

The **HERMA** *Group*



WENDELL ADRIAN TAMAYO

Democratizing Energy.
Empowering People.

7th WMM Recap:
EMPOWERING CHANGE:
A Glimpse of the Future
with Innovation and
Inspiration

Rebirth Through
Bamboo: The
Legacy of the
"Kawayanihan para
sa Kalikasan,
Kabuhayan, at
Kinabukasan"
Project

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PROGRAM

8th Weekly Membership Meeting
Rotary Year 2024-2025
Thursday, 12 September 2024, 12:30 PM
DUSIT THANI MANILA

Moderator: **DSAA JOHN CUTTER**

PART I

12:00 PM Registration
12:30 PM Call to Order | **VP JOEL C. VALDES**
Invocation
DIR. NAGI ZEITOUNI
Philippine National Anthem
AVP of RCM Members
Rotary Club of Manila Hymn
RCM WF Music Chorale
The Four (4) Way Test
DSAA RAMI CHAHWAN
Acknowledgement of Guests
Welcome Song | **RCM WF Music Chorale**
Birthday Celebrants
Sept 06 Rtn. Jae Jang
Rtn. Emyl Eugenio
Sept 09 Rtn. Claver Ramos
PSAA Bollie Bolton
Sept 11 Rtn. PD Art Lopez
Maligayang Bati / Happy Birthday Song
RCM WF Chorale
12:50 PM President's Time | **VP JOEL C. VALDES**

PART II

12:55 PM Introduction of the Guest of Honor and Speaker
RTN. FRANCISCO "Paco" D. MAGSAYSAY
Guest Speaker
Address:
MR. WENDELL ADRIAN R. TAMAYO
President, Founder and CEO
GenWATT Energy Solutions
1:15 PM Open Forum / Q.A.
1:25 PM Presentation of Certificate of Appreciation
VP JOEL C. VALDES
2:00 PM Adjournment | **VP JOEL C. VALDES**

Wendell Adrian TAMAYO

**Visionary
Leader
Driving Energy
Transformation
at GenWATT**



WENDELL Adrian Tamayo stands as a leading force in the transformative field of energy innovation, particularly through his role at GenWATT Energy Solutions, a company renowned for its commitment to democratizing energy access. As a visionary leader, Tamayo's efforts have been pivotal in reshaping how energy is produced, distributed, and consumed, driving a movement towards greater equity and sustainability in the energy sector.

He is a distinguished professional with a robust background in political science, public policy, and organizational leadership. He earned his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of the Philippines, where he cultivated a deep understanding of governance and policy-making that would shape his career trajectory.

Tamayo's career began with a significant role as the Head Executive Assistant at the Development Academy of the Philippines from 2011 to 2017. In this capacity, he was instrumental in overseeing executive operations and supporting strategic initiatives. His role required exceptional organizational skills and a keen ability to navigate complex administrative challenges, underscoring his proficiency in managing high-level projects and coordinating with diverse stakeholders.

In 2018, Tamayo's expertise was further recognized when he was appointed as a Senior Technical Consultant for the Consultative Committee tasked with reviewing the 1987 Philippine Constitution. This role involved a meticulous examination of constitutional provisions and the formulation of recommendations for reform. Tamayo's contributions were marked by his sharp analytical abilities and a profound understanding of constitutional law, which played a crucial part in shaping the committee's recommendations and advancing the discourse on constitutional reform.

Since 2021, Tamayo has been serving as the President and CEO of GenWATT Energy Solutions Corporation, a position that underscores his leadership in the private sector. At GenWATT, he has been at the forefront of driving innovations in sustainable energy solutions. His leadership

is characterized by a strategic vision that integrates public policy insights with corporate strategy, focusing on advancing environmentally responsible and technologically advanced energy solutions. Under his stewardship, GenWATT has continued to make significant strides in promoting sustainable energy practices and addressing the global challenge of climate change.

Throughout his career, Wendell Adrian Tamayo has demonstrated a dynamic and hardworking ethos, with a particular emphasis on public policy and advocacy. His excellent analytical skills, combined with a rigorous approach to research, have enabled him to make substantial contributions across various sectors. Whether in the public sector, through constitutional review and administrative roles, or in the private sector, through leading an energy solutions company, Tamayo's work reflects a commitment to fostering innovation, sustainability, and effective governance.

Tamayo's career is a testament to his ability to bridge the gap between policy analysis and practical application, making him a valuable asset to both public institutions and private enterprises. His professional journey exemplifies a dedication to advancing societal goals through thoughtful leadership and strategic action.

EDITORIAL

Reginald T. Yu
Editor-in-Chief



IN an era where the energy landscape is rapidly evolving, the pursuit of democratizing energy and empowering people has never been more critical. At the forefront of this transformation is Wendell Tamayo, a visionary leader whose work with GenWATT is shaping the future of how we think about and interact with energy. Tamayo's approach is not just a response to global energy challenges but a proactive blueprint for a more equitable and sustainable energy system.

For decades, access to energy has been a privilege of the wealthy, with billions around the world either lacking reliable energy sources or paying exorbitant prices for basic services. GenWATT, under Tamayo's stewardship, has been pioneering efforts to decentralize energy production and distribution. This means moving away from traditional, centralized power grids and towards models where individuals and communities can generate, store, and manage their own energy. Such decentralization not only mitigates the vulnerabilities associated with centralized systems but also empowers individuals to take control of their energy needs, leading to greater energy independence and resilience.

Central to Tamayo's approach is the deployment of cutting-edge technologies that enable this democratization. GenWATT has been investing in and developing renewable energy technologies such as solar panels, battery storage systems, and microgrid solutions. These technologies are crucial for empowering people, especially in underserved and remote areas where traditional infrastructure is lacking or non-existent.

Tamayo's work with GenWATT is redefining what energy equity means. Traditionally, energy policy and infrastructure development have been driven by economic and political interests that often overlook the needs of marginalized communities. GenWATT's model challenges these entrenched power dynamics by prioritizing inclusivity and accessibility. The company's projects are designed with a keen awareness of social and environmental justice, ensuring that the benefits of energy advancements reach those who need them most.

