

The
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the Rotary Club of Manila



balita

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**NESTOR
V. TAN**

**Current and Future State
of Philippine Banking**

Hope and Renewal:
The Rotary Club of
Manila's 11th Weekly
Membership Meeting

International Relations:
Rotary Club of Taipei's
76th Charter
Anniversary

RCMFI Turns Over
Molecular
Laboratory
Equipment to
Philippine
Orthopedic Center:
A Milestone in
Public Healthcare



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PROGRAM

12th Weekly Membership Meeting
Rotary Year 2024-2025

A joint meeting with Rotary Club of Makati West
Thursday, 10 October 2024, 12:30 PM
Manila Polo Club

Moderator: **PT KARLO EUGENE JOSEF "Karlo" M. CASTRO**

PART I

12:00 PM	Registration
12:30 PM	CALL TO ORDER PRES. JUJUT ENRIQUEZ PRES. GERARDO OLIVERIO "GERRY" V. LAPERAL <i>(RC Makati West)</i> Invocation PP CARMELINO "Jun" P. ALVENDIA <i>(RC Makati West)</i> Philippine National Anthem AVP OF RCM MEMBERS Rotary Club of Manila Hymn RCM WF MUSIC CHORALE Rotary Club of Makati West Hymn RC Makati West Members The Four (4) Way Test RTN. RON CANG <i>(RC Makati West)</i> Acknowledgement of Guests PT KARLO EUGENE JOSEF "Karlo" M. CASTRO Welcome Song RCM WF MUSIC CHORALE <u>Birthday Celebrants</u> <u>RC Manila:</u> Oct. 04 PP Francis Juico Oct. 08 Rtn. Micray Gonzales Oct. 06 Rtn. Marius Angara Oct. 08 Rtn. Philip Wombwell Oct. 08 DSAA Ferdie Co Oct. 10 PP Banit Caasi Rtn. Jimmy Tang Rtn. Nate Camat Rtn. Noel Tanglao Rtn. David Klebs <u>RC Makati West:</u> Oct. 03 Rtn. Timmy Jimenez Oct. 06 Rtn. Chito Santiago Oct. 04 Rtn. Sed Hodgins Oct. 08 Ms. Trina Reyes Oct. 05 Dr. Wilson Goh Oct. 13 Rtn. Paolo Delgado <u>Wedding Anniversary (RC Makati West)</u> Rtn. Alex Recto & Sps. Marysia - Oct 5 Rtn. Jun Lagman & Elma - Oct 7 Maligayang Bati / Happy Birthday Song RCM WF Chorale
12:50 PM	President's Time PRES. JUJUT ENRIQUEZ PRES. GERARDO OLIVERIO "Gerry" V. LAPERAL <i>(RC Makati West)</i>

PART II

1:00 PM	Introduction of the Guest of Honor and Speaker PT JOSELITO "Lito" H. SIBAYAN <u>Guest of Honor and Speaker</u> Address: NESTOR V. TAN President and CEO BDO Unibank, Inc.
1:45 PM	Open Forum / Q.A.
1:55 PM	Presentation of Certificate of Appreciation PRES. JUJUT ENRIQUEZ PRES. GERARDO OLIVERIO "Gerry" V. LAPERAL <i>(RC Makati West)</i>
2:00 PM	Adjournment PRES. JUJUT ENRIQUEZ PRES. GERARDO OLIVERIO "Gerry" V. LAPERAL <i>(RC Makati West)</i>

Guest of Honor and Speaker

Nestor V. TAN

**President & CEO
BDO Unibank, Inc. (BDO)**

NESTOR V. Tan is the President and CEO of BDO Unibank, Inc. He was elected to the Board of Directors on June 27, 1998. In addition to his role in BDO Unibank, Inc., he also holds the following positions in the BDO Group: Chairmanship of BDO Strategic Holdings, Inc. and BDO Network Bank, Inc.; Vice chairmanships and/or directorships in BDO Capital & Investment Corporation, BDO Finance Corporation, BDO Life Assurance Company, Inc., BDO Private Bank, Inc., and SM Keppel Land, Inc., and Trusteeship of BDO Foundation, Inc.

In addition, he is currently Chairman of Bancnet, the operator of the electronic payment system, InstaPay, and the ATM switching utility for Philippine banks; and Chairman of Mastercard Asia Pacific Advisory Board. He is the past president, director, and chairman of the Bankers Association of the Philippines. He is also the past chairman of the De La Salle University Board of Trustees.



Prior to joining BDO Unibank, Mr. Tan was Chief Operating Officer of the Financial Institutions Services Group of BZW, the investment-banking subsidiary of the Barclays Group. His banking career spans nearly four decades and includes posts at global financial institutions, among them Mellon Bank in Pittsburgh, PA; Bankers Trust Company in New York, NY; and the Barclays Group in New York and London. He holds a bachelor's degree in Commerce from De La Salle University and an MBA from the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania.

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EDITORIAL

Reginald T. Yu
Editor-in-Chief



THE Philippine banking sector has transformed significantly over the last decade, evolving from a traditional system into a more dynamic and technology-driven industry. In this editorial, we'll explore the current landscape of Philippine banking, the challenges it faces, and the opportunities that lie ahead as the country embraces digitalization and innovation.

One of the standout features of Philippine banks is their solid capital base. Thanks to stringent regulations from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), banks are required to maintain strong capital buffers. This focus has helped the banks maintain sound asset quality, with non-performing loan (NPL) ratios remaining manageable despite the pandemic's challenges.

The pandemic accelerated the digital transformation of the Philippine banking sector. Banks quickly adopted digital platforms for remote banking, online transactions, and contactless

payments. Mobile banking applications became increasingly popular, allowing customers to conduct transactions from the comfort of their homes. According to a recent BSP survey, the percentage of Filipinos with access to formal financial services has risen significantly, highlighting the effectiveness of digital solutions in promoting financial inclusion.

