of Conrad Manila



The STAR Rotarians held a fellowship last July 7, 2021 at the C Lounge of the Conrad Manila in Pasay City. Present were STAR Rtn. Alvin Ampil, STAR Rtn. John Bautista, Jr., STAR Rtn. Jop Esquivias, STAR Rtn. Anton Mauricio, STAR Rtn. JB Pallasigue, STAR Rtn. Teddy Tee Jr., STAR Rtn. Brendon Yujuico, STAR Rtn. Inov Talusan, STAR Rtn. Mike Albaña, STAR Rtn. Ralph Joseph, STAR Rtn. Xavy Zialcita, IPP Bobby Joseph, PP Jackie Rodriguez, Dir. Thad Liamzon, Dir. Farid Schoucair, PVP Hermie Esguerra, IPD Hans Palacios, Treasurer Jujut Enriquez and Rtn. Tobi Rast. President Chito Zaldarriaga had a virtual message.

FELLOWSHIP

Star Rotarians Hold Fellowship at the C Lounge of Conrad Manila



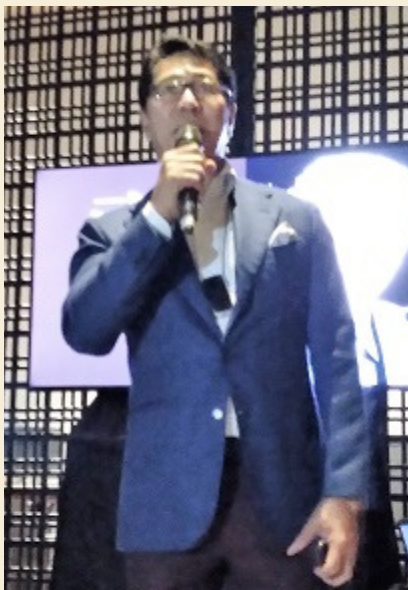
FELLOWSHIP

Star Rotarians Hold Fellowship at the C Lounge of Conrad Manila



FELLOWSHIP

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FELLOWSHIP

Star Rotarians Hold Fellowship at the C Lounge of Conrad Manila



FELLOWSHIP

Star Rotarians Hold Fellowship at the C Lounge of Conrad Manila



Meet Rotary's New President

Meet Rotary's New President

Our new president, Shekhar Mehta, envisions Rotary's next chapter – and is ready to make it a reality

by John Rezek



Shekhar and Rashmi Mehta at their home in Kolkata. Rashmi painted the picture Mother and Child, behind her.

Over the years, I caught glimpses of Shekhar Mehta when he came to One Rotary Center in Evanston, Illinois, for Board of Directors meetings. I met him formally during one of the days of back-to-back meetings with various staff members that every incoming Rotary president participates in. During the session I attended, he was the most relaxed person in the room, despite being the only one suffering from jet lag. He was alert, patient, and asked perceptive questions — not surprising for someone as successful as he is in his professional and philanthropic life. I kept thinking that he was assessing each of us to see how we could be recruited to help him achieve his dreams for Rotary.

Source: www.rotary.org

Meet Rotary's New President

I was lucky to have met Shekhar in person back when we could meet in person. We are now well into the second year of the global COVID-19 pandemic, and as I write this, India is in the depths of a tragic outbreak. Rotary has had to make adjustments, but the business of Rotary goes on.

In a normal year, one of the Rotary editors would have traveled to Kolkata, where Shekhar lives with his wife, Rashi. We would have spent time with him, his family members, and his friends and fellow Rotarians, exploring how his upbringing and adulthood in India have shaped his perspective on life and on Rotary. This year, of course, no one was able to travel — so instead, we asked the people who know Shekhar best to tell us about him in their own words.

In the following pages, members of Shekhar's family, some of his oldest friends, his personal assistant, and his presidential aide share anecdotes and talk about the man they know, in order to help Rotary members everywhere feel that they know him, too. Many of you will, of course, meet him yourselves — virtually, if not in person — over the course of the coming year.