Moreover, by advocating for policy changes that support decentralized energy systems and sustainable practices, GenWATT is contributing to a broader movement towards systemic change. This involves engaging with policymakers, industry leaders, and community stakeholders to create frameworks that facilitate and accelerate the transition to a more equitable energy future.

As we look to the future, Wendell Tamayo's contributions through GenWATT offer a compelling vision of how energy can be democratized and how people can be empowered. His work serves as a model for how innovative technology, strategic leadership, and a commitment to social equity can converge to address some of the most pressing challenges of our time.

The journey towards democratizing energy is fraught with obstacles, but Tamayo's efforts demonstrate that it is not only possible but also imperative. By continuing to champion decentralized energy solutions and advocate for policies that support equitable access, GenWATT is paving the way for a future where energy is not a luxury for the few but a fundamental right for all.

In this transformative period, Wendell Tamayo's vision stands as a beacon of hope and a call to action. The work being done at GenWATT exemplifies how we can harness technology and innovation to create a more just and sustainable world, reminding us that the future of energy is not just about power but about empowering people.



**Philippine
Airlines**

The Heart of the Filipino



cover story

EMPOWERING CHANGE: A Glimpse of the Future with Innovation and Inspiration

by *PVP Reginald T. Yu*

ON September 5, 2024, the **Rotary Club of Manila** held its **7th Weekly Membership Meeting** at the elegant Dusit Thani Manila. The event, which started at 12:30 PM, was a testament to the club's commitment to both community service and professional excellence. Past Director **Amado “Amading” D. Valdez** graciously moderated the meeting, ensuring a seamless flow of activities.



The Meeting Unfolds

The day began with registration at 11:00 AM, followed by a brief pre-meeting gathering. At 12:15 PM, Vice-President **Joel C. Valdes** called the meeting to order, setting a tone of formality and enthusiasm. The invocation, led by Past Assistant Treasurer **Karlo Eugene Josef “Karlo” M. Castro**, was followed by an audio-visual presentation of the Philippine National Anthem, which was rendered by RCM members. This was complemented by the Rotary Club of Manila Hymn performed by the renowned **RCM World Famous Music Choral**.



Past Director Amado “Amading” D. Valdez graciously moderated the meeting

Rtn. **Paul Kho** then led the members in reciting the Four-Way Test, a cornerstone of Rotary’s ethical guidelines. The acknowledgment of guests, another highlight of the meeting, was handled with warmth and cordiality by Past Director **Amado “Amading” D. Valdez**.



Above: Assistant Treasurer Karlo Eugene Josef “Karlo” M. Castro led the invocation.

Right: Rtn. Paul Kho led the members in reciting the Four-Way Test.



Celebrating Milestones

The meeting took a celebratory turn as the members sang the Welcome Song, again performed by the **RCM World Famous Music Choral**. Special attention was given to birthday celebrants for the month of September, including **Rtn. John Tan**, **STAR Rtn. Chris Bello**, and **Rtn. Aldous Alingog**. The celebratory atmosphere was heightened with a rendition of the "*Maligayang Bati*" or "Happy Birthday" song, creating a festive ambiance.

President's Address

At 12:30 PM, Vice-President **Joel C. Valdes** delivered the President's Time address, reflecting on the club's recent achievements and outlining future initiatives. His speech emphasized the importance of collective effort and the impact of Rotary's programs on the community.

A Vision for the Future: Engr. Edgar B. Saavedra's Keynote

The highlight of the meeting was the keynote address by **Engr. Edgar B. Saavedra**, Founder and Chair of the Megawide – Citicore Group. Known for his significant contributions to engineering and infrastructure in the Philippines, Saavedra's speech provided valuable insights into the future of renewable energy and infrastructure development.

Saavedra began by reflecting on his company's journey from participating in public-private partnership (PPP) projects to becoming a leader in renewable energy. He shared anecdotes about the challenges and successes in executing projects like the Mactan Cebu International Airport and the construction of 10,000 classrooms across the country. His experiences underscored a commitment to not only achieving business goals but also contributing to societal development.

Renewable Energy and Sustainability

A significant portion of Saavedra's address focused on the renewable energy sector. He elaborated on the strategic shifts Megawide has made, including the divestment from certain ventures to concentrate on core areas like solar energy. Saavedra discussed the establishment and growth of Citicore Renewable Energy Corp. (CREC), which went public in June 2024 with an impressive PHP 5.3 billion IPO. CREC's aim to expand its capacity to 5 gigawatts in the next five years exemplifies Saavedra's forward-thinking approach.

Saavedra's keynote also touched upon the challenges and opportunities in the renewable energy sector. He highlighted the need for increased investment in solar and wind energy, the importance of battery storage systems, and the broader goal of achieving a 50% renewable energy mix by 2040. His insights into the geopolitical and economic factors influencing energy markets provided a comprehensive view of the sector's dynamics.



Open Forum



Engr. Saavedra actively engaged in an interactive conversation with Geoffrey William Little (RC Australia), Rtn. Butch Alcantara, Rtn. Willy Peliño, Rtn. Edgard Cabangon, Rtn. Dan Obradó, PD Oscar Del Rosario, Rtn. Colin Patterson, Dir. Rod G. Valencia, Rtn. Winnie Cheng (RC Taiwan), PP Archit, PP Archit Bartolome, and Rtn. Tong Payumo.

