

The
HERMA
Group

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the Rotary Club of Manila



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**STAR RTN.
INGILL RA**

Regional President
Global Peace
Foundation
Asia Pacific

**Candles in the
Dark: A Chronicle
of Leadership,
Hope, and
Enterprise**

**A River Runs
Through It:
The Rotary Club
of Manila's
Ocular
Inspection
of the Pasig River
Trash Barriers**

**An Afternoon of
Diplomacy,
Partnership, and
Rotary Purpose:
Joint Meeting of RC
Manila, RC Makati,
and RC Makati
Premier District
Welcomes U.S.
Ambassador
MaryKay Carlson**



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PROGRAM

33rd Weekly Membership Meeting
Rotary Year 2024-2025
Thursday, May 29, 2025, 12:30 PM
Manila Polo Club

Moderator: **RTN. DELFIN "Del" N. LORENZANA**

PART I

12:00 PM Registration

12:30 PM Call to Order | **PDG ALEXANDER "Alex" P. CUREG**
Invocation | **RTN. RAYMOND "Ray" N. DAVIS**
Philippine National Anthem | **AVP of RCM Members**
Manila Rotary Hymn | **RCM WF Music Chorale**
The Four (4) Way Test | **STAR RTN. INGILL RA**
Acknowledgment of Guests
RTN. DELFIN "Del" N. LORENZANA
Welcome Song | **RCM WF MUSIC CHORALE**

Birthday Celebrants

May 14 Rtn. Jun Follosco
Rtn. J Alfonso L Katigbak
May 15 SAA Jason Bogovich
May 17 CP Susing Pineda
PD Bebot Pineda
IPP Raffy Alunan
May 19 Rtn. Lance Tan
May 20 Rtn. Richard Lim
May 22 Rtn. Ariel Abriam
May 23 Rtn. Alvin Ampil
Rtn. Colin Steley
May 28 DSAA John Cutter

Maligayang Bati / Happy Birthday Song
RCM WF Music Chorale

PART II

12:50 PM President's Time | **PDG ALEXANDER "Alex" P. CUREG**
1:00 PM Classification Talk | **STAR Rtn. Ingill Ra**
1:15 PM Open Forum / Q.A.
1:30 PM Post-Mortem Political Readout
RTN. DELFIN "Del" N. LORENZANA
1:55 PM Presentation of Certificate of Appreciation
PDG ALEXANDER "Alex" P. CUREG
2:00 PM Adjournment | **PDG ALEXANDER "Alex" P. CUREG**

EDITORIAL

Reginald T. Yu
Editor-in-Chief



IN the wake of yet another high-stakes electoral season, our Club finds itself — yet again — at the crux of history and hindsight. As we gather for this week’s Membership Meeting, we do so not merely to tally the victors and the vanquished, but to sift through the noise, decipher patterns, and, perhaps most importantly, to peer into the murky horizon of what lies ahead for our nation.

The Club Reading of the Post-Election Results is more than a cerebral exercise — it is a ritual of civic introspection. We are not here merely to trade statistics or to rehash slogans. We are here to interpret the soul of the electorate, to weigh the moral arc of our democratic journey, and to ask ourselves: Where are we headed — and who do we become as a people in the process?

Political Punditry in the Age of Paradox

Our Club’s constellation of political and policy savants — seasoned analysts, former bureaucrats, business leaders, and keen observers of the body politic —

have been summoned to offer their “read outs.” And rightly so. For who better to examine the country’s shifting tectonics than those who have long stood at the fault lines?

But as we await their assessments, we must acknowledge that the present moment defies easy conclusions. We live in paradoxical times. In some regions, dynasties were broken. In others, they were entrenched. Reformists made surprising inroads in local races, while national posts remained bastions of the traditional elite. The people have spoken — but their language is complex, their intent layered, and their motivations conflicted.

Our Club’s pundits must not only interpret what happened, but why — and to what effect. Did the electorate vote with their hearts, their pockets, or their fears? Was this an election won on merit, machinery, or manipulation? And are we, as a people, growing more cynical or more discerning?

The Crystal Ball and the Moral Compass

We look forward, too, to hearing from all other members — each bearing their own “crystal ball” forecasts. What trends shall define the next three years? Will we see the long-awaited dawn of political maturity, or will we plunge deeper into a culture of performative

governance, populism, and partisanship?

And how will the new political landscape impact our lives — not just as professionals or entrepreneurs, but as citizens, parents, and patriots?

We must ask hard questions: Will economic policies prioritize long-term prosperity or short-term popularity? Will public institutions be strengthened or hollowed out? Will education and healthcare be uplifted — or traded for headline-grabbing gimmicks? And, most urgently, will the country's political leaders govern with compassion and competence — or merely campaign indefinitely?

Let us not make the mistake of believing that politics is confined to politicians. What transpires in the halls of Congress, the corridors of City Hall, or the back rooms of political caucuses will ripple into our daily lives: in the cost of goods, in the freedoms we enjoy, in the future our children inherit.

Between Memory and Mandate

As we read the results, we must also read ourselves. Each vote cast — whether wisely or wistfully — was a reflection of collective memory and individual mandate. We cannot speak of outcomes without owning our roles. Did we do enough to educate our communities?

Did we call out disinformation when we saw it? Did we mentor those who would lead?

This is not just an editorial — it is a call to moral accountability. For in a democracy, elections are not endpoints; they are mirrors. What we see now is what we have allowed, what we have enabled, what we have tolerated.

Charting a Club-Wide Course

So, let this week's meeting not end with commentary alone. Let it be a catalyst.

Let our Club deepen its engagement — not only as observers, but as enablers of civic awareness, voter education, leadership development, and non-partisan advocacy. Let us commit to mentoring young leaders, encouraging political literacy in our networks, and modeling integrity in every platform we occupy.

For in times of uncertainty, it is not only crystal balls we need — it is compasses. And as a Club rooted in excellence, we must choose to be both: readers of results, and writers of history.

The future is not written in the stars, nor dictated by the winners of yesterday. It is shaped, forged, and fought for — today.

And it begins here. In this room. With us.

cover story

Candles in the Dark: A Chronicle of Leadership, Hope, and Enterprise



by PVP Reginald T. Yu

IN the balmy midday calm of May 8, 2025, the verdant grounds of the Manila Polo Club once again welcomed members of the nation's oldest and most distinguished Rotary Club — the Rotary Club of Manila — for its 31st Weekly Membership Meeting. Though President **Eduardo "Jujut" Enriquez III** was away on official travel and Vice-

President **Joel Valdez** on a three-month sojourn in the United States, the helm of the meeting was confidently steered by Past Board Legal Counsel and former Director, Dean **Amado "Amading" Valdez**, stepping into the role of Acting Presiding Officer with characteristic gravitas and poise.



The program, as always, unfolded with solemnity and tradition. STAR Rotarian **Francisco Roberto “Coco” D.C. Mauricio** led a stirring invocation, grounding the assembly in reflection. This was followed by an evocative audio-visual presentation of the National Anthem — a symbolic “Challenge and Call to Action” — and the singing of the Manila Rotary Hymn by the ever-rousing RCM World-Famous Music Chorale. STAR Rotarian **Dean Y. Cid** then delivered The Four-Way Test, reiterating the timeless ethical guideposts by which Rotarians measure their words and actions.

Director for Information Security and RCMFI Trustee **Antonilo “Anton” D.C. Mauricio** served as the energetic moderator for the day, acknowledging the guests and introducing the speakers with warmth and ease. A convivial tone was set early on with the celebration of two beloved birthday celebrants: District Governor and Past President **Jackie Rodriguez** (April 27) and Past Director **Amading Valdez** himself (May 5). The Chorale returned to serenade the room with a joyful rendition of “Maligayang Bati,” a reminder that service and fellowship are always enriched by celebration.



Past Board Legal Counsel and former Director Dean Amado “Amading” Valdez stepped into the role of Acting Presiding Officer.



Director for Information Security and RCMFI Trustee Anton D.C. Mauricio moderated the meeting.

STAR Rotarian Francisco Roberto “Coco” D.C. Mauricio led the invocation.



STAR Rotarian Dean Y. Cid delivered The Four-Way Test.