The regulatory landscape for Philippine banks has evolved to keep up with industry changes. The BSP has introduced reforms to enhance consumer protection, promote transparency, and encourage responsible lending practices. Initiatives like the Financial Consumer Protection Framework empower consumers, giving them mechanisms to address complaints and access information about financial products.

While the Philippine banking sector has shown resilience, several challenges remain that could affect its future growth.

Global economic uncertainties — such as inflation, geopolitical tensions, and supply chain disruptions—pose risks to the banking sector. Rising interest rates may impact borrowers' ability to repay loans, potentially leading to an increase in NPLs. Banks must navigate these uncertainties by adopting prudent risk

management practices and diversifying their portfolios.

As banks continue to embrace digitalization, they face increasing cybersecurity risks. The surge in online transactions makes financial institutions prime targets for cybercriminals. The BSP has emphasized the need for robust cybersecurity measures, urging banks to invest in advanced security technologies and employee training to safeguard against potential threats.

Keeping up with evolving regulatory requirements can be a challenge, particularly for smaller banks with limited resources. Compliance with anti-money laundering (AML) regulations and Know Your Customer (KYC) norms requires ongoing investment in technology and personnel. Failing to comply can result in reputational damage and regulatory penalties.

Despite the challenges, the future of Philippine banking looks promising, driven by innovation and a commitment to sustainability. The digital revolution in banking is here to stay. Financial technology (fintech) companies are emerging as key players, and partnerships between traditional banks and fintech firms can enhance service delivery and improve customer experience. As digital banking becomes

the norm, banks must prioritize user-friendly interfaces and seamless customer journeys to stay competitive.

With growing awareness of climate change, the concept of green banking is gaining momentum in the Philippines. Banks are recognizing the importance of sustainable finance, promoting investments in renewable energy projects and eco-friendly initiatives. By integrating environmental, social, and governance (ESG) criteria into their lending practices, banks can contribute to a more sustainable future while mitigating risks associated with climate change.

To create a more informed consumer base, banks must prioritize financial literacy. Initiatives aimed at educating customers about financial products and responsible borrowing can empower individuals to make informed decisions. By investing in financial literacy programs, banks can enhance customer trust and loyalty, ultimately contributing to a healthier banking ecosystem.

In a competitive landscape, banks must focus on customer experience. Leveraging data analytics and artificial intelligence (AI), financial institutions can offer personalized products and services tailored to individual needs. By understanding customer preferences and behaviors, banks can enhance satisfaction and loyalty, standing out in a

crowded marketplace.

The Philippine banking sector is at a pivotal moment, ready to embrace change and innovation while tackling challenges head-on. Collaboration among stakeholders — regulators, financial institutions, fintech companies, and consumers — will be crucial in shaping a resilient and inclusive banking landscape.

By embracing digital transformation, prioritizing sustainability, and empowering consumers through education, the Philippine banking sector can not only withstand external pressures but also thrive in a rapidly changing global environment. With a shared vision for the future, stakeholders can work together to build a banking system that serves as a catalyst for economic growth and social progress, ensuring that every Filipino has access to the financial tools needed to achieve their dreams.



**Philippine
Airlines**

The Heart of the Filipino

A woman with dark hair and glasses, wearing a grey top, is speaking at a podium. The podium has a white cloth with text on it. Behind her are several flags, including the Philippine flag and the United States flag. The text 'cover story' is in the top right corner.

cover story

Hope and Renewal: The Rotary Club of Manila's 11th Weekly Membership Meeting

by PVP Reginald T. Yu

ON the sun-dappled afternoon of October 3rd, 2024, the members of the Rotary Club of Manila assembled at the distinguished Manila Polo Club for their 11th Weekly Membership Meeting of the Rotary Year 2024-2025. It was a day that embodied the Rotary spirit — a blend of camaraderie, a shared commitment to service, and a reflection on the deeper issues facing the nation. The meeting began with familiar formality, but quickly unfolded into a discourse rich with insights, punctuated by a message of hope and empowerment.

JOAQUIN "JACKI" C. RODRIGUEZ, SR.
District Governor
Rotary Year 2024-2025



Setting the Stage: Reflections, Introductions, and Celebrations

The event opened promptly at 12:30 PM with Past President **Felix Francisco "Chito" S. Zaldarriaga** stepping in for President **Jujut Enriquez**, who was in Taiwan representing the club at the 76th Charter Anniversary of the Rotary Club of Taipei. Despite the absence of their current president, the members of the Rotary Club of Manila carried on with a palpable sense of pride and duty, mirroring the leadership values they cherish.



VPE Ricardo "Ricky" S.B. Guevara moderated the meeting.



PP Felix Francisco "Chito" S. Zaldarriaga called the meeting to order.

The Invocation, led by Past Treasurer **Karlo Eugene Josef "Karlo" M. Castro**, set a solemn tone, invoking a reflection on the Rotary's core values of fellowship, ethics, and service to others. As the members rose for the Philippine National Anthem, the room was filled with the dignified voices of the **RCM World-Famous Music Chorale**, who then followed with the Rotary Club of Manila Hymn — both performances capturing the essence of unity and shared purpose.



PT Karlo Eugene Josef "Karlo" M. Castro led the invocation.

As tradition dictates, Rotarian **Romeo "Romy" C. Nones** took the floor to recite The Four-Way Test, a guiding ethos for all Rotarians: *"Is it the truth? Is it fair to all concerned? Will it build goodwill and better friendships? Will it be beneficial to all concerned?"* These timeless principles set the foundation for the meeting, emphasizing the ethical lens through which Rotarians view their endeavors. Vice President-Elect **Ricardo "Ricky" S.B. Guevara** followed, acknowledging the guests, after which the chorale delivered a heartwarming Welcome Song, energizing the atmosphere with the spirit of fellowship.