Induction of New Members

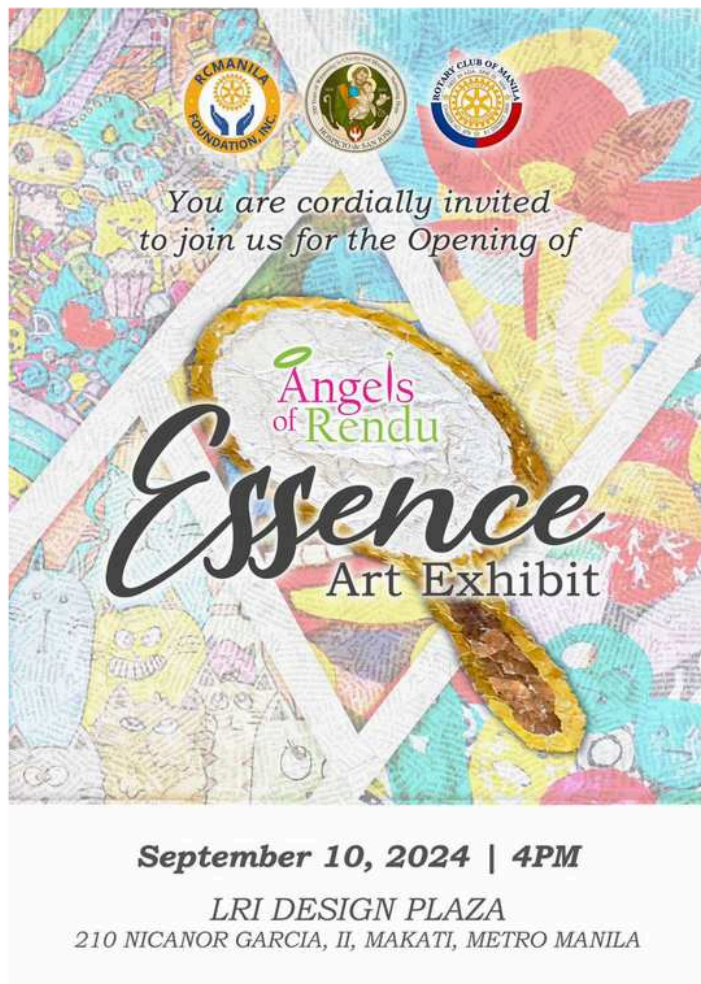
Following the keynote address, the meeting proceeded with the induction of new members. VP **Joel C. Valdes** introduced and welcomed new members **Jonas R. Gonzalez** and **Valentino S. Bagatsing**. The ceremony underscored the club's growth and the continuous influx of new talent and perspectives.



*Valentino S. Bagatsing
(Proposer: PT Joselito
"Lito" H. Sibayan)*

*Jonas R. Gonzalez
(Proposer:
PAT Karlo Eugene
Josef "Karlo" M.
Castro)*





Sister Martha Abejero (Directress, Hospicio de San Jose), AT Joshua Aragon, and "Angie" (one of the Hospicio artists)

Closing and Reflections

The meeting concluded at 2:00 PM with closing remarks and adjournment by VP **Joel C. Valdes**. The 7th Weekly Membership Meeting of the Rotary Club of Manila was a remarkable event, blending formal proceedings with inspiring discussions and celebrations. The contributions of **Engr. Edgar B. Saavedra** and the club's ongoing initiatives were a testament to Rotary's enduring impact on both local and global scales.



Engr. Edgar Saavedra received RCM's Plaque of Appreciation.



by PBLA Raoul Creencia



The FOUNDATION of RCM

A Manila Rotarian has numerous ways and opportunities to serve the Club. One way is by serving as a trustee or officer of the RC Manila Foundation, Inc. (RCMFI). Founded in 1978, RCMFI has been the Rotary Club of Manila's reliable companion in its effort to generate funds to implement various Rotary projects. A duly incorporated foundation, RCMFI operates through a Board of Trustees headed by a Chairman. Together with the latter, the President, Trustees and other appointed officers collectively manage the RCMFI's affairs, working to ensure that its role of fund mobilization for the benefit of the Club is being aggressively and efficiently pursued. This year, the RCMFI Board is Chaired by PVP Reggie Yu, with Director Mike Albana as President. Under their leadership, RCMFI hopes to once again, just like in the past years, play the role of the RCM's foundation and strength, a worthy partner in the pursuit of service.

Over the past two years, RCMFI has successfully held the RCM Cup (our Club's signature golf tournament for a cause) and generated the much-needed funds to enable the Club to successfully pursue its worthwhile projects. As a former Chairman of the WASH Committee, I have personally witnessed how RCMFI supported the projects that were undertaken by my committee (i.e., WASH training for Rotaractors, and the construction of handwashing stations in two schools in Tondo).

This year, WASH Committee Chair Emman de la Cruz will again utilize the funds earmarked by the Foundation to finance the construction of additional washing stations in our chosen schools. Similar impactful projects covering the other areas of service have likewise been supported by RCMFI. It is hoped that the Foundation, as a duly registered corporate entity and the Club's official fund generating organization, will be sustained with the competent leadership, volunteerism and dedication of its officers.

In his talk during last week's membership meeting, GOHS Engr. Edgar Saavedra mentioned that the public-private partnership (PPP) project involving the construction of public school buildings was among his most fulfilling undertaking. As a PPP practitioner, and in my PPP lectures to lawyers in various venues, the PSIP or the PPP for School Infrastructure Project (successfully completed through a Build-Lease-Transfer modality) is my favorite example of a successful and truly socially-relevant PPP project. Considering the National Government's budgetary constraints and its inability to expeditiously address the classroom backlog, tapping the private sector's resources and expertise to construct school buildings is truly a wise direction to take. Hopefully, more private entities will appreciate the impact of pursuing PPP school building projects, and will come forward to partner with the government to build more classrooms for our school children.

CLUB ADMINISTRATION

RCM Members' Attendance Report RY 2024-2025

September 2024

SEPTEMBER 2024	September 05, 2024 ENGR. EDGAR B. SAAVEDRA
MEMBERS PRESENT	50
MEMBERS PRESENT %	21%
MAKE UP ATTENDEES	12
EXEMPTED	5
ON LEAVE	0
Total Active Members	57
Total # of Members	236
TOTAL %:	24%
ROTARACTORS	3
MEDIA	2
EMBASSIES / DIPLOMATIC CORPS	0
DG, DGE, DGN, PDG	0
GOHS / GS	4
VISITING ROTARIAN	3
Guests of RCM MEMBERS	13
TOTAL ATTENDEES	73