Shekhar Mehta, a member of the Rotary Club of Calcutta-Mahanagar, has been a Rotarian since 1985. He trained as an accountant and founded a real estate development company, Skyline Group, which he also chairs. But his professional title tells only a small part of the story of who he is. He is also a director of the India arm of Operation Eyesight Universal, a Canada-based nonprofit focused on preventing avoidable blindness. He helped establish more than 15 eye hospitals, in several Indian states, that together carry out nearly 50,000 surgeries each year. And he started Saving Little Hearts, a project that has facilitated more than 2,500 heart surgeries for children from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, and some African countries and that is now an India-wide program.

As you'll read in these pages, he also has been actively involved in disaster relief work. Among other undertakings, he helped build 500 homes in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands after the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami.

At the International Assembly this year, Shekhar talked about how he and some fellow Rotarians decided to start a local version of ShelterBox, a Rotarian-founded organization based in the UK. "We named it Shelter Kit and put 52 items of daily need in a large trunk," he told the incoming district governors. "Over the last 15 years, in every major disaster in India, Indian Rotarians have volunteered to bring Shelter Kits to areas struck by disasters." The program already has served about 75,000 people. Shekhar also served on the ShelterBox board of trustees.

Source: www.rotary.org

ROTARY INFORMATION

Meet Rotary's New President

And he is also the architect of the TEACH program, which aims to do nothing less than end illiteracy in India. (You'll read more about this ambitious program in a future issue.)

Although Shekhar is skilled in the business arts, he prefers to engage his other fluencies. He told me that, after so much studying and reading during his career, he now favors learning by talking to people. He added, "I hate accounting." It all follows his belief that we would do well to think from our hearts as much as our minds.



As part of the TEACH program to increase literacy rates in India, Mehta often visits schools that are part of the program, which are known as "Happy Schools." Rotary members in India have transformed more than 3,000 schools into Happy Schools. The Rotary Club of Calcutta-Mahanagar supports this girls' school in Kolkata, Bhowanipur Arya Vidya Mandir, with a daily break-fast for more than 1,000 students.

Chiraag Mehta

Shekhar and Rashi's son

For as long as I can recall, Dad has lived and breathed Rotary. He and my mother have worked hard at both the service and fellowship aspects: planning and attending events, then staying afterward with Rotary friends into the wee hours of innumerable mornings. My sister, Chandni, and I would joke that we have an invisible elder sibling: Rotary. And Rotary has given back to our entire family. It gave Chandni and me our earliest friends, and it gave us the spirit of service, which Dad has always emphasized to us and in his countless Rotary speeches. Throughout his many leadership roles, he always made us part of his journey. We've been to eye hospitals and polio vaccination camps, participated in disaster relief kit work, discussed every aspect of his literacy mission, and attended many conferences. We learned and grew so much as a result.

ROTARY INFORMATION

Meet Rotary's New President

Rotary has contributed hugely to my parents' growth as individuals. Traveling the world and meeting people from many countries has made them more knowledgeable, self-aware, humble, and compassionate. As their son, I feel very privileged to have been a part of it, and proud of who they are today.

One of my earliest childhood memories is of poring over Rotary directories and memorizing the names and themes of Rotary presidents. Now it is surreal, albeit thoroughly deserved, that my dad is Rotary president himself.

Deepak Choudhury

Rotary Club of Calcutta-Mahanagar

Main hoon na: This Hindi phrase, meaning "Don't worry, I am there for you," embodies Shekhar's mindset.

He has been there not only for me, but for many people in Rotary and other parts of his life. He has been this way for as long as I've known him — first as his lawyer before he introduced me to Rotary in 2002, and ever since.

With his encyclopedic knowledge and his wit, he can have you laughing at any moment. But when he sees suffering, he has an unrelenting zeal to eliminate its cause. He dreams about a smiling world, and when he wakes up, he works to make it happen. He is a changemaker who aims to inspire an entire generation to Serve to Change Lives.

I read a few years back that good things happen when you engage in Rotary. Shekhar and Rashi have been instrumental in imbuing this belief in me and others.

"Shekhar's programs and ideas are larger than life, but he always walks the extra mile to make Rotarians feel at home."

Ravi Vadlamani

Rotary Club of Guntur, India 2001-02 governor of District 3150

Source: www.rotary.org

Meet Rotary's New President

Ravi Vadlamani

Rotary Club of Guntur, India
2001-02 governor of District 3150

When I met Shekhar almost 20 years ago, he was busily manning a booth at the Rotary International Convention. His enthusiasm and energy in showcasing his club's projects were infectious. A project man myself, I was inspired by the work exhibited at the booth. That casual encounter developed into a strong friendship.

Shekhar is a visionary leader. He always sees things others can't. He envisaged a way to eradicate illiteracy in India by 2025 and designed the TEACH program (which stands for Teacher support, E-learning, Adult literacy, Child development, Happy school). He started the Shelter Kit project that now is in the vanguard of disaster relief in India. His Saving Little Hearts project, which provides heart surgeries to thousands of children, along with the more than 15 eye hospitals he helped establish, which have served hundreds of thousands, speaks to the scope of his dreams.

He has an exceptional talent for building teams and driving them to achieve their goals. Shekhar's programs and ideas may seem larger than life, but he always walks the extra mile to make Rotarians feel at home.

His power of dreaming big is backed up by planning, perseverance, and patience. He's an excellent communicator who connects with his audience instantly and can motivate people to move mountains. He is also a family man, ably supported by his spouse, Rashi.

Shekhar's X factor as a leader? Nobody is able to say no to him when he asks for something.

Sarla and Nisheeth Totla

Rotary Club of Calcutta-Mahanagar

We met Shekhar and Rashi about 32 years ago through a mutual friend. Today they are not just our friends, but our family. Shekhar is the first person there in all life's joys and sorrows. He was there for our daughter's marriage, taking on major responsibilities. He was there for the cremation of Sarla's mother. Shekhar also introduced us to the Rotary world, something that's been a gigantic part of our lives.

Shekhar has many extraordinary qualities. He is an unparalleled visionary, a great motivator, and an absolute optimist; he's super energetic, enthusiastic, unbelievably kind, and sensitive. He's a perfect family person and, above all, a fantastic human being.

Source: www.rotary.org

ROTARY INFORMATION

Meet Rotary's New President



1 of 17

Mehta's club has constructed some 7,000 toilets in villages where people don't have toilets in their homes; here, he and fellow members (from left) Pravey Agarwal and Sandeep Shah help build one



2 of 17

Meeting patients at an eye hospital founded by the Rotary Club of Calcutta Maharajar



3 of 17

Responding to massive flooding in the state of Andhra Pradesh in 2013 by bringing in Shelter Kits

ROTARY INFORMATION

Meet Rotary's New President



↔ Playing carrom with students at the Paresb Nath Vidyalaya school in Kolkata. "They always beat me," Mehra notes.
4 of 17



↔ Rishi and Shikhar Mehta with Anu Rangul Vidhawan visiting a child who received cardiac surgery through the Saving Little Hearts project.
5 of 17



↔ Past RI Director and Trustee Ashok Mahajan, past District 3142 Governor Chandrasekhhar Kolekar, and Rotary Club of Thane Hills, India, member Anindya Dasgupta.
6 of 17

ROTARY INFORMATION

Meet Rotary's New President



Shekhar and Rashi Mehra with 1999-2000 RI President Carlo Ravizza and his wife, Rossana, at the 1999 International Assembly.

7 of 17



Members celebrate the start of the Rotary Club of Calcutta Mahanagar's 25th anniversary year in July 2015.

8 of 17



In 2016, Rotary leaders from across India, including 2011-12 RI President Kalyan Banerjee and his wife, Binota (front row), lit candles pledging to prepare tens of thousands of children to attend school through the Asha Kiran (Ray of Hope) program, which provides classes for children who have either dropped out or have never been to school to help them catch up with other students in their age group.

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ROTARY INFORMATION

Meet Rotary's New President



← → Shekhar and Rashi Mehra doing their part to spread the message of End Polio Now

10 of 17



← → Enjoying paneer puri, a popular street food in India, with Sangkoo Yun, the current Rotary Foundation vice chair.

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← → The Mehra family: children Chandni and Chirag; Rashi and Shekhar; and daughter-in-law Gotta.

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ROTARY INFORMATION

Meet Rotary's New President



← →
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Mehta's parents, Somer Chand and Yashish Mehta, surrounded by their children and grandchildren: (back row) Chirag and Madhulika Jain, Rashi and Shekhar Mehta, and Rashmi and K.K. Singh, (middle row) Geeta and Chirag Mehta with Shekhar's parents, and (front row) Ishita and Rashmi Jain, Shekhar's daughter, Chandni Mehta, and Sejal and Sanjana Singh.



← →

Partners in life and Rotary Shekhar and Rashi Mehta.



← →
15 of 17

Chirag and Geeta Mehta's son, Veer. "He's our only grand-child so far," Mehta says. "He's the sunshine of our life."

Source: www.rotary.org

ROTARY INFORMATION

Meet Rotary's New President



← →
16 of 17

This apartment complex, which Mehra developed through his company, Skyline Group, is the largest in the state of Rajasthan.



← →
17 of 17

At his desk: "This is where I put all my dreams into action," Mehra says.

Nancy Barbee

Rotary Club of Maysville, North Carolina

2018-21 Regional Rotary Foundation Coordinator, Zone 33

In 2010, to honor then-Rotary President-elect Kalyan Banerjee, Shekhar stated his vision of opening 100 schools, 100 hospitals, 100 training centers for young women, and 100 eye hospitals in India. We were sitting in his home in Kolkata. As I listened, I realized I was in the presence of a visionary.

Since then he has had a profound influence around the world. Pediatric heart surgeries, eye surgeries, the TEACH program for literacy, and memorandums of understanding signed by governments, nonprofits, and foundations — all are the results of his vision.

Every time he speaks, he motivates us all to "dream big." Shekhar inspires us to do better, be better, think better, and do grand things. No more small projects.

Meet Rotary's New President

He was thinking big a decade ago, and I knew I wanted to be a part of his dream, which now has become reality. Shekhar has been leading Rotary in India and inspires others to create positive and sustainable change worldwide.

Ananthanarayanan S. "Venky" Venkatesh

Rotary Club of Chennai Mambalam, India
2021-23 Rotary International director

Closest to Shekhar's heart is humanitarian work, the very DNA of Rotary. Conversations with him invariably last late into the night. I have spent hours with him over the last several years and have yet to figure out when he eats or sleeps. He has unending energy, exquisite people skills, and inspiring thoughts. His enthusiasm is infectious. I am excited to be serving on the Board during his term as president.

Rashmi Singh and Madhulika Jain

Shekhar's sisters

Shekhar, our elder brother, is a dreamer whose next dream is always bigger and more audacious than the previous one. He inherited a love of community service from our parents, and his optimism, meticulousness, and dedication are the secrets to his success.

His favorite response to us is *Main hoon na*, which translates as, "Don't worry, I am there for you." In our more than 50 years together, he has always been true to his word.

Bryn Styles

Rotary Club of Barrie-Huron, Ontario
Aide to the president

I first met Shekhar when we sat on Rotary's Board for 2012-13. Our relationship was cordial, but not close. When Shekhar was nominated as 2021-22 Rotary International president, he asked my wife, Randy, and me to be aides to Rashi and him. Since then we have developed a close friendship.

What I have learned to appreciate about Shekhar is that he listens to advice. He realizes that he is not an expert in all things. Since becoming president-nominee, for example, he has developed a greater understanding and appreciation of Rotary's peace efforts. He has spoken with staff, Rotarians, and our peace partners to learn how we can enhance our efforts with the United Nations, our Rotary Peace Centers, and our peace fellows, among others.

I would be remiss in not mentioning that Shekhar has a wonderful sense of humor, which allows him to engage with people and put them at ease. He's an excellent speaker and ensures that everyone feels welcome. Although I know he regrets not being able to attend presidents-elect training seminars where he would have met Rotary club presidents face to face, his passion comes through even in a virtual setting.

Meet Rotary's New President

Ritu Kedia

Shekhar's Rotary assistant

Shekhar's guiding mantra is: "Service is the rent I pay for the space I occupy on this earth, and I want to be a good tenant." He envisions goals that might seem impossible to others. He can transform his dreams into realistic goals. He is at his best when he works with a team, figuring out a strategy and a timeline. Shekhar excels because of his passion for what he does. He is an amazing orator, persuading others to join his efforts. He is a great planner and digs deep to the grassroots level to ensure that his plan of action will be successful. His involvement is hands-on throughout the process.

Kamal Sanghvi

Rotary Club of Dhanbad, India

2019-21 Rotary International director

People are so accustomed to thinking like everybody else that they are afraid to explore the possibilities of their mind. Shekhar, on the other hand, has an uncanny ability to picture something that isn't yet there. He sees possibilities where others find dead ends.

He constantly questions the status quo and thinks of improving the Rotary experience, product, or service. Shekhar is one of the most innovative people I have known. He has a solution for every problem.

Shekhar has a tremendous capacity to overcome obstacles with sheer steadfastness and grit. He will not sleep until he achieves his goals, no matter how hard that may be. His team members do not rest either, and Shekhar ensures that each one follows a mantra of excellence.

For him, everything has to be larger than life. Thinking big is not unique, but thinking big and achieving the audacious is. Shekhar believes that a dream is not what you see while sleeping; a dream is what won't let you sleep. He believes that "love and compassion are necessities, not luxuries; humanity cannot survive without them." He also believes that if you cannot keep your family happy, you cannot keep anybody else happy.

Anand Sureka

Rotary Club of Calcutta-Mahanagar

I've known Shekhar since 2001 and had the privilege of working closely with him during the year of Rotary's centennial in 2005. Here's what I've learned: He is highly focused, he never says no to anything, he is witty and has a great sense of humor, he always delights his audience when he speaks, and, more than anything, he is a very good human being and a great friend. At the base of all of his activities is the philosophy that mankind is his business.

In 2008, Shekhar dreamed of setting up another eye hospital, in Kolkata. He established a partnership with the L.V. Prasad Eye Institute, one of the best eye care hospitals in the country. He helped raise funds and gave his time, resources, and energy to make it self-sustaining.

Meet Rotary's New President

He always leads from the front. Whenever a disaster struck the nation, I saw Shekhar present. When there were floods in Guntur and Begusarai or earthquakes near the Pakistan border or in Nepal, Shekhar was there, lending his hand for Service Above Self.

He is always looking for ways to do more and explore new areas of service. Whether constructing toilets or setting up a library, he is never short of energy and vision.

Kishore Kumar Cherukumalli

Rotary Club of Vizag Elite, India
2009-10 governor of District 3020

I first encountered Shekhar when he spoke at a club in Kolkata in 2008. I was moved by his speech, which was laced with candid and bold ideas. In 2010, I invited him to our district conference; it turned out to be the beginning of a strong friendship. I have also had the privilege of working with him on events and committees and have witnessed his exceptional work ethic. His mission in Rotary is service, service, service.

He has big dreams, but he is also a keen listener who observes, analyzes, and then implements a plan in order to achieve his objective. He believes strongly in Rotary, and he practices what he preaches. He respects democracy and carefully weighs every opinion in group decisions. This encourages everyone he works with to give their best. He can precisely identify the strengths of his team members and match them with the Rotary responsibilities best suited to them. In meetings he often breaks the monotony with anecdotes and humor.

Shekhar once had to address a conference with just a couple of hours to prepare. One of his former employees lived in the town where the event was being held and had invited him to visit. Although he was on an impossible timetable, Shekhar obliged. He has demonstrated the importance of sustaining relationships — as well as a mysterious supply of constant energy, a capacity for 18-hour workdays, and an ability to provide instant solutions for any problem.

Anirudha Roychowdhury

Rotary Club of Calcutta Mega City
2007-08 governor of District 3291

Shekhar is a charismatic leader who always exudes positive energy. He's a great motivator and an out-of-the-box thinker. He fosters friendships, generates goodwill, and is easily approachable. His never-say-die attitude is one of his greatest assets. He is a down-to-earth person; he enjoys simple food from ordinary places and often visits roadside joints to eat spicy Indian snacks.

He and Rashi complement each other: Rashi is calm and rooted to the ground, providing strength for Shekhar to fly high.

Meet Rotary's New President

Chandni Mehta

Shekhar and Rashi's daughter

Dad has tremendous zeal and enthusiasm for life. He exudes energy and warmth and wins people over with his sense of humor and thoughtfulness. He has an intuitive awareness of inequities, and his commitment to service springs from his commitment to fairness and fellowship among people. He ignites enthusiasm in others. He is, most important, a free soul with an undying spirit for life and action.

"Dad [Shekhar] has tremendous zeal and enthusiasm for life. He exudes energy and warmth and wins people over with his sense of humor and thoughtfulness."

Chandni Mehta

Shekhar and Rashi's daughter

Rajendra "Raja" Saboo

Rotary Club of Chandigarh, India

1991-92 Rotary International president

I got to know Shekhar through Vijay Bhandari, a past district governor who spoke highly of Shekhar, saying that he had potential to rise within Rotary. My friend Vinay Nevatia, a member of the Rotary Club of Calcutta, told me that if I were to go to Shekhar's apartment I would find that it was full of materials for disaster relief kits, and that both Shekhar and his wife, Rashi, would themselves be busy packing the boxes. I realized Shekhar was a hands-on, service-oriented Rotarian.

When the Boxing Day tsunami hit in 2004, Shekhar's club put together hundreds of kits for people on the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, which had been devastated. Shekhar traveled thousands of miles, many times, to and from those islands in the Bay of Bengal to deliver kits and help set up shelters. And in 2015, Shekhar packed and organized the kits that were destined for Nepal after a catastrophic earthquake there.

Rashi Mehta

Shekhar's wife

Shekhar has a deep soul and a large heart. He is not only genuinely kind but also sees kindness in others, and never shies from praising and encouraging others for the smallest acts of goodness. He loves to work with people; he is a team guy as much as a leader. His joy, energy, and capabilities double up when he works with a team. He is an exceptionally positive and enthusiastic person. I have not seen the thought of failure bogging him down. If anything, he emerges stronger and smarter out of challenging situations. He has trained his mind to see the silver lining in difficult situations and firmly holds on to the faith that we will overcome.

Meet Rotary's New President

"Rotary has contributed hugely to my parents' growth as individuals. Traveling the world and meeting people from hundreds of countries has made them so much more knowledgeable, self-aware, humble, and compassionate."

Kalyan Banerjee

Rotary Club of Vapi, India, 2011-12 Rotary International president

Kalyan Banerjee

Rotary Club of Vapi, India

2011-12 Rotary International president

I first met Shekhar 25 years ago. I was a Rotary International director, and then-RI President Herb Brown had asked me to convene a South Asia conference in Kathmandu, Nepal, which then was in the same district as Kolkata. The district governor had assigned a team of young Rotarians to help me organize the event, and one particularly bright, smart, and often outspoken young man engaged my attention. He was full of ideas, enthusiasm, and innovations and was always willing to learn. That's how I first got to know Shekhar.

Following the success of the Nepal event, Shekhar and I stayed connected. I followed his Rotary career with interest, first as he was elected governor of his district and then, a few years later, as a director. I was always amazed by his ability to get people to support him enthusiastically in whatever task he gave them. He was irrepressible and bustling with new ideas.

After the Boxing Day tsunami, he traveled to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands — which, though a part of his district, are 1,000 miles away in the Indian Ocean. And he later devised an amazing kit, which included a tent, bedding, toiletries, candles, clothing, and basic tools. Rotarians from all Indian districts helped with funds, and if there was an earthquake in Nepal, as there often are, or a tsunami in Chennai or a cyclone in Odisha or a disaster in Maharashtra, the kits would be there in 24 hours flat. Shekhar himself would be there just a bit later.

The UK-based ShelterBox, which was started by Rotarians, is internationally known for providing relief after disasters anywhere in the world. Around 2015, the Rotary Board asked Shekhar to meet with ShelterBox to negotiate a long-term arrangement. Not only was he successful in that, he served as a ShelterBox trustee as well.

Over the years, with his obvious sincerity and commitment to Rotary, Shekhar has elicited amazing trust and devotion from almost every Rotarian he meets, everywhere. I have watched with admiration as he became somewhat of a piper in Rotary and was not surprised when he took on the assignment to help make India fully literate. No one was sure how this could be done. India has a population of 1.3 billion people, about a quarter of whom are not literate. Shekhar connected with the Indian government, joined with all the appropriate NGOs, and got Rotary's efforts and sincerity recognized.

This literacy task is as big as making India polio-free. Now, with Shekhar leading Rotary, I'm confident that it will be achieved. And Shekhar will ensure that Rotary is recognized all over the world not only for the service that it does, but for bringing people everywhere together.

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

Benigno S. Ocampo, Father of PP Teddy Ocampo, Passes Away



**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, EXECUTIVE OFFICERS, MEMBERSHIP
AND STAFF OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF MANILA**

condole with the family of



Benigno S. Ocampo

July 5, 1923 - July 7, 2021

Father of PP Teddy Ocampo

who passed away peacefully in the grace of the Lord at the age of 98.

Let us all pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

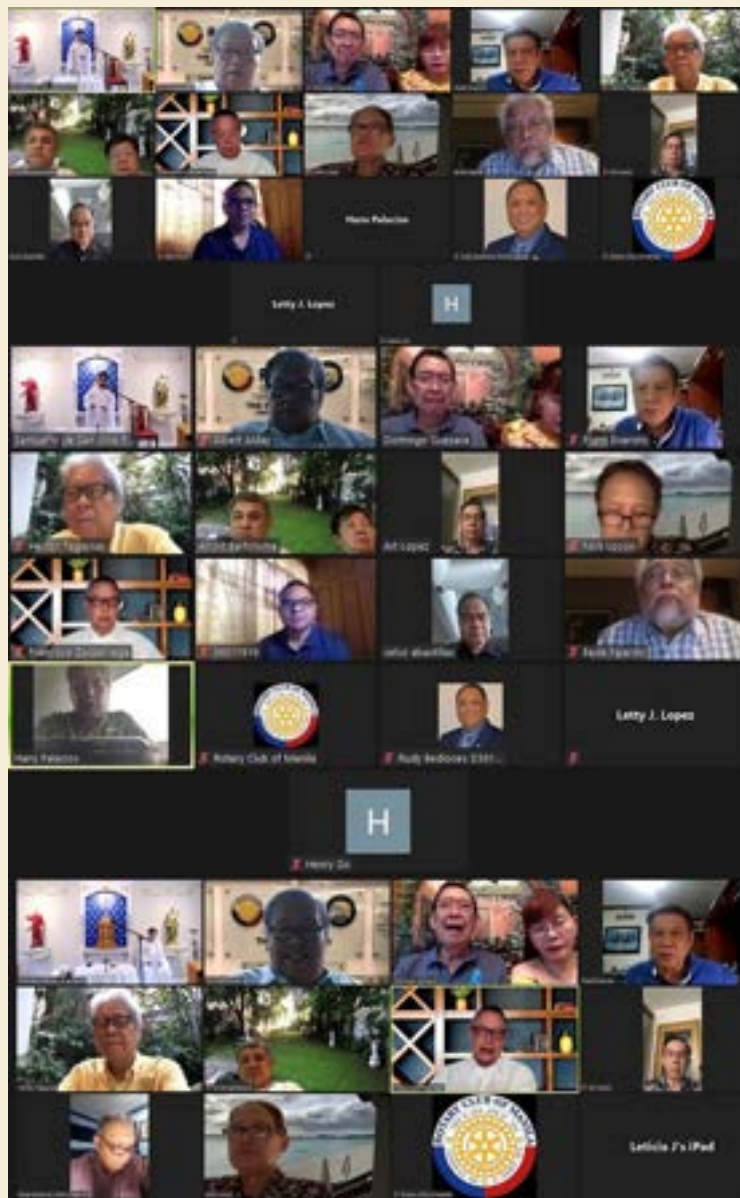
OTHER MATTERS



Manila Rotarians Attend First Friday Mass for the Month of July

Manila Rotarians attended the First Friday Mass for the month of July last July 2, 2021 via Zoom virtual platform. Present were Dir. Albert Alday, PP Boy and Rotary Ann Monette Guevara, PP Frank Evaristo, PT Chito Tagaysay, PP Archit and

Rotary Ann Nene Bartolome, President Chito Zaldarriaga, PD Nick Locsin, PD Beda Fajardo, PD Art and Rotary Ann Letty Lopez, IPD Celso Abastillas, Rtn. Jed Dayang, IPD Hans Palacios, PDG Rudy Bediones, AS Henry Go and ES Anna Kun Toledo.



OTHER MATTERS

POSTER FOR A BENEFIT CONCERT FOR THE GYMNASTS

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PRESENTS

WE WIN AS ONE
A BENEFIT CONCERT
for the gymnasts

July 15, 2021 show starts at 8:00 pm (gate opens 6:00 pm)
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Straight from the Horse's Mouth

By Club Secretary Reginald "Reggie" T. Yu
Managing Editor, BALITA, RY 2021-2022



MY REFLECTIONS ON "THE PUNISHER." *"Peace has to be created, in order to be maintained. It will never be achieved by passivity and quietism."* — Dorothy Thompson

In three weeks, President Duterte will deliver his sixth and final State of the Nation Address as his administration battles a pandemic and strives to complete an unfinished task to end drugs and corruption in the country. Five years ago, Duterte won the presidency campaigning on a promise to fight corruption, crime and illegal drugs; today, he continues to campaign on his accomplishments, centering on the key three pillars of his legacy: peace and order, infrastructure and development, and poverty alleviation.

Undoubtedly, among all the Chief Executives our country has ever had, President Duterte was probably the most unorthodox, both in his rise to power and in the "method of his madness." He suffers from none of the charges that dog most Philippine politicians: that he is beholden to vested interests, obsessed with retaining power, or bent on accumulating its spoils. His solutions to what ail Filipino society today are downright simple and straightforward: drugs, poverty, corruption. Part of the fascination of his personality is that he also has an incongruously soft and liberal streak. Though heretical, his ways continue to enjoy overwhelming public support. And because he has the ability to demean both himself and the people he hates — often punctuated by expletive-ridden talk — his five years of controversies that may have felled any other political career, this president is now on track to becoming the country's most popular post-Marcos leader. And, is likely to defy the lame-duck fate of most Philippine commanders-in-chief, a huge asset for his last year in power.

I have had the incredible opportunity of seeing this first-hand when he accepted our invitation to speak with a large group of young Filipino-Chinese Entrepreneurs of the Anvil Business Club — an organization I headed as president — a few years back. Attended by nearly two hundred of curious businessmen who wanted to see him up-close-and-personal, the President shared his colorful life story and titillated not a few young lady members of the audience.

Uncharacteristically draped in a suit and tie, the feisty - yet surprisingly soft-spoken - former Davao City hizzoner was certainly in his element, as he enlightened his audience with a short but engaging history lesson about Mindanao, beginning with Ferdinand Magellan's arrival in the islands in 1521, all the way to his "war on drugs." While his forty-five-minute talk was peppered with... er... colorful expletives, there was no denying that President Duterte's straightforward honesty made him too much of a verbal gunslinger that his "quotable" statements carried with them the firepower of a full-fledged army - which actually endeared him more with the audience.

This contentious "Sentinel Against Crime" has sufficiently shed light on a number of pressing issues which — until recently — have lingered long in the minds of many in our audience. He adroitly answered even the most disputed of questions with such straightforward candor, and elucidated them with such clarity that they silenced even the most incorrigible skeptic. He minced no words about his disdain for drug dealers and other criminal elements ("If I catch you dealing with drugs, you will never leave the country

Straight from the Horse's Mouth

By Club Secretary Reginald "Reggie" T. Yu
Managing Editor, BALITA, RY 2021-2022



alive by daybreak..."); his Zero Corruption drive ("Any attempt to bribe our officials or employees by businessmen will have their applications and permits thrown to the waste basket..."); and his thoughts on the flawed penal system ("I will look for a dilapidated ship which could be left afloat in the middle of the ocean and keep these hardened criminals there...").

No doubt, our browbeating guest speaker — whom Time Magazine has appropriately nicknamed "The Punisher" for his unconventional policing tactics — ennobled the Club's Business Exchange Forum that evening, not only with his venerable presence; but also, with his far-reaching vision for the country and the extraordinary lengths he will go to make it happen. And judging by the almost endless stream of admirers lining up for a "selfie" with him that evening (now, that's a FIRST!), it became clearly apparent that he had his audience at "hello."

Even with one year left to go before he steps down as President, many still pin their hopes on him to address the most pressing problems faced by the common people; many still see him as the embodiment of the strong leadership and change they want. In the minds of his countless supporters, a benevolent dictatorship personified by Duterte is justified for as long as ordinary citizens as well as businessmen feel safer across the entire length and breadth of this archipelago of 7,107 islands.

To be sure, he has gloriously presented himself as the antithesis of most Filipino politicians to believers and non-believers alike. He spread his gospel of radical change through every unorthodox means at his disposal: a message of contempt for the rituals that have become integral to the Office of the President. He often expressed his preference on authenticity over substance, sincere gaucheness over political correctness and sheer expediency over the normative routines of due process.

Perhaps, this is why Rodrigo Roa Duterte, despite his innumerable faults and faux pas, make him a much-beloved anti-establishment leader whom people affectionately call "The Punisher."





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