Rtn. Romeo "Romy" C. Nones took the floor to recite The Four-Way Test.



On behalf of Pres. Jujut Enriquez, PP Felix Francisco "Chito" S. Zalzarriaga invited everyone to join 'Oktoberfest.'

The first half of the meeting was formal and familiar, but the second part delved into broader topics of national and global relevance, with the introduction of the newly chartered **Rotary Club of Manila Expats**, led by Charter President **Ria Januszcak**. This moment was a proud milestone for the Rotary Club of Manila, exemplifying the organization's growth and the expanding network of Rotarians committed to service beyond the borders of the Philippines.



Rotary Club of Manila Expats Charter President Ria Januszcak

However, the highlight of the afternoon arrived when the Guest of Honor and Speaker, **Dr. Milwida M. Guevara**, took the podium. Dr. Guevara, President of Synergeia Foundation and former Undersecretary of the Department of Finance, captivated the audience with her thought-provoking address, masterfully weaving humor, wit, and sharp insights into her analysis of the state of the nation. The topic — public finance — may have initially seemed dense to some, but Dr. Guevara's delivery was anything but.



Rtn. Francisco "Paco" D. Magsaysay introduced the guest of honor and speaker.

Pockets of Hope

She began her speech with a lighthearted anecdote, reflecting on the way people often pigeonhole her as a finance expert, owing to her years as Undersecretary of the Department of Finance. Yet, with a playful grin, she assured the audience that she had been "rehabilitated" from the stereotype and now found herself working in the "real world."

This opening drew warm laughter from the audience, but it was clear from her tone that Dr. Guevara's message would go far beyond finance. Her voice took on a more serious timbre as she shifted to the "real-life drama" of the Philippine government, comparing it to a Filipino action movie with characters like **Max Alvarado** and **Paquito Diaz** — villains from classic films — prowling the halls of the Senate and the Lower House. The audience chuckled, but the underlying message was grave: corruption still haunts the country, with figures like **Alice Guo** exploiting weaknesses in oversight to operate clandestinely and siphon billions through illegal POGOs.

She voiced her frustration at the culture of impunity and how the national discourse, dominated by scandal and deceit, often left citizens feeling powerless and despondent. At this point, she made a striking confession: even she had found herself caught in the negativity, often using her own Facebook page to vent about the absurdity of what was happening in the government. Her posts, once humorous, had turned darker, contributing to a growing sense of despair among her followers, particularly younger Filipinos who increasingly expressed their desire to emigrate.

"I have been disturbed," Dr. Guevara admitted, *"by comments from my younger friends that they are losing hope and would like to immigrate."* It was a sobering moment. Her pause allowed the weight of this statement to settle over the room. It was not just the political drama or the corruption that troubled her, but the emotional toll it was taking on the nation's youth — the next generation of leaders, who felt their best option was to leave the country rather than to stay and fight for its future.



In response to this pervasive despair, Dr. Guevara made a personal commitment: to shift her focus away from simply criticizing what was wrong with the Philippines and instead highlight the positive developments, the "pockets of hope," as she called them, that could serve as a foundation for national progress. Without hope, she argued, there can be no inspiration, no joy, and certainly no will to make things better. *"We must pull ourselves up instead of down,"* she said, her voice resolute. *"There is much good happening in the country if we only choose to see it."*



She then began to enumerate the signs of progress. First, she pointed to the declining incidence of poverty. The percentage of families living below the poverty threshold of ₱13,873 per month had dropped from 12.1% in 2018 to 10.9% in 2023. While this still accounted for millions of impoverished families, the downward trend was a significant indicator of improvement. *"This means more people have access to livelihood,"* Dr. Guevara noted, *"which means they can afford basic necessities and send their children to school."*

The nation's economic growth was also cause for cautious optimism. The GDP, which had grown by 5.5% in 2023, had risen further to 6.3% in the second quarter of 2024. With more products being made, more income generated, and more remittances coming in from Filipinos abroad, the economic outlook was undeniably better than it had been in previous years. But Dr. Guevara didn't stop at statistics. She connected the numbers to real-life impacts, making it clear that these gains, while modest, were paving the way for more Filipinos to lift themselves out of poverty.

She also lauded the government's evolving policies, which represented a significant shift from the previous administration. Under President Marcos Jr., she observed, there had been a decisive change in the handling of the West Philippine Sea, with the President asserting the Philippines' territorial rights more confidently than before. *"This is in marked contrast to the past administration's 'accommodative policy' toward China's aggressive actions,"* she remarked, drawing nods from the crowd. It was a small but meaningful victory for national sovereignty.

Another key change she highlighted was the transformation of the government's war on drugs. No longer centered on violent crackdowns and extrajudicial methods, the current administration had adopted a more holistic and humane approach, focusing on rehabilitation, reintegration, and preventive strategies. *"We can all sigh in relief from fear of being falsely accused and arrested,"* she said, acknowledging the climate of fear that had gripped the nation during the previous administration's war on drugs.

One of the more controversial actions of the current administration — the decision to ban POGOs (Philippine Offshore Gaming Operators) associated with money laundering and human trafficking — was, to Dr. Guevara, a step in the right direction. She criticized the previous government's blind eye to the evils POGOs brought, under the pretext that they generated employment and revenue. *"But what a trade-off!"* she exclaimed. In her view, the harm caused by POGOs far outweighed any economic benefit, and she praised the current leadership for making the difficult but necessary decision to shut them down.