LIST OF ATTENDEES

1	Albaria, Michael Jaey C	26	Nomura, Kazuhiro
2	Alcantara, Isidro C.	27	Obrado, Daniel Calzado
3	Alday, Albert Singson	28	Ong, Philip L.
4	Aragon, Joshua Reuben	29	Ozaeta, Miguel Antonio L.
5	Bartolome III, Arsenio M.	30	Pascual, Abraham F.
6	Bediones, Rodolfo P.	31	Patterson, Colin David
7	Bogovich, Jason M.	32	Payumo, Felcito C.
8	Bolton, Wilhelm	33	Pelilo, Wilfredo M.
9	Cabangon, Edgard A.	34	Preysler, Jr., Fausto R.
10	Carlos, Vicente J.	35	Recto, Philip H.
11	Castro, Karlo Eugene Josef M.	36	Roxas, Michael D.
12	Creencia, Raoul C.	37	Serapio, Carlos G.
13	Cureg, Alexander P.	38	Shimoda, Shigeru
14	Cutter, John Michael	39	Sibayan, Joseito H.
15	Davis, Raymond N.	40	Simon, Juanito A.
16	Del Rosario Sr., Oscar A.	41	Tagaysay, Hector O.
17	Garcia, Paul Joseph M.	42	Tamano, Shalimar H.
18	Go, Henry S.	43	Tee, Teddy Jr. B.
19	Gonzalez, Michael Raymond L.	44	Valdes, Joel C.
20	Guevara, Jr., Domingo S.	45	Valdez, Amado D.
21	Kalaw, Teodoro Alejandro Y IV	46	Valencia, Rodolfo G.
22	Koh, Paul Anthony T.	47	Yu, Reginald Trieng
23	Lopez, Arthur M.	48	Zeitoun, Nagi
24	Magsaysay, Francisco D.	49	Gonzales, Jonas
25	Noido, Ramon Alberto B.	50	Bagatsing, Valentino

List of Members Who Have Paid Their Annual Dues for RY 2024-2025

As of September 11, 2024

1	ACOSTA, CRISPINIANO G.	44	LIM, DAVID EDUARDO T
2	ALDAY, ALBERT	45	LONZAGA, REINERIO
3	ALINGOG, ALDOUS A	46	LORENZANA, DELFIN
4	BAGATSING, VALENTINO S	47	MACAPAGAL, MICHAEL T.
5	BARTOLOME, ARSENIO III M	48	MACATOMAN, ABDULGANI
6	BEDIONES, RODOLFO P.	49	MAGSAYSAY, FRANCISCO
7	BELLA, GERONIMO JR. D	50	MANALAYSAY, CESAR
8	BENEDICTO, SIXTO T	51	MATSCHUCK, GUENTER GERHARD G
9	BLANCO, MANUEL M	52	MAURICIO, ANTONILO DC
10	BRANELLEC, JACQUES	53	NOLIDO, RAMON ALBERTO B
11	CAMAT, NATHANIEL	54	NOMURA, KAZUHIRO
12	CANON, RAUL JR C	55	NONES, ROMEO C.
13	CARLOS, VICENTE J.	56	NUNEZ, JOSE A
14	CARRANCEJA, ARVIN ARIK B	57	ONG, PHILLIP
15	CASTRO, KARLO EUGENE JOSEF M	58	PALLASIGUE, JOHN BRIAN
16	CO, VAL CONSTANTINE L	59	PASCUAL, ABRAHAM F
17	COYIUTO, ROBERT JR. G	60	PATTERSON, COLIN DAVID
18	CREENCIA, RAOUL C.	61	PELINO, WILFREDO
19	CUREG, ALEXANDER P	62	PINEDA, PATRICIO JR.
20	CUTTER, JOHN MICHAEL	63	PREYSLER, FAUSTO JR. D.R
21	DAYANG, JUAN E	64	REYNOLDS, DAVID J
22	DEL ROSARIO, OSCAR SR	65	RODRIGUEZ, JOAQUIN SR. C
23	DOMINGUEZ, CARLOS III G.	66	ROXAS, MICHAEL D
24	DY, MANUEL C.	67	SCHNEIDER, BERND
25	EGAN, BRENDAN W.L.	68	SERAPIO, CARLOS C
26	ELDEBS, ISSAM	69	SEVILLA, LUIS ANGELO L
27	ENRIQUEZ, EDUARDO III V	70	SHIMODA, SHIGERU
28	ESGUERRA, HERMINIO S.	71	SIBAYAN, JOSELITO H
29	FERNANDEZ, ANTONIO JAIME JOSE V.	72	SOBREPEÑA, ROBERT JOHN L.
30	FOLLOSCO, CEFERINO JR G	73	SYJUCO, JOSE, JR. A.
31	GARCIA, THEODORE Q	74	TAGAYSAY, HECTOR O
32	GARCIA, VICTOR III G.	75	TALUSAN, FERDINAND E
33	GONZALES, JONAS R	76	TAMANO, SHALIMAR HOFER
34	GUEVARA, DOMINGO JR	77	TAMAYO, VICTOR L
35	GUEVARA, RICARDO S.B.	78	TAN, EUSEBIO V
36	HALLERBACH, MATHIAS	79	TILLMAN, HANSEL JOSEPH MICHAEL
37	IBUYAN, BENEDICT JULIUS F	80	VALDES, JOEL C
38	IMATA, YASUSHI	81	VALENCIA, JOHN NICO P.
39	JUCABAN, JERIC	82	VALENCIA, RODOLFO G
40	KALAW, TEODORO	83	YU, REGINALD T.
41	KATIGBAK J ALFONSO L	84	ZALDARRIAGA, FELIX FRANCISCO S
42	KLEBS, DAVID	85	ZEITOUNI, NAGI
43	LACAMBACAL, ALVIN D.	86	ZALCITA, XAVIER Y.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING



THE Membership Committee met with the invitee Mr. Joaquin “Jack” L. Arambulo last Thursday, September 5, 2024, at the Sarika Room, Dusit Thani Hotel, Makati City.

Present from the Membership Committee were Chairman/PVP Fausto Preysler, Co-Chair/PT Lito Sibayan, Dir. Teddy Kalaw and PDG Vince Carlos.



NOMINATED BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR ROTARY YEAR 2024-2025



First in Asia, Club No. 16985, Charter No. 478
R.I. District 3810

NOMINATION FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF ROTARY YEAR 2024-2025 HELD Thursday, August 29, 2024, at the Weekly Membership Meeting held at the Chandara Function Room of Dusit Thani Hotel, Makati City.

Program Moderator PD Oscar del Rosario, Sr. opened the floor for the nomination of Directors of the Board for Rotary Year 2025-2026.