Dean Amading, in his capacity as Acting President, took to the podium for the President’s Time — offering timely reflections and reinforcing the Club’s commitment to civic engagement during a particularly charged political season.

Dean Amading, in his capacity as Acting President, took to the podium for the President’s Time.



The highlight of the meeting was the introduction of a special panel of senatorial candidates, presented by Program Chair **Carlos “Caloy” Serapio**. In his impassioned introduction, Caloy invoked the metaphor of the “candles in the dark” — men and women who have chosen not to curse the darkness of political disillusionment, but to burn brightly in service, offering their time, energy, and integrity to a nation in need of light.

Six senatorial hopefuls stood before the assembled Rotarians and the youth leaders of Rotaract Manila — each with a story, each with a mission.

Secretary **Norberto Gonzales**, a veteran of national security and former Defense Secretary, spoke of his final mission — to help Filipinos believe that a First World Philippines is possible, if only we reimagine our politics. “Our politicians,” he warned, “are often the ones hindering our upward move.”

Captain **Relly Jose Jr.**, seafarer-turned-entrepreneur, recounted his journey from the high seas to founding his own maritime company and foundation. His life embodied the grit of overseas workers — a voice for OFWs and the maritime sector.

Atty. **Angelo de Alban** emphasized judicial reform, pointing out the stark disparity between the number of courts and the population they serve. An advocate for persons with disabilities and special needs, he pledged to champion those long excluded from policy narratives.

Atty. **Arnel Escobar**, a graduate of the Philippine Military Academy and a decorated law enforcement officer, offered a detailed platform grounded in anti-corruption, cooperativism, and inclusive development — anchored in his academic credentials from the University of Oxford and UST.

Roy Cabonegro, a longtime environmental activist, issued a dire warning: climate-driven displacement would soon affect millions. “Environment is the issue,” he stressed, urging legislation rooted in ecological justice and sustainable planning.

Finally, **Atty. Ernesto Arellano**, stalwart of the labor movement, offered an impassioned critique of an electoral system where popularity eclipses qualifications. He introduced himself as a “Breadwinner, Defender, and Disruptor,” vowing to fight for genuine reform in the Senate.



Front row, from left: DIS Anton Mauricio, PVP/RCMFI Chair. Reggie T. Yu, Program Chair/Rtn. Caloy Serapio, former National Defense Secretary Norberto Gonzales (PDSP), Capt. Relly Jose Jr. (KBL), Atty. Angelo De Alban (IND), Mr. Arnel Escobar (KBL), Mr. Roy Cabonegro (DPP), Atty. Ernesto Arellano (KTPNAN), and Dir. Mike Albana
Back row, from left: PD Amading Valdez, STAR Rtn. Dean Cid, and STAR Rtn. Coco Mauricio

Each candidate was given only a few minutes to speak, but the brevity of time did not dilute the weight of their convictions. As promised, the event functioned not as a campaign rally, but as a meet, greet, and feed — a Rotary-style forum of civility and substance, where ideas could be heard without partisanship.



DSAA John Cutter and SAA Jason Bogovich gave details of the forthcoming World Oral Health Day, the RCM Medical Prevention and Treatment Committee.

PVP/RCMFI Chair Reginald “Reggie” T. Yu announced the forthcoming 3rd RCM Golf Cup on June 16, 2025.



PE Raoul C. Creencia announced the forthcoming celebration of RCM’s 106th anniversary and the induction of the incoming Board of Directors for RY 2025-2026 on July 3, 2025.



Rtn. Jonas Gonzalez announced details of the forthcoming STAR Rotarian Fellowship on June 11, 2025.



After a momentary pause, the program shifted to its educational and professional enrichment segment with a Classification Talk by STAR Rotarian **Dean Y. Cid**, Chief Operating Officer of **PHINMA Hospitality Inc.** Cid's presentation was as informative as it was inspiring, tracing his path from a front desk clerk to becoming the president of PHINMA Microtel Hotels Inc. He spoke not only of his corporate journey but of PHINMA's deep commitment to affordable, values-driven education and hospitality — a testament to Filipino excellence scaled with humility and purpose.



STAR Rotarian Dean Y. Cid, Chief Operating Officer of PHINMA Hospitality Inc.

STAR Rotarian **Francisco Roberto “Coco” Mauricio**, President and CEO of **Lightning Finance Company** and **Finvolution Philippines**, then took the floor for his own Classification Talk, dazzling the audience with his energetic presentation on financial inclusion through fintech. A former Unilever and Nike executive turned fintech innovator, Mauricio introduced Juan Hand, the nation's leading nano-lending app aimed at the underserved. Combining AI, behavioral data, and a mission to provide alternatives to predatory lenders, his company is transforming the financial landscape for millions of unbanked Filipinos. With humor and heart, Coco painted a picture of how technology, when used responsibly, becomes not just a tool for profit, but a vehicle for empowerment and national development.



STAR Rotarian Francisco Roberto “Coco” Mauricio, President and CEO of Lightning Finance Company and Finvolution Philippines

An Open Forum followed, allowing members to engage the speakers in candid dialogue. Questions ranged from policy inquiries to reflections on ethics, underscoring the intellectual vigor and civic curiosity that define the Rotary Club of Manila.



STAR Rotarians Dean Cid and Coco Mauricio engaged in an interactive conversation with PD Amading Valdez and PP Achrit Bartolome.



The program concluded with the presentation of Certificates of Appreciation to the day's speakers by Acting Presiding Officer Dean **Amading Valdez**, a formal acknowledgment of the knowledge and inspiration they brought to the gathering.

As the meeting adjourned, there was no mistaking the electricity in the room. What began as a weekly fellowship evolved into a dynamic encounter with the nation's future — a confluence of experience, aspiration, and shared hope.

In the quiet elegance of the Manila Polo Club, the Rotary Club of Manila once again lived up to its legacy: not merely gathering, but kindling light — one candle at a time.



Acting Presiding Officer Dean Amading Valdez adjourned the meeting.



Meeting Fellowship





AN AFTERNOON OF DIPLOMACY, PARTNERSHIP, AND ROTARY PURPOSE: Joint Meeting of RC Manila, RC Makati, and RC Makati Premier District Welcomes U.S. Ambassador MaryKay Carlson *by PVP Reginald T. Yu*

THE gilded chandeliers of the Rigodon Ballroom cast a dignified glow over an extraordinary afternoon of Rotary fellowship on May 13, 2025, as three of the country's most venerable Rotary clubs — **Rotary Club of Manila**, **Rotary Club of Makati**, and **Rotary Club of Makati Premier District** — gathered in joint session to welcome a

distinguished guest whose presence spoke volumes of diplomacy, shared values, and enduring friendship.

With the ceremonial gravity befitting such a moment, the joint meeting was formally called to order in seamless succession by **President Keith Harrison (RC Makati)**, **President Jujut Enriquez (RC Manila)**,



From left: Pres. Keith Harrison (RC Makati), Pres. Jujut Enriquez (RC Manila), and Pres. Eric Quiason (RCM Premiere District) called the meeting to order.

and **President Eric Quiason (RCMPD)**. It was a symbolic gesture of unity, each voice echoing not just formality but a shared vision of service above self.

PE Raoul C. Creencia (RC Manila) offered the invocation — a prayer of reflection, unity, and purpose. As national anthems played and club hymns followed, a gentle reverence enveloped the ballroom, grounding the grandeur in the simple, steadfast principles of Rotary.



PP David Ackerman (RC Makati) moderated the meeting.

PE Raoul C. Creencia led the invocation.



PE/UGP Jose Luis Vera (RCMPD) led the Four-Way Test, a recurring Rotary compass that gains deeper meaning with every meeting. Guests and visiting Rotarians were warmly acknowledged, serenaded by a welcome AVP and celebratory greetings to those marking birthdays and wedding anniversaries.



PE/UGP Jose Luis Vera (RCMPD) led the Four-Way Test.

Club function updates and committee announcements were shared, but it was during the Presidents' Time that the distinct voices of leadership wove a collective narrative — one that was optimistic, ambitious, and profoundly collaborative.

Then came the moment most awaited: the introduction of the day's keynote speaker. **Rtn. Mike Toledo**, seasoned public affairs executive and classmate of Pres. Eric

Quiason, delivered a spirited, at times humorous, introduction that was both personal and evocative. His words painted a portrait not just of titles and credentials, but of warmth and humanity.



Rtn. Mike Toledo introduced the keynote speaker.

“She hails from Little Rock, Arkansas,” Toledo noted, “a place that gave the world a certain President Bill Clinton — and now, graciously, our very own Ambassador MaryKay Carlson.” Drawing laughter, applause, and even playful references to marites and Rotary karaoke nights at Ambassador Carlson’s side, the introduction culminated with a resonant quote by Maya Angelou: “People will forget what you said, forget what you did, but they will never forget how you made them feel.”

And then, **Her Excellency MaryKay Carlson**, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of the Philippines, took the podium.

With genuine humility and poise, Ambassador Carlson opened by acknowledging the warmth of the gathering and echoed Toledo’s Maya Angelou quote,

noting it as one of her own favorites. “You’ve made me feel so welcome here today,” she said, her voice both assured and sincere.

She offered a brief but powerful narrative of the deep, evolving partnership between the U.S. and the Philippines — a bond forged in history, elevated by people, and sustained by shared values.

“The Rotary movement,” she remarked, “has long served as a global thread of service and leadership, and here in the Philippines, that thread is vibrantly alive.”



Her Excellency MaryKay Carlson, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of the Philippines

Her address centered on the strategic and human dimensions of the U.S.-Philippine alliance, highlighting key areas of economic engagement. She celebrated the presence of over 30 Filipino business leaders attending the 2025 SelectUSA Investment Summit, representing fields as diverse as health care, agribusiness,

technology, and renewable energy. “These innovators are showcasing the Philippines as a hub of entrepreneurship and opportunity,” she said, proudly noting the expansion of DoubleDragon’s Hotel 101 brand into Los Angeles, strategically timed for the 2028 Olympics.

She continued with accounts of U.S. firms investing across the Philippine archipelago — from Lexmark and Kimex to Teradyne — employing thousands of Filipinos in roles that span generations and continents.

But Carlson’s remarks were not confined to economics alone. With clarity and conviction, she spoke of the interdependence between economic stability and regional security, noting that “economic security is national security,” echoing the words of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.

Underlining the multi-faceted nature of U.S.-Philippine relations, she emphasized that economic initiatives are not separate from the military and diplomatic alliance. “They are a vital part of it,” she said. “Our economic ties strengthen the bonds that define our shared journey.”

She praised the Rotary International’s “End Polio Now” campaign, calling it a “monumental achievement” and a testament to the quiet, determined magic of Rotary service. With both gravity and grace, she concluded, “Serving as U.S. Ambassador to this remarkable nation is the honor of a lifetime.”

The speech, though short, resounded with dignity, authenticity, and depth.

A spirited open forum followed, governed by Chatham House rules, where members engaged the Ambassador on issues ranging from economic diplomacy to people-to-people exchange, from regional stability to soft diplomacy through education and cultural collaboration.

Finally, Presidents Keith, Jujut, and Eric returned to offer their closing responses — thanking the Ambassador not just for her presence, but for her palpable sincerity and service.



Pres. Keith Harrison (RC Makati), Pres. Jujut Enriquez (RC Manila), and Pres. Eric Quiason (RCM Premiere District) offered their closing responses then adjourned the meeting.

With PP David Ackerman moderating the proceedings to a seamless conclusion, the afternoon came to a close — but not before leaving a lasting impression on everyone present.

This was not merely a Rotary luncheon. It was a moment of convergence — of three clubs, two nations, and one enduring commitment to the ideals of service, peace, and partnership.

And in that grand ballroom of The Peninsula, beneath the weight of chandeliers and the lightness of laughter, the message was clear: When people of goodwill come together with purpose, borders blur, alliances deepen, and hope endures.



Meeting Fellowship



CLUB ADMINISTRATION

RCM Members' Attendance Report
RY 2024-2025

ATTENDANCE REPORT
May 2025

MAY 2025	May 01, 2025 TOWER AWARDS (HOLIDAY)	May 08, 2025 MEET AND GREET: SENATORIALS, AND CLASSIFICATION TALKS	May 13, 2025 JOINT MEETING: RC MAKATI AND RC MAKATI PREMIER	May 22, 2025 NO WEEKLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING
MEMBERS PRESENT	0	18	0	0
MEMBERS PRESENT %	0%	8%	0%	0%
MAKE UP ATTENDEES	0	34	0	0
EXEMPTED	0	1	0	0
ON LEAVE	0	0	0	0
Total Active Members	0	51	0	0
Total # of Members	227	227	227	227
TOTAL %:	0%	22%	0%	0%
ROTARACTORS	0	10	0	0
MEDIA	0	0	0	0
EMBASSIES / DIPLOMATIC CORPS	0	0	0	0
DG, DGE, DGN, PDG	0	0	0	0
GOHS / GS	0	0	0	0
VISITING ROTARIAN	0	20	0	0
Guests of RCM MEMBERS	0	14	0	0
TOTAL ATTENDEES	0	62	0	0

LIST OF ATTENDEES
May 8, 2025

1	Albaña, Michael Jaey C
2	Bartolome III, Arsenio M.
3	Benedicto, Sixto T.
4	Bogovich, Jason M.
5	Creencia, Raoul C.
6	Cutter, John Michael
7	Del Rosario Sr., Oscar A.
8	Guevara, Ricardo S.
9	Lonzaga, Reinerio C.
10	Mauricio, Antonilo DC
11	Preysler, Jr., Fausto R.
12	Rodriguez Sr., Joaquin C.
13	Serapio, Carlos G.
14	Valdez, Amado D.
15	Yu, Reginald Tieng
16	Gonzales, Jonas R.
17	Cid, Dean Y.
18	Mauricio, Francisco Robert DC.



CLUB ADMINISTRATION

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

As of May 27, 2025

1	ABOY, VALENTINO G
2	ABRIAM, ARIEL
3	ACOSTA, CRISPINIANO G.
4	AGNES, JERRY A
5	ALBAÑA, MICHAEL JAEY C
6	ALBERTO, RAYMUNDO ARNOLD S
7	ALCANTARA, ISIDRO C
8	ALDAY, ALBERT
9	ALINGOG, ALDOUS REX A
10	ANDAL, AVELINO L
11	ANG, RICHARD T
12	ARAGON, JOSHUA RUEBEN G
13	ARAMBULO, JOAQUIN JR
14	ARGUELLES, PABLO C
15	AVENTURA, AVENILO JR L
16	BAGATSING, VALENTINO S
17	BALANAY, ARIES B
18	BARTOLOME, ARSENIO III M.
19	BEDIONES, RODOLFO P.
20	BELLA, GERONIMO JR. D
21	BELLO, CHRISTIAN CESAR
22	BENEDICTO, BERNARDO III T.
23	BENEDICTO, SIXTO T
24	BERTELSEN, BERTEL I
25	BHALLA, PARDEEP
26	BLANCO, MANUEL M
27	BOGOVICH, JASON M
28	BOLTON, WILHELM
29	BRANELLEC, JACQUES
30	BUENDIA, CARLOS C
31	CABANGON, EDGARD A.
32	CABUÑAG, ROGELIO R
33	CAMAT, NATHANIEL
34	CAMPOS, JOSELITO JR
35	CANON, RAUL JR C
36	CARLOS, VICENTE J.
37	CARRANCEJA, ARVIN ARIK B
38	CASTRO, KARLO EUGENE JOSEF M
39	CATALAN, RODILLO R
40	CENICA, JOHN T
41	CHAHWAN, RAMI
42	CHAN, ROBERT JR
43	CHIEN, LIANG-TA
44	CID, DEAN Y
45	CO, FERDINAND C.
46	CO, VAL CONSTANTINE L
47	CORTEZ, LORENZO R
48	COYTUTO, ROBERT JR. G
49	CREENCIA, RAOUL C.
50	CUREG, ALEXANDER P

51	CUTTER, JOHN MICHAEL
52	DAVIS, RAYMOND N
53	DAYANG, JUAN E.
54	DE CASTRO, JUAN ARTURO ILUMINADO C
55	DE VENECIA, JOSE JR.
56	DEL ROSARIO, OSCAR SR.
57	DIONISIO, RAFAEL IGNACIO
58	DOMINGO, RICO V
59	DOMINGUEZ, CARLOS III G.
60	DY, MANUEL C.
61	EGAN, BRENDAN W.L.
62	ELDEBS, ISSAM
63	ENRIQUEZ, EDUARDO III V.
64	ESGUERRA, HERMINIO S.
65	ESQUIVIAS, JOAQUIN PABLO A
66	EUGENIO, JOHN EMYL G
67	FAJARDO, BEDA G
68	FERNANDEZ, ANTONIO JAIME JOSE V.
69	FOLLOSCO, CEFERINO JR G
70	GARCIA, PAUL JOSEPH M
71	GARCIA, THEODORE Q
72	GARCIA, VICTOR III G.
73	GASPAR, FERNANDO L
74	GIERRAN, DANTE A.
75	GO, DANIEL
76	GO, HENRY S
77	GONZALES, JONAS R
78	GONZALEZ LA'O, EMILIO P
79	GUARIN, MICHAEL ARCATOMY H.
80	GUEVARA, DOMINGO JR.
81	GUEVARA, RICARDO S.B.
82	HALLARE, DELFIN JR. T
83	HALLARE, NICOLO S
84	HALLERBACH, MATHIAS
85	HANADA, TAKAHIRO
86	HERNANDEZ, EDWIN H.
87	HESSE, UWE
88	HORTALEZA, ROLANDO B
89	IBUYAN, BENEDICT JULIUS F
90	IWATA, YASUSHI
91	JANG, JAE JUNG
92	JOSEPH, RALPH L
93	JUCABAN, JERIC J
94	KALAW, TEODORO ALEJANDRO IV Y.
95	KATIGBAK J ALFONSO L
96	KLEBS, DAVID
97	KOH, PAUL ANTHONY T
98	KUNACK, LUTZ H.
99	LACAMBACAL, ALVIN D.
100	LAUREL, RICARDO P.

CLUB ADMINISTRATION

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

As of May 27, 2025

101	LAYA, JAIME C
102	LAZARO, JUAN MIGUEL
103	LEDDA, JAIME VICTOR B
104	LEE, RICHARD L
105	LI, RICHARD JOSEPH CHANG
106	LIAMZON, ROMEO THADDEUS
107	LIM, DAVID EDUARDO T
108	LIM, RICHARD
109	LOCSIN, ARSENIO Z.
110	LONZAGA, REINERIO
111	LOPEZ, ANTONIO
112	LOPEZ, ARTHUR M
113	LORENZANA, DELFIN
114	MACAPAGAL, MICHAEL T.
115	MACATOMAN, ABDULGANI
116	MAGBANUA, GERRY P
117	MAGSAYSAY, FRANCISCO D.
118	MAGSAYSAY, JESUS VICENTE E
119	MANALAYSAY, CESAR P
120	MANGALILE, SENEN T
121	MARTINEZ, RONALD I
122	MATSCHUCK, GUENTER GERHARD G
123	MAURICIO, ANTONILO DC
124	MENDOZA, ESTELITO P
125	MENDOZA, MIGUEL
126	MENDOZA, RAYMUND JOSEPH IAN O.
127	MOMMAERTS, STEVE
128	MORTEL, JUAN MANUEL
129	NOLIDO, RAMON ALBERTO B
130	NOMURA, KAZUHIRO
131	NONES, ROMEO C.
132	NUÑEZ, JOSE A
133	OBRADO, DANIEL CALZADO
134	OCAMPO, TEODORO J
135	ONG, PHILLIP L
136	OZAETA, MIGUEL ANTONIO L
137	PAGDANGANAN, ROBERTO M
138	PALACIOS, ALBERT C.
139	PALLASIGUE, JOHN BRIAN
140	PAÑARES, BEN THOMAS P
141	PASCUAL, ABRAHAM F
142	PATTERSON, COLIN DAVID
143	PAYUMO, FELICITO C
144	PELIÑO, WILFREDO
145	PINEDA, JESUS JR M
146	PINEDA, PATRICIO JR. F
147	PIZARRAS, JORDAN M
148	PREYSLER, FAUSTO JR. D.R.
149	PUJALTE, JOSE JR
150	RA, INGILL
151	RAMOS, CLAVER P.

152	RANKL, PETER
153	RAST, TOBIAS
154	RECTO, PHILIP H.
155	REYES, CRISPINO P
156	REYNOLDS, DAVID J.
157	RODRIGUEZ, JOAQUIN ANTHONY H
158	RODRIGUEZ, JOAQUIN SR. C
159	ROMUALDEZ, FERDINAND MARTIN G.
160	ROMUALDEZ, JOSE MANUEL G
161	ROÑO, MARLON R.
162	ROXAS, MICHAEL D
163	SARMIENTO, RICARDO MANUEL M
164	SCHMITZ, STEFAN
165	SCHNEIDER, BERND
166	SERAPIO, CARLOS C
167	SEVILLA, LUIS ANGELO L
168	SHIMODA, SHIGERU
169	SIBAYAN, JOSELITO H
170	SIMON, JUANITO
171	SO, WARREN
172	SOBREPEÑA, ROBERT JOHN L.
173	SOLER, JOSE ANTONIO A
174	STRANATHAN, IKE EDWARD
175	SYJUCO, JOSE, JR. A.
176	TAGAYSAY, HECTOR O
177	TALAMPAS, JOEL ANGEL L
178	TALUSAN, FERDINAND E
179	TAMANO, SHALIMAR HOFER
180	TAMAYO, VICTOR L.
181	TAN, EUSEBIO V.
182	TAN, JOHN G
183	TAN, LAWRENCE L
184	TANG, JIMMY T.
185	TEE, TEDDY JR B
186	TEJUMAL, SHAM MICHAEL
187	TILLMAN, HANSEL JOSEPH MICHAEL
188	VALDES, JOEL C.
189	VALDEZ, AMADO D
190	VALENCIA, JOHN NICO P.
191	VALENCIA, RODOLFO G
192	VAZQUEZ, EVARISTO JR
193	VILLARICA, HENRY R.
194	YAP, ENRIQUE JR. Y
195	YORDANOV, STEFAN
196	YU, GEOFFREY C
197	YU, REGINALD T.
198	ZALDARRIAGA, FELIX FRANCISCO S
199	ZEITOUNI, NAGI
200	ZHENG, ZHI HAO
201	ZIALCITA, XAVIER Y.
202	ZIMMER, CHRISTOPHER

CLUB ADMINISTRATION

Second Planning Meeting of the Incoming Board RY 2025-2026



THE second planning meeting of the incoming Board was held at the Elks Club on May 8, 2025 at 3:00 pm.

Present at the meeting were Program Chair/Incoming Board Legal Adviser Caloy Serapio, DSAA John Cutter, DE Jason Bogovich, IT PJ Garcia, DE Rami Chahwan, DE Hans Palacios, IS Anton Mauricio, PE Raoul Creencia, Incoming Internal Auditor Nick Locsin, DE Edwin Hernandez, Incoming Asst Internal Auditor Mike Roxas, and VPE Ricky Guevara.



CLUB ADMINISTRATION

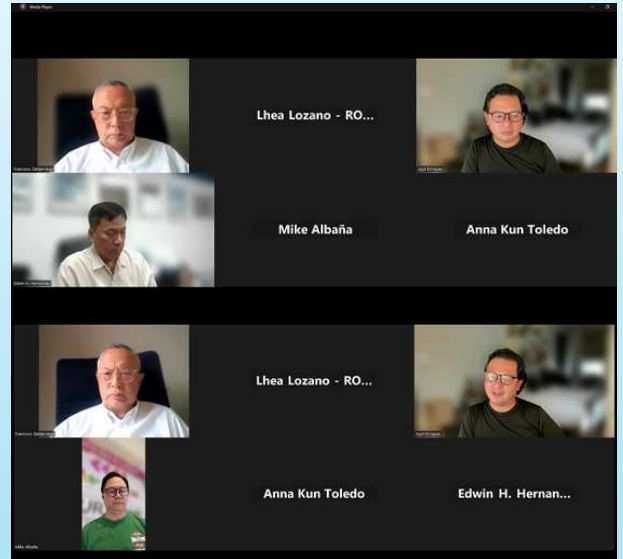
Stars 2024-2025 Fellowship Planning



STARS 2024-2025 fellowship planning meeting was held at Valle Verde Country Club, Inc. on May 7, 2025.

Present at the meeting were (from left) Director/Director-Elect Mike Albana, Director for Innovation and Sustainability Anton Mauricio, Ms. Krystene Bello, President-Elect Raoul Creencia, Secretary Aries Balanay, STAR Rotarians Jonas Gonzales, Rowel Ong, and Coco Mauricio.

Club Awards Committee Meeting



THE Club Awards Committee held its second meeting on May 7, 2025, via Zoom to approve the meeting minutes held last April 30, 2025. Present during the meeting were President Jujut Enriquez, Club Awards Committee Chair/Director Mike Albaña, Past President Chito Zaldarriaga, and Director-Elect Edwin Hernandez.

CLUB ADMINISTRATION

RC Manila World Famous Chorale Rehearsal



ON May 13, 2025, the RCManila World Famous Chorale held a choir practice. Present were (from left) Mr. Domino Marcos (musical director), PE Raoul Creencia, PD Nick Locsin, Dir. Mike Albaña, PD Oscar Del Rosario, PD Noy Benedicto, and VPE Ricky Guevara.

Treasury Meeting



ATreasury meeting with Treasurer Mike Roxas, Incoming Secretary Anton Mauricio, Ms. Glennies Racuya, CPA, RCM Secretariat, ES Lhea Lozano, Letty Que, and Anna Kun Toledo was held on May 22, 2025 at 3 PM at the Kapihan Room of Moore, Roxas, Tagle and Co.

Planning Meeting of the Incoming Program Committee



THE Incoming Program Committee held a planning meeting on May 15, 2025, at The Peninsula Manila. Present were Committee Chair Del Lorenzana, PE Raoul Creencia, RCMFI Chair Reggie Yu, Journalism Awards Chair Amading Valdez, and Program Committee Chair Caloy Serapio.

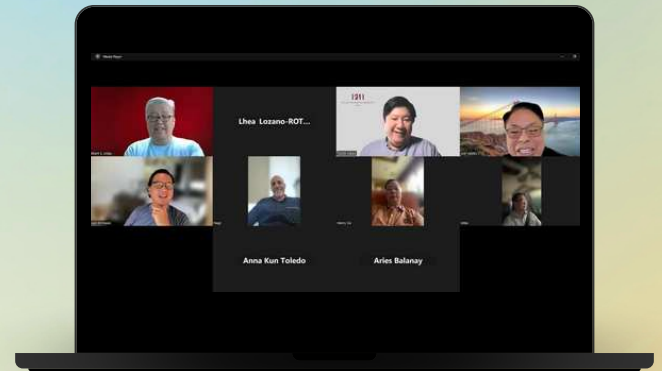
CLUB ADMINISTRATION

Journalism and Program Committee Group Meeting



A Journalism and Program Committee group meeting was held on May 22, 2025 at 4:30 PM via Zoom. Attendees were Program Chair Caloy Serapio, PD Amading Valdez, VP Joel Valdes, PE Raoul Creencia, DSAA Rami Chawan, PD Oscar Del Rosario, and DE Edwin Hernandez. Not in the group photo were PP Jackie Rodriguez and DIS Anton Maurico.

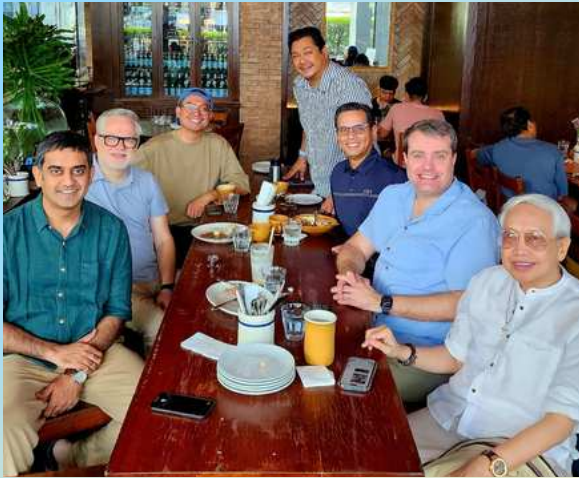
Rotary Club of Manila Board of Directors for RY 2024-2025 Holds Its Seventh Regular Meeting



THE Board of Directors of the Rotary Club of Manila for RY 2024-2025 held its Seventh (7th) Regular Meeting last May 23, 2025 via Zoom virtual platform. Present were President Jujut Enriquez, Vice President Joel Valdes, Director Teddy Kalaw, Director Henry Go, Director Nagi Zeitouni, Director Albert Alday, Director Mike Albaña, and Secretary Aries Balanay.

CLUB ADMINISTRATION

Prospective Partnership Meeting with Apl.d.Ap Foundation



ON May 25, 2025, a prospective partnership meeting with Apl.d.Ap Foundation's Audie Vergara and Derek Ruth, with TedX's Ajit Sharma and RCMers Innovation and Sustainability Chair Anton Mauricio, President-Elect Raoul Creencia, Director-Elect Jason Bogovich, and Incoming Board Legal Adviser/Program Chair Caloy Serapio.

Planning Meeting for the Hospicio Art Exhibit



A meeting was held on May 20, 2025 to prepare for the Hospicio Art Exhibit. Present at the meeting were (from left) STAR Rtn. Roel Ong, President-Elect Raoul Creencia, President Jujut Enriquez, Past Director Phil Ong, Rtn. Ray Davis, Rtn. Ramby Nolido, and STAR Rtn. Junjun Chan.



Continuing the Hospicio Art Exhibit meeting with a quick orientation for PVP Reggie Yu

SAVING THE ENVIRONMENT

A River Runs Through It: The Rotary Club of Manila's Ocular Inspection of the Pasig River Trash Barriers

By Reginald T. Yu



Del Pan Bridge

MANILA, May 26, 2025 – Beneath the gauzy veil of early morning haze, the ancient Pasig River stirred gently, whispering secrets between its sunlit ripples. At precisely 7:00 AM, fourteen members of the Rotary Club of Manila, clad in their iconic blue, yellow, and white shirts, gathered at the Lawton Ferry Station in Ermita — quietly determined, calmly resolute, and united by a cause far larger than themselves.

The gathering was more than symbolic. It was the living embodiment of a promise — a commitment etched into public record in 2022 when RCM donated floating trash barriers to the Pasig River Coordinating and Management Office (PRCMO) under the DENR. This morning marked a critical checkpoint: a periodic ocular inspection as stipulated in the Memorandum of Agreement. It was not just a tour. It was a renewal of vows made to the city's ailing artery.

A Convergence of Purpose

The journey to this day had begun weeks earlier, through a quiet yet purposeful courtesy call made on May 14 to PRCMO's newly appointed Regional Executive Director, **Atty. Michael Rey Matias**. Project Chair PP **Hermie Esguerra**, Director **Albert Alday**, and Club Secretary **Aries Balanay**, in the dignified and earnest way Rotarians often move, secured not only logistical cooperation but also reaffirmed RCM's shared mission with the government: to transform the river into a cleaner, more sustainable resource for future generations.



Pasig River Project Chairman PP Hermie Esguerra, Dir. Albert Alday and Club Secretary Aries Balanay made a courtesy call on the Officer-in-Charge of the PRCMO Regional Executive Director Atty. Michael Drake Matias on May 14 at the Board Room, National Ecology Center of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, East Avenue, Quezon City.

Among the agenda discussed were the Memorandum of Agreement signed in 2023 and the global grant on the trash skimmer which likewise involves the Rotary Club of Sangju Central, sister club of the Rotary Club of Manila.



From left: STAR Rtn. Stefan Yordanov, AT Joshua Aragon, STAR Rtn. Ingill Ra, Treasurer Mike Roxas, Rtn. Val Co, PP Hermie Esguerra, Rtn. Caloy Serapio, PVP Reggie Yu, PE Raoul Creencia, Rtn. Inov Talusan, Dir. Henry Go, Dir. Albert Alday, Sec. Aries Balanay, and IS Anton Mauricio

A Morning Aboard Trash Boats

The inspection began at Lawton, with a pre-departure briefing conducted by **Mr. William Gutoman**, Cluster Coordinator, whose knowledge of the river's current conditions helped frame the day's objectives. Then, aboard two PRCMO trash boats, each carrying no more than fifteen passengers, the convoy set off — down the waters once romanticized in poems, then derided in despair, and now slowly, gloriously, returning to life.



As the boats passed MacArthur Bridge and Padre Jacinto Zamora Bridge, one could sense the shifting narrative of this river — not merely a carrier of waste but now a vessel of hope. By 8:30 AM, the confluence with the San Juan River in Sta. Ana shimmered under the late morning sun, a visual metaphor for the joining of efforts: government and civil society, local leadership and community volunteers.



At 7:15 AM, the boats glided past Del Pan Bridge in Tondo, the gentle hum of the engines harmonizing with the sound of Manila slowly awakening. By 7:25, they approached the Pasig River Esplanade Phase 3 in Intramuros, where centuries of heritage stood watch over modern efforts of redemption. A pause at Binondo-Intramuros Bridge at 7:30 offered a glimpse into the delicate intersection of old Chinatown commerce and new civic willpower.





Padre Jacinto Zamora Bridge



San Juan Bridge

The furthest point, Sevilla Bridge in Mandaluyong, was reached by 8:50 AM, tides permitting. There, the members saw firsthand the wear and resilience of the floating barriers. Some had clearly held strong, standing guard against the river's endless flow of detritus; others bore the scars of storms, requiring reinforcement.

What Still Must Be Done

It was not all triumph. The barriers, while effective in many areas, were not impervious to time or tide. Maintenance, expansion, and more robust waste management strategies were urgently needed. The river still carried with it the collective neglect of decades past, and while the progress was undeniable, so too was the work that lay ahead.

By 9:10 AM, the boats began their return voyage, passing again the bridges and boulevards, this time with eyes sharper and hearts heavier. The river had spoken — not in words, but in the quiet language of accumulated plastics and broken bamboo, of murky patches and glimmering banks. And the Rotary Club of Manila listened.





A Movement that Flows Forward

By 9:30 AM, back at Lawton Ferry Station, the fourteen Rotarians disembarked not just from boats, but from a journey that reaffirmed their place in this long arc of environmental redemption. Their presence was not performative; it was participative, woven into the ongoing story of the Pasig.

In the grand theater of urban renewal, the Pasig River is both stage and actor, a lifeline in flux. And on this particular Monday morning, the Rotary Club of Manila did not merely inspect a project. They bore witness to a living legacy — and to the belief that healing, like a river, must flow steadily forward, one barrier at a time.



Postscript:

In the coming weeks, the Rotary Club of Manila will submit its full report to PRCMO-DENR, including observations, recommendations, and proposals for strengthened collaboration. The work continues. As rivers flow, so too must the efforts of those who care.

THE ROTARY FOUNDATION

The Rotary Foundation Grant Seminar



PE Raoul Creencia, Director Mike Albaña, DIS Anton Mauricio, incumbent Secretary Aries Balanay, and Rtn. Ingmar Bertelsen attended the Rotary Foundation Grant Seminar organized by RID 3810 on May 24, 2025.



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RCM 106th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

& INDUCTION CEREMONY

Date: Thursday | July 3, 2025

Time: 5:30PM

Venue: Solaire Grand Ballroom
Solaire Resort, Paranaque City

Dress Code: Barong | Filipiniana

Ticket
P3,500.00

RSVP:

ES Lhea Lozano

(+63) 917-152-3041

✉ rotaryclubofmanila@gmail.com

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Philippine Airlines

The Heart of the Filipino

RCMANILA FOUNDATION, INC.

Fifth Golf Committee Meeting



THE fifth Golf Committee Meeting was held on May 19, 2025, 4 PM at the Barcino, Uptown Parade, BGC, Taguig City. Present at the meeting were Golf Committee Chair Nico Valencia, IPC Lito Sibayan, Incoming RCMFI President/RCM President Jujut Enriquez, Trustee Anton Mauricio, Rtn. Rocco Sarmiento, Executive Director Amy Babiano, and Golf Event Organizer Ms. Ting Puzon-Yupangco.

Rotary
Club of Manila



RCMANILA
FOUNDATION, INC.



STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB
JUNE 16, 2025 (MONDAY)
REGISTRATION: 6:00AM
SHOTGUN TEE-OFF: 8:00AM



TOURNAMENT FEE
Php8,500.00

**Includes green fee, cart-sharing,
giveaways, breakfast, lunch & raffle**

"FOR THE BENEFIT OF RCMANILA FOUNDATION PROJECTS."

For Tickets and Sponsorship
Jonathan Lagarto

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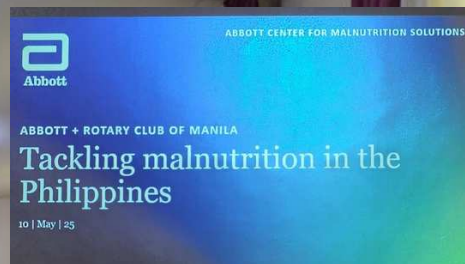
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MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

Rotary Club of Manila and Abbott Host Nutrition Training Program at Hospicio de San Jose



THE Nutrition Training Program, organized by the Rotary Club of Manila and Abbott at Hospicio de San Jose, was held on May 10, 2025.



Attendees included (from left) Dr. Jun Dimaano, Atty. Mylene Creencia, President-Elect Raoul Creencia, Rotaract Club of Manila President Summer Bonifacio, Project Chair Jason Bogovich, DIS Anton Mauricio, and DSAA Dr. John Cutter.

Rotary Club of Manila and Abbott Host Nutrition Training Program at Hospicio de San Jose



Rotary Club of Manila and Abbott Host Nutrition Training Program at Hospicio de San Jose



*RCM beneficiaries of PD. Phil Ong's Art
Program at Hospicio de San Jose*

ROTATING ROTARIAN

VP Joel Valdes Attends Rotary Club of San Bruno Weekly Membership Meeting



ON May 22, 2025, VP Joel Valdes met with Rotary Club of San Bruno President Cris Scerri, RI 5150 Assistant District Governor Adele Della-Santini, Global Grant Chair Meg Finones, and her husband, Ed Finones, during the RCSB's Weekly Membership Meeting.



VP Joel Valdes with San Bruno City Mayor Rico Medina as RCSB's guest speaker

COGS IN THE WHEEL

RCM Pro Patria Journalism Awards Chair Amading Valdez Presents His New Book to Chief Justice Alexander G. Gesmundo



ROTARY Club of Manila Pro Patria Journalism Awards Chairman Amading Valdez presented to Chief Justice Alexander G. Gesmundo his soon-to-be-launched book: "THEY WILL BE IN HEAVEN BEFORE THE DEVIL KNOWS!" (A story of Lawyers, for Lawyers, by Lawyers).

FELLOWSHIP

Aleco Monday Breakfast Fellowship



ON May 19, 2025, the Aleco Monday Breakfast Fellowship was held, hosted by sugar baron Tony Montinola.

Present were (from left) PP Jackie Rodriguez, former member PP Francis Juico, former member PS Jorge Salazar, PD Ner Lonzaga, PD Abe Pascual, former member Eric Severino, PP Ebot Tan, PD Jun Hallare, DIS/IS Anton Mauricio, PT Chito Tagaysay, Rtn. Cris Acosta, Mr. Tony Montinola, PD Beda Fajardo, and Rtn. Tong Payumo.

FELLOWSHIP

Aleco Monday Breakfast Fellowship



ON May 26, 2025, the Aleco Monday Breakfast Fellowship was held, hosted by sugar baron Tony Montinola.

Present were (from left) PD Jun Hallare, PP Jackie Rodriguez, former members PP Francis Juico, PD Raoul Villegas, Rtn. Tong Payumo, Mr. Tony Montinola, PSAA Dave Reynolds, RCMFI Past Chairman Willie Peliño, former member Past Secretary Jorge Salazar, PT Chito Tagaysay, former member Eric Severino, and PD Beda Fajardo.

RECOGNITION CORNER

Rtn. Rocco Sarmiento's Vitarich Earnings Climb Exponentially to P241 M



BUSINESS

Vitarich earnings climb exponentially to P241 million

Jasper Emmanuel Arcalas - The Philippine Star ①

May 15, 2025 | 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Poultry integrator and feeds manufacturer Vitarich Corp. reported a record net income in the first quarter, surging exponentially on an annual basis to over P240 million, driven by higher chicken sales and new revenue streams.

Vitarich said its net income in the first three months hit P241.6 million, 389 times higher compared to the P620,959 profit recorded in the same period last year.

The firm's revenues expanded by 8.8 percent year-on-year to nearly P3.2 billion from last year's P2.94 billion. Vitarich attributed the increase to higher nationwide pricing of chicken products and the addition of a new revenue stream from day-old pullets.

Nonetheless, the company noted that its top line was partially mitigated by lower volumes sold and reduced pricing for its feed products because of limited supply of day-old chicks in the market.

"(Vitarich) delivered record net income and margin performance, outperforming our expectations," said CEO Rocco Sarmiento.

"This performance boosts our outlook and reinforces our confidence in navigating an evolving macroeconomic environment," he added.

Sarmiento noted that the firm may continue to face persisting industry challenges such as shortage of day-old chicks. Nonetheless, the firm has already scheduled additional breeder orders for the second and third quarters to manage the supply disruptions.

"We also expect to increase capital expenditure over the course of the year related to our investments in poultry houses, in line with our strategic priorities," he said.

Vitarich said revenues from its food segment expanded by more than a quarter year-on-year to P2.22 billion from P1.75 billion caused by higher chicken prices in the market. The foods segment accounted for almost 63 percent of the firm's revenues, up from last year's 59.6-percent share.

Revenues from the feeds segment fell by almost five percent to P1.02 billion from P1.07 billion due to lower feed prices.

The company added that farm revenues more than doubled to P301.7 million from P88.5 million driven by the introduction of day-old pullets.



Vitarich Q1 net income jumps to P241.6 million

May 15, 2025 | 12:10 am

LISTED poultry integrator Vitarich Corp. saw its first-quarter (Q1) attributable net income jump to P241.6 million from P620,959 a year earlier, supported by higher chicken prices and a new revenue stream.

"This marked a record quarter that exceeded the company's internal forecasts," Vitarich said in a stock exchange disclosure on Wednesday.

Revenues rose by 8.8% to P3.2 billion from P2.94 billion, while gross profit more than doubled to P607.53 million from P245.99 million in the same period last year.

The company said revenue growth was partly offset by lower chicken volumes and "reduced pricing for feeds due to the limited supply of day-old chicks in the market."

Food products contributed 62.8% of total revenues, followed by feeds at 28.7% and farms at 8.5%.

Government data showed that full-dressed chicken prices in Metro Manila averaged P206.97 per kilogram in the last week of March, higher than P180.70 per kilogram from March 25 to 27.

In addition to nationwide price increases, Vitarich attributed its improved performance to the "addition of a new revenue stream from day-old pullets."

Its food segment includes chicken and dory fish products sold to hotels, restaurants, institutional clients, supermarkets, and wet markets.

In March, Vitarich signed an exclusive distribution agreement with French breeding company Novogen for NOVOgen White hens.

The company also said it is strengthening its food segment under the Cook's brand "by scaling up its fresh and ready-to-cook chicken products and investing in marketing."

Operating profit surged to P349.8 million from P24.1 million last year.

Operating expenses rose to 8.1% of revenues, driven by higher freight and handling costs, merchandiser salaries, and training and marketing expenses.

"As we move through the year, short-term disruptions such as the shortage of day-old chicks may continue but we remain focused on pursuing a range of opportunities that we believe will further strengthen our business and fuel sustained growth in the years ahead," Vitarich Chief Executive Officer Ricardo Manuel M. Sarmiento said. — Kyle

Aristophere T. Atienza

RECOGNITION CORNER

PP Hermie Honored as 2024 Horse Breeder of the Year by the Philippine Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Organization

Manila Standard



By Manila Standard

May 26, 2025, 9:55 pm

Businessman-sportsman Herminio 'Hermie' Esguerra was recently honored as 2024 Horse Breeder of the Year by the Philippine Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Organization during the 27th PHILTOBO Gintong Lahi Awards. Esguerra achieved the distinction for a record ninth (9th) time, having previously won the same title as top breeder in 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2012, 2013, 2016. In addition, Esguerra also received the covered Broodmare of the Year Award for his prolific mare, Liquid Oxygen, dam of multiple stakes winners Jungkook and King James, his fourth broodmare to win the following Spicy Tale, Tumataginting, Seaquin. The PHILTOBO Gintong Lahi Awards is an annual event celebrating the most outstanding performers in the local horse racing industry.

STAR Rotarian Coco Mauricio's JuanHand and Smart Sign Agreement to Make Access to Load Easier for Filipinos

philstar
GLOBAL

BUSINESS

Smart, JuanHand empower Filipinos with ease of access, connectivity

The Philippine Star ①

May 28, 2025 | 12:00am



LOAD NOW, PAY LATER: JuanHand and Smart recently signed an agreement to make access to load easier for Filipinos. Present during the signing are (from left) WeFund Lending Corp. president and CEO Francisco Roberto D.C. Mauricio, Smart first vice president Lloyd Dennis Manaloto and Smart assistant vice president George Alexander Gordon. See B3.

MANILA, Philippines — Smart, the country's telecommunications giant, has teamed up with JuanHand, the country's leading fintech lending app, to enhance connectivity for Filipinos nationwide.

The landmark partnership will allow Filipinos to load their Smart prepaid phones on credit. Gone are the days when you need cash to load. With the Smart x JuanHand collab, simply download JuanHand, apply for a loan, and once approved, click the mobile top-up icon and load your Smart prepaid account. It's that easy.

"This collaboration with JuanHand is perfectly aligned with Smart's drive to keep expanding access to our services. By integrating our prepaid load offerings with JuanHand's digital lending platform, we are making connectivity more accessible to our subscribers," Smart first vice president Lloyd Manaloto said.

As Smart continues to expand its network, this partnership is expected to further enhance the customer experience by providing added value and innovative services.

For JuanHand, this collaboration will not only boost user engagement but also solidify its position as a leading fintech provider that prioritizes user convenience.

"We are excited to partner with Smart to provide our users the ability to load their prepaid account on credit. This 'Load Now, Pay Later' partnership under-scores our commitment to enhance the digital connectivity of Pinoys, whenever they need it most," JuanHand CEO Francisco Roberto Mauricio said.

JuanHand, operated by WeFund Lending Corp., has disbursed over P45 billion in loans to more than 15 million registered users.

With minimal requirements and approval as fast as five minutes, JuanHand remains committed to making financial services accessible and reliable for every Filipino.

YOUTH SERVICE

Rotaract Club of Manila Makes History at DISCON and GAN 2025

Awarded Overall Most Outstanding Club and President in District 3810



Among all Rotaract Clubs in District 3810—spanning Manila, Pasay, Cavite, and Occidental Mindoro—the Rotaract Club of Manila emerged as the Overall Most Outstanding Club, with President Summer Bonifacio named Overall Most Outstanding President.

THE Rotary Club of Manila proudly celebrates a momentous victory for its sponsored youth club, the Rotaract Club of Manila, as it dominated the recently held District 3810 Rotaract Conference and Grand Appreciation Night 2025 (DISCON & GAN).

The Rotaract Club of Manila was conferred the highest honors in the district—Overall Most Outstanding Club and Overall Most Outstanding President—a testament to its dynamic leadership, exceptional service, and unwavering

dedication throughout the Rotary Year 2024–2025.

A Term of Impact and Heart

Under the inspiring leadership of President Stephanie “Summer” Bernardo Bonifacio, the club successfully implemented a wide range of impactful projects, balancing innovation with tradition, and professionalism with empathy.

“This journey wasn’t easy,” shared President Summer. “But we ended the year with

YOUTH SERVICE

Rotaract Club of Manila Makes History at DISCON and GAN 2025

purpose, heart, and lasting impact. These recognitions are not mine alone—they are ours.”

A Shower of Awards and Recognition

SPECIAL DISTINCTIONS:

- Platinum Award – DRR Citation
- Platinum Award – Club Service
- Platinum Award – International Service
- Gold Award – Community Service
- Gold Award – Professional Service
- Gold Award – Public Image



Awarded Overall
Most Outstanding Club
and President in District 3810

MAJOR PROJECT AWARDS:

- Best Flagship Project – Essence Art Exhibit (Grand Winner)
- Best Club Service Project – Advancing Forward Together (Grand Winner)
- Best Community Service Project – Project CREATE (Grand Winner)
- Best Finance Project – Essence Art Exhibit (Grand Winner)
- Best International Service Project – Global Jeepney (Runner-up)
- Best Professional Development Project – KickStart & UpSkill (Runner-up)
- Best Public Image Project – Rotaract Manila Soundbites (Runner-up)



YOUTH SERVICE

Rotaract Club of Manila Makes History at DISCON and GAN 2025

Awarded Overall
Most Outstanding Club
and President in District 3810

SPECIAL AWARDS:

- Outstanding Membership Growth
- Outstanding Friendship Club Collaboration
- Outstanding Twin Club Collaboration
- Outstanding Contribution to The 3810 Newsletter
- Leadership Award – MIP Summer Bonifacio
- Best Presenter – Year-End Showcase – MIP Summer Bonifacio
- Rotaract District Grant Recipient
- Complete & Timely Submission of Monthly Reports
- Pilipinas Rotaract Convention Highest Delegation
- Magiting Sports Fest Participation
- Host Club – 5th District and President Meeting



A Legacy of Leadership

The Rotary Club of Manila commends President Summer Bonifacio and the entire RAC Manila family for upholding the legacy of the Rotaract Club of Manila. Through their collaborative spirit, creativity, and sincere service, they have once again proven why they are known as a Premier Club in Philippine Rotaract.

As we continue to empower young leaders and uplift communities, we take great pride in supporting clubs like RAC Manila who embody the heart of Rotary: Service Above Self.

Mabuhay, Rotaract Club of Manila!
You have made history. You have made us proud.

The event was held on May 17, 2025, at the LifePlace Retreat and Event Center in Alfonso, Cavite, bringing together Rotaractors from all corners of District 3810 for a celebration of service and excellence.



Rotary



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. to all concerned?

Russell-Hampton Co. Item #R89805M



SERVICE ABOVE SELF

A Tribute to Former Member

Past Director Armie Aquino



A heartfelt tribute to former member and Past Director Armie Aquino took place on May 24, 2025. Organized by his family, the event was held at the Novotel Hotel in Araneta Center, Quezon City, and was attended by the RCM Music Chorale and close friends, who honored his legacy and celebrated his life.



Present were PE Raoul Creencia, VPE Ricky Guevara, DE Warren So, Dir./DE Mike Albaña, IAD Nick Locsin, PDG Vince and spouse Tina Carlos, PDG Rudy and spouse Sharon Bediones, PP Boy and spouse Monette Guevara, PD Noy Benedicto, Rtn. Jun Aventura, Rtn. Nilo Aventura, World Famous Music Chorale Chair/PD Oscar del Rosario, and World Famous Music Chorale Conductor Domino Marcos.



A Tribute to Former Member Past Director Armie Aquino

Tributes remembering PD Armie Aquino's legacy were delivered by Dir. Mike Albaña, PDG Rudy Bediones, PP Boy Guevara, PD Nick Locsin, and former member Rtn. Jesli Lapus.



Spouse Rose Aquino and family members with Rotary Club of Manila members after the turnover of the name badge of the late PD Armie Aquino.

The memorial service was preceded by a mass.



PRESS RELEASE

TOWER Awards 2025 Featured in Manila Bulletin



MANILA BULLETIN



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Philippines | National

TOWER Awards recognize Filipino workers in innovation industry

By Trixee Rosel

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TOWER Awards recognize Filipino workers for innovation in industry

Outstanding Filipino workers were recognized for grassroots innovations that enhanced productivity, safety, and sustainability during the 2025 TOWER (The Outstanding Workers of the Republic) Awards held at the SMX Convention Center in Pasay City.

Labor Secretary Bienvenido Laguesma led the ceremony, joined by Rotary Club of Manila President Eduardo V. Enriquez III, People Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP) President Lydia Lily G. Quintans, and TOWER Awards Chairman Jesus M. Pineda Jr.

The awards honored both individual and team achievements by non-supervisory employees whose practical initiatives delivered measurable improvements within their organizations.

Among the individual awardees were Eddie A. Alagaban, senior plant operator at Energy Development Corporation, cited for modifying risers at the Palayan Power Plant, and Shirley S. Gonzales of Yazaki-Torres Manufacturing, Inc., who enhanced production efficiency through a customized fuse guide holder.

In the team category, the Franklin Baker Company of the Philippines – Emerald Plant was recognized for its project “Muling Ibalik ang Dapat Ibalik,” led by Elsworth M. Gempesaw and Krish Syrus C. Micabalo, which restored key operational systems.

Another Franklin Baker team received recognition for the initiative “Waste isn’t waste until we waste it,” a sustainable waste management effort involving Michael C. Dasalla, Mark Felnor T. Butaya, and Ronald B. Quiñones.

Each awarded project had been implemented for at least two years and produced concrete results in cost-effectiveness, environmental responsibility, and operational performance.

Awardees received P100,000 in cash, underscoring the program’s commitment to recognizing the vital yet often overlooked contributions of rank-and-file workers.

Organizers emphasized that the TOWER Awards serve as a national reminder that innovation can begin on the ground—transforming practical ideas into long-term solutions for industry-wide challenges.

Supported by partners including PAGCOR, Jollibee Foods Corporation, and Philippine Airlines, the program remains one of the few national platforms dedicated to honoring the achievements of non-supervisory workers.

PRESS RELEASE

TOWER Awardees at the National Labor Day Celebration with President Ferdinand R. Marcos and DOLE Secretary Bienvenido E. Laguesma



THE 31st TOWER awardees were honored at the National Labor Day celebration on May 1, 2025, at the SMX MOA Convention Center, with His Excellency Ferdinand “Bong Bong” R. Marcos, President of the Republic of the Philippines, and the Honorable Bienvenido E. Laguesma, Secretary of the Department of Labor and Employment.

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PUBLIC IMAGE

RCM's 31st Weekly Membership Meeting Featured on DWIZ News



PAGBIBIGAY KAALAMAN SA FINANCIAL LITERACY TINALAKAY SA ROTARY CLUB OF MANILA

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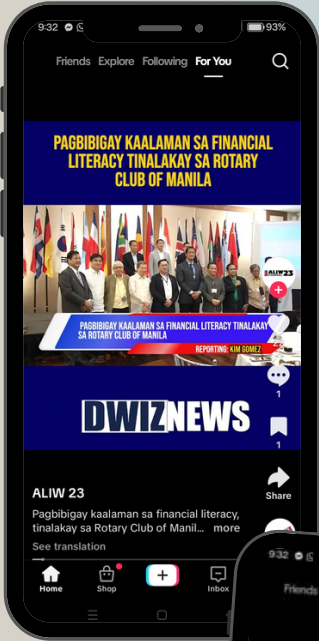
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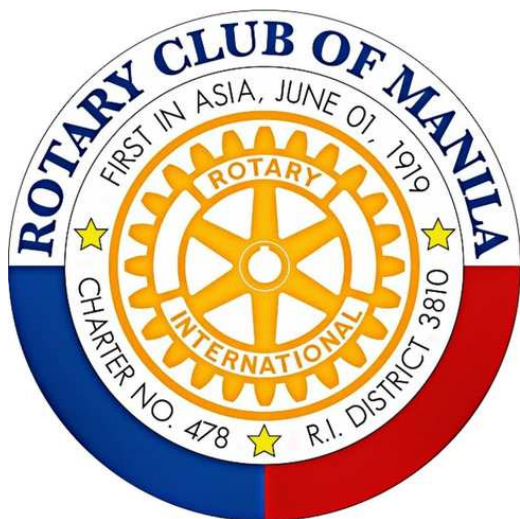
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