Yet, amid the positive changes at the national level, Dr. Guevara was most heartened by the "brighter spots" she saw in the Filipino people themselves. She mentioned Senator **Risa Hontiveros**, who had courageously taken on issues such as illegal gambling and fought for women's rights, despite being the lone genuine minority in the Senate. *"She shows us how to turn a disadvantage into an opportunity to work for the common good,"* Dr. Guevara said, emphasizing that true leadership often comes from those who face the greatest obstacles.

Senator **Win Gatchalian** was another beacon of hope in her eyes. His reliance on data and research, rather than rhetoric, had made him an effective force in uncovering the truth in legislative hearings. His incisive questions and evidence-based approach set him apart from his peers, offering a model of what governance could be when driven by facts rather than political grandstanding.

Dr. Guevara also drew attention to bright spots in the Lower House, particularly the emerging leadership of female congressmen like Congresswoman **Gerville Luistro**, whose intelligent questions and sharp summations had inspired many. *"She shows us how women can be probing, objective, and deep,"* Dr. Guevara noted, adding that a healthy opposition, led by capable leaders like Luistro, was essential to maintaining checks and balances in government.



Perhaps most inspiring, however, was her faith in local governance. Dr. Guevara spoke at length about how local government units (LGUs) represented the "islands of good governance" that could serve as exemplars for the national government. She shared stories of success from cities like Valenzuela, where programs like "Education 360 Degrees" had transformed public education through community consultations, teacher training, and systemic reforms. She also highlighted the late Mayor Jesse Robredo's legacy of participatory governance, where citizens played an active role in decision-making and development planning.

Her closing message was both sobering and hopeful: while the country faced deep-seated issues like social inequity, poor educational outcomes, and entrenched corruption, Filipinos could not afford to focus solely on what was wrong. Instead, they must amplify the pockets of hope — supporting good leaders, fostering partnerships with LGUs, and influencing citizens to vote wisely. *“The call is not for big-bang projects,”* she said. *“But small, doable steps. Every little step matters. Small steps bring about big, lasting changes.”*

As Dr. Guevara stepped away from the podium, her words hung in the air — a challenge, a call to action, and a reminder that change, no matter how incremental, is always within reach. It was a speech that left the Rotarians with much to ponder, and perhaps more importantly, much to do.

Engaging the Future

The open forum that followed allowed members to engage directly with Dr. Guevara, further deepening the conversation on the country’s future. As the clock struck 2:00 PM, Past President Zaldarriaga brought the meeting to a close, but the words of the guest speaker lingered. The Rotary Club of Manila members left the Manila Polo Club not only enriched by the fellowship they experienced but also invigorated by the call to action they had heard.



Dr. Milwida M. Guevara engaged in an interactive conversation with PDG Alex Cureg, PP Chito Zaldarriaga, DE Hans Palacios, PD Oscar Del Rosario, DSAA John Cutter, Joseph Buendia (RAC), Rtn. Romy Nones, Rtn. Butch Alcantara, and Rtn. Seung Eun Lee Calixto (RC Manila Expats).





Dr. Milwida M. Guevara received RCM's Plaque of Appreciation, presented by PP Chito Zaldarriaga and witnessed by Geoffrey William Little (RC Australia), PT Karlo Castro, VPE Ricky Guevara, Rtn. Romy Nones, and CP Ria Januszcak (RC Manila Expats).



This 11th Weekly Membership Meeting was not just a gathering — it was a reaffirmation of the Rotary's mission, a celebration of its achievements, and a renewal of its commitment to making a tangible difference. In the words of Dr. Guevara, *"Small steps bring about big, lasting changes,"* and the Rotary Club of Manila, as ever, remains dedicated to taking those steps — one meeting, one project, one community at a time.



PP Felix Francisco "Chito" S. Zaldarriaga adjourned the meeting.

NEWS CLIPPINGS

Synergeia's Guevara with Rotarians

Nonoy Lacza · October 4, 2024 · 1 minute read



Former Finance undersecretary and now President of Synergeia Foundation, Dr. Milwida M. Guevara, was guest speaker of the Rotary Club of Manila (RCM) at its weekly meeting at the Manila Polo Club, Makati City, on Thursday, October 3, 2024.

She is flanked by Rotarian Francisco "Paco" D. Magsaysay and RCM Past President Felix Francisco "Chito" S. Zaldarriaga.

NONOY LACZA

by PE/PBLA Raoul Creencia



PREPARING TO PLAN; PLANNING TO PREPARE.

THE gentlemen who were elected two weeks ago to serve in Rotary year 2025-2026 had dinner two nights ago; and in that occasion had the opportunity to discuss some broad plans on how they can all be better prepared for their tour of duty that will commence in a little less than 9 months. With their eclectic mix of varied backgrounds, and with everyone wonderfully woven by a common thread and desire to serve, the group excitedly exchanged and shared ideas. The animated discussion shifted from playing golf to executing impactful community projects; from college days memories to the challenges facing Asia's First Rotary Club; from expressing high hopes for the future of RCM, to plotting how to courageously address its present day problems; and finally, from a deliberation on planning to prepare, to a talk on preparing to adopt a definitive plan. Overall, it was an insightful and productive dinner discussion.

The Rotary Club of Manila is, without doubt, composed of worthy individuals -- hardworking gentlemen who have been serving and continue to serve with conviction, dedication, and passion. As it is, there are many more, especially the new members, who have not been fully engaged and brought into the committees to fully appreciate the beauty of Rotary service. They have to be "Rotarized" while having fun in the company of friends and RCM brothers. To reiterate an earlier statement made during the

conversations with The Balita (featured in this newsletter two weeks ago), "RCM is a membership organization and a service organization. It's not either/or. As a membership organization, we must foster friendships through fellowship activities. As a service organization, we need to be out there together doing service. Indeed, rendering service becomes more enjoyable when we do it with friends and buddies; hence, the need to strengthen our fraternal bond through meaningful fellowships and other activities such as poker and golf."