NOMINATOR		NOMINEE	
1	PP Archit Bartolome	1	Dir Rod Valencia
2	PP Chito Zalardriaga	2	PD Hans Palacios
3	PDG Alex Cureg	3	PVP Reggie Yu
		4	PD Noy Benedicto
		5	PBLA Raoul Creencia
4	PDG Vince Carlos	6	Rtn Edgard Cabangon
		7	PAS Rami Chahwan
		8	PS Edwin Hernandez
5	PBLA Raoul Creencia	9	Rtn Paco Magsaysay
		10	Rtn Ricky Guevara
6	Dir Albert Alday	11	Rtn Warren So
		12	PT Karlo Castro
7	PD Abe Pascual	13	PT Lito Sibayan
		14	Rtn Caloy Serapio
8	Pres Jujut Enriquez	15	VP Joel Valdes
		16	Dir. Mike Albaña
		17	Dir. Teddy Kalaw
		18	Dir. Henry Go
		18	Dir. Nagi Zeitouni
		20	Dir. Albert Alday
		21	Treas. Mike Roxas
9	PT Chito Tagaysay	22	SAA Jason Bogovich
		23	PD Abe Pascual
10	Dir. Henry Go	24	STAR Rtn Del Lorenzana

Upon motion by PP Archit Bartolome, and seconded, the nomination for the Board of Directors for Rotary Year 2025-2026 was closed.

ASST. SECRETARY ARVIN ARIK CARRANCEJA

INTERCLUB RELATIONS

Charter Presentation of the Rotary Club of AIM



President Jujut Enriquez with RC Makati President Keith Harrison and RC AIM President Jay Que



President Jujut Enriquez with Arvie (son of PP Cesar Ubaldo) and RC AIM President Jay Que



President Jujut Enriquez with RC Manila Magic President John

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REBIRTH THROUGH BAMBOO:

The Legacy of the **K**awayanihan para sa **K**alikasan, **K**abuhayan at **K**inabukasan Project

by PVP Reginald T. Yu



IN the shadow of Mayon Volcano, where nature's beauty is entwined with its peril, a profound and noble initiative unfolded from September 5 to 7, 2024. The "**Kawayanihan para sa Kalikasan, Kabuhayan, at Kinabukasan**" (KKKK) project, a heartening testament to human resolve and environmental stewardship, brought together a diverse coalition dedicated to healing the land and uplifting the lives of its people. This multi-district Rotary endeavor, spearheaded by the Rotary Club of Manila and its partners, embodied the spirit of solidarity and hope against the backdrop of Bicol's rolling hills and volcanic vistas.

The project commenced with the arrival of delegates, including six distinguished members from the Rotary Club of Manila: Rotary Club of Manila President **Jujut Enriquez**; Director-in-Charge for Environmental and Climate Protection, **Nagi Zeitouni**, Committee Chairman

for the Environment, **PP Herminio "Hermie" Esguerra**; Project Chief of Mission Director **Albert Alday**; Past Vice-President **Reggie Yu**; and Rotarian **Ferdinand "Inov" Talusan**. Each brought a unique blend of expertise, passion, and commitment to a mission deeply rooted in environmental restoration and community support.



A Background of Resilience

The KKKK project emerged as a response to the severe environmental and livelihood challenges facing the Province of Legazpi. Bicol's iconic Mayon Volcano, a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, had suffered significant ecological damage due to volcanic sand mining and frequent natural disasters. The catastrophic Super Typhoon Reming in 2006 had left a trail of devastation, with lahar flows claiming numerous lives and ravaging the land. In the wake of such disasters, communities grappled with eroded landscapes, destroyed livelihoods, and heightened vulnerability to future calamities.

Against this backdrop, bamboo planting emerged as a symbol of hope. Bamboo's fast growth and robust root system provide effective erosion control, while its versatility offers a sustainable alternative for livelihoods. The KKKK project aimed to address these dual challenges by planting 30,000 bamboo propagules to restore ecological balance and support local communities economically.



The project was initially conceived by **Fr. Efren “Momoy” Borromeo** and brought to fruition by the husband-and-wife team, Past Presidents **Willie and May Masangkay** of the Rotary Club of Manila Premier. In collaboration with Rotary International District 3810 Governor **Joyce Ambray** and Past District Governor **Edna Sutter** of District 3830, who serves as The Rotary Foundation's Major Gift Initiative Adviser (MGIA) for Environmental Protection, they facilitated the donation of over 30,000 bamboo propagules. These propagules were transported in two batches to Bicol, under the supervision of **Fr. Momoy Borromeo** and coordinated by the Ugnayan ng Barangay at Simbahan (UBAS).

Recognizing the scale of the project, PDG Joyce recommended a multi-stakeholder approach to ensure its sustainability. This is where the Rotary Club of Manila, along with other Rotary Clubs, became actively involved.

A Coalition for Change

The success of the KKKK project was built upon the concerted efforts of a broad coalition of organizations and individuals, each contributing their expertise and resources to this noble cause. The initiative was spearheaded by the **Rotary Club of Manila**, with significant involvement from both local and international Rotary clubs. The participating clubs included the **Rotary Club of Ichihara-Chuo** and the **Rotary Club of Tokyo-Global** from Japan, along with **Rotary Club of Manila Premier, Manuel Roxas Boulevard, Binondo Prime, Remedios Circle, and Pasay Libertad** from the

Philippines. The Rotary Club of Legazpi Central, serving as a crucial local partner, played a pivotal role in the project's execution.

In addition to the Rotary clubs, Inner Wheel Clubs also joined the effort, with members from the **Inner Wheel Club of Legazpi** and **Inner Wheel Club of Manila 101** lending their support and resources. This diverse coalition reflected a shared commitment to environmental restoration and community upliftment, transcending borders and local affiliations.



A Journey of Reflection and Action

Day One dawned with a poignant ceremony at Laudato Si Farm, also known as Mary's Healing Sanctuary. Here, amidst the serene landscape, Father **Efren "Momoy" Borromeo** led a mass honoring over 400 victims of the Super Typhoon Reming's devastating lahar flows. The service, imbued with solemn remembrance, set the tone for the days that followed — a reflective yet proactive response to the disaster's lingering scars.

As the sun rose higher, the delegates, alongside local dignitaries, engaged in a series of activities that marked the beginning of a tangible transformation. Rotary Club of Legazpi Central President **Leonil "Neil" Andal** of the Rotary Club of Legazpi Central, Project Chief Advocate and Chairman, Rotary Club of Legazpi Central Vice-President **Martin Reynoso**, and Barangay Captain **Harold Bembenuto** of Barangay Padang welcomed the participants with messages of hope and resilience. The event progressed with the turnover of essential farm implements and tools to the Barangay Agriculturist, symbolizing a collective commitment to nurturing the land that had once been marred by disaster.

The day's agenda included a seminar on bamboo propagation — an essential component of the KKKK project. Bamboo, with its rapid growth and extensive root system, was not merely a plant but a symbol of renewal and strength. This knowledge transfer was a pivotal moment, emphasizing bamboo's role in restoring the environment and providing sustainable livelihoods.



Planting the Seeds of Recovery

The true essence of the KKKK project unfolded as the delegates participated in various bamboo planting activities. At Barangay Padang Memorial Triple Cross, they planted bamboo to honor the victims of the lahar flows, turning a site of mourning into one of regeneration. The model quarry restoration site showcased a commitment to transforming environmental scars into green spaces, with bamboo serving as a tool for slope stabilization and aesthetic enhancement.

The tour of illegal quarry sites in the Municipality of Sto. Domingo underscored the project's urgency. Here, the delegates witnessed the adverse effects of rampant quarrying and saw firsthand the potential of bamboo to restore and revitalize damaged landscapes. The establishment of a bamboo

nursery in collaboration with the Farmers Association illustrated a practical approach to countering the effects of illegal quarrying, offering a sustainable livelihood to approximately 200 families.

By expanding the bamboo nursery and planting bamboo with the Farmers Association, the project sought to address both environmental degradation and economic hardship.

Lunch at Mary's Healing Sanctuary provided not just sustenance but a celebration of local culture and resilience. The rich flavors of Bicolano cuisine, including Kurobota black pig lechon and Bicol Express, were a testament to the region's vibrant heritage and the communal spirit that binds its people.



An Evening of Celebration and Reflection

The evening of September 6 marked a joyous occasion — the 21st Charter Anniversary of the Rotary Club of Legazpi Central. The welcome ceremony and dinner at Concourse Hall, Wei Due Building, was more than a festivity; it was a celebration of the Rotary's enduring impact and the collaborative spirit that had driven the KKK project.

As the project drew to a close on September 7, the delegates continued their bamboo planting efforts in Camalig and Daraga, furthering the mission of ecological restoration. The journey concluded with an invitation to explore the stunning vistas of Albay, leaving participants with a deep sense of fulfillment and connection to the land and its people.



A Legacy of Hope

The KKK project was more than an environmental initiative; it was a beacon of hope and a manifestation of collective human spirit. It illustrated how dedicated individuals and organizations could come together to mend the Earth and uplift communities affected by natural calamities. The Rotary Club of Manila and its partners demonstrated that through shared vision and unwavering commitment, the scars of the past could be healed, and the seeds of a more resilient and sustainable future could be sown.

In the lush groves where bamboo now takes root, the story of the KKK project will live on — a narrative of renewal, resilience, and the enduring bond between humanity and nature.



On September 6, 2024, at the Concourse Hall in Legazpi City, RCM, represented by President Jujut Enriquez, and RC Legazpi Central, represented by President Neil Andal, formalized a sisterhood agreement. This agreement signifies a mutual commitment between the two clubs to support each other.

ENVIRONMENT

RC Manila Receives the Remaining Php 150,000 Cash Prize for the Pasig River Clean-Up Project

As you may recall, RCM's Pasig River Clean-Up and Rehabilitation Project (Reviving Pasig River through Floating Trash Barriers) won second runner-up in the Search for the Most Outstanding Environmental Project by the Philippine Rotary Media Foundation, Inc. (PRMFI).

The total cash prize from this competition was Php 200,000.00. Last week, RCM received the remaining prize of Php 150,000.00 from PRMFI, in addition to the Php 50,000.00 we received at the District level.

The project, which was implemented during the term of PP Hermie Esguerra (RY 2022-2023), stands out for its innovative use of floating trash barriers, a method that has proven effective in combating the river's pollution. This ongoing project underscores RCM's commitment to environmental sustainability and community involvement.

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UB1500275	4/26/2024	14,109.00	1,881,272.19
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UB1812439	4/25/2024	1,900.00	1,904,570.19
554781914	4/25/2024	1,900.00	1,898,670.19
UB247258	4/25/2024		1,896,970.19
UB247003	4/25/2024	25.00	1,896,995.19
UB246798	4/25/2024	18,000.00	1,915,995.19
UB364292	4/24/2024	1,807.11	1,917,802.30
UB338451	4/24/2024	8,089.00	1,925,891.30
UB327097	4/24/2024	1,040.00	1,926,931.30
UB318431	4/24/2024	3,180.00	1,930,111.30
5539343	4/23/2024	50,000.00	1,980,111.30
5536586	4/22/2024	2,808.59	1,982,919.89
5524260	4/18/2024	90,000.00	2,072,919.89



CHARTER NIGHT OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF MANILA EXPATS



The Charter Night of the Rotary Club of Manila Expats took place on August 30, 2024 at the exclusive venue, Pardon My French, which was filled to capacity. RC Manila Expats is a newly formed club that the Rotary Club of Manila is sponsoring. Notably, half of the attendees were foreigners, reflecting the club's diverse membership of nine nationalities. Among those present was Rtn. Romy Nones, serving as their adviser.



*SDG Ken Jamandre
delivering his
remarks*



DISTRICT INTERACT ASSEMBLY



Director Henry Go, Director in Charge of Youth Service, represented the Rotary Club of Manila at the District INTERACT Assembly. The event took place on Saturday, September 7, 2024, at Lakandula High School in Tondo, Manila.



PRESS COVERAGE

Daily Tribune

WITHOUT FEAR ① WITHOUT FAVOR

PORTRAITS

Infra, RE tycoon: It's not all about money

'Now that I'm in my 50s, I realize that doing business, it's not all about money.'



Construction and renewable energy tycoon Edgar Saavedra has a vision to energize what he calls a 'first-world' Philippines with pure clean power. Photograph Courtesy of Megawide-Citicore Group

Teddy Montelibano

Published on: Sep 09, 2024, 00:20

Construction, property and renewable energy (RE) development tycoon Edgar Saavedra, who chairs engineering and infrastructure conglomerate Megawide Construction, and Citicore Renewable Energy Corp. (CREC), gave sage advice to members of the prestigious Rotary Club of Manila whom he addressed as the Club's guest speaker during its meeting at the Dusit Thani in Makati Thursday last week.

"Now that I am in my 50s, I realize that doing business, it's not all about money. If you can help people and communities, the country and at the same time make money, why not? Why hit only one bird if you can hit four with one stone?" said Saavedra, an engineer who co-founded construction firm Megawide with fellow La Sallian Michael Cosiquien in 1997.

The company obtained its Triple A License from the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board in 2007, bagging two major contracts that year, SM Development Corporation's Berkeley Residences and Grass Residences Tower 1.

Pre-cast facilities

"In (February) 2011, Megawide went public as we expanded by building precast facilities so we could build faster," Saavedra said.

The Megawide investment public offering (IPO) raised P2.3 billion, funding the company's state-of-the-art precast manufacturing complex in Taytay, Rizal. This enabled Megawide's diversification of its client base, as it entered into a private-public partnership (PPP) contract with the government, to address the housing backlog in the country.

Megawide also undertook the building of classrooms around the country. "We completed 10,000 classrooms on a 10-year build-operate-lease-transfer contract with the Department of Education (DepEd). This year will be the last year of the 10-year contract for 10,000 classrooms across four regions. Though this is more simple and not as prestigious as airports, this (building classrooms) for me, is more meaningful than any of my projects," says Saavedra, contractor (along with Megawide's India-based consortium partner, GMR Infrastructure) for the revamped Mactan-Cebu International Airport and the new Clark International Airport passenger terminal building.

"When we accepted the classroom project, I remember then DepEd secretary, a La Salle brother, Armin Luistro reminding me to remember the three values of a La Sallian — the spirit of faith, zeal for service, communion in mission, or in Latin, religio, mores and cultura. The budget of the government for the project was small, and I asked why is it so low? No one else wanted to bid for it. So he sent me a message, try to find a way, if you need to redesign it, do it. And he reminded me, 'remember the values of a La Sallian.'"

No longer merely preoccupied with profit, Saavedra has realized that "one cannot have too much money."

First-world Philippines

What he endeavors for now is the concretization of his vision of a first-world Philippines, particularly as he drives his other major business involving renewable energy.

Established in 2015, Saavedra's Citicore Renewable Energy Corporation (CREC) is envisioned to power a First World Philippines with pure renewable energy sources such as solar, wind and hydro projects.

As the Philippines strives to transition to clean power, aiming to hit at least 35 percent in terms of renewable sources of energy by 2030 and 50 percent by 2040, Saavedra's CREC endeavors for a major share in that capacity for a consequential share.

A year short of a decade since he established CREC, the company today, with a total 285 MW in solar capacity, is the Philippines' second biggest solar power generator.

CREC's goal is to become one of the top three, if not the largest power generation companies, not only in solar, in the country.

It is well on its way to reaching that goal. In late May this year, CREC completed its IPO of 1.7 billion common shares plus 178 million overallotment shares at P2.70 per share, raising a total of P5.3 billion which included some P732 million (\$12.5 million) from the United Kingdom's Mobilising Institutional Capital for Listed Product Structures (MOBILIST).

MOBILIST

Partnering with the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) since July 2023, MOBILIST is an investment vehicle under the UK government's British Investment Partnerships program which looks for renewable energy (RE) companies in which to invest.

Remarking on MOBILIST's investment in CREC, PSE president and CEO Ramon Monzon said "CREC was an ideal choice for MOBILIST's maiden investment in the country, considering its criteria for selecting sustainable finance products to invest in. Its choice is shared by other institutional and retail investors as evidenced by CREC's full exercise of its overallotment option. After all, as a pure-play renewable platform, CREC boasts a gross installed capacity of 285.1 MW as of end-2023."

The P5.3 billion raised by CREC from its IPO, along with another P5 billion generated from an earlier sale of Citicore Renewable Energy REIT Corporation (CREIT) shares to SM Investment Corporation puts CREC in a position to realize its vision of powering up a first-world Philippines with pure renewable energy.

Following CREC's debut PSE listing on 7 June 2024, Saavedra's third company to list on the bourse after his Megawide Construction Corporation in February 2011 and CREIT in February 2022, the company entered into a venture with Ramon Ang's San Miguel Global Light and Power Corp. to jointly develop and operate a 153.5-MW solar energy project in Mariveles, Bataan.

Targeted for completion by 2025, the project will add 76.76 MW to CREC's solar energy capacity which the company aims to grow to 5,000 MW by 2028.

Solar power plants

Currently, Saavedra's CREC, with P3.68-billion revenue in 2023, has a combined gross installed capacity of 285 MW from 10 solar power plants and micro-grid solar rooftop systems in Bulacan, Bataan, Tarlac, Clark, South Cotabato, Cebu, Silay in Negros Occidental and the Arayat-Mexico Solar Farm in Pampanga, a joint venture with Ayala Corporation's ACEN.

Ramping up its renewable energy development, the company was awarded by the Department of Energy's Green Energy Auction Program 2, the largest solar capacity of 430 MWac ground-mounted solar and 362 MWac of onshore wind, for a total of 792 MW.

It also develops run-of-river (ROR) hydro in Ilaguen, Isabela, having secured wind energy service contracts for at least seven off-shore wind projects.

Notes Saavedra, "Power in the Philippines is the second most expensive in Southeast Asia, next to Singapore. Unlike Malaysia and Indonesia, I'm not sure about Vietnam, these countries are heavily government-subsidized. Here, we have zero-subsidy; that's the beauty of the Philippines. But of course, we have to pay for the expensive price of power."

Power prices are expensive, yes, "but there is really a shortage of power, and demand must be met," he said, pointing to CREC's target of five gigawatts (GW) peak capacity within five years.

Battery

Solar and wind energy aside, what Saavedra intends to get into is BESS, that is, Battery Energy Storage System. "We expect our solar energy projects to be coupled with batteries on the side in which you store all the energy you derive from sunlight. You see, there's a downside to solar; it peaks at noontime, then wanes afterward. But you can partner solar with battery storage, you can store the energy source and then dispatch it at the time that you want. You have more predictability and this is one good way to solve our power crisis. This is the direction of CREC."



THE FOUR-WAY TEST **of the things we think, say or do**

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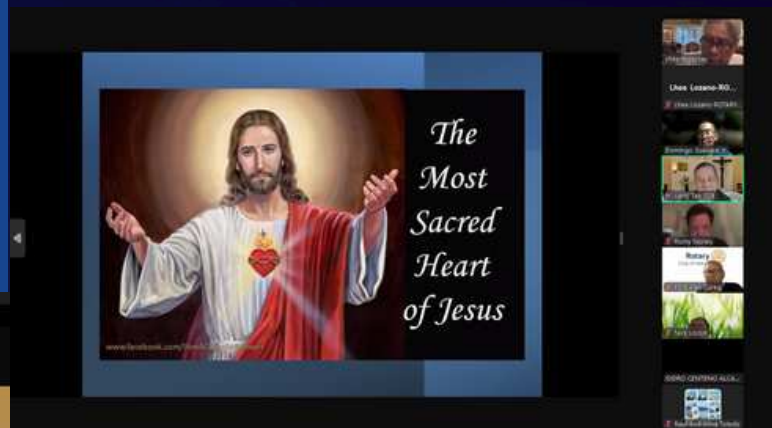
FELLOWSHIP

First Friday Mass September 6, 2024 via Zoom



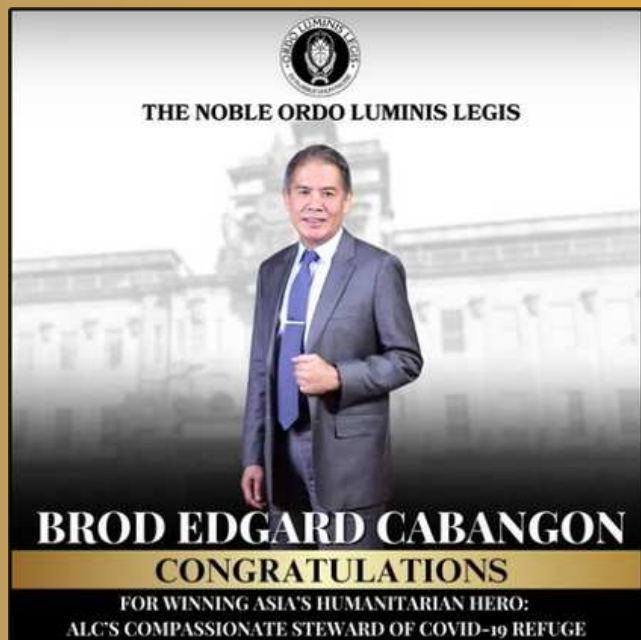
THE First Friday Novena Mass for the month of September was officiated by Rev. Fr. Larry Tan, SDB.

The Lectors and commentator participants were PP Boy Guevara, PDG Alex Cureg (Pre-Intercessory Prayer), Rtn Emman Dela Cruz (First Reading & Responsorial Psalm), Star Rtn Chris Bello (Prayer of the Faithful), PT Chito Tagaysay (Act of Spiritual Communion), Rtn Romy Nones (Oratio Imperata for Peace) and Rtn Butch Alcantara (Novena Prayer to the Sacred Heart of Jesus). PD Nick Locsin and PD Bebot Pineda were also in attendance.



RECOGNITION CORNER

Rtn D. Edgard Cabangon
Receives Most Outstanding
Businessman of the Year Award
from the OFW Party List



Rtn. Arch. Philip H. Recto Receives
Lifetime Achievement Award
from UPAA



RTN. Arch. Philip H. Recto was recently honored by the University of the Philippines Alumni Association (UPAA) with a Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of his 50 years of distinguished professional service to the community and country.

The award was presented to Rtn. Arch. Recto by UP President Angelo Jimenez. He was cited “for uplifting the Filipino spirit with the beauty and utility, art and function of his designs, and for ensuring the best for the environment and for the people”.



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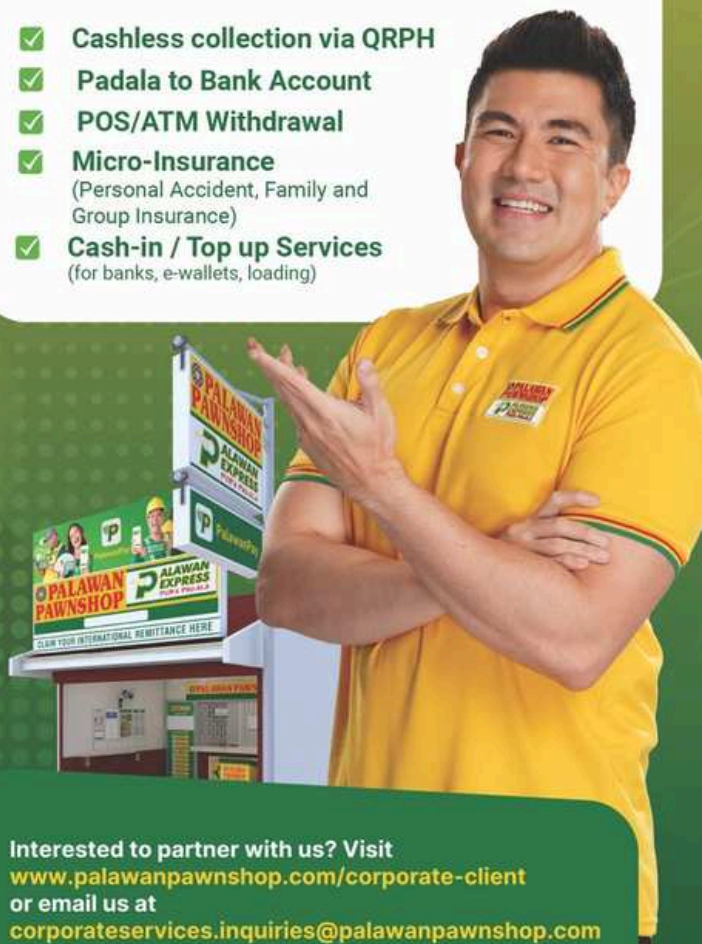


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