

Official Newsletter of
Rotary Club of Manila

balita

ISSUE NO. 3974 | AUGUST 10, 2023

CLASSIFICATION TALK



STAR RTN DR. DAVID KLEBS
Economic Counsellor
Embassy of Germany to the Philippines



RTN. HERBERT JOEY GARCIA
EVP & COO
RaiRaiKen Restaurant Group

NEW MEMBERS



**MR. J. ALFONSO LEONOR
KATIGBAK**
Chairman of the Board
DECRA Roofing Systems



**MR. RAOUL ROBERTO P.
GOCO**
Executive Chef
Degustation Corporation



**MR. FRANCO MARTELL
SACRAMENTO FLAMEÑO**
Chief Growth Officer
WordText Systems Inc.

Kabalita

"The classification principle remains a cornerstone of Rotary. Upon joining Rotary, each is lent a classification by the Board of Directors to reflect one's occupation or primary source of income. By limiting active membership by classifications, each club becomes a cross-section of the business and professional life of the community it serves. Also, the classification principle makes sure that no one profession or business becomes the dominant force within the club; x x x (and ensures that) representatives of many fields are brought together, providing the opportunity for Rotarians to broaden their knowledge of the contemporary workplace." [www.clubrunner.blob.core.windows.net]





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



PROGRAM TIMETABLE

6th Weekly Membership Meeting

Rotary Year 2022-2023

Thursday, August 10, 2023, 12:30 PM
MANILA POLO CLUB

MODERATOR: RTN. EMILIO LA'O

PART I

12:00 PM	Registration	
12:30 PM	Call to Order	PRESIDENT RAFAEL M. ALUNAN III
	Invocation and Special Prayers	PD JOHN CENICA
	Philippine National Anthem	AVP of RCM Members
	The Four (4) Way Test	STAR RTN. NATHANIEL CAMAT
	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>	
	August 5	RTN. HENRY VILLARICA
	August 5	RTN. RAY DAVIS
	August 7	SECRETARY EDWIN HERNANDEZ
	August 9	RTN. ROMY NONES
	August 10	RTN. JAPPY PASCUAL
	August 10	SAA NAGI ZEITOUNI
	August 10	RTN. LA SEVILLA
	Maligayang Bati/Happy Birthday Song	RCM WF Music Chorale
12:40 PM	RECOGNITION TIME	Fining Committee
12:45 PM	PRESIDENT'S TIME	PRESIDENT RAFAEL M. ALUNAN III

PROGRAM TIMETABLE

PART II PRESENTATION OF NEW MEMBERS/NOMINEES BY SPONSORS

MR. J. ALFONSO LEONOR KATIGBAK

Chairman of the Board, DECRA Roofing Systems
Classification: Building Materials/Products – Metal Roofing
Sponsor: PDG Rudy Bediones

MR. RAOUL ROBERTO P. GOCO

Executive Chef, DEGUSTATION CORPORATION
Classification: Restaurants – Restaurant Management
Sponsor: DGE Jackie Rodriguez

MR. FRANCO MARTELL SACRAMENTO FLAMEÑO

Chief Growth Officer, WordText Systems Inc.
Classification: Information Technology – PC Distribution
Sponsor: Rtn. Rex Alingog

CHARGING OF NEW MEMBERS

DGE JOAQUIN JACKIE RODRIGUEZ
Chairman, Programs Committee

INDUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS

PRESIDENT RAFAEL M. ALUNAN III

PART III CLASSIFICATION TALK

1:00 PM

STAR RTN DR. DAVID KLEBS

ECONOMIC COUNSELLOR, Embassy of Germany to the Philippines
Classification: German Diplomatic Service – Germany Economic Counsellor

RTN. HERBERT JOEY GARCIA

EVP & COO – RAIRAIKEN RESTAURANT GROUP
Classification: Restaurants - Japanese

1:30 PM

OPEN FORUM

1:55 PM

PRESENTATION OF THE CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

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

ANNOUNCEMENT OF FELLOWSHIP

2:00 PM

**CLOSING REMARKS AND MEETING
ADJOURNMENT**

PRESIDENT RAFAEL M. ALUNAN III

NEW MEMBERS

MR. J. ALFONSO LEONOR KATIGBAK

Chairman of the Board, DECRA Roofing Systems
Classification: Building Materials/Products – Metal Roofing



NAME: J. Alfonso Leonor Katigbak Al
(First) (Middle) (Surname) (Nickname)

BORN:

- (Town-City) Manila
- (Province-State) NCR (Country) Philippines
- (Date) May 14, 1965

ORIGINAL DATE WHEN JOINED MANILA CLUB - August 10, 2023

CLASSIFICATION: Building Materials / Products - Metal Roofing

COMPANY OR FIRM:

J. Alfonso L. Katigbak
Chairman
Katigbak Enterprises, Incorporated
0917-504-31-24
al_katigbak@hotmail.com
Website - KatigbakRoofing.com

Head Office - Lipa City
Address - Ground Floor, YCP Business Center, President J. P. Laurel Highway, Lipa City 4217
Telephone - 0917-505-36-32 & 0919-994-45-05 & 043-756-1880 & 043-756-6861
Email - kei_1961@hotmail.com

Branch Office - Taguig City
Address - Stall No. 230, Ground Floor, MC Home Depot, 32nd Street corner Bonifacio Blvd., Bonifacio Global City, Barangay Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, Metro Manila 1634
Telephone - 0917-840-58-80 & 8834-68-79
Email - katigbak_mchome@hotmail.com

EDUCATION:

Name of Schools	Degree	Graduation Dates
- Center for Global Best Practices Certified PPP Advocate Course		2019
- Institute of Corporate Directors Professional Directors Program		2016
- Ateneo School of Government, Rockwell Campus, Public Offering #9, Master in Public Management, elected Interim President of ASOG ASA – Ateneo School of Government Alumni and Students Association		2013
- De La Salle University Manila – A.B. Political Science minor in Japan Studies, Class of		1986
- Sophia University, Ichigaya Campus, Japan, International Economics and Contemporary China, Summer Session		1982

PREVIOUS ROTARY MEMBERSHIP:

FROM :	R.Y. 2017	TO:	Present	ROTARY CLUB :	Makati Central
FROM :	R.Y. 2014	TO:	R.Y. 2017	ROTARY CLUB :	New Manila East

NEW MEMBERS

MR. J. ALFONSO LEONOR KATIGBAK

Chairman of the Board, DECRA Roofing Systems
Classification: Building Materials/Products – Metal Roofing



PROFESSIONAL CAREER:

BUSINESS YOU WORKED WITH	POSITION HELD	YEAR
Katigbak Enterprises, Incorporated	Chairman	2022 – Present
Katigbak Enterprises, Incorporated	Director	1986 – 2021

AFFILIATIONS (Social, fraternal, professional clubs and associations; offices; honors awarded)
GGAPP – Good Governance Advocates and Practitioners of the Philippines, 2018 to Present

Public and Political Service: Official Candidate for Board Member in the 4th District of Batangas, Nacionalista Party, 2001 Elections – 1 City & 6 Municipalities

Title of Books or articles written: Thousands of Facebook Posts including my 6 Family Trees – Katigbak, Kalaw, Solis, Hontiveros, Locsin, and Ledesma

Hobbies: Facebook Posting for 11 Years May 2012 – May 2023 – Has 4 Interests – Movies and Music + Travel and Leisure + Family Business and Family History + Religion and Politics

Sports: Swimming, Yoga, and Flamenco

Other Remarks

18a) Has attended 3 Meetings in the Rotary Club of Manila - Guest of PDG Rudy Bediones and Star Rotarian D. Edgard A. Cabangon - April 20th, April 27th, and May 4th

18b) Eldest Brother Manuel Dindo L. Katigbak is a Past District Governor in RI District 3820

18c) Wife PP May Andrea L. Katigbak is a Major Donor Level 1 in RI District 3820 & Chairman of TRF Awards Night 2022. She was also a Candidate for District Governor in the Last Elections 2022. At present, she is now the President of PCCI Lipa - Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry Lipa.

18d) J Alfonso L Katigbak was an Official Delegate of the Rotary Club of Lipa in the First RI District 382 RYLA Awards Seminar in Pope Pius XII Catholic Center, UN Avenue - hosted by the Rotary Club of Manila, RY 1979 to 1980. District Governor then was Rafael "Paing" G. Hechanova, Sr. RI Theme - Let Service Light The Way for the Youth.

18e) J Alfonso L Katigbak has also attended 6 RI Events

- 2010 - RI Convention in Korea
- 2011 - Bali Rotary Institute
- 2017 - RI Convention in Atlanta, USA
- 2018 - The One Philippines
- 2019 - Manila Rotary Institute
- 2022 - The One Philippines

NEW MEMBERS

MR. RAOUL ROBERTO P. GOCO

Executive Chef, DEGUSTATION CORPORATION

Classification: Restaurants – Restaurant Management



EXECUTIVE CHEF

Specializing in American, Slow Smoked bbq, Modern Japanese, New age Greek Casual-Dining Cuisine, and Modern and Coastal Mexican cuisine.