The Council of Presidents will definitely play a huge role in RCM's march towards preserving the premier status of Asia's First Rotary Club. The combined firepower of this league of extraordinary gentlemen should be tapped to the fullest, because for sure, they will be, as they have always been, ready to lend the much needed guidance and helping hand to ensure that the Club is able toadroitly navigate through unpredictable waves and unconventional headwinds. Coupled by the renewed enthusiasm and more active participation of a larger sector of RCM's membership, a heartwarming progress or success, no matter how modest, will definitely be attained. There may still be some distractions; but as long as the critical mass of RCMers consistently reject the acts that tend to derail, and instead focus on initiatives that aim to advance the organization's legitimate interests and overall welfare, then the First Club in Asia will surely succeed in preserving and strengthening its legacy and stature.

CLUB ADMINISTRATION

RCM Members' Attendance Report
RY 2024-2025

October 2024

OCTOBER 2024	October 03, 2024 DR. WILMIDA M. GUEVARA
MEMBERS PRESENT	29
MEMBERS PRESENT %	12%
MAKE UP ATTENDEES	10
EXEMPTED	4
ON LEAVE	0
Total Active Members	35
Total # of Members	236
TOTAL %:	15%
ROTARACTORS	2
MEDIA	1
EMBASSIES / DIPLOMATIC CORPS	0
OG, DGE, DGN, PDG	0
GOHS / GS	1
VISITING ROTARIAN	7
Guests of RCM MEMBERS	7
TOTAL ATTENDEES	46

LIST OF ATTENDEES
10th Weekly Membership Meeting
October 3, 2024

1 Aboy, Valentino G.	16 Lonzaga, Reinerio C.
2 Alcantara, Isidro C.	17 Lorenzana, Delfin
3 Bartolome III, Arsenio M.	18 Magsaysay, Francisco D.
4 Benedicto, Sixto T.	19 Nones, Romeo C.
5 Bogovich, Jason M.	20 Palacios, Albert C.
6 Carlos, Vicente J.	21 Payumo, Felicitio C.
7 Castro, Karlo Eugene Josef M.	22 Serapio, Carlos G.
8 Co, Val Constantine L.	23 Shlmoda, Shigeru
9 Cureg, Alexander P.	24 Sibayan, Joselito H.
10 Cutter, John Michael	25 Tagaysay, Hector O.
11 Davis, Raymond N.	26 Villegas, Raoul A.
12 Del Rosario Sr., Oscar A.	27 Yasushi, Iwata
13 Garcia, Paul Joseph M.	28 Yu, Reginald Tieng
14 Guevara, Ricardo S.	29 Zaldarriaga, Felix Francisco S.
15 Lacambacal, Alvin D.	
16 Lonzaga, Reinerio C.	

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

As of October 9, 2024

1 ABOY, VALENTINO G	73 LAZARO, JUAN MIGUEL
2 ACOSTA, CRISPINIANO G.	74 LEDDA, JAMES VICTOR B
3 ALBANA, MICHAEL JAEY C	75 LIM, DAVID EDUARDO T
4 ALCANTARA, ISIDRO C	76 LIM, RICHARD
5 ALDAY, ALBERT	77 LOCIN, ARSENIO Z
6 ALINGOG, ALDOUS A	78 LONZAGA, REINERIO
7 ARAGON, JOSHUA REUBEN G	79 LOPEZ, ARTHUR M
8 ARGUELLES, PABLO C	80 LORENZANA, DELFIN
9 AVENTURA, AVENILO JR L	81 MACAPAGAL, MICHAEL T
10 BAGATSING, VALENTINO S	82 MACATOMAN, ABDULGANI
11 BALANAY, ARIES B	83 MAGSAYSAY, FRANCISCO D
12 BARTOLOME, ARSENIO III M.	84 MANALAYSAY, CESAR P
13 BEDONES, RODOLFO P.	85 MANGALILE, SENEX T
14 BELLA, GERONIMO JR. D	86 MARTINEZ, RONALD I
15 BELLO, CHRISTIAN CESAR	87 MATSCHUCK, GUENTER GERHARD G
16 BENEDICTO, SIXTO T	88 MAURICIO, ANTONILO DC
17 BLANCO, MANUEL M	89 MENDOZA, ESTELITO P
18 BOGOVICH, JASON M	90 MENDOZA, MIGUEL
19 BOTTON, WILHELM	91 MENDOZA, RAYMUND JOSEPH IAN O
20 BRANELLEC, JACQUES	92 NOLIDO, RAMON ALBERTO B
21 CABANGON, EDGARD A.	93 NONURA, KAZUHIRO
22 CAMAT, NATHANIEL	94 NONES, ROMEO C
23 CANON, RAUL JR C	95 NUNEZ, JOSE A
24 CARLOS, VICENTE J.	96 OBRADO, DANIEL CALZADO
25 CARRANCEJA, ARVIN ARIK B	97 ONG, PHILIP L
26 CASTRO, KARLO EUGENE JOSEF M	98 PAGDANGANAN, ROBERTO M
27 CATALAN, RODILLO R	99 PALACIOS, ALBERT C
28 CENICA, JOHN T	100 PALLASIGUE, JOHN BRIAN
29 CHAHWAN, RAMI	101 PASCUAL, ABRAHAM F
30 CO, VAL CONSTANTINE L	102 PATTERSON, COLIN DAVID
31 CORTEZ, LORENZO R	103 PAYUMO, FELICITO C
32 COYUTO, ROBERT JR. G	104 PELINO, WILFREDO
33 CRENCIA, RAOUL C.	105 PINEDA, JESUS JR M
34 CUREG, ALEXANDER P	106 PINEDA, PATRICIO JR. F
35 CUTTER, JOHN MICHAEL	107 PIZARRAS, JORDAN M
36 DAVIS, RAYMOND N	108 PREYSLER, FAUSTO JR. D.R.
37 DAYANG, JUAN E.	109 RECTO, PHILIP H
38 DE CASTRO, JUAN ARTURO ILUMINADO C	110 REYNOLDS, DAVID J
39 DEL ROSARIO, OSCAR SR.	111 RODRIGUEZ, JOAQUIN ANTHONY H
40 DOMINGO, RICO V	112 RODRIGUEZ, JOAQUIN SR. C
41 DOMINGUEZ, CARLOS III G.	113 ROXAS, MICHAEL D
42 DY, MANUEL C.	114 SCHMITZ, STEFAN
43 EGAN, BRENDAN W.L	115 SCHNEIDER, BERND
44 ELDEBS, ISSAM	116 SERAPIO, CARLOS C
45 ENRIQUEZ, EDUARDO III V.	117 SEVILLA, LUIS ANGELO L
46 ESQUERRA, HERMINIO S	118 SHMODA, SHIGERU
47 ESQUIVIA, JOAQUIN PABLO A	119 SIBAYAN, JOSELITO H
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Meeting with Norphil Foundation, Inc.



RC MANILA met with Norfil Foundation, Inc. on October 2, 2024 to discuss potential collaboration and explore how Norfil Foundation can support RCM's Disease Prevention and Treatment Committee's activities (Oral Health, HPV, WASH and Malnutrition).

The meeting was attended by Pres. Jujut Enriquez, Disease Prevention and Treatment Committee Chair/DSAA John Cutter, and SAA Jason Bogovich.



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

- I. Is it the TRUTH?
- II. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
- III. Will it build GOODWILL & BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
- IV. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?



ROTARY CLUB OF MANILA FOUNDATION TURNS OVER MOLECULAR LABORATORY EQUIPMENT TO PHILIPPINE ORTHOPEDIC CENTER: A MILESTONE IN PUBLIC HEALTHCARE

by PVP Reginald T. Yu

ON October 6, 2024, the **RCManila Foundation, Inc.**, in collaboration with the **Rotary Club of Manila**, formally turned over state-of-the-art molecular laboratory equipment to the **Philippine Orthopedic Center (POC)** in Quezon City. This significant event was a reflection of Rotary's enduring commitment to healthcare service, as well as the spirit of generosity demonstrated by **Dr. John Cenica**, past director of the Rotary Club of Manila and a respected cosmetic surgeon.

The event, which saw the participation of top officials from the Rotary Club of Manila and the Philippine Orthopedic Center, marks a new chapter in POC's capacity to deliver enhanced healthcare services to its patients. The equipment, donated with the goal of improving the hospital's diagnostic and research capabilities, will enable the medical staff to conduct more precise and advanced testing, potentially saving countless lives through faster and more accurate diagnoses.

A Generous Contribution to Philippine Healthcare

The donation comprised a wide array of laboratory equipment valued at more than **13 million pesos**. The formal Deed of Donation, executed on October 7, 2024, detailed the comprehensive list of equipment provided. Among the notable items included were:

- **17 Automatic Voltage Regulators (AVRs)**
- **3 PHCBI Refrigerators** for medical storage
- **4 Pass Boxes and Yooning Dry Baths** for laboratory use
- **Dragon Lab Vortex Mixers and Micro Centrifuges**
- **Telstar Biosafety Cabinets (Class 2)** designed to ensure safe handling of biological samples
- **Sansure Automated Nucleic Acid Extraction Systems**, vital for molecular diagnostics
- **Heal Force PCR Machines**, key tools in detecting and amplifying DNA for various medical tests
- **PHCBI Biomedical Freezer and Shinjin Autoclave** for specimen preservation and sterilization

These cutting-edge devices, valued at millions of pesos, represent a significant leap forward in the medical capabilities of the Philippine Orthopedic Center, allowing it to better serve patients from all over the country. The PCR machines, for example, are essential in the identification of viral infections and various genetic disorders. The donation also included UV lamps and other essential laboratory tools that will help improve the quality of care provided to patients.

Rotary's Commitment to Public Service

In his heartfelt message, **Reginald T. Yu**, Chairman of the RCManila Foundation, Inc., expressed his pride in the collaboration. He commended the Rotary's dedication to improving healthcare, emphasizing how these donations reflect the Rotary's motto of "Service Above Self." He highlighted the critical role that the donated equipment will play in providing advanced and accurate medical services to Filipinos in need.

Chairman Yu also thanked **Dr. John Cenica**, whose generosity made the project possible, as well as all the Rotarians who contributed to this life-changing initiative. *"This donation is more than just a transfer of equipment; it is a symbol of hope, a testament to our shared commitment to uplifting public healthcare in the Philippines,"* Yu said.



Eduardo "Jujut" V. Enriquez III, President of the Rotary Club of Manila, also shared his enthusiasm during the turnover, echoing Yu's sentiments. He stressed the importance of strong partnerships between public and private sectors, emphasizing how the Rotary's initiative will help bridge the gap in the country's healthcare infrastructure. "Together, we can achieve so much more for our people. This is just the beginning of more collaborative efforts aimed at improving our public hospitals."



Philippine Orthopedic Center's Gratitude

Representing the Philippine Orthopedic Center*, Dr. Jose "Brix" S. Pujalte Jr., Medical Center Chief II, a fellow Manila Rotarian, graciously accepted the donation and expressed his profound appreciation to the Rotary Club of Manila Foundation, Inc., and the Rotary Club of Manila. Dr. Pujalte noted how this donation would directly enhance the hospital's capability to address the needs of its patients, particularly those who require specialized care and treatment.

"The generosity of the Rotary Club of Manila, particularly that of Dr. Cenica, cannot be overstated. These pieces of equipment are crucial in enabling our medical personnel to deliver accurate and timely diagnoses, ultimately leading to better patient outcomes," Dr. Pujalte remarked. He assured the donors that the equipment will be used to its fullest capacity for healthcare purposes, benefiting not only current patients but future generations as well.



Moving Forward: A Vision of Continuous Support

The turnover ceremony was not only a celebration of what has been accomplished but also a reminder of the work that still needs to be done. With the pressing challenges faced by public hospitals in the Philippines, efforts such as these underscore the importance of sustained collaboration between civic organizations, philanthropists, and government institutions.

Rotary Club of Manila's Director-in-Charge of Disease Prevention and Treatment, **Nagi Zeitouni**, reiterated this point in his remarks, highlighting the Rotary's continuing mission to uplift communities through various

healthcare programs and initiatives. *"This donation is a step toward our larger goal of ensuring that every Filipino, regardless of status, receives the medical attention they deserve."*

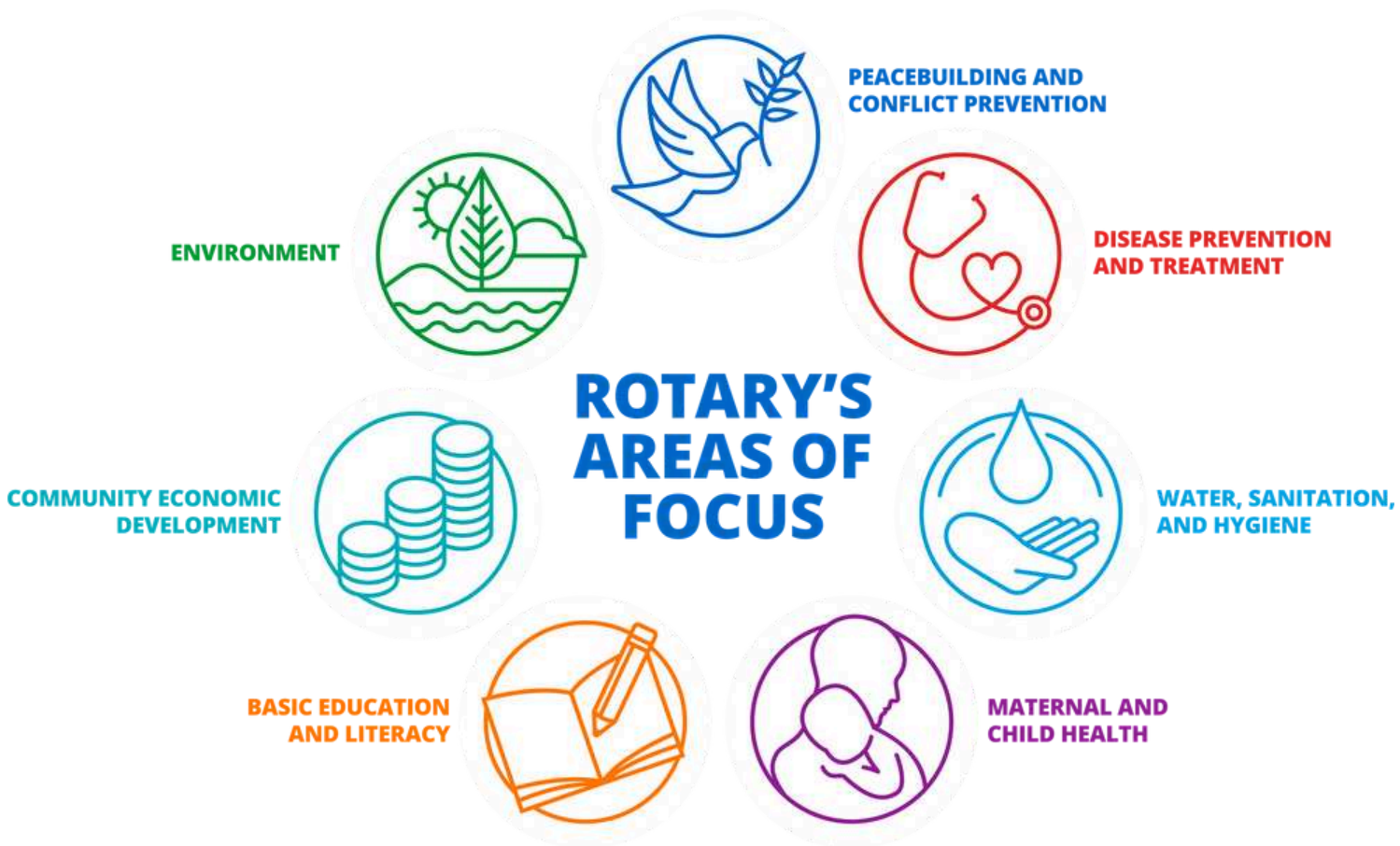


Conclusion

The formal turnover of molecular laboratory equipment to the Philippine Orthopedic Center stands as a powerful testament to what can be achieved when organizations like the RCManila Foundation and government institutions work hand in hand. With the generosity of leaders like **Dr. John Cenica** and the unwavering dedication of Rotary members, this initiative will leave a lasting impact on the healthcare landscape of the country.

As the hospital integrates this cutting-edge technology into its operations, the future looks brighter for countless Filipino patients who will benefit from enhanced diagnostic capabilities. It is a true example of the enduring power of service, compassion, and collective action for the greater good.





ALAY LAKAD 2024

**November 24, 2024
Sunday
5:00 AM onwards
Quirino Grandstand
Rizal Park, Manila**



ALAY LAKAD 2024
November 24, 2024 Sunday 5:00AM Onwards
Quirino Grandstand, Jose Rizal Park Luneta, Manila

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SPORTSFEST & BIGGEST LOSER

OCTOBER 26, 2024

PALMS COUNTRY CLUB ALABANG

THE LONG-AWAITED RCM SPORTS FEST IS FINALLY HERE! EVERY YEAR, WE GATHER FOR A FAMILY DAY FULL OF FUN, RELAXATION, AND BONDING. THIS YEAR WILL BE NO DIFFERENT — WE'LL ENJOY VARIOUS SPORTS, SOCIALIZE, EAT GREAT FOOD, AND STRENGTHEN THE SPECIAL BOND WE SHARE.

JOIN US ON **OCTOBER 26** FOR A DAY TO REMEMBER. BRING YOUR FAMILY, AND LET'S MAKE IT A GREAT ONE! GET READY TO UNWIND, PLAY, AND MAKE LASTING MEMORIES.

PRICING:

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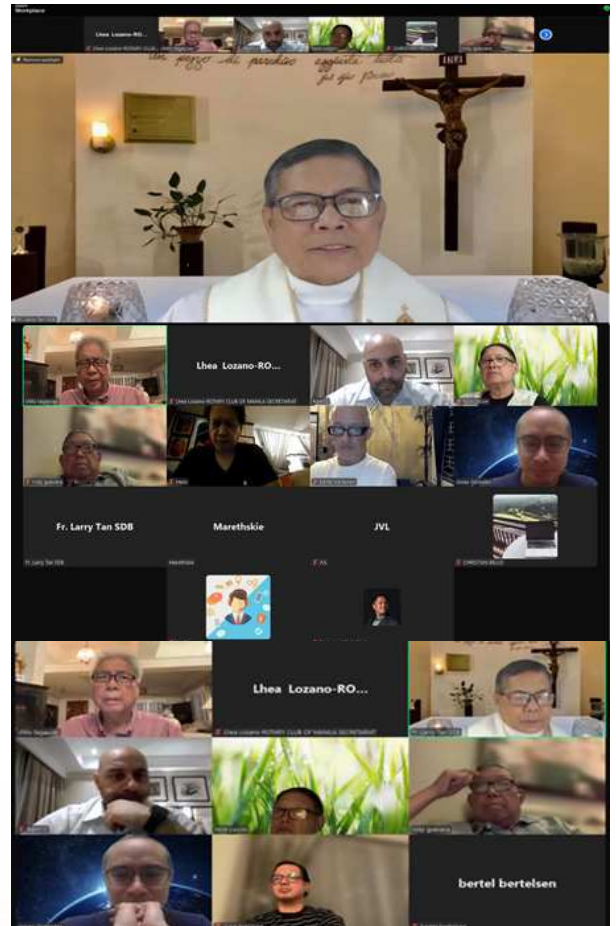
SPORTS ACTIVITIES:

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- FUTSAL
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- BOWLING
- BILLIARDS
- DARTS
- FOOSBALL

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, FEEL FREE TO MESSAGE ME ANYTIME. CHEERS!

FELLOWSHIP

First Friday Mass



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

The lectors and commentator participants were PT Chito Tagaysay, DE/DSAA Rami Chahwan (Pre-Intercessory Prayer), STAR Rtn. Chris Bello (First Reading & Responsorial Psalm), VPE Ricky Guevara (Prayer of the Faithful), STAR Rtn. Jonas Gonzales (Act of Spiritual Communion), PD Nick Locsin (Oratio Imperata for Peace) and STAR Rtn. Val Co (Novena Prayer to the Sacred Heart of Jesus). Also in attendance were President Jujut Enriquez, Rtn. Bertel Bertelesen, DE Hans Palacios and Rtn. Emman Dela Cruz.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Rotary Club of Taipei's 76th Charter Anniversary

ROTARY Club of Manila delegates attended the 76th Charter Anniversary of Rotary Club of Taipei. They were headed by RC Manila President Jujut Enriquez, Lady Lia Enriquez (Spouse of Pres. Jujut Enriquez), RCM International Relations Committee Chair/PD Issam Eldebs, RCM PD Ner Lonzaga with son Mark Reiner, and RCM International Relations Committee Co-Chair Noy Benedicto with son Mathew.



The RC Manila delegates arrived in Taipei and were fetched by PP Tsai Ampo of RC Taipei.



Welcome dinner by sister club, Rotary Club of Taipei



*Standing, from left: RCM International Relations Committee Chair Issam Eldebs, Lady Lia Enriquez (Spouse of Pres. Jujut Enriquez), RC Manila President Jujut Enriquez, RCM PD Ner Lonzaga, RCM International Relations Committee Co-Chair Noy Benedicto;
Seated, from left: PRIP Gary Huang and a guest*



RCM PD Ner Lonzaga
with PRIP Gary Huang



RCM PD Issam Eldebs
with PRIP Gary Huang



From left: RCM International Relations Committee
Co-Chair Noy Benedicto, RCM International
Relations Committee Chair Issam Eldebs, RC Taipei
President Jane Wang, PRIP Gary Huang, RCM PD
Ner Lonzaga and AG Ariele Choi



RCM PD Ner Lonzaga with (L) District Governor Yिंगmei
Liou (DG Healthy); (R) RC Taipei President Jane Wang



Mark Reiner Lonzaga, son
of PD Ner Lonzaga, won
the raffle prize.



RC Manila President Jujut Enriquez handed a token gift
to RC Taipei President Jane Wang.



From left: PD Issam Eldebs, PD Ner Lonzaga, RC Taipei
President Jane Wang, RC Manila President Jujut
Enriquez and PD Noy Benedicto



RC Manila PD Ner Lonzaga with AG Ariele Choi



President Jujut and spouse Lia Enriquez with PP Tsai Ampo of RC Taipei



President Jujut Enriquez made a lot of friends and bonded with the sister clubs from RC Macao, RC Hong Kong, RC Singapore and RC Taipei.







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