

Official Newsletter of
Rotary Club of Manila

balita

ISSUE NO. 3971 | JULY 20, 2023

GUEST SPEAKER



HON. TEODORO J. HERBOSA. MD

Secretary, Department of Health

Kabalita

The correlation between a nation's economic growth and the health of its citizens is undeniable. This means that the improved health of a country's population indubitably impacts on its economic development. This, coupled with the recognition that the right to health is a fundamental human right, imposes upon our Government the obligation to ensure every person's access to timely, acceptable, and affordable health care. In fact, no less than the Philippine Constitution mandates the State to adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make health and other social services available to all.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

03

Program Timetable

05

Guest Speaker's Profile

08

Editor's Note

10

2nd Weekly Membership Meeting: A Recap

21

Rotary Leader

24

Club Administration

27

Club Activities

28

District Activities

29

Comic Relief

30

Press Coverage

35

Recognition Corner

36

Board of Directors and Executive Officers for
RY 2023-2024 | Editorial Board for RY 2023-2024

PROGRAM TIMETABLE

3rd Weekly Membership Meeting

Rotary Year 2022-2023

Thursday, July 20, 2023, 12:30 PM

MANILA POLO CLUB

MODERATOR: RTN. JOSE 'Brix' PUJALTE

Part I

12:00 PM	Registration	
12:30 PM	Call to Order	PRESIDENT RAFAEL M. ALUNAN III
	Invocation and Special Prayers	RTN. CARLOS BUENDIA
	Philippine National Anthem	AVP of RCM Members
	The Four-Way Test	RTN. PAUL ANTHONY KOH
	Manila Rotary Hymn	RCM WF Music Chorale
	Acknowledgment of Guests	
	Welcome Song	RCM WF Music Chorale
	<u>RC Manila Birthday Celebrants for the week</u>	
	July 14	PDG RUDY BEDIONES
	July 15	STAR RTN JESUS VICENTE MAGSAYSAY
	July 17	RTN. JACK BRANELLEC
	July 18	STAR RTN. AEROLD ANDRES
	July 19	PDG OBET PAGDANGANAN
	Maligayang Bati/Happy Birthday Song	RCM WF Music Chorale
	Presentation and Induction of Directors and Officers	PDG ROBERTO M. PAGDANGANAN
	PRESIDENT'S TIME	PRESIDENT RAFAEL M. ALUNAN III

3rd Weekly Membership Meeting

PART II INTRODUCTION OF GUEST SPEAKER

PD JOHN CENICA

Address

HON. TEODORO J. HERBOSA. MD
Secretary, Department of Health

OPEN FORUM

PRESENTATION OF THE CERTIFICATE
OF APPRECIATION

PRESIDENT RAFAEL M. ALUNAN III
PP & DGE JOAQUIN C. RODRIGUEZ, SR.
Programs Committee Chairman

2:00 PM **Closing Remarks and Meeting Adjournment**

PRESIDENT RAFAEL M. ALUNAN III

Philippine Rotary Hymn

RCM WF Music Chorale



GUEST SPEAKER'S PROFILE



HON. TEODORO J. HERBOSA. MD

Secretary, Department of Health

PROFILE

Member of the team that developed the disaster program of the Department of Health of the Republic of the Philippines, the STOP DEATH Program. Established the Trauma Fellowship Program and the Emergency Medicine Residency Program in the University of the Philippines. Helped establish Life Support Training International which is Philippines oldest and largest producer of Emergency Medical Technicians. Became Regional Coordinator of the Hospital Preparedness for Emergencies (HOPE) for Asia with Johns Hopkins School of Public Health. Member of the Safe Surgery Saves Lives Global Task Force that developed the WHO safe surgery checklist. International consultant in the Field of Emergency and Trauma (Palau, Maldives, Malaysia, Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Vietnam, Tunisia, Thailand)

SPECIALTIES

Trauma Surgery, Emergency Medicine, Disaster Medicine, Risk Management, Prehospital Care, Patient Safety, Safe Surgery

EXPERIENCE

University of the Philippines

- Professor and Chairman, January 2022 - Present
- Executive Vice President, February 2017 - Present
- Associate Professor, 1990 - Present
- Associate Professor, Division of Trauma, Department of Surgery PGH, 1985 - Nov 2010
- Chairman of Emergency Medicine, PGH, 1994 - 2006

Member of the Board

Philhealth, October 2021 - Present

Module Lead Techno-scientific Dimension MNSA

National Defence College of the Philippines, March 2016 - Present

GUEST SPEAKER'S PROFILE

Editorial Board (International)

Journal of Emergency Medicine, 1998 - Present

Chairman

Physicians for Peace Philippines, May 2000 - Present

Medical Director

Life Support Training Institute, 1997 - Present

Affiliate Faculty

University of the Philippines Diliman, February 2018 - October 2021

Senior Consultant

Globe Telecom, November 2015 - November 2017

Coordinator for Emergency and Ambulatory Services

Philippine General Hospital, February 2016 - February 2017

Chief

Division of Trauma Dept. of Surgery Phil. General Hospital, January 2016 - November 2016

Undersecretary

Department of Health - Philippines, November 2010 - March 2015

Member, Quality and Safety Committee

Philippine College of Surgeons, January 2009 - December 2010

VP for Medical and Hospital Operations

World Citi Medical Center, September 2010 - November 2010

Senior Associate, Healthcare Consulting

Human Capital Development, May 2010 - November 2010

Professor

Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, November 2007 - January 2010

Consultant in Surgery

The Medical City, 1993 - 2010

International Associate

Johns Hopkins University, January 2002 - December 2009

International Adviser/Senior Consultant

Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), January 2000 - December 2009

Regional Coordinator, Asia HOPE Project

USAID, 2002 - 2005

GUEST SPEAKER'S PROFILE

Consultant (SEARO) Maldives

World Health Organization, 2001 - 2001

Consultant (WPRO) Palau

World Health Organization, 1998 - 1999

Medical Director

Philippine Olympic Committee, 1997 - 1999

Chief Resident of Surgery

Philippine General Hospital, 1989 - 1989

EDUCATION

MD, Medicine

University of the Philippines
1979 - 1983

Postgraduate Studies in Medicine, General Surgery

University of the Philippines
1985 - 1989

International Diploma on Emergency and Crisis Management, Disaster Risk Management, Public Health in Disasters, Mass Casualty Management

University of Geneva
1995 - 1995

Postgraduate Studies in Medicine, General Surgery, Trauma, Prehospital Care, Disasters

Tel Aviv University
1991 - 1991

BS, Biology

University of the Philippines
1975 - 1979

EDITOR'S NOTE

ARE YOU A MEMBER OF A COMMITTEE? I am referring to the various committees that serve as functioning organs of our amazing organization called the Rotary Club of Manila. And yes, this is a question that I ask all Manila Rotarians, especially our Star Rotarians --- for this Rotary year, are you already serving in a committee?

For sure, everyone's Rotary journey will be more meaningful if he takes part in at least one project, not only during the implementation day itself, but more importantly, as a member of the Committee tasked to plan and execute the same. One's involvement in a committee is the best way to meaningfully immerse oneself to the Club, and for one to truly live the life of a Rotarian embodying the 'service above self' mantra.

Rotary International (RI) itself underscores the importance of a Rotarian joining a committee and becoming more actively involved. The RI website has this clear invitation: "Enjoy getting involved in your new club as a Rotary member. Join a committee. Lead a service project. Organize a social event. Lead and contribute to your new club."

Let us join a committee. Let us lead a service project.

As we all know, RCM is not only the oldest club in Asia, but one of the biggest in the country. As such, the Club has a deep bench of leaders and a huge reservoir of talent that can be tapped for the numerous committees. And so, to all the fine gentlemen of Asia's first Rotary Club, let me humbly make this brotherly exhortation: if, by now, you are not yet a member of a Committee, do sign up and be counted. And if you have more time to spare, join not just one, but more.



Raoul C. Creencia
Editor-in-Chief, balita

A Committee member is expected to be committed, and to work closely with the Chairman and the other members. The Committee, as a collegial body, is expected to work as a team to put together and develop an action plan, outlining the steps needed to achieve its mandate or the identified goal. In this regard, RI's Club Administration Committee Manual enumerates the steps that can help the Committee, especially the Chairman, in developing an action plan. These are:

- a) Establish a time frame for each step.
- b) Determine who is responsible for implementing each step.
- c) Establish the criteria for measuring progress and success for each step.
- d) Consider the resources and tools available from your club, district, and RI to support the goal.
- e) Secure human, informational, and financial resources before taking action.

EDITOR'S NOTE

- f) Evaluate the success of previous goals and your current plan, making modifications as necessary.

The Manual also recommends the regular evaluation of the Committee's goals "to ensure steady progress is being made toward achieving them, and adjust if necessary."

It is in each Committee, therefore, where the real action happens; it is where the magic originates. Involvement in a Committee, it must be noted, affords a member more opportunities for fellowship, a role in shaping the Club's activities, and ultimately, provides the avenue to have a deeper appreciation of the true driving force and inspiration behind Rotary.

So I reiterate: Manila Rotarians, if you haven't yet, do join a Committee and make your service-rendering and hope-creating journey acquire more excitement, meaning, and significance.

Enjoy Rotary. Join a Committee.



**SERVICE
ABOVE SELF**

2nd WEEKLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING: A RECAP

Thursday, July 13, 2023
Manila Polo Club



From left: **Dir. Johnny Chotrani**, **PDSAA Bollie Bolton**, **Engr. Edgardo Rodriguez** (founder of E&R Building & Management Services), **DGE Jackie Rodriguez**, **Guest Speaker Arch. Jun Palafox**, **Dr. Reynaldo P. Ramos** (President, Technological University of the Philippines) and **Rtn. Winnie Cheng** (visiting Rotarian)



PDG Alex Cureg and **PDG Vince Carlos** enjoying the pre-meeting fellowship.

Enlivening the mood before the start of the program, guests and members gamely introduced themselves during the pre-meeting fellowship.



PDG Sue Sta. Maria of RC Makati Southeast



Rtn. Joanna Valencia,
daughter of PD Rod Valencia



Dir. Johnny Chotrani



Arch. Jun Palafox shared
some memories of his stint as
Past Vice President of RCM.



Visiting Rotarian Winnie Cheng



Dr. Reynaldo Ramos, PhD,
President, Technological
University of the Philippines



PDSAA Bollie Bolton



PD Rod Valencia



The President and the Guest Speaker sat at the Presidential Table, together with the other Program participants.



Asst. Secretary Rami Chahwan invited the members and guests to take their seats, preparatory to **Pres. Raffy Alunan** calling the meeting to order.



Pres. Raffy Alunan called the meeting to order.



PAS Henry Go led the opening prayer.





The singing of the Philippine National Anthem was made more meaningful with the newly produced RCM AVP.



Rtn. John Tan led fellow Rotarians in reciting the Four-Way Test.





RCM World-Famous "WF" Chorale led the members in serenading guests in attendance with the unique RCM Welcome song.



Rtn. Warren So introduced the guest speaker, a multi-awarded urban planner, **UAP Dubai Awardee 2023, Global Filipino Architect Felino "Jun" Palafox**.



Arch. Jun Palafox engaged the membership and guests with his presentation of modern architectural urban plans and vision for the country in the decades to come.



Members and guests intently listened to Arch. Palafox's discussion of future and visionary architectural urban plans for the country.



Former Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, Chairman, Bases Conversion Development Authority, was duly recognized as a guest of the club. Seated beside him is former Chairman of BCDA, **Rtn. Tong Payumo**.

OPEN FORUM



PD Rod Valencia



PD Amading Valdez



Rtn. Tong Payumo



Rtn. Jerry Agnes



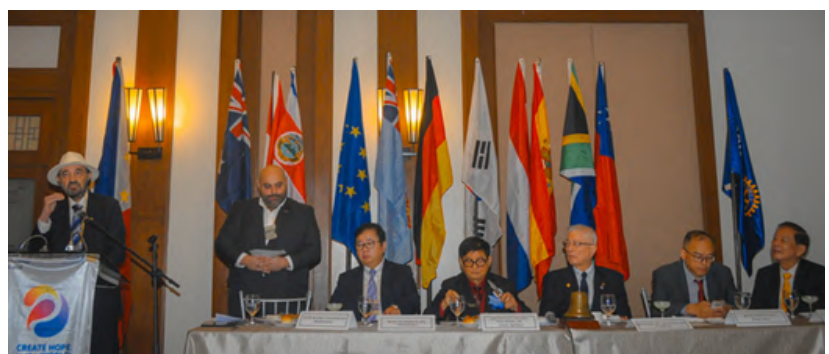
Dir. Johnny Chotrani



STAR Rtn. Jerry Zheng



The presentation of Token of Appreciation to **Guest Speaker, Arch. Jun Palafox**, was made by **Pres. Raffy Alunana**, assisted by Program Committee Chairman, **DGE Jackie Rodriguez**.



DGE Jackie Rodriguez, Chairman - Program Committee, gave the members a glimpse of the 1st-semester roster of activities for the Club's weekly membership meeting.



Noting another successful program, **Pres. Raffy Alunan** adjourned the 2nd weekly membership meeting.

FELLOWSHIP



Birthday celebrant **PAS Joel Valdes** was serenaded by the membership led by **RCM WF Chorale**.

POST-MEETING FELLOWSHIP



ROTARY LEADER

Helping club and district leaders achieve success

July 2023



2023-24 presidential initiatives

Rotary International President R. Gordon R. McNally is passionate about mental health and helping remove the stigma that sometimes prevents people from getting quality care. During this year, Gordon will focus on three initiatives that Create Hope in the World: prioritizing mental health, building peace through virtual exchanges, and empowering girls.

- **Prioritizing Mental Health.** Rotary has long been involved in mental health and wellness initiatives. Our culture of Service Above Self builds community and promotes acts of kindness, two proven methods to build and maintain mental wellness. Gordon is asking clubs and districts to expand on our culture of care by erasing the stigma associated with emotional well-being, raising awareness of mental health needs, and improving access to quality preventive care and interventions. He also encourages members to work with the [Rotary Action Group on Mental Health Initiatives](#), a global community with expertise in helping people improve their mental health. [Other action groups](#) specialize in related topics, such as addiction prevention. [Watch a message from Gordon](#) about prioritizing mental health.

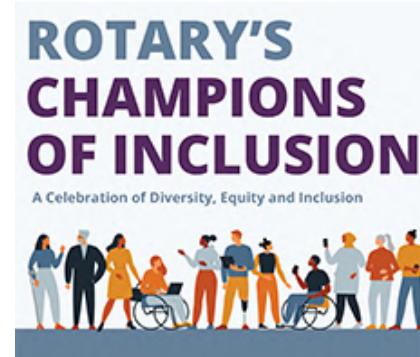
- **Peacebuilding Through Virtual Exchanges.** Rotary has a long history of working for peace through personal connections. Inspired by what we've learned during the COVID-19 pandemic, Gordon is encouraging districts to incorporate virtual components into more programs, events, and activities — especially Rotary Youth Exchanges and Rotary Friendship Exchanges. This will give people new ways to experience other cultures, make participation more accessible, and build understanding.
- **Empowering Girls.** Gordon is continuing this initiative that focuses on elevating the voices and unlocking the power of girls and women around the world. He is encouraging members to keep finding ways to improve girls' health, well-being, education, economic security, and self-determination. Empowered girls become empowered women who can change the world.

Learn more about Gordon's [presidential initiatives](#).

PEOPLE OF ACTION

Watch the Champions of Inclusion celebration on demand

A special recording of the Rotary People of Action: Champions of Inclusion celebration is available on demand until 30 September. This celebration helps us imagine what's possible when people of action come together to build a sense of belonging and respect for all people through Rotary.



CLUB CORNER

Celebrate Community week

During 11-17 September, Rotary and Rotaract clubs worldwide are collaborating with local Kiwanis, Lions, and Optimist clubs on service projects that address health and wellness, food insecurity and hunger, education and literacy, and the environment. When we work together, there's no limit to the positive impact we can create in our communities — so start planning today!

- Mark yourself as "going" to the [Celebrate Community 2023 Facebook event](#).
- Share pictures on social media during the week using the hashtag #CelebrateCommunity.

[Contact the Service and Engagement team](#) for help developing projects or connecting with the other organizations' clubs, or for questions related to Celebrate Community week.

WHAT'S NEW

2022-23 Rotary year in review

This past year, we created memorable club membership experiences, strengthened Rotary's public image worldwide, and expanded our capacity to do good — all while supporting the priorities of our Action Plan. As part of Rotary's efforts to create a welcoming club experience, we continued to strengthen our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. More than 250 DEI committee chairs are now finding opportunities for their clubs to be more diverse, equitable, and inclusive. We also approved charter applications for 401 Rotary clubs and 420 Rotaract clubs as of 1 March, including the first Rotaract club in Vietnam. Learn more about Rotary's accomplishments in General Secretary John Hewko's [2022-23 Report to the Convention](#). Then, share it with your members.

CONVENTION

Sharing Hope With the World in Singapore

Join us in Sharing Hope With the World as we come together in Singapore for the 2024 Rotary International Convention, 25-29 May. [Register today](#) to connect with people of action from around the world at Rotary's biggest event of the year.





CLUB ADMINISTRATION

RCM Members' Attendance Report RY 2023-2024

JULY 2023	<u>JULY 6, 2023</u> Inaugural Meeting	<u>JULY 13, 2023</u> Arch. Felino Palafox
All Members Present	71	35
Make Up	0	1
Less: Exempt from Attendance	2	3
On Leave	0	0
Total Active Members	69	33
Total # of Members	239	239
TOTAL ATTENDANCE %:	29%	14%
ROTARACTORS	15	0
MEDIA	0	0
EMBASSIES / DIPLOMATIC CORPS	7	0
DG, DGE, DGN, PDG	27	1
GOHS / GS	1	2
Visiting Rotarians	83	2
Guests of RCM MEMBERS	66	6
Others		
Total attendees	270	46

CLUB ADMINISTRATION

List of Members Who Have Paid Their Annual Dues for RY 2023-2024

(As of July 19, 2023, 4:00 PM)

FULLY PAID

1	Alberto, Raymund Arnold S.
2	Acosta, Crispiniano "Cris" G.
3	Alday, Albert S.
4	Alingog, Aldous "Rex" A.
5	Alunan, Rafael "Raffy" M.
6	Balanay, Aries
7	Benedicto, Sixto "Noy" T.
8	Blanco, Manuel "Manny" M.
9	Campos, Joselito, Jr. "Butch" D.
10	Canon, Raul
11	Carranceja, Arvin Arik
12	Castro, Karlo Eugene Josef "Karlo"
13	Coyiuto, Robert, Jr. "Jun" G.
14	Creencia, Raoul
15	Cureg, Alexander "Alex" P.
16	De Castro, Johnny
17	Dy, Manuel "Manny" C.
18	Eldebs, Issam "Sam"
19	Esguerra, Herminio "Hermie" S.
20	Fajardo, Beda G.
21	Fernandez, Antonio Jaime Jose V. "JJ"
22	Follosco, Ceferino, Jr. "Jun" G.
23	Garcia, Paul Joseph "PJ"
24	Garcia, Theodore
25	Garcia, Victor
26	Guarin, Michael Arcatomy "Mike" H.
27	Guevara, Domingo, Jr. "Boy" S.
28	Hallerbach, Mathias
29	Ibuyan, Benedict Julius "Ben"
30	Jucaban, Jeric J.
31	Kalaw, Teodoro Alejandro IV "Teddy" A. Y.
32	Koh, Paul Anthony

33	Lacson, Sebastian "Basty"
34	Laya, Jaime "Jimmy" C.
35	Lee, Richard "Dick" L.
36	Liamzon, Romeo Thaddeus "Thad" R.
37	Lim, David Eduardo Ty
38	Lonzaga, Reinerio "Ner" C.
39	Lopez, Arthur "Art" M.
40	Macapagal, Michael "Mac"
41	Mangalile, Senen
42	Mendoza, Estelito "Titong" P.
43	Montel, Juan Manuel C.
44	Patterson, Colin David
45	Pineda, Jr., Patricio "Bebot" F.
46	Preysler, Fausto, Jr. R.
47	Reynolds, David John "Dave"
48	Rodriguez, Joaquin "Jack" H.
49	Rodriguez, Joaquin "Jackie" C.
50	Romualdez, Jose Manuel "Babe" G.
51	Rono, Marlon
52	Roxas, Michael
53	Shimoda, Shigeru
54	Syjuco, Jose, Jr. "Joey" A.
55	Tagaysay, Hector "Chito"
56	Talampas, Jose Angel "Joel"
57	Talusan, Ferdinand "Inov"
58	Tamayo, Victor "Butch" L.
59	Tejuma, Michael "Mike"
60	Valencia, Rodolfo "Rod" G.
61	Vasquez, Evaristo "Junjie"
62	Villarica, Henry R.
63	Yap, Enrique, Jr. "Rickie" Y.
64	Zialcita, Xavier "Xavy" Y.

PARTIALLY PAID

1	Enriquez, Eduardo III "Jujut" V.
2	Eugenio, John Emyl "Emyl" G.
3	Valdes, Joel C.

CLUB ADMINISTRATION

Board of Directors for RY 2023-2024 Holds its First Regular Board Meeting



The Board of Directors of the Rotary Club of Manila for RY 2023-2024 held its First Regular Board Meeting last July 13, 2023 at the Turf Room of the Manila Polo Club in Makati City. Present were President Raffy Alunan, Vice President Reggie Yu, Director Johnny Chotrani, Director Albert Alday, Director Hans Palacios, Internal Auditor Nick Locsin, Board Legal Adviser Raoul Creencia, Assistant Secretary Rami Chahwan, RCManila Foundation, Inc. Chairman Lito Sibayan (ex-officio) and RCManila Foundation, Inc. President Willie Peliño (ex-officio). Dir. Tony Lopez and IPP Hermie Esguerra joined the meeting via Zoom.

CLUB ACTIVITIES

IPP Hermie Esguerra Hosts Lunch for Secretariat and RCM Digitalization Committee



IPP Hermie Esguerra hosted lunch for the Secretariat and RCM Digitalization Committee - Chairman Inov Talusan and member Rtn. Aries Balanay.

DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

District 3810 Youth Protection Officer BLA Raoul Creencia Gave A Talk During the Rotaract Youth Leadership Training



BLA Raoul Creencia, who concurrently serves as Youth Protection Officer of District 3810, addressed about 150 attendees of the Rotaract Youth Leadership Training on July 15. He talked about youth protection as a Rotary imperative.

COMIC RELIEF



"MY ROTARY MEETING HASN'T STARTED. WE HAVE BEEN TRYING TO GET HARRY TO UNMUTE FOR THE LAST 10 MINUTES. NOW HIS VIDEO IS OFF."

Source: Rotary Club of Boronia

PRESS COVERAGE



The 104th induction of the Rotary Club of Manila was featured in BizNews Asia.

RECOGNITION CORNER



HEADLINES

Marcos thanks visiting Fil-Ams for spreading Philippines goodwill

Ghio Ong, Alexis Romero - The Philippine Star ⓘ

July 18, 2023 | 12:00am



President Marcos welcomes the 2023 Very Important Pinoy tour members during their courtesy call at Malacañang yesterday.

STAR / File

MANILA, Philippines — President Marcos yesterday called on Filipinos abroad to continue giving the Philippines a good name as he assured them that the government is working to achieve positive transformation in the country's economy.

In a speech before participants of the Very Important Pinoy (VIP) Tour in Malacañang, Marcos said he is filled with pride whenever people from other countries talk about Filipinos they have worked with.

RECOGNITION CORNER

"When I meet with leaders, when I meet with other heads of states, the minute they know I am from the Philippines, every single one of them has a story of Filipinos they have worked with, Filipinos they have been around, Filipinos that are practically parts of their families," the President said.

"We thank our Filipino brothers and sisters who live abroad and continue to make the name of the Philippines shiny and (for the) good reputation that you have gained over so many years you have worked abroad. And now we'd like you... to come and see that there is also good work being done here back home," he added.

Marcos encouraged the tour participants to bring their children to the Philippines so they can see for themselves the changes happening in the country.

"And there are a great many opportunities for you and for the country as we try to transform the economy. We try to transform our society into one that is more agile, one that is more prepared and forward looking in terms of the new environment that we have to live and work in," he said.

"It is important, I think, for all Filipinos, no matter where you are, no matter where you live, to remember what the history is, what the tradition is... what happened, what our forefathers have been able to give to us as a product of their sacrifices over the many years," he added.

The VIP Tour used to be known as the Ambassadors, Consuls General and Tourism Directors Tour to the Philippines.

The 15th iteration of the tour started last July 16 and will end on July 24. Participants will be given the opportunity to explore parts of Metro Manila, Iloilo and Boracay.

Nearly 300 participants of the tour joined the courtesy call on Marcos.

Anthony Schlander, an events planner with a Filipina mother and a following of over 26,200 on Instagram and around 3,900 on Facebook, was among those who joined this year's version of the program.

Born in the United States but spent his childhood in Makati, he recalled his recent visits to tourist destinations like Manila, Cebu and El Nido in Palawan, as well as Tondo where he participated in an outreach activity.

RECOGNITION CORNER

"I have seen the glamor of the Manila Hotel as well as the families that need help. Such an experience humbles me," he told The STAR during the VIP Tour launch at the hotel yesterday.

Schlander hopes he could promote the Philippines as a "safe destination" after the tour.

"I want them to know it is safe to come here, it is already a misconception. I wanna show to the people in the Bay Area (in San Francisco) it is OK to come to the Philippines, there are so many things to come for here," he said.

Also joining the San Francisco contingent for the VIP Tour are 13-year-old Teddy Shih and Susan Kuo and Becky Leao who are both in their 40s – all Americans with Chinese ancestry.

Kuo's impression of the Philippines, she said, was a "really nice place but hot and humid, and with very friendly people."

She also recalled being taught to move to the traditional Filipino dance tinikling by her Filipino roommates back in college.

Shih also shared he was looking forward to seeing the country's beaches.

They were all brought in by the family of another San Francisco resident and nursing home owner Tina Desuasido, who has joined four earlier editions of the VIP tour.

She and her friend Myrna Canizares, a research administrator at Stanford University, told The STAR they hoped they could avail themselves of more investment opportunities in the country, particularly in properties.

Also joining this year's VIP Tour is computer studies professor Antonio Villegas, son and namesake of former Manila mayor Antonio Villegas who is returning to the Philippines after 28 years.

Aside from the 98 San Francisco residents, 120 more from Hawaii, 25 from Los Angeles, 19 from New York, 12 from Guam, nine from Chicago, four from Texas, four from Washington and two from the DFA's Office of American Affairs will visit tourist attractions like the world-famous Boracay Island, as well as the provinces of Iloilo, Antique and Aklan in this year's tour.

Neil Frank Ferrer, Philippine consul general in San Francisco, said the VIP tour aims to capture the younger generation of Filipino-Americans who probably have "very little connection to the Philippines."

RECOGNITION CORNER



July 18, 2023 (Manila Hotel) - Beta Launch of the Philippine E-Commerce Platform (PEP), the first by the government, at the National MSME Summit. The DTI-supported platform is owned by the National Development Company (NDC) and connects thru DICT's e-Gov superapp. Mercato Centrale donated the technology.

Photo (from left): DICT Usec David Almirol, NDC AGM Rocky Acot, RJ & Vanessa Ledesma of Mercato Centrale, DTI Sec. Fred Pascual, Exec. Sec. Lucas Bersamin, DICT Sec. Ivan Uy, GoNegosyo's Joey Concepcion, NDC GM Anton Mauricio, NDC AGM Alewijn Ong, and Philippine Innovation Hub's Jerahmeel Chen

RECOGNITION CORNER



Rtn. Joey Garcia was recognized for his extraordinary Batchoy Ramen at his Rai Rai Ken Resto by 'Dapat Alam Mo!', a Philippine television news magazine program broadcast by GTV and GMA Network, with hosts Kim Atienza and Susan Enriquez.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS & EXECUTIVE OFFICERS RY 2023-2024

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Vice President

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Assistant Board Legal Adviser

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Assistant Club Secretary

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ARSENIO Z. LOCSIN
Internal Auditor

JORDAN M. PIZARRAS
Assistant Internal Auditor

ANNA KUN TOLEDO
Executive Secretary



EDITORIAL TEAM RY 2023-2024

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RTN. AVELINO L. ANDAL
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RHEA VITTO TABORA
Editorial Consultant

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ANNA KUN TOLEDO
Executive Secretary

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