OVERVIEW

More than 27 years of professional cooking and kitchen management experience. Exemplifies leadership qualities and professionalism backed by a consistent and verifiable record of achievement.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Executive/Sous-Chef experience

Trained at California Culinary Academy Batch 1995

Training and development specialist; teaching instructor

Successful catering experience (1,200+ people)

Maximizing kitchen productivity and staff performance

EDUCATION

Graduate, California Culinary Academy (1992-1995)

AOS Degree in Culinary Arts

San Francisco California

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Alfredo's Steak House Inc. (1995-1996)

Chef de Cuisine

Oversees Menu development & Kitchen Operations

Tequila Joe's Inc. (1995-2001)

Executive Chef and Director for Research and Development

Global Restaurant Management Group (1997-2022)

Executive Chef and Director for Research and Development

Mati Greek Taverna (2000-2001)

Executive Chef and Director for Research and development

Triple V Group (2002-2004)

Chef Consultant/ Menu development

Cyma Greek Restaurants (2005 –Present)

Executive Chef, Research & Development Director/Owner

Charlie's Hand-crafted Burgers (2008-2013)

Executive Chef / Research & Development Director/Owner

NEW MEMBERS

MR. RAOUL ROBERTO P. GOCO

Executive Chef, DEGUSTATION CORPORATION

Classification: Restaurants – Restaurant Management



Hama Japanese (2008-2009)
Boracay, Chef Consultant

Ristras Mexican Grill (2008-2009)
Developer/Partner

Achiote Mexican Taqueria (2011-2013) Powerplant Mall, Rockwell, Makati City
Executive Chef / Research & Development Developer/Owner

Artstream hospitality management group
Chef consultant

Hotel Le Monet (2011-Present)
Camp John Jay, Baguio City

Vitalis Villas
Santiago Ilocos Sur

Hotel Luna
Vigan city, Ilocos Sur

Green Pastures Sustainable Dining 2014- present
Shangrila mall Mandaluyong
Executive Chef/ proprietor

Calle Brewery and Smokehouse BBQ (2019-present)
Vigan city, Ilocos Sur
Chef Developer/ Partner

Souv by Cyma (2017-present)
Executive chef/ proprietor

Cangrejos Locos (2020-present)
Chef developer/partner
Molito mall, Alabang

Tanaw restaurant (Present)
Vanilla beach/ El Nido Palawan
Executive chef/partner

Go Greek! (Present)
Vanilla beach , El Nido Palawan
Executive Chef / Research & Development Developer/Owner
ROBS! Ribs Oysters Bourbon

NEW MEMBERS

MR. RAOUL ROBERTO P. GOCO

Executive Chef, DEGUSTATION CORPORATION

Classification: Restaurants – Restaurant Management



World Resorts Pasay, Chef de cuisine

AWARDS AND NOMINATIONS

Chef Robby Goco

- Winner, 10 Outstanding Entrepreneurs of the Year 2008 Entrepreneur Philippines

- Finalist, Entrepreneur of the Year Awards 2012 Ernst & Young

- Nominated, Best Chef

Manila's Best Kept Restaurants Secret Awards 2012

Cyma Greek Taverna

- Winner, Best Specialty Cuisine

Manila's Best Kept Restaurant Secrets Awards 2010

- Trito Cyma Greek Taverna (Greenbelt Branch)

Winner, Outstanding Filipino Retailers 2010

- Ebdomos Cyma Greek Taverna (Alabang Branch)

Winner, Cyma Alabang - 2011 Philippines' Best Restaurants by Philippines Tatler

Charlie's Grind and Grill

- Nominated, Best Burger Joint

Manila's Best Kept Restaurant Secrets Awards 2010

- Winner, Best Burger Joint

Manila's Best Kept Restaurants Secrets Awards 2012

- Winner, Spot Philippines' Top Food Spot Awards 2012

- Featured in Food Magazine's Handpicked: 50 of the Finest in Food 2012

Chef Presenter Madrid Fusion Manila Philippines 2017

SOUVI by Cyma

- Nominated, Best Restaurants, Tatler 2023

Achiote Mexican Taqueria

- Nominated, Best Mexican Restaurant

Manila's Best Kept Restaurant Secrets Awards 2012

Green Pastures Corp

- Nominated Best Restaurant of the Year (2014)

NEW MEMBERS

MR. FRANCO MARTELL SACRAMENTO FLAMEÑO

Chief Growth Officer, WordText Systems Inc.

Classification: Information Technology – PC Distribution



SUMMARY

A versatile sales and marketing executive with 20 years of experience in driving sales and distribution strategy, product and marketing management, and organizational development across different industries. A professional with strong leadership skills and innovative thinking grounded on fundamentals. Expertise includes strategy development, product and P&L management, customer engagement, problem solving and people management.

EDUCATION

Ateneo de Manila University Graduate School of Business, *MBA Middle Manager Program*, August 2020
Ateneo de Manila University, *B.S. Management major in Communications Technology Management*, March 2003

EXPERIENCE

I. DELL TECHNOLOGIES PHILIPPINES INC. (May 2021 – present)

Consumer Country Manager for Philippines and Indonesia, May 2021 – present

- Responsible for developing sales and marketing strategies, managing country operational expenses, lead cross-functional teams and overseeing execution to deliver revenue, market share and margin goals
- Executed channel rationalization strategy and appointed new distributors which resulted to record sales for both Philippines and Indonesia
- Rebooted the eCommerce and omnichannel strategies in Philippines and Indonesia
- Recognized as a Transformation Leader and President's Club Member for Fiscal Year 2022 (ending January 2022)

II. HP PHILIPPINES INC. (December 2012 – May 2021)

Country Channel Manager, February 2020 – May 2021

- Responsible for developing and executing channel strategies, ensuring collaboration between different route-to-market teams, delivering sales and profitability goals by optimizing both consumer and commercial channels
- Introduced a groundbreaking online partner portal to increase reach and reseller engagement
- Effectively managed the impact of the pandemic by ensuring constant people and partner engagement

Country Category and Consumer Sales Manager, May 2018 – October 2018 (Print), November 2018 – January 2020 (PC)

- Responsible for ensuring optimal product portfolio that delivered sales, margins, and market share goals, resulting to SEA WOW recognition in 2019
- Owned country P&L and ensured overall business profitability
- Drove retail sales and trade marketing execution which resulted to consistent quarterly target achievement

Consumer Sales Manager, November 2015 – April 2018

- Responsible for optimization retail sales and operations to improve performance and turn around the consumer business, resulting to exceeding annual targets for 5 consecutive years
- Introduced enhancements to the sales forecasting process to improve business predictability
- Implemented a trade marketing investment strategy to increase business share with select retailers

Lead Wholesale Account Manager, February 2015 – October 2015

- Served as the link between HP and its distributors
- Responsible for integrating company and distributor strategies to deliver profitable growth
- Developed distribution programs to achieve multiple category objectives

Market Development Manager for Inkjet Printers, December 2012 – January 2015

- Managed inkjet printer product portfolio to cater to both consumer and commercial customers
- Successfully launched new product innovations such as the fastest office printer and the first wireless desktop printer
- Managed category P&L and ensured system profitability

III. TRIFRAME INC. (January 2013 – October 2021)

NEW MEMBERS

MR. FRANCO MARTELL SACRAMENTO FLAMEÑO

Chief Growth Officer, WordText Systems Inc.

Classification: Information Technology – PC Distribution



Co-Founder and Member, Board of Directors, January 2013 – October 2021

- Co-founded a family corporation involved in construction and property development
- Responsible for managing finances, project viability assessment, creating business systems and processes
- Established company policies and business strategies
- Grew revenue by 2000% in the first 5 years

IV. PHILIPS ELECTRONICS AND LIGHTING INC. (June 2007 – October 2012)

Business Development Manager for Lifestyle Entertainment, April 2011 – October 2012

- Responsible for consumer electronics and accessories product portfolio
- Managed category P&L to ensure profitability
- Developed marketing plans and executed initiatives to increase demand
- Implemented channel strategies to increase account coverage through multiple distributors

Group Sales Manager for Consumer Lighting Channel, January 2009 – March 2011

- Responsible for leading team to drive optimal distribution of consumer lighting products in traditional retail stores
- Rationalized distributor lineup and set up new distribution operations to drive business growth, resulting to sales leadership recognition in 2010

Key Account Manager for Consumer Electronics, August 2008 – December 2008

- Managed business with SM Appliance Center, the largest consumer electronics retailer in the Philippines
- Ensured smooth transition of direct account management to a distribution business model

Professional & Business Solutions Manager, May 2007 – July 2008

- Sold institutional televisions and participated in bids, resulting to won projects including Cebu Marriott and Hotel Intercontinental
- Responsible for new business development which included the introduction of the Philips GoGear line

V. KRAFT FOODS PHILIPPINES INC. (January 2007 – May 2007)

National Key Account Manager for Chilled Products, January 2007 – May 2007

- Managed sales and distribution of chilled products to national key accounts through distributors
- Chaired the bid process to appoint a national distributor for specialty accounts

VI. MONDE NISSIN CORPORATION (May 2004 – January 2007)

Channel Development Manager, January 2005 - January 2007

- Championed the national sub-distribution program to increase distribution and availability
- Responsible for onboarding and mentoring of new channel development specialists
- Split the Batangas area management into 2 distributors to increase efficiency and grow sales, resulting to the highest area business growth in 2005

Area Marketing Services Executive, May 2004 - January 2005

- Responsible for trade marketing and development and implementation of localized below-the-line marketing activities
- Analyzed distribution and availability reports to identify and capture opportunities for growth
- Collaborated with marketing agencies

VII. DEMO POWER PHILIPPINES INC. (July 2003 – May 2004)

Client Service Manager, July 2003 – May 2004

- Oversaw trade marketing and below-the-line activities from project conceptualization to execution and progress monitoring
- Managed top FMCG accounts including P&G, San Miguel, Nestlé, Universal Robina and Monde Nissin

CLASSIFICATION TALK

SPEAKER'S PROFILE

STAR RTN DR. DAVID KLEBS

ECONOMIC COUNSELLOR, Embassy of Germany to the Philippines
Classification: German Diplomatic Service – Germany Economic Counsellor

Dr. David Klebs

Email: wi-1@mani.diplo.de
Telephone: +63 (2) 8702 3033



Professional Life

Since August 2022	Economic Counsellor German Embassy Manila
Dec 2016 – Jul 2022	Agent for Germany before the European Court of Justice, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action
2016	Judge in civil cases, Munich Local Court
2011 – 2016	Shareholder of a language school for corporate English in Munich

Educational Background

Feb 2018	Doctoral thesis on mistake and misrepresentation, comparing German, English, Japanese and European law, University of Bonn
Nov 2015	Second state law exam in Munich
Nov 2009 – Dec 2013	Research assistant/trainee at Ashurst LLP, White & Case LLP and Noerr LLP in the areas of corporate law, commercial law and litigation
Sep 2009	First state law exam in Berlin
2004 – 2009	Law studies at Humboldt University Berlin and King's College London, United Kingdom

Social Engagements (selection)

2012 – 2018	Church council of Dankeskirche Munich
2014 – 2016	Member of District Council Munich-Milbertshofen
Since 2014	Regular participation in the Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot Court in Hong Kong or Vienna as a juror
Other memberships	German-British Jurists' Association German-Japanese Jurists' Association

CLASSIFICATION TALK

SPEAKER'S PROFILE

RTN. HERBERT JOEY GARCIA

EVP & COO – RAIKAIKEN RESTAURANT GROUP

Classification: Restaurants - Japanese

Herbert Joey D. Garcia

Birthdate: August 17, 1981
Spouse: Marinel C. Garcia

Business Affiliation

RairaiKen Restaurant Group— EVP/COO

The company that operates RairaiKen restaurants in the Philippines and other brands such as Takara Place - Hotel and events venue Tokyo Joe, Oishi Batchoi and Ramen Metro. Currently, the company operates 40 plus branches nationwide and continuously expanding concepts.

Titans Business Venture — President

A franchise and business development company that helps MSME to launch successful business concepts that can expand locally and even internationally thru franchising.

Strived Executive Asia - Senior Strategic Consultant

One of the key consultants of SEA and currently the strategic management expert that helps various companies from Food group, technology company, training centers and Innovation centers.

JCI MAKATI

2020 Local Organization President
2019 EVP
2018 Executive Treasurer

JCI PHILIPPINES

National Director for Partnership and Sponsorship
year 2023

EDUCATION

ATENEO DE MANILA UNIVERSITY — Masters of Entrepreneurship

2017-2018
M.E. or Masters of Entrepreneurship, a special masteral course intended for business owners that originally started in AIM in Makati. A holistic approach that help the entrepreneur to discover a mastery of themselves and of the business.

ASIAN INSTITUTE of MANAGEMENT - Entrepreneurial Development

2015
A special course for entrepreneurs/startups that aims to develop second generation leaders to discover their innate skills, harness potential to continue the business of the patriarch or matriarch of their family enterprise.

SAN BEDA COLLEGE— Marketing Management

1998-2002
COLEGIO DE SAN JUAN DE LETRAN - High School



Brief introduction

Started to join the family business in 2000 as a marketing staff and soon established and professionalized the department that paved the way to grow the business into a world class restaurant group.

Served different positions in non profit organization and currently holds a position in the Church as head deacon.

A father of four children and a husband to Marinel Garcia; an entrepreneur with business interests in food, hotel and franchising business.



5th WEEKLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING: A RECAP

PRE-MEETING FELLOWSHIP AMONG MEMBERS AND GUESTS



5th WEEKLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING: A RECAP



5th WEEKLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING: A RECAP

PROGRAM PROPER



Treasurer PJ Garcia, who acted as program moderator, invited the members and guests to take their seats to pave the way to start the meeting.



President Raffy Alunan called the meeting to order.

5th WEEKLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING: A RECAP



PD Phil Ong led the invocation, setting the tone of the weekly meeting.



The membership took a position of respect while singing the Philippine National Anthem.



STAR Rtn. Toby Pañares led the Rotarians in the recitation of the Four-Way Test.

5th WEEKLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING: A RECAP



The **RCM World-Famous Chorale** led the singing of the Rotary Club of Manila Hymn.



Manila Rotarians gamely joined in singing the RCM birthday song for the celebrants. The community singing was led by the **RCM World-Famous Chorale**. The birthday celebrants at the meeting were **Rtn. Senen Mangalile** (Consul General, Philippine Consulate General in New York), **Dir. Johnny Chotrani**, **Rtn. Philip Recto**, and **Rtn. Nando Camus**.

5th WEEKLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING: A RECAP

Committee on Election Chairman / IPP Hermie Esguerra introduced the members of the Election Committee. He later opened the floor for nomination of Directors who will serve as Board members for Rotary Year 2024-2025.



Nominators **PD Issam Eldebs**, **Dir. Hans Palacios**, and **PAS Henry Go** announced their nominees.



Upon motion by **PP Archit Bartolome** and seconded by **PDG Vince Carlos** and **Dir. Hans Palacios**, the nomination for directors of the Board for Rotary Year 2024-2025 was declared closed by **Election Committee Chairman/IPP Hermie Esguerra**.

5th WEEKLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING: A RECAP



Rtn. Kenji Mori of Rotary Club of Kazuha, Japan invited members to visit Marawi, to see the new face of the city devastated by internal conflict in the region.



Pres. Raffy Alunan gave an update on the activities of the club during the President's Time. His remarks is featured in this issue of Balita.

5th WEEKLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING: A RECAP



Dir. Hans Palacios appealed to the membership to contribute to the fund drive for the victims of Typhoon Egay in Calumpit, Bulacan. **Rotary Club of Calumpit Pres. Anna Capispisan** expressed gratitude to the Rotary Club of Manila for their support.



PD Raoul Villegas introduced the guest speaker.

5th WEEKLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING: A RECAP



Dr. Bernardo M. Villegas, PhD, delivered his insightful and interesting assessment of the national economy.



Dr. Bernardo M. Villegas, PhD, was in his element as he enthusiastically responded to the queries during the open forum.

5th WEEKLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING: A RECAP

OPEN FORUM

The Open Forum was made more interesting with the queries and comments from **PD Rod Valencia**, **PDG Obet Pagdanganan**, and **STAR Rtn. JV Magsaysay**.

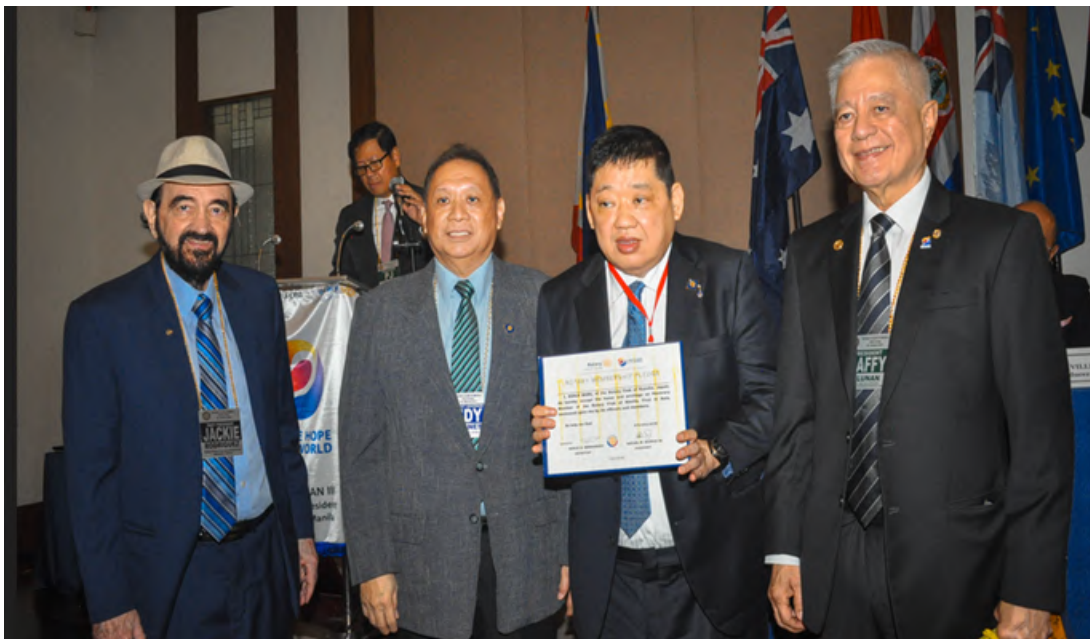


5th WEEKLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING: A RECAP



Pres. Raffy Alunan, together with **Program Chairman/DGE Jackie Rodriguez**, presented the club's token of appreciation to **Dr. Bernardo M. Villegas, PhD**, University Professor – University of Asia and the Pacific; Visiting Professor – IESE Business School, Barcelona, Spain; Research Director – Center for Research and Communication.

MEMBERSHIP CONCERNS



Pres. Raffy Alunan was joined by **PDG Rudy Bediones** and **DGE Jackie Rodriguez** for the presentation of honorary membership to **Rtn. Kenji Mori**.

5th WEEKLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING: A RECAP

Pres. Raffy Alunan's Remarks During the President's Time

President's Remarks August 3, 2023
RCM WMM MPC

Thank you. Let me apprise you with our latest developments:

- Our Election Committee under Ipp Hermie is off and running. Today is the start of the Nominations period. Nominate today and vote tomorrow.
- Our committees now have appointed chairmen and vice-chairmen. The focus now is on manning the committees with volunteer members. I encourage our members – the young ones and the young once - to switch to pro-active mode beyond out of pocket donations. Your Club needs you.
- Our Disaster and Emergency Relief Committee for example is on the go, and our members are rallying to the call for donations. My caveat to all is to nurse our pockets and energies, because there will be a lot more natural emergencies coming our way before the year is over.
- An information kit about RCM, its Club services and service projects is at the conceptual stage. We hope to roll it out soonest possible to arm our Funds Mobilization Committee primarily, our Board, officers and committees as they fan out to talk to potential funders.
- Meanwhile, I ask RCM members who have close ties to philanthropists, conglomerates, funding institutions, and companies with CSR programs to begin reaching out and leveraging their influence on them. Funds raised will be coursed through RCMFI for tax breaks that donors may want to avail of.
- I recently approved a virtual background to use in our virtual meetings. However, I saw a better artwork as I was exchanging notes with Dir Mike Albaña. It's more appealing. I will take it up later at the EXCOM meeting after our lunch meeting where our annual budget will be discussed.
- We have a fining committee that's busy fining anyone that fancies their whims and caprices. Heaven help us!
- Our pocket fellowships are on-going – poker, WFC, business-related.

One month has passed us by and we've had a good run so far. But I'd like to see more systematic Fellowships done like scheduled fellowships in sports, wellness, music, comedy, family picnics and the like. These, in turn, engender brotherhood and harmony that serve as our pathway to unity, solidarity and teamwork.

Thank you for your kind attention.

RCM ELECTIONS:

A TIME FOR DISCERNMENT FOR NOMINATORS, NOMINEES, AND VOTERS

During last week's membership meeting in the fully packed Turf Room of the Manila Polo Club, Manila Rotarians nominated the candidates from where the 8 members of next year's Board of Directors will be chosen. Pursuant to our By-Laws, the elections that will be held on September 7.

The nominators have surely carefully considered and underwent a process of discernment before naming their nominees, because, as everyone knows, choosing the men who will compose the governing body of the club is a serious matter.

More importantly, the nominees should likewise go through a careful process of consideration and discernment themselves. Indeed, while being nominated is an honor, the acceptance of such nomination in itself carries a huge responsibility. A nomination cannot be taken lightly, and each nominee has to think whether he can actually commit to make time to dutifully serve the Club. Saying 'yes' to a nomination should, therefore, include an acceptance of the real possibility of being actually elected. This is the reason why each nominee, as an act of accepting his nomination, is required to make a written commitment, as follows:

I am aware that if elected, I will have to assume the following commitments and responsibilities:

- *To oversee and constantly follow up the planning and implementation of all activities by a set of committees under a service group to be placed under my supervision;*
- *To report on all my committees during the Board Meetings held at a regular date each month;*
- *To have a working knowledge of the RCM Constitution and By-Laws, the RI Manual of Procedure and general Rotary information;*
- *To attend most, if not all, Board, Club and my committee meetings;*

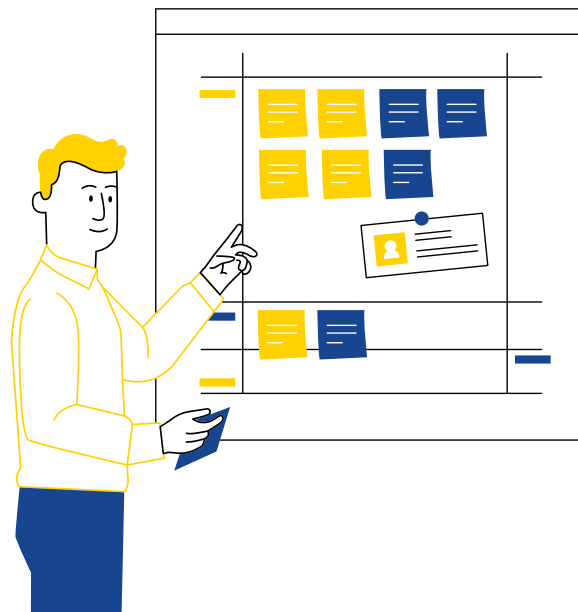
RCM ELECTIONS:

A TIME FOR DISCERNMENT FOR NOMINATORS, NOMINEES, AND VOTERS

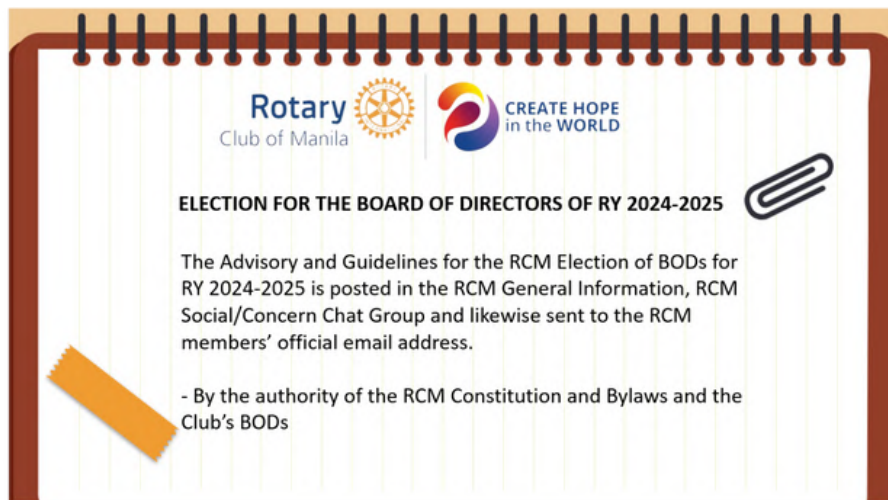
- *To attend the District Conference, the District Assembly and, if elected President, the President-Elect Training Seminar (PETS), which will be scheduled within the first semester of 2024;*
- *To attend the DIRECTORS' ELECT TRAINING SEMINAR, to be organized by the President-Elect, as a prerequisite prior to sitting in office as Director of the Board; and,*
- *To be prepared to give the time and effort necessary to carry on my other tasks as a Board member.*

The foregoing are not empty words. This written commitment is actually a prelude to the oath that each duly elected director will take in July next year.

As this election is of utmost importance, it behooves all Manila Rotarians to do their part by carefully considering the nominees' qualifications and track record, and by judiciously voting on September 7 with the welfare of the Club in mind.



ELECTION FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF RY 2024-2025



ELECTION FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF RY 2024-2025

Rotary Club of Manila

CREATE HOPE in the WORLD

NOMINATOR		NOMINEES	
1	PD Issam Eldebs	1	VP Reginald "Reggie" T. Yu
		2	Rtn. Ingmar "Inggy" Bertelsen
		3	AS Rami Chahwan
2	Dir. Hans Palacios	4	PAS Henry Sy Go
		5	Sec. Edwin H. Hernandez
		6	BLA Raoul C. Creencia
		7	PD Rodolfo G Valencia
3	PAS Henry Go	8	Dir. Albert C. Palacios
		9	Rtn. Joshua Aragon
		10	PAS Joel Valdes
		11	Rtn. Antonilo "Anton" DC Mauricio

Rotary Club of Manila

CREATE HOPE in the WORLD

NOMINATOR		NOMINEES	
4	PP Archib Bartolome	12	PT Joselito "Lito" H. Sibayan
		13	Rtn. Wilfredo "Willie" Pelino
		14	Dir. Albert Alday
5	AS Rami Chahwan	15	PD Jose "Pepo" A. Nufez, Jr.
		16	Rtn. Ferdinand "Inov" Talusan
		17	Dir. Michael Jaey "Mike" Albaña
		18	SAA Nagi Zeitouni
		19	PD Issam Eldebs
6	Dir. Johnny Chotrani	20	AT Karlo Eugene Josef M. Castro
		21	Treas. Paul Joseph "PJ" M. Garcia

Rotary Club of Manila

CREATE HOPE in the WORLD

NOMINATOR		NOMINEES	
7	AT Karlo Castro	22	Dir. Johnny N. Chotrani
8	Treas. PJ Garcia	23	PD Oscar A. del Rosario, Sr.
9	Dir. Albert Alday	24	ABLA Teodoro Alejandro Y. Kalaw IV
10	Pres. Raffy Alunan	25	Rtn. Jordan Pizarra
11	Rtn. Inov Talusan	26	Dir. Eduardo "Jujut" Enriquez III
12	Rtn. Caloy Serapio	27	Rtn. Abdulgani "Gani" Macatoman

Rotary Club of Manila

CREATE HOPE in the WORLD

Upon motion made and seconded, the nomination for Directors of the Board for Rotary Year 2024-2025 was officially closed.

Rtn. CARLOS G. SERAPIO
Secretary, Committee on Election

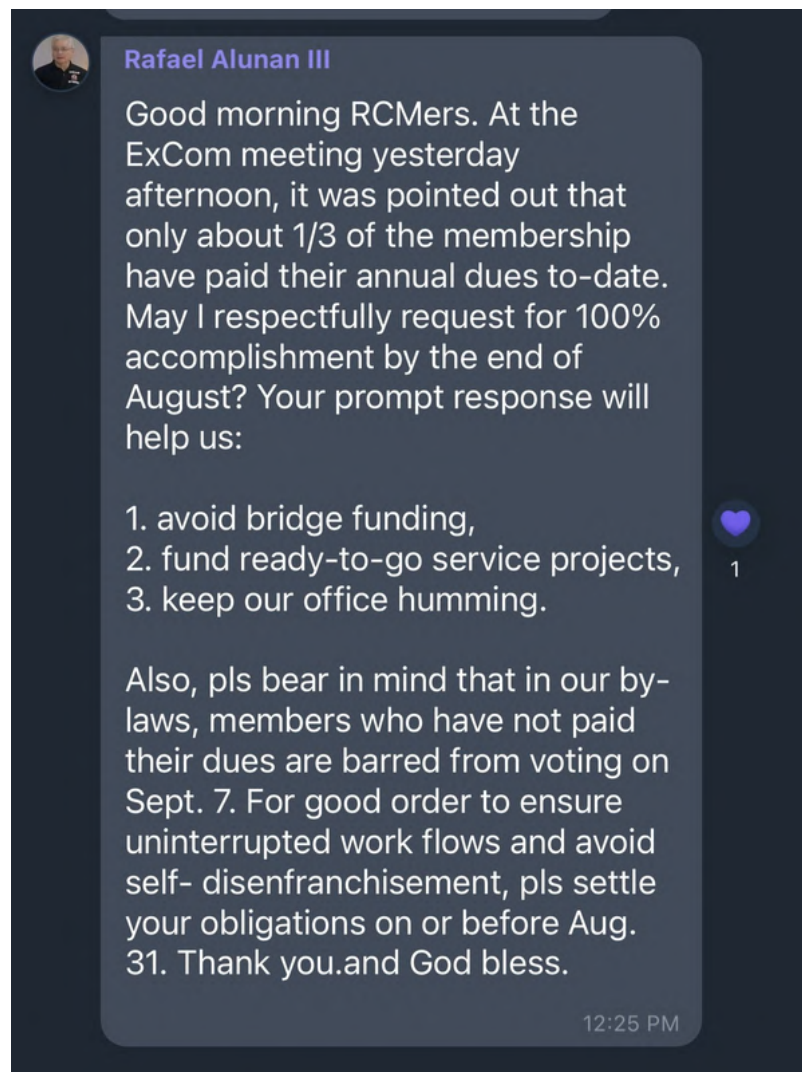
CLUB ADMINISTRATION

RCM Members' Attendance Report RY 2023-2024

AUGUST 2023	<u>AUG. 3, 2023</u> DR. BERNARDO M. VILLEGAS, PHD
All Members Present	70
Make Up	8
Less: Exempt from Attendance	7
On Leave	0
Total Active Members	71
Total # of Members	238
TOTAL ATTENDANCE %:	30%
ROTARACTORS	15
MEDIA	0
EMBASSIES / DIPLOMATIC CORPS	7
DG, DGE, DGN, PDG	27
GOHS / GS	1
Visiting Rotarians	83
Guests of RCM MEMBERS	66
Total Attendees	269

CLUB ADMINISTRATION

Special Appeal from President Raffy Alunan III for RCMers to Pay Annual Dues by August 31, 2023



CLUB ADMINISTRATION

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

(As of August 9, 2023, 5:00 PM)

FULLY PAID

1	Aboy, Valentino "Val" G.
2	Alberto, Raymund Arnold S.
3	Acosta, Crispiniano "Cris" G.
4	Alday, Albert S.
5	Alingog, Aldous "Rex" A.
6	Alunan, Rafael "Raffy" M.
7	Balanay, Aries
8	Bediones, Rodolfo "Rudy" P.
9	Bella, Geronimo, Jr. "Jun" Dela Paz
10	Benedicto, Sixto "Noy" T.
11	Bertelsen, Bertel Ingmar
12	Blanco, Manuel "Manny" M.
13	Camat, Nathaniel
14	Campos, Joselito, Jr. "Butch" D.
15	Camus, Fernando "Nando"
16	Canon, Raul
17	Carranceja, Arvin Arik
18	Castro, Karlo Eugene Josef "Karlo"
19	Catalan, Rodillo "Teng"
20	Coyiuto, Robert, Jr. "Jun" G.
21	Creencia, Raoul
22	Cureg, Alexander "Alex" P.
23	De Castro, Johnny
24	Del Rosario, Oscar
25	Dominguez, III, Carlos "Sonny" G.
26	Dy, Manuel "Manny" C.
27	Egan, Brendan "Bren" W.L.
28	Eldebs, Issam "Sam"
29	Enriquez, Eduardo III "Jujut" V.
30	Esguerra, Herminio "Hermie" S.

31	Eugenio, John Emyl "Emyl" G.
32	Fajardo, Beda G.
33	Fernandez, Antonio Jaime Jose V. "JJ"
34	Follosco, Ceferino, Jr. "Jun" G.
35	Garcia, Paul Joseph "PJ"
36	Garcia, Theodore
37	Garcia, Victor
38	Go, Daniel "Danny" C.
39	Go, Henry Sy
40	Guarin, Michael Arcatomy "Mike" H.
41	Guevara, Domingo, Jr. "Boy" S.
42	Guevara, Ricardo "Ricky" S.
43	Hallerbach, Mathias
44	Hernandez, Edwin
45	Hortaleza, Rolando
46	Ibuyan, Benedict Julius "Ben"
47	Jucaban, Jeric J.
48	Kalaw, Teodoro Alejandro IV "Teddy" A. Y.
49	Katigbak, Alfonso Leonor
50	Klebs, David
51	Koh, Paul Anthony
52	Lacson, Sebastian "Basty"
53	Laya, Jaime "Jimmy" C.
54	Lazaro, Juan Miguel "Miguel"
55	Lee, Richard "Dick" L.
56	Liamzon, Romeo Thaddeus "Thad" R.
57	Lim, David Eduardo Ty
58	Locsin, Arsenio "Nick" Z.
59	Lonzaga, Reinerio "Ner" C.
60	Lopez, Arthur "Art" M.

CLUB ADMINISTRATION

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

(As of August 9, 2023, 5:00 PM)

61	Macapagal, Michael "Mac"
62	Manalaysay, Cesar P "Citos"
63	Mangalile, Senen
64	Mendoza, Estelito "Titong" P.
65	Mendoza, Raymund Joseph Ian "Raji" O.
66	Montel, Juan Manuel C.
67	Nones, Romeo "Romy" C.
68	Ocampo, Teodoro "Teddy" J.
69	Pañares, Ben Thomas "Toby" P.
70	Patterson, Colin David
71	Peliño, Wilfredo "Willie" M.
72	Pineda, Jr., Patricio "Bebot" F.
73	Pineda, Jr., Jesus "Susing" M.
74	Preysler, Fausto, Jr. R.
75	Ramos, Claver P.
76	Rast, Tobias "Tobi"
77	Reynolds, David John "Dave"
78	Rodriguez, Joaquin "Jack" H.
79	Rodriguez, Joaquin "Jackie" C.
80	Romualdez, Jose Manuel "Babe" G.
81	Rono, Marlon
82	Roxas, Michael
83	Schneider, Bernd

84	Shimoda, Shigeru
85	Sibayan, Joselito "Lito" H.
86	Soler, Jose Antonio Andaya
87	Souvlakis, Nicolas
88	Stranathan, Ike
89	Syjuco, Jose, Jr. "Joey" A.
90	Tagaysay, Hector "Chito"
91	Talampas, Jose Angel "Joel"
92	Talusan, Ferdinand "Inov"
93	Tamayo, Victor "Butch" L.
94	Tan, John
95	Tee, Jr., Teddy B.
96	Tejuma, Michael "Mike"
97	Tillmann, Hansel Joseph Michael "Hansel"
98	Valdes, Joel C.
99	Valencia, Rodolfo "Rod" G.
100	Vasquez, Evaristo "Junjie"
101	Villarica, Henry R.
102	Yap, Enrique, Jr. "Rickie" Y.
103	Yu, Reginald "Reggie" T.
104	Zeitouni, Naji
105	Zialcita, Xavier "Xavy" Y.

PARTIALLY PAID

1	Serapio, Carlos G. "Caloy"
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COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Membership Committee Meets Proposed New Members at Manila Polo Club



The Membership Committee met on Thursday, August 3, 2023, to meet and get to know the proposed new members at the Manila Polo Club.

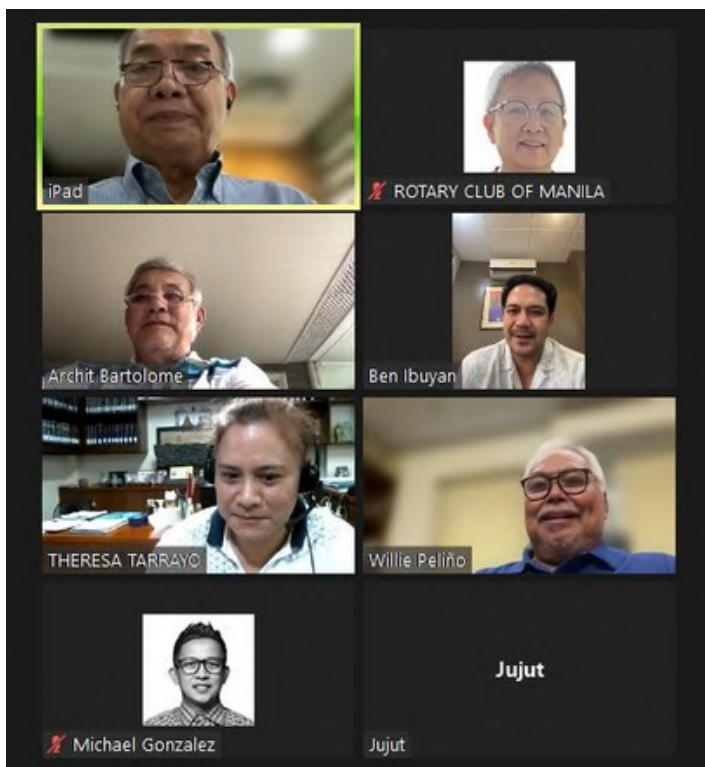
In the photo are Chair Caloy Serapio; Co-chair PDG Vince Carlos; Mr. Yasushi Iwata, General Manager of Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation; Mr. Lorenzo (Toti) Cortez, Managing Partner of Guided Construction & Trading; Mr. Colin Steley, Director & Chief Sustainability Officer at Stratcon Phils. & Stratcon Asia; Rtn. Inov Talusan; and AS Rami Chahwan.



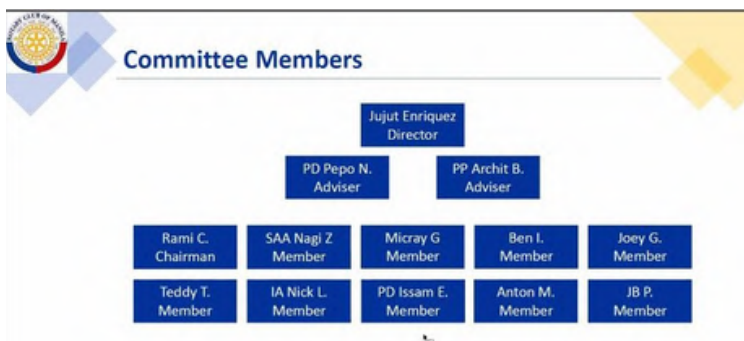
Also present were PDSAA Bollie Bolton, Rtn. Anton Mauricio, AS Rami Chahwan, Dir. Jujut Enriquez, Treas. PJ Garcia and SAA Nagi Zeitouni

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

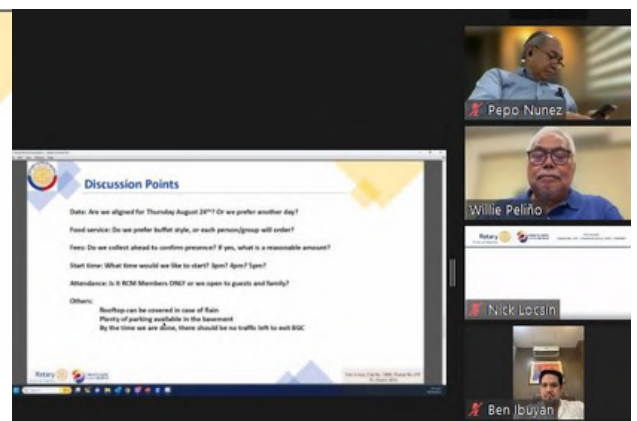
Fellowship Committee Meeting



The Fellowship Committee meeting, initiated by Fellowship Chairman AS Rami Chahwan, was held on Tuesday, August 8, 2023, via Zoom. Those in attendance included Dir. Jujut Enriquez; Fellowship Vice Chairman PD Pepo Nunez; Fellowship Adviser PP Archit Bartolome; Members of RCMFI, including President Willie Pelino, AS Micray Gonzales, IA Nick Locsin, Rtn. Ben Ibuyan, Rtn. Anton Mauricio, Rtn. Teddy Tee; and SAA Nagi Zeitouni.



Vice Chairman AS Rami Chahwan presented the Fellowship Committee structure.



RCMANILA FOUNDATION, INC.

RCManila Foundation, Inc. Holds Meeting



RCManila Foundation, Inc. EXCOM meeting was held last Thursday, August 3, 2023 at 4:00 PM at Tranzen office of Immediate Past Chairman Pepo Nuñez.

Present were RCM IPP/Trustee Hermie Esguerra, Pres. Willie Peliño, Trustee/Sec. Paco Magsaysay, RCM IA/Trustee Nick Locsin, Rtn. Ingmar Bertelsen, Rtn./Trustee Anton Mauricio, DGE/Trustee Jackie Rodriguez, Treas. Karlo Castro, Asst. Treas. Mike Roxas, Asst. Sec. Micray Gonzalez, Trustee Joel Valdez, Chairman Lito Sibayan, Immediate Past Chairman Pepo Nuñez and RCM Dir./ Trustee Albert Alday who joined via Zoom.

INTERCLUB ACTIVITY

Induction Ceremonies of the RCM Premiere at the Elorde Sports Center



Congratulations!
to HCP Cucu Tan,
her board and officers



INTERCLUB ACTIVITY

Induction Ceremonies of the RCM Premiere at the Elorde Sports Center



PUBLIC IMAGE

Meeting the Governor's PR/Media Challenge



A broader look at today's business
Friday, August 4, 2023 Vol. 18 No. 291

P25.00 NATIONWIDE | 3 SECTIONS 22 PAGES | 7 DAYS A WEEK

MUP PENSION, BENEFITS FOR '24 TO HIT OVER P160B

By JAMPER ENWANGA Y. ARCALES
@jamperarcales

THE Marcos administration plans to spend over P160 billion for the military and uniform personnel (MUP) pension, gratuity and terminal leave benefits next year, which is nearly P5.7 billion higher than what it allocated this year.

Based on the 2024 National Expenditure Program (NEP), the executive branch is proposing a P164.087 billion funding for the MUP pension, retirement gratuity and terminal leave.

The amount is 3.6 percent over this year's P158.387 billion budget allocation, according to state budget documents.

See related story in B1 Banking, "Veterans of MUP pension reform bill barred."

Bulk of the proposed fund will finance the pension of MUP and veterans amounting to a total of P140.679 billion, based on Chapter 42 of the 2024 NEP. Of the amount, about P129.821 billion would go to the pension of MUP while P10.857 billion will fund the pension of veterans.

The proposed budget for next year's MUP pension is slightly higher than the P128.656 billion allocated this year. The veterans' pension, meanwhile, has the same amount of budget for 2023.

The 2024 NEP showed that P23.408 billion be allocated for the retirement gratuity and terminal leave of MUP, 24 percent higher than the P18.873 billion budget this year. Broken down, it allots P10.306 billion to retirement gratuity and P13.101 billion

ECONOMIST VILLEGAS: FARM GROWTH CRUCIAL

Invest in agriculture, business asked



At the gathering of Rotarians at Manila Polo Club, Dr. Bernardo Villegas (left), renowned economist and one of the architects of the 1987 Philippine Constitution, along with Rotary Club of Manila President Rafael Alunan III, who previously held government positions such as Tourism and Interior and Local Government Secretary, offered their perspectives on the Philippine economy under the administration of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. (AP/WIDE)

By CAU U. ORDINARIO
@cauordinario

THE private sector can help the agriculture sector post a growth of 2 to 3 percent annually if they will take up the challenge of investing in the sector through corporate farming, according to a local economist.

In a briefing for the Rotary Club of Manila on Thursday, University of Asia and the Pacific (UAAP) economist Bernardo Villegas told local businessmen that raising agriculture growth and productivity is crucial in the fight against poverty.

Villegas said higher agricultural productivity will boost economic growth to 8 to 10 percent annually. This can bring down poverty to the level of the country's Asian neighbors of zero to 4 percent by 2028.

"It's time for people in large corporations to invest heavily in corporate farming because that is one way of helping our economy reach higher levels of productivity," Villegas said. Villegas said Malaysia's Nucleus farm model can help inform these efforts. Through the model, Malaysia was able to assemble thousands of hectares of land and dedicate it to the production of high value crops such as palm oil and rubber. He said the President's advisory council, which consists of experts in agriculture, are now working on a similar effort surrounding coconut which is a step toward the right direction.

Noting there are 3.5 million hectares of land dedicated to coconut, Villegas said maximizing this would not just allow the country to reap the same benefits that Malaysia gained from palm oil and rubber but also replicate the success of the banana and pineapple industries in the country. "I hope those of you who can do something about it will help the government and the other sectors of society. There is no way we can improve agriculture if we keep those millions of

hectares in two to three hectare fragments. There is no way we will ever grow in agriculture," Villegas said. "So we have to undo the harm done by agrarian reform, not by taking back the ownership from the small farmers but by finding creative ways of consolidating them (such as through) cooperatives," he added. Villegas said it would also help if local entrepreneurs will encourage children to go into agriculture. He said agriculture is not just farming, but it can be in post-harvest facilities or logistics that are profitable.

See "Economist," A2

Duterte briefs PBBM on China trip, Xi meeting

FORMER President Rodrigo R. Duterte finally met with President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. on Wednesday evening in Malacañang to discuss his recent trip to China.

In a brief statement, Presidential Communications Office Chief V. Garafil disclosed that Duterte talked about his meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing. "They also discussed other issues. The former President likewise gave some good pieces of advice to President Marcos," Garafil said.

After their face-to-face meeting, President Marcos and former President Duterte were joined by Cabinet secretaries as well as Senator Christopher Go and former Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea.

Marcos earlier said he welcomes Duterte's meeting with Xi since it provided the country additional new communication channels with China.

The Chinese government has recognized Duterte for his efforts in improving the relations between Manila and Beijing.

Marcos also met with members of the Senate led by Senate President Juan Miguel F. Zubiri last Wednesday in Malacañang for a dinner get-together.

"It was a birthday dinner for Senator Joel Villanueva," Garafil said.

In a statement, Zubiri said among the issues that were discussed in the meeting were agriculture and the issue of the West Philippine Sea.

"Overall it was a very relaxed mood and the senators just wanted to catch up with the President," Zubiri said.

Samuel P. Medenilla

PESO EXCHANGE RATES ■ US \$49.970 ■ JAPAN 338.38 ■ UK 69.9760 ■ HK 70482 ■ CHINA 74654 ■ SINGAPORE 410.089 ■ AUSTRALIA 35.9395 ■ EU 60.1648 ■ KOREA 0.0423 ■ SAUDI ARABIA 18.6675 Source: BSP (August 1, 2023)

PUBLIC IMAGE

Meeting the Governor's PR/Media Challenge



LOOK: The fifth weekly membership meeting of the Manila Rotary Club at the Manila Polo Club with Dr. Bernardo M. Villegas; Professor at The University of Asia and The Pacific; Visiting Professor of IESE Business school in Barcelona, Spain; and Research Director of the Center for Research and Communication. | 📷 by Dianne Bacelonia

#ManilaRotaryClub
#DailyTribune

3



PUBLIC IMAGE

Monday, 7 August 2023
Today's Newspaper

**Daily
Tribune**
Without Fear · Without Favor

LATEST | THE CIRCUIT

Rotary Club of Manila: A veritable roster of Phl's who's who

Since the Club was established in 1919, RCM members have been renowned for their dedicated service and support to fellowman, lifelong commitment to assist where assistance is most needed, leadership, and work for the public weal.



Among The Rotary Club Of Manila's illustrious members are former UN General Assembly President and former Foreign Affairs Secretary Carlos P. Romulo, US Army General Douglas Macarthur, former President Fidel V. Ramos, business magnates Henry Sy Sr. and John Gokongwei, former Interior and Local Government Secretary and current RC Manila President Rafael Alunan III, former Executive Secretary and Finance Secretary Alberto Romulo, House Speaker Martin Romualdez, Phl Ambassador To Washington Jose Manuel Romualdez, Francisco 'Paco' Magsaysay, grandson of the late beloved President Ramon Magsaysay and maker of arguably the Philippines' finest ice cream, Carmen's Best. | Photograph courtesy of PNA/FB/PIA.

PUBLIC IMAGE

Rotary Club of Manila: A veritable roster of Phl's who's who



By [Vangie Baga-Reyes](#)
11 hours ago

The Rotary Club of Manila boasts of the who's who in the Philippines' social, economic and political scenes. Its roster has always been dotted with the country's movers and shakers.

As of 25 July 2022, there are about 229 active members of Rotary Club of Manila led by its incumbent president, former Department of the Interior and Local Government Secretary Rafael Alunan III.

The current board of directors and executive officers are composed of immediate past president Hermie Esguerra, vice president Reginald Yu, directors Albert Palacios, Albert Alday, Johnny Chotrani, Antonio Lopez and Eduardo Enriquez III, RC Manila Foundation Inc. chair Jose Nuñez Jr., RC Manila Foundation Inc. president Joselito Sibayan, secretary Edwin Hernandez, treasurer Karlo Castro, sergeant-at-arms Jason Bogovich, sergeant-at-arms Nagi Zeitouni, assistant secretary Michael Jaey Albana, assistant treasurer Paul Joseph Garcia and board legal adviser Raoul Creencia.

Since the Club was established in 1919, RCM members have been renowned for their dedicated service and support to fellowman, lifelong commitment to assist where assistance is most needed, leadership, and work for the public weal.

Yes, the honorary nature of membership into RCM is based on the premise that it is an honor to be invited to serve the country through this prestigious club.

RCM is the only club that had the president of the United Nations General Assembly as its member, Carlos P. Romulo Sr., who became RCM president in 1935-1936. While in Corregidor, Gen. Douglas MacArthur was inducted as RCM honorary member. Former president of the Senate of the Philippines Gil J. Puyat was elected RCM president in 1940-1941.

Newspaper publisher General Hans Menzi became RCM president in 1952-1953. Another noteworthy president of the elite club in 1955 was statesman and educator Conrado Benitez, one of the founding trustees of Philippine Women University. In 1978, diplomat Alberto Romulo became RCM president. He later on became the country's executive secretary and secretary of foreign affairs.

Among its finest members was former president of the Philippines, Fidel V. Ramos. Other distinguished members were former Speaker of the House of Representatives Jose de Venecia Jr., SM's Henry Sy and Robinson's John Gokongwei.

Other RCM member of stature include House of Representatives Speaker Martin Romualdez, Finance Secretary Benjamin Diokno, Labor and Employment Secretary Bienvenido Laguesma, Information and Communications Technology Secretary Ivan John Uy, Philippine Ambassador to the United States Jose Manuel "Babe" Romualdez, former Tourism Secretary Vicente Carlos, Palawan Pawnshop chief operating officer Karlo Eugene Josef Castro and Francisco "Paco" Magsaysay, grandson of the late beloved President Ramon Magsaysay and maker of one of the Philippine's best world-class ice cream, Carmen's Best.

Likewise outstanding members diligently serving and adhering to the ethical principles of RCM include chair of Prudential Guarantee and Assurance Robert Coyuto Jr., Alay Lakad Foundation's Frank Evaristo, Hortaleza chair and CEO Rolando B. Hortaleza, PhilTrust Company's chairman Jaime "Jimmy" Laya, Gawad Kalinga chairman emeritus Antonio "Tony" Meloto Jr., former Solicitor General Estelito Mendoza, former Tourism and Agrarian Reform Secretary Roberto Pagdanganan and Pascual Laboratories' president Jose Augusto "Jappy" Pascual.

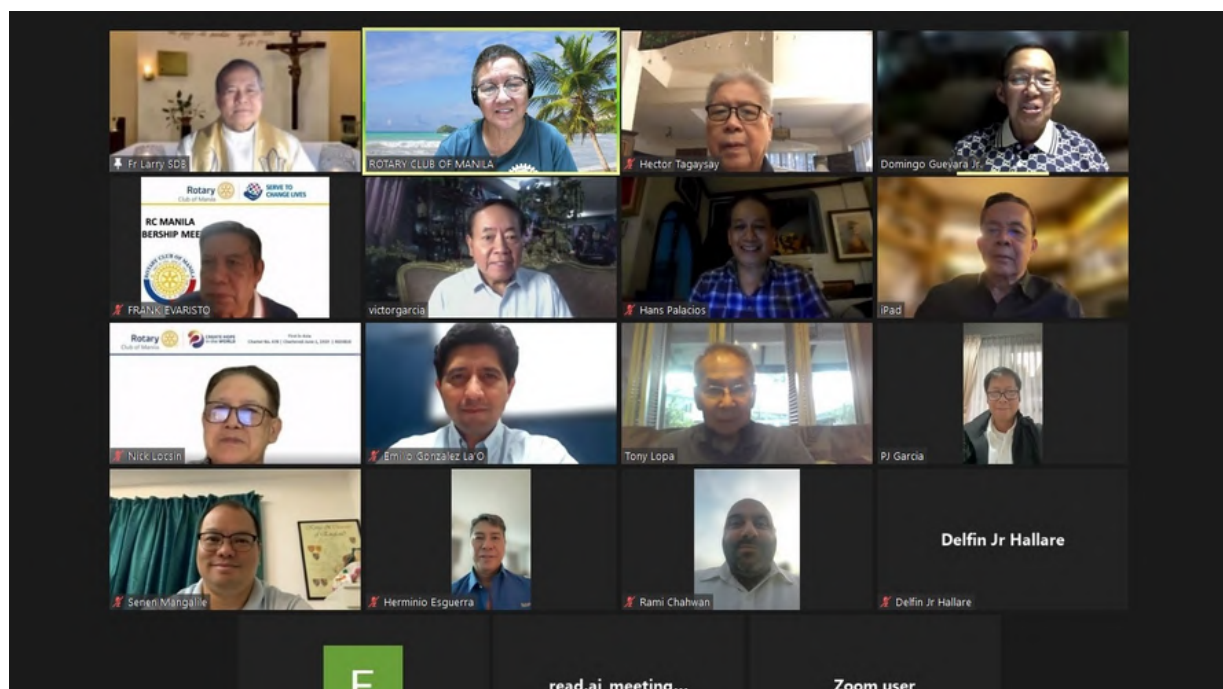
Each member of RCM is expected to fulfill his duty to serve and be of service anytime, anywhere to his family, community and country.

FELLOWSHIP

First Friday Mass for the Month of August



04 August 2023, 5:30 PM
1st Friday Mass
Zoom Meeting ID: 8920600358; Passcode: 06011919
Mass President: Rev. Fr. Larry Tan SDB



The First Friday Novena Mass, with Rev. Fr. Larry Tan, SDB, serving as Mass President, was held on August 4, 2023, via Zoom. Attendees included PP Boy Guevara (commentator), VP Reggie Yu (led the Intercessory Prayer), PD Jun Hallare (First Reading and Responsorial Psalm), Rtn. Emil La'O (Prayers of the Faithful), Rtn. Vic Garcia (Prayer of Spiritual Communion), IPP Hermie Esguerra (Prayer for Humble Faith and Hope), Treas. PJ Garcia (Novena to the Sacred Heart Prayer), AS Rami Chahwan, IA Nick Locsin, PP Frank Evaristo, PD Ner Lonzaga, PT Chito Tagaysay, PDSAA Tony Lopa, and Rtn. Senen Mangalile.



FELLOWSHIP



WELCOME THE STARS

AUGUST 24TH 2023 @ 5PM

**02 Rooftop Bar, 27th floor Penthouse D2 Residence Bonifacio Civic
Center Tower, 6 McKinley Pkwy, Taguig, 1634 Metro Manila**

**The RCM Fellowship committee is excited to invite you to meet all our New
Rotarians in a magnificent rooftop overseeing BGC and Taguig.**

Food and Alcohol will be served.

The only thing you'll need to bring with you is your good humor.

**DRESSCODE: AS LONG AS YOU ARE NOT NAKED,
WE WILL WELCOME YOU**

COMIC RELIEF



"I don't know how much you paid for that ball-locating drone, but I'm guessing it would've been cheaper just to buy new balls."

Source: Rotary Club of Caloundra

RECOGNITION CORNER



RECOGNITION CORNER

Monday, 7 August 2023

Today's Newspaper

Daily
Tribune
Without Fear · Without Favor

BUSINESS

Tech firm preps for 2024 boom

While growing up, I saw their passion for the organization, and that is why until now, the calling to go back to the young group of organizations is burning.



By [Raffy Ayeng](#)
11 hours ago

Expecting the employment of technology will continue to surge next year, home-grown technology company ABC Tech Ventures Inc. said it will be releasing its line of laptops targeting schools in July 2024 or before the next school year starts.

“Our pipeline for next year is from tablets to laptops. The models that we are crafting for our laptops next year are shock-proof so that even if these are accidentally dropped by students, it will still work,” Arvin Arik Carranceja, ABC Tech Ventures Inc. chief executive officer, said.

“Affordability and durability are our main objectives for this. The price will range from around P10 to P20,000. We will devote six to eight months for the testing stage alone. These laptops are for retail purposes, so we put more innovations on them. Where else in the world can you find laptops that works even if dropped repeatedly?” he said.

Carranceja said the line of laptops they are releasing in 2024 will use the latest Windows operating system, with an expandable RAM (random-access memory) that is considered at a mid-level range.

ABC Tech Ventures Inc. runs a manufacturing company in China but is manned by Filipino software engineers.

“We want to target the dream of the Philippine government to provide 1:1 laptops per student, as mentioned by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. in his last State of the Nation Address. Right now, we have 30 million students,” Carranceja indicated.



Arvin Arik Carranceja, ABC Tech Ventures Inc. chief executive officer, and candidate for national executive vice president in the upcoming JCI Philippines national elections this September 2023. | Photograph Courtesy Of Abc Tech

RECOGNITION CORNER

Tech firm preps for 2024 boom

Teacher in a box

Meanwhile, the ABC Tech CEO said they are also finalizing a software program dubbed “Teacher in A Box” to address the problem of intermittent connectivity in far-flung areas.

“It is an access point that has a server that even if you do not have WiFi access, you can watch movies and videos, particularly learning modules being given by the Department of Education to students. Imagine a WiFi that is offline, with an access point radius of 3 to 5 kilometers. That is the same technology used in most international flights in airlines. The technology is now under development,” Carranceja told reporters.

Poor connectivity marred the implementation of online classes in the provinces, as poor Internet connection remains a challenge in the country.

In his second State of the Nation Address, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. praised improvements in the country’s fixed and mobile Internet speeds.

The President said as of June, the country’s fixed broadband speed ranks 47th among 180 countries or 11 places higher than last year.

He added mobile Internet speed is now ranked 83 out of 142 countries, which is 8 places higher than it was last year.

On the other hand, the Department of Information and Communications Technology said to date, there are 4,757 free WiFi sites in 17 regions, 75 provinces and Metro Manila, and 606 cities and municipalities nationwide, including those in the geographically-isolated and disadvantaged areas, such as Basilan, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi and Pag-asa Island in Kalayaan Group of Islands.

Continuing the family’s legacy

Meanwhile, Carranceja also announced that he will run for the position of national executive vice president for the Junior Chamber International or JCI Philippines, as he wanted to implement programs as well as continue the legacy of his family.

Apart from being a member of the Jaycees, Carranceja is also a member of the Rotary Club of Manila, the country’s first and oldest Rotary organization.

“JCI has been part of my values as my parents are also past national board members. While growing up, I saw their passion for the organization, and that is why until now, the calling to go back to the young group of organizations is burning,” said the 34-year-old candidate of JCI Philippines, who aims to win in the JCI Philippines national election in the first week of September 2023.

Carranceja’s parents are former officials of JCI Philippines, while politics also run in his blood as his grandfather, Eleodoro David Bicierro, was the former Mayor of Daet, Camarines Norte.

“One of the platforms in running as national EVP of the Jaycees is to handle all the national programs of the organization, which is the promotion of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. My primary goal is the alignment of projects of non-government organizations to the government. I want the right direction of the NGOs with the government,” he explained.

Notable projects being implemented by the JCI Philippines include the “Bag to School,” women empowerment among members, and The Outstanding Young Men or TOYM, among others.

The Philippine Jaycees, now JCI Philippines, is the first nationally organized leadership development organization established in Asia, considered to be the training ground for individuals who want to be leaders in politics and organizations in the future.

One of the notable national presidents of the Philippine JCI is Senator Jose Victor Ejercito, who took the JCI Philippines helm in 1998.

JCI Philippines members believe that “by looking at the man as a man apart from the accidents of culture, religion or political affiliation, the Jaycee considers himself a citizen of the world, a brother to all men. It is for this reason that Jayceeism in the Philippines is destined to be an unbroken continuum... in the service of humanity for all time.”

<https://tribune.net.ph/2023/08/07/tech-firm-preps-for-2024-boom/>

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

The International Beat

Subsequent to the RI convention in Melbourne, I had the opportunity to visit our sister clubs, RC Bangkok and RC Singapore.

On 23 June 2023, RC Bangkok held its handover for Rotary year 2023-2024, with IPP Nicolas Reschke turning over the RCB presidency to President Lalita Hongratanawong. The handover was held at the venue of their regular lunch meetings, the Grand Hyatt Erawan, in the heart of the Sukhumvit shopping area in Bangkok.

RCMer Steve Mommaerts, our ambassador, assisted me in greeting and congratulating RCB members, who are all RCM friends, as well as personal friends of mine. It was truly a comfortable and enjoyable evening as I spent time with longstanding friends from RCB.



Nick Locsin

Chairman

International Relations Committee

On the very next day, June 24, I hopped over to Singapore to attend RC Singapore's turnover. This special event was held at the elegant ballroom of the Ritz Carlton Singapore. At the handover, I was happy to meet many other Rotarians from other Philippine clubs. Notable among these rotarians was DGE Reggie Nolido of RC Makati, who is the brother of our very own Rtn. Ramby Nolido. Another group I met were officers of RC Cauayan (Isabela), among them President Czarah Dy. RC Cauayan is a potential partner for a prospective medical mission.



RCM International Relations Committee Chairman Nick Locsin with President Lalita Hongratanawong of RC Bangkok

Chairman Nick Locsin at the RC Singapore's Handover Ceremony, where he met several Filipinos and bonded with friends from RC Singapore.



INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

The International Beat

On June 25, several friends from RC Singapore treated me to dinner at an old favorite restaurant of mine. The Banana Leaf Apolo has been serving Indian Fish head Curry for decades. I have not encountered something closely comparable to this dish in the many international restaurants I have been to. Their curries, including Lamb Shank Curry (Roganjosh) are unbelievably flavorful yet not piquant enough to bother this memorable meal. My hosts, PP Jimmy Ooi, PP Perlita Tiro, and the peripatetic PP Mark Wang were so hospitable; they made sure that I got what I was looking for... and I did. Thank you again, our dear friends from RC Singapore.

On June 26, I stopped over in Bangkok on my way home, for another unforgettable meal with friends from RC Bangkok. PP Abdullah Alawadi and RCM Ambassador Steve M. orchestrated a fun evening of gastronomic delights and warm bonding from games of pool and drinks.



Chairman Nick Locsin with IPP Nicolas Reschke and wife, and PP Abdullah Alawadi of RC Bangkok

I was back in Manila on June 27, albeit a few pounds heavier. On July 4, a group of Rotarians from our sister club RC Kowloon East visited us to attend our handover. During their anniversary celebration a few months back a group of around twenty Manila Rotarians attended.

They wanted to show their appreciation for our gesture of friendship by attending our handover. Top officers of RC Kowloon East including President Chung, PE Chan, IPP Mo Louis, PDG Peter Wong and PPs David Yau and Albert Poon were at the City of Dreams to witness our handover. They even had a cash gift for RCM. Sec. Edwin H. received this gift on behalf of Pres. Raffy Alunan and RCM.

During their visit, there were several dinners hosted by us for them. Arrival day dinner was set up by Pres. Raffy with Rotarians Henry Go and Director Jujut Enriquez. I and Pres. Raffy shared the hosting chores.

On the next day 05 July, RCKE PP David Yau joined me for a round of golf at the Sta. Elena Golf Club while the other visitors took a tour of the city and its environs. Dinner was hosted by IPP Hermie Esguerra at the La Cabrera restaurant in Makati. Our handover was at lunch of Thursday 06 July. On that evening our visitors hosted a dinner at the East Ocean Palace restaurant in the bay area. Among those in attendance were Pres. Raffy, DGE Jackie, PDG Vince, PD John Cutter, VP Reggie, BLA Raoul, AS Rami, and myself.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

The International Beat

At a farewell lunch on 07 July, we hosted them at the Manila Polo Club, Willow Root Bar. Pres. Raffy, Dir. Hans and Sec. Edwin, among others, were at hand to bid farewell to our visitors.

All in all, I am glad to report that our guests enjoyed their visit. We/They strengthened friendships with old friends and made many new friends. Commitments of cooperation between our clubs are solid. Individually we may be gaining friends for life.

This is the cycle that has proven to nurture and develop friendship from our Rotary global network... we honor them with a visit and they reciprocate with a visit of their own.

May I remind everyone, RC Kowloon East has already set a date for their next anniversary celebration. December 4 is their red letter day. Let us take this opportunity to again honor our friends. And a big plus to that will be an opportunity to have fun and bond in Hongkong, now very nearly recovered from the pandemic and only one hour and forty five minutes away from Manila.

On July 18, five members of the Rotary Club of Takatsuki East visited us with the main purpose of connecting with RCM whilst looking for partners for prospective projects. They were headed by their International Service Chairman Mitsumasa Asaka san who was ably assisted by RC Olongapo PP Hajime Yokota san.

Their prospective projects have been passed on to the chairmen of the committees tasked to handle those type of projects. In this case I turned over a potential water project to WASH chairman, BLA Raoul Creencia, and a potential project for the environment to chairman Dir. Hans Palacios.



Chairman Nick Locsin with visitors from RC Takatsuki East. On his immediate right is International Service Chairman Mitsumasa Asaka san, and on his immediate left is RC Olongapo PP Hajime Yokota.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

The International Beat

On July 21, the Circle of Centennial Rotary Clubs (CCRC) held its first meeting for the rotary year 2023-2024. I am pleased to announce that the CCRC will hold its second meeting for '23-'24 on August 21. Anyone interested to connect with Rotarians from the US and Europe is invited to attend the online meeting on said date. Please coordinate with the undersigned if you want to join the meeting.

May I also advise everyone that our sister Club RC Seoul Muak has INVITED us to visit them on September 15 and 16. They also invited their sister club RC Osaka East to join this visit. RC Osaka East is also our sister club. Anyone interested to join this visit, please advise me via a personal message on sms or Viber.

In fine, it was a fun and productive four weeks of interacting with other Rotary Clubs.

Thank you all for your interest and support of our activities involving Rotary Clubs from the global rotary network. Remember, the friends that we make are your friends too.

A reminder.....December 4, RC Kowloon East (Hongkong) anniversary celebration. Please mark that day for a visit to Hongkong.

In the service of Rotary,

Nick Locsin
Chairman
International Relations Committee

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

**Rtn. Aries Balanay with Rotary Club of Singapore
President Siew Luen Chan and Rtn. James Lee